

Clinical and Public Health Genomics

Translating genetic discoveries to health care

Clinical and Public Health Genomics

From August 2009, the Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences (Nihes) will provide a new, multidisciplinary research-training programme in Clinical and Public Health Genomics. The programme will be tailored to the needs of students who wish to focus on genetics in clinical or public-health research.

How can healthcare practice and population health benefit from ongoing genetic discoveries? A new specialization of the Nihes Genetic Epidemiology programme provides a comprehensive range of courses focusing on this key question.

Advances in genetic epidemiology research are rapidly unravelling the role of genetic factors in the pathogenesis of common diseases such as heart disease, osteoporosis, asthma, and type 2 diabetes. One major promise is that these advances will lead to personalized medicine, where preventive and therapeutic interventions for complex diseases can be individually tailored to a person's genetic profile. To investigate the potential for genome-based applications in healthcare practice, now is the time to train experts in clinical and public-health genomics – people who understand the full spectrum of genomic disciplines: from molecular genetics to the ethical, legal and societal aspects of genomics.

The new programme in Clinical and Public Health Genomics comprises courses on molecular genetics, genetic epidemiology, clinical epidemiology, public health, health technology assessment, biostatistics, prevention research, behavioural change, and on the ethical, legal and societal implications of genomics. Those wishing to focus on genetics and on clinical or public-health research can take courses at various levels, and can also participate in ground-breaking research programmes at Erasmus MC University Medical Center.

The programme is embedded within the Genetic Epidemiology programme, which also features programmes in Genetic Epidemiology and Statistical Genomics.



Cornelia M. van Duijn, Professor of Genetic Epidemiology at Erasmus MC University Medical Center, is Director of the Nihes Genetic Epidemiology programme. “The programme in Clinical and Public Health Genomics leads to an accredited MSc degree, and is the first of its kind in Europe. It’s taught by a multidisciplinary faculty of leading international experts in the health sciences. This is a programme for future leaders in one of the most challenging areas in medicine and public health.”



Cecile Janssens, Associate Professor at Erasmus MC University Medical Center, is coordinator of the Clinical and Public Health Genomics training programme: “Rapid progress in gene discovery is now fuelling ambitions for the use of genetic testing in healthcare practice. This programme will give researchers and healthcare professionals the multidisciplinary background they need to identify, evaluate and implement the most promising and useful applications.”

The following research training programmes are available

- A one-year full-time programme for health professionals and MSc graduates
- A two-year full-time programme for BSc graduates
- A two-year Nihes Summer School programme for health professionals and MSc graduates

The one year full-time programme and the two year Nihes Summer School programme will lead to an accredited Master of Science in Health Sciences title, and the two year full-time programme will lead to an accredited Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology title. All programmes will be offered as of August, 2009.

Information and application

For more information, contact Cecile Janssens, Associate Professor, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on +31 (0)10 704 4232 or by email: a.janssens@erasmusmc.nl.

Please see www.nihes.nl/geneticepidemiology for full details on admission requirements and the application procedure, and also for access to our on-line application form. Applications for the 2009/10 academic year must be received no later than March 1, 2009.

About Nihes

The Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences (Nihes) is an alliance of five leading Dutch universities and research institutes that collaborate on quantitative medical and health research. In short courses, Doctor of Science programmes and Master of Science programmes, Nihes offers graduate and postgraduate research training in quantitative medicine and the health sciences in six core disciplines: Epidemiology, Clinical Epidemiology, Genetic Epidemiology, Health-Services Research, Public Health, and Medical Informatics.

Nihes' participating institutes are Erasmus University Rotterdam, University of Amsterdam, Utrecht University, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, and the Netherlands Cancer Institute. All programmes are taught in English.

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Gateway to research training.