



APH ANNUAL FACTSHEET 2023

Amsterdam Public Health



Around 1,800 researchers
affiliated to research institute



Over 3,300 peer reviewed
academic publications
each year

Around 600 societal
publications each year



More than 125 PhD theses
produced per year



Over €60 million of research
funding per year acquired



More than 25 longitudinal
cohort studies and health
(care) registries

The Amsterdam Public Health research institute (APH) is a network institute incorporating over 1,800 researchers in 2023 from several faculties of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) and the University of Amsterdam (UvA). Founded in 2016, APH forms an important link between academic research, outpatient care practices, inpatient clinical care, local communities, and government policy in the Amsterdam metropolitan area.

Mission and vision

Much of the research conducted within APH is designed to have a direct impact on society, policy, and practice. Together with our academic and non-academic partners, we promote state-of-the-art research to enhance the health potential of individuals, communities, and populations across the life course. This is implicit in our slogans “Health for all, powered by science” and “Think globally, act locally.” We test what has been learned elsewhere, and we disseminate what we learn in Amsterdam across the rest of the world, and vice versa.

Nine research programs

Our research efforts in 2023 were concentrated in nine research programs, covering major public health themes along the life course: Health Behaviors and Chronic Diseases; Mental Health; Societal Participation and Health; Global Health; Aging and Later Life; Quality of Care; Personalized Medicine; Methodology and Digital Health. This year the research program Digital Health was launched and created a solid fundament at the end of the year with more than 100 affiliated researchers.

Highlights and accomplishments in 2023

Our main strategic themes and activities are reflected in a series of accomplishments:

- Reinforced research network by organizing institute-wide and program-specific or career-level-specific events and stimulated collaborations and knowledge exchange. For example the APH Spring Meeting on April 17th about ‘Connect for Health’, APH Junified on June 29th about ‘Boost your Growth’ and the APH Annual Meeting on November 21st themed ‘Diversity, Equity & Inclusion’.
- Activities of our Amsterdam Center of Implementation Science (AmsCIS), for instance multiple educational modules and ‘Yes we can’ meetings to exchange knowledge around various implementation science topics.
- Launching the ninth APH research program, called Digital Health. Their research topics focus on research on e-health systems and solutions focusing on providing better (preventive) care and cure tailored to person and patient; on provider and situation using digital tools and technology; on (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable - FAIR) data science; on better use of tools such as those



An APH Quality Handbook with information, structured by the research life cycle, to enhance research quality



Over 20 academic collaborative centers where practice, research, education and policy are connected



Multiple annual conferences for internal researchers and external stakeholders



Numerous of prestigious national or international personal or consortium grants awarded



Active APH committees for PhD Education, Scientific Quality and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

exploiting artificial intelligence (AI), virtual and augmented reality, simulation and applied mobile health.

- A new group started with 6 enthusiastic APH researchers who participated in the 2-year program of the Public Health and Care Leadership Program (PHCR).
- Further secured the sustainability and viability of our cohort studies, by creating an umbrella organization: the Amsterdam Cohort Hub (ACH). First steps were taken with a new project leader which developed a strategic plan, created communities and working groups, and made plans for organizing network events.
- Fostered high scientific quality and open science, focusing on an open academic culture and FAIR data management.
- Setting-up a new dedicated APH committee, focusing on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. First steps were taken to explore needs for activities and awareness around this theme, installing a committee with formal roles and working groups, and developing a strategic plan with concrete activities.
- We boosted the societal impact support of our research institute, with our dedicated APH Impact Developer, who is installed to provide implementation and valorization support to our researchers via workshops, consultations and information and tools. This will be further develop over the course of next year. In 2023, our Impact Developer contributed to the Position Paper on Valorization from Amsterdam UMC.

New APH magazine

In 2023 APH launched the second edition of the APH magazine 'Een gezonde toekomst voor iedereen', in which we presented a selection of our research efforts aimed to improve and prevent public health challenges in the metropolitan area of Amsterdam. With this magazine we want to inform a broad audience and stimulate collaborations with external partners, stakeholders and citizen in and outside Amsterdam.



Looking forward

We look forward to continuing growth and accomplishments in the coming years. For 2024 we will focus our efforts on the site visit of our external self-evaluation 2017-2022, which will provide us with a recommendation report of the international external evaluation committee. With these recommendations we will recalibrate our APH Strategic Plan for the upcoming period of 2024-2027. We will also create a new 4-year budget plan and secure a commitment from our formal partners for long-term financial support of our research institute.

www.amsterdamumc.org/aph