

Summary SEP assessment of the W.J. Kolff Institute for Biomedical Engineering and Materials Science

The PRC finds the Kolff Institute to have a research portfolio which is strong, attractive to talent, and has great potential for meaningful societal impact. Its high-quality interdisciplinary research and mission to bridge engineering and medical science are particular strengths and make good use of the UMCG-wide expertise. The committee praises the Institute for taking the recommendations of the previous committee and restructuring to achieve a critical mass and an increase in research quality. The fact that 50% of funding comes from competitive and project-related grants demonstrates the recognition of the Institute and is applauded. Societal impact is integral to Kolff's mission, and the collaboration with external partners through the HTRIC is especially praised as excellent practice.

Research quality

- The Institute should be given more influence in the creation of research positions and funding of new collaborations.
- The alignment of program missions is an important goal, as are ensuring productive links with the FSE and further integrating the programs, ROBOTICS and PHT in particular.
- An impact strategy and clear goal for new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches should be developed, along with policies to encourage clinicians to participate in research.

Societal Relevance

- Continue efforts to increase the involvement of end users to new medical technologies.

Viability

- High priority should be given to filling leadership vacancies, ideally with a team of researcher and clinician; leadership should be recognized and rewarded, and roles clearly formulated.
- Reduce average PhD duration and further invest in postdoc support through mentorship.