



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
DIPARTIMENTO DI MEDICINA VETERINARIA



SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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1. Mission

The mission of the Scientific and Research Committee (SRC) is to promote the research and scientific production of the DIMEVET. It is an advisory and instrumental body for the Director and the Department Board on topics related to scientific research. The SRC puts forward the following main goals: 1) to pursue the overall research policy according to DIMEVET strategic plan; 2) to establish guidelines for research funds provision and academic staff recruitment in accordance with the Department requirements; 3) to organize Departmental applications and grants; 4) to promote DIMEVET junior academic staff (Temporary Position Researchers, Post-doctoral Fellows; PhD Students).

The SRC acts according to the DIMEVET Internal Quality Policy.

2. Regulation and members

Regulation of SRC is available on the Department website. Regulation has been revised at the beginning of 2019 and few amendments have been introduced. In particular:

- The Committee Deputy Head, (acting as vice) represented by the Departmental Research Quality Assurance Delegate was added as a de-facto position
- The number of additional members has been increased up to 8
- A representative of PhD students and one of research fellows has been added
- The role of secretary has been removed due to the permanent availability of an administrative staff member

2019 Composition of the SRC is the following:

Chair	Stefano Comazzi
Vice-chair (research AQ)	Armando Negri
Members	Filippa Addis Alessandro Bagnato Chiara Bazzocchi Giulietta Minozzi Daniela Proverbio Federica Riva
Representative of PhD students	Jari Zambarbieri
Representative of Postdoctoral researchers (ADR)	Fabio Mosca (resigned)

Administrative staff: Rossella Lorenzoni

3. Meetings

Fifteen meetings were held in 2019, with an average attendance of 82%.

Dates of meetings and related agenda are indicated in Annex I.



4. Activities

During the year the activities of the SRC focused mainly on:

4.1 Evaluation of scientific production

4.2 Assignment of internal funds

4.3 Other activities

4.1 Evaluation of scientific production

During the year, the Department's scientific performance was kept under observation. In particular the SRC was involved in the identification of suitable parameters for evaluating ADR activities, especially concerning the researchers involved also in clinical activities. The same approach was used for the evaluation of research fellowship contracts. A total of 11 reports from research fellows were analyzed and evaluated.

In order to monitor the scientific production of the department with regard to each SSD, to be sent to the Department as one of the parameters potentially useful for the distribution of resources, a survey on the production of each SSD was carried out and results were produced as aggregated data.

4.2 Assignment of internal funds

The SRC was involved in the definition of the parameters useful for allocating internal funds. Three different calls for fund allocation were issued during 2019.

4.2.1– Internal funds: Linea 2

In April 2019, the central administration of the University indicated the total amount of the internal research funds allocated to each Department and the general criteria to follow for their distribution.

The Commission: (1) presented to the Department Board proposals on: (i) the distribution within the different type of actions indicated by the university, (ii) the rules for eligibility and (iii) evaluation criteria; (2) issued the calls based on the rules approved by the Department Board; (3) collected and evaluated the proposals including also an audition phase for the multidisciplinary project and (4) issued a resolution proposal for final grants assignment, which was presented to the Director and the Department Board.

4.2.2– Internal funds: call for new instrumentations

In the past years, one call for new instrumentation was generally advertised at the end of the year. This created some difficulties in identifying the instruments more suitable to the Department's needs. The SRC was solicited to create a more stable and standardized way for assigning support for instrumentations of general usefulness. The Commission aims to create a permanent list of instruments with shared interest and usefulness to different research groups or that are considered priority for the Department research activities. This



list will be reviewed every six months, by opening a new instrumentation call, and will create the basis for the future investments. Each call is composed by a first phase in which proponents are invited to send a detailed report on the instrumentation and a budget, followed by a second phase in which they are invited to audition to better explain its possible use and elucidate the usefulness to different research groups. After this phase three different lists (for small, medium and large instrumentations, respectively) will be generated. When available, funds will be allocated starting from the instruments on the top of the list. Non-supported instruments remain in the list and will be re-evaluated at the next call.

4.2.3.-Starting grant

This grant was created to provide a small personal fund to new members of the Department for their first needs (starting a new research, traveling to a congress, participating to a course and so on). The grant was intended for each researcher of new acquisition to DIMEVET who does not have any other personal fund and who did not have the opportunity to apply for a Linea 2 call, and was intended as permanent upon request. In year 2019 no starting grants were required since the call for 2019 Linea B grants was presented just few weeks after approving the starting grant.

4.3 Other activities

- 4.3.1 The SRC was charged to provide updates to the specific DIMEVET webpage. The new webpage is now available at the following address:
<http://www.dimevet.unimi.it/ecm/home/organizzazione/organi-de-dipartimento/commissione-dipartimento/commissione-ricerca>
- 4.3.2 The evaluation of Linea 3 grant is in charge to the central administration but the RSC was involved in the identification of 4 DIMEVET referees who can assure their availability to help in the revision process. Proff Bagnato, Ceciliani, Cremonesi and Negri were identified.
- 4.3.3 The RSC was involved in planning future Research Fellowships (AdR) in order to assure (1) an adequate percentage of new AdR positions for the next years irrespectively from the choices of the Central Administration and the availability of resources and (2) an adequate number of renewals for researchers after the first two years. A simulation for the period 2019-23 was drawn with the aim of maximizing resources. Using the most prudential estimation a minimum of 3 new AdR positions and 2 renewals should be granted.
- 4.3.4 Scientific evaluation of new AdR position for the year 2019. A total of 5 proposals for new AdR position were evaluated by the RSC. The RSC was involved only in the scientific scoring of the proposals based on scientific soundness, scientific evaluation



of the proponents and past assignments of AdR to the SSD. A final score for each proposal was provided to the Director for the discussion about assignments.

5 Achievements

During 2019 the following achievements were reached:

- Regulation of RSC was reviewed and new regulation was published on the website;
- Calls “Linea 2” and “New instrumentation” (internal grants) were managed and assigned in due time;
- Call for “starting grant” was published. This grant is to be considered as a permanent grant although, to date, no requests were received;
- Documents regarding: (1) the evaluation of proposals for new AdR positions; (2) The monitoring of scientific production for each SSD; (3) the planning of future AdR positions for the next 3 years, were prepared and sent to the Director;
- The webpage of RSC was updated and published.

6 Future plans

6.1 During the first months of 2020 the Department head, together with the departmental managing bodies, will be involved in editing the new Departmental Strategic Plan in accordance with the new triannual strategic plan of the Ateneo. The primary Commitment of the RSC, in particular of the research AQ and the President of RSC, will be to provide the Director and the Commission the best support for this phase with special emphasis on the specific research issues.

6.2 In the first months of 2020 the RSC is also planning to complete its composition by including two new members and substituting the position of the representing of research fellowship, left vacant.

6.3 In the first months of 2020 a call for the best 2019 publication price will be published, similarly to what already done in the past.

6.4 A new instrumentation call is planned for Spring 2020 in order to update the already existing list of priorities for the new year.

6.5 The RSC will explore possible support actions to research projects to be implemented at Department level

6.6 The RSC will plan dissemination and team building activities aimed at encouraging interaction, fostering interdisciplinary research activities, and promoting member skills and competences at the department level.

Annexes

Annex I – Meetings days and agenda