

Generative AI use among APH Researchers: Key survey findings



Generative AI (GenAI) can accelerate scientific breakthroughs, but also poses potential risks to scientific quality if used irresponsibly. To better understand how researchers at Amsterdam Public Health (APH) are engaging with GenAI, the APH Scientific Quality Committee conducted an anonymous survey from November 2024 to January 2025. The survey explored current use, tools, training, support needs, and awareness of existing guidelines. The findings provide insights to guide responsible and informed use of GenAI within APH. A total of 203 researchers affiliated with APH completed the survey. Most respondents were early-career researchers (PhD candidates and junior researchers; 60%), with representation from mid-career researchers (postdocs; 14%), senior researchers including assistant, associate, and full professors (22%), and a small number of other roles such as research assistants or medical specialists (3%).

Use and purpose

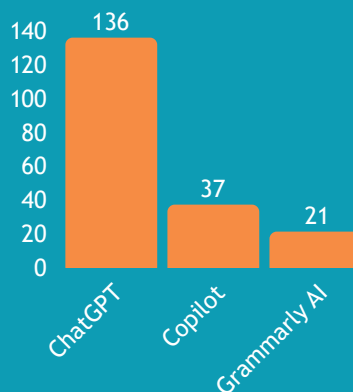
150 respondents (74%) use GenAI

Main uses:

- Improve grammar/readability
- Data analysis
- Idea generation
- Summarize texts

Other uses: answering questions, translations, literature search, feedback, design

Use of selected GenAI Tools



Training

Reported GenAI trainings (10% of respondents) covered topics such as scientific writing, effective prompting and tool exploration, ethical and privacy considerations, applications in education, and general AI awareness.



Familiarity with Guidelines

62% indicated being unfamiliar with any GenAI guidelines. Others indicated being familiar with GenAI [Living guidelines from the EU Commission](#), [the VU](#), [Living guidelines by Bocking et al.](#) and/or others.



Support resources and needs

12% of respondents indicated being aware of support resources within their departments, Amsterdam UMC and/or the VU, although none reported having used them.

47% of respondents expressed support needs for:

- Clear guidelines and ethical frameworks
- Practical guidance on using GenAI effectively
- Information on trustworthy tools
- Access to secure institutional platforms
- Opportunities to share experiences and learn from colleagues.



Institutional Guidelines

Both Amsterdam UMC and VU are developing guidance on the responsible use of GenAI.

Researchers are encouraged to stay informed through their institutional information channels.

Insights

Curiosity about and engagement with GenAI is high, yet practical guidance is needed to ensure ethical and responsible use within APH.