

## **Summary SEP assessment of the Groningen University Institute for Drug Exploration (GUIDE)**

The PRC finds GUIDE research to be of excellent quality, and especially commends the societal mission to contribute to individualized drug treatment and the vibrant interdisciplinary environment. The position of GUIDE research groups is a key strength leading to productive integration of basic and clinical research, and diagnostics and therapy innovation. This should be an important strategic pillar for the future, and the PRC advises to further strengthen it by developing “creative hubs” to work with other institutes and schools. Most programs are aligned with the UMCG-focus on healthy aging, although some could more strategically address this overarching issue. The environment is productive and collaborative making the Institute agile and adaptable to urgent health care developments (as evidenced by its response to COVID-19), and enabling researchers to make major contributions.

### **Research quality**

- Efforts to strengthen and centralize immunology research are encouraged, while the interplay, structural interaction and cross-fertilization between research programmes should be organized at the Institute level and engage all staff. at all levels.
- GUIDE should further support junior researchers by identifying all available career paths; support and career guidance should be in line with the Institute’s research strategy.
- Providing additional funding and compliance support for investigators is advised.

### **Societal relevance**

- Ensure a clear vision, goals and expectations on societal impact through shared reflection.

### **Viability**

- GUIDE is advised to consider long-term support of the Institute’s critical assets of biobanks and patient data, and of centralized, state-of-the-art technical facilities.
- The reduction of funding from industry and other external sources is a point of concern - GUIDE should identify areas of staff expertise which meet industry needs.
- The importance of succession planning is emphasized, given that a relatively large fraction of senior researchers and many of these PI’s will be retiring in the near future.