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Rianne van Eerd  
a.r.t.v.eerd@tue.nl

www.tue.nl

## **Position of the Executive Board of Eindhoven University of Technology regarding the research assessment of Biomedical Engineering**

In September last year, an international review committee assessed the research of the Department of Biomedical Engineering (BmE) at Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) conducted in the reference period 2017-2022. The assessment was carried out using the Strategy Evaluation Protocol 2021-2027 (SEP) for the research assessment of public organizations in the Netherlands.

The committee assessed the research in light of the proclaimed aims and strategies. The committee considered the three main SEP criteria in the assessment: research quality, relevance to society, and viability. Also, the four SEP aspects were addressed: open science, PhD policy and training, academic culture, and human resources policy.

The assessment committee consisted of:

- Prof. John Jansen (chair), Radboud University Nijmegen (NL);
- Prof. Liesbet Geris, KU Leuven and University of Liège, Belgium;
- Prof. Kurt Vesterager Gothelf, Aarhus University, Denmark;
- Prof. Sabine van Huffel, KU Leuven, Belgium;
- Prof. Twan Lammers, RWTH Aachen University Clinic, Germany;
- Ir. Anneke Schouten, PhD candidate TU Delft, NL.

The Executive Board highly appreciates the work of the committee and the recognition of the excellent quality of the research of Biomedical Engineering at TU/e.

- “In the evaluation period research collaborations have been amplified and certain research areas strengthened. Its strategies have led to increased academic staff, external funding, and collaborations, resulting in the growth of research areas and recognition through awards and grants. Notable achievements between 2017-2022 include staff growth, increased external funding and cross-disciplinary research promotion. There is a clear emphasis on multidisciplinary research and inter-departmental collaborations. Also, strong affiliations exist within the TU/e and nationally with entities like Maastricht UMC, Utrecht UMC, and others.”
- “Research quality is assessed as very good to excellent, with researchers being recognized both nationally and internationally for their contributions. Interdisciplinary research, state-of-the-art

facilities, and collaborations with hospitals and medical centers contribute to the department's success.”

The Board of the Department would like to capitalize on this strong research position by more strategic profiling of the unique strengths of the department and the Executive Board strongly supports this ambition. Discussions about the focus of the TU/e research strategy and profiling in the Health area and on the specific strengths of Bioengineering are ongoing.

The Executive Board takes the concrete recommendations of the committee concerning housing and HR at heart.

- The highest priority is housing: “Housing and infrastructure challenges include the lack of laboratory space and uncertainty about where the Department will be housed during and after completion of the renovation of the Gemini building. The committee recommends strategic planning for accommodations, with a focus on a dedicated medtech/life science building.” “..., the lack of laboratory space and uncertainty about future housing pose significant threats.”
- Furthermore the committee suggested some formalization steps to improve HR support on talent development, open science practices and the quality of PhD training and supervision.

The Executive Board of TU/e has accepted the report and its recommendations and wishes to thank the assessment committee for the considerable time and effort it has spent on this assessment.

According to the schedule for the assessment process the Executive Board will appoint owners for the follow-up actions and monitor its progress during the Bilo's in the coming years as part of the quality assurance cycle.

On behalf of the Executive Board,



Prof.dr. S.K. Lenaerts  
Rector Magnificus Eindhoven University of Technology