### Facts and figures

Director Prof. Eco de Geus

Vice-directors Prof. Willem van Mechelen

Prof. Henriëtte van der Horst

Participating faculties and departments:

1) VU University Medical Center:
departments of Epidemiology &
Biostatistics, General Practice and
Elderly Care Medicine, Psychiatry,
Public & Occupational Health,
Rehabilitation Medicine, Clinical
Genetics, Clinical Pharmacology &
Pharmacy, Internal Medicine, Medical
Humanities, Medical Psychology,
Midwifery Science, Ophthalmology,
Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery,
and Pediatrics.

- 2) Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences: department of Health Sciences
- 3) Faculty of Psychology and Ecudation: departments of Clinical Psychology, Biological Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Orthopedagogy.

Earning capacity

	2011	2012	2013
Funding (M€)	17,5	21,5	27,0
Of which European		18%	28%

Research staff: The total number of scientific personnel in

2013 was 639 amounting to 315 full time research FTE committed to the EMGO+ Institute, of which 139 FTE PhD students.

Citation score: The scientific impact of EMGO<sup>+</sup> research is

58% above world average in the fields EMGO+ contributed to (2013 CWTS crown

indicator 1.58).

**Publications:** 

	2011	2012	2013
Refereed articles	851	954	1124
PhD theses	42	61	77

International collaboration





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# **EMGO**<sup>+</sup>

facts & figures





## EMGO<sup>+</sup> Institute for Health and Care Research

#### Mission and objectives

The EMGO<sup>+</sup> Institute is a transdisciplinary research institute that brings together more than six hundred researchers from departments of three different science communities, i.e. from the VU University Medical Center, and the VU University Faculties of Psychology and Education, and Earth and Life Sciences.

The current EMGO<sup>+</sup> mission is to generate, conduct and publish excellent research of international standing to improve public and occupational health, mental health care, primary care, rehabilitation and long-term care. In the above fields, the EMGO<sup>+</sup> Institute's objectives are to:

- Strengthen the evidence-base for the current practice in prevention and care
- Perform cutting-edge research to innovate prevention and care
- Develop new methodology in study design, instrumentation and analyses
- Provide advanced education and training for researchers and researcher-practitioners

EMGO<sup>+</sup> focuses on applied and strategic research involving issues that are relevant for public and occupational health, mental health, primary care, rehabilitation, and long-term care. Many studies are either executed within large population-based cohorts or in public health and extramural medical practice settings, such as general practices, nursing homes, specialized mental health care organizations, residential homes for the elderly, schools, worksites and occupational health care settings.

#### Promotion of evidence-based medical practice

EMGO<sup>+</sup> studies include observational research and intervention studies and are always focused on health outcomes to enable the promotion of evidence-based medical practice. Many studies are conducted within so-called Academic Collaborative Centers, i.e. formal collaborations between EMGO<sup>+</sup> and practice settings to conduct practice-based research of strong methodological rigor.

#### **Organization**

Strategic management of the EMGO<sup>+</sup> Institute lies with the Executive Board consisting of the Director and two members selected from the heads of the departments participating in the EMGO<sup>+</sup> Institute. The Executive Board answers to the Board of Deans representing the VU University Medical Center, VU University Faculty Earth and Life Sciences, and VU University Faculty Psychology and Education. Strategic advice on positioning of the institute in the national and international context is obtained from the External Advisory Board.

#### Day-to-day management

The Director and the Manager assisted by administrative support staff and three Committees carry out the day-to-day management of the institute.

- The Science Committee discusses and approves all project proposals and consists of a mix of midcareer and senior scientists representing EMGO<sup>+</sup> scientific and methodological expertise.
- The quality officer chairs the Quality Committee.
   Their role is to introduce all EMGO<sup>+</sup> researchers to the quality guidelines laid down in the EMGO<sup>+</sup> quality handbook, to advise on policies regarding scientific quality and integrity, and to perform yearly audits of research projects.
- The PhD Committee organizes the introductory day for PhDs, maintains a buddy system for PhDs, and reviews the PhD training- and education plans. It also produces PhD handbooks with tips and tricks, including the recently produced 'Manual Finish your PhD' to guide students through the final six months of their PhD project.

#### Quality control

The EMGO<sup>+</sup> Institute has a number of institute specific resources that strongly facilitate scientific integrity and scientific quality in all phases of research, including study design, data collection, data analysis and reporting. The EMGO<sup>+</sup> Institute attaches much importance to



providing an environment that encourages good conduct in research and discourages misconduct, and to providing tools that maximize high quality research.

#### **Research programs**

All research projects carried out at EMGO<sup>+</sup> are embedded in one or more of our four research programs. Per program two directors ensure sufficient interfaculty cross talk and scientific focus within the program.



Overweight and Diabetes are two of the main public health problems of our society and are strongly linked to common Lifestyle determinants such as physical inactivity and poor dietary

habits. This research program is aiming to curb the obesity and diabetes epidemics by identification of the primary lifestyle and biological determinants and by evaluation of efficient ways to improve lifestyle both as a way to prevent disease and in the context of chronic disease management.

Common mental disorders have a major impact on public health and are among the conditions with the worldwide highest disease burden. By conducting observational as well as intervention studies, the Mental Health program

contributes to a better evidence-base for the prevention and treatment of mental disorders in order to improve mental health in the population.



A long healthy life requires not only disease-specific prevention and care, but also attention for more generic themes such as effective health communication, taking patient

perspectives into account in prevention and care, and patient safety issues. In the Quality of Care program, research focuses on the organization of care (e.g. regulations for end-of-life care); on health care professionals, (e.g. educational programs in genetics), and on individual health care consumers (e.g. the quality of life of chronically ill, and the information needed to make health decisions).

To improve musculoskeletal health and to reduce the burden of musculoskeletal disorders the Musculoskeletal Health program seeks knowledge about the development and lifelong maintenance of a healthy musculoskeletal system and about the occurrence, prognosis,

prevention and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders.

