

SOOS
Research
minoren gids
2024-2025



Preface

Dear Student,

It is time to choose courses for in the beginning of the third year of your bachelor (Q9 and Q10). To help you with this choice, the faculty will organise a market with all minors to present themselves. To help you even further with this choice and to present the students opinion about the minors to you, SOOS (students organisation of education and study) made a Minor Guide with all sorts of information. In this guide, all minors are presented with a general description, but also with students' opinions including pros and cons. The choice you have to make is quite an important one, considering the minors have a span of 19 weeks and will take a big proportion of your third year (11EC for medicine, 25EC for BMS). Therefore, it is important to make a deliberate choice. The minors are intended to give you more insight in the subjects that are appealing to you or to give more insight in what you want with your future. Do not be afraid of a minor that is called high demanding. Every course is designed for third year students, therefore it should be do-able for everyone. So, choose something of your interest! For more information about the examination, learning goals and schedules of the minors, consult the Radboudumc website (go to education > students > bachelor Biomedical Sciences or Medicine > application minors / 3EC courses.) To make this guide, students' feedback is essential. Therefore, we would like to thank all students, who filled in the questionnaires last year. We hope you will help us too next year, by filling in the questionnaire during the minors, all to make a new edition again.

Good luck and enjoy making your choice!

On behalf of the 35th SOOS board,

Janne van Gompel, Linthe Hoekema, Roos Nikkelen, Bart van Ek, Hanna van Selm and Else Snippert

Overview

Code	Title	When
MED-B3MIN01	Efficacy and Safety of Drugs	Mon/Tue
MED-B3MIN02	Visualizing Health and Disease: from Molecule to Man	Mon/Tue
MED-B3MIN03	Translational Cardiovascular Research	Thu/Fri
MED-B3MIN04	Cancer Mechanisms and Immune Defense	Mon/Tue
MED-B3MIN05	Moving Questions: an introduction to Clinical Human Movement Science	Mon/Tue
MED-B3MIN06	Global Health & Infectious Diseases	Mon/Tue
MED-B3MIN08	State-of-the-art research technologies in cancer, immunology & diagnostics	Thu/Fri
MED-B3MIN10	Diagnostics and molecular research in kidney disease	Thu/Fri
MED-B3MIN12	Assessment of Surgical Innovation	Thu/Fri
MED-B3MIN13	Medical Biotechnology towards Clinical Practice	Thu/Fri
MED-B3MIN14	Neuroscience of stress-related psychopathology	Mon/Tue
MED-B3MIN16	Translational Neuroscience	Thu/Fri
MED-B3MIN17	Biomedical research methods – Only for pre-master students	Thu/Fri
MED-B3MIN18	Hemato-Oncology – From concept to cure	Mon/Tue
MED-B3MIN19	Clinical exercise physiology	Thu/Fri
MED-B3MIN21	Breast cancer; biology, treatment, patient	Thu/Fri
MED-B3MIN22	Hemostasis, a delicate balance!	Mon/Tue
MED-B3MIN23	Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunity	Mon/Tue
MED-B3MIN25	Sustainable Healthcare improvement: principles and practice	Thu/Fri
MED-B3MIN27	Genomics research – from molecule to population	Mon/Tue
MED-B3MIN28	Human embryology in perspective	Thu/Fri

Overview Wednesday Courses

For Biomedical students only.

Code	Title	When
MED-B3KOB	Advanced data analysis and programming: How to make more of your results?	Q9
MED-B3KOE	Science in action, philosophy and the dynamics of science	Q9
MED-B3KOF	From mice to men: translating animal research into clinical benefit	Q9
MED-B3KOG	Popular Science Writing	Q9
MED-B3KOH	Consultancy	Q9
MED-B3WI	Thinking critically about science	Q10 (Mandatory)

General Information

It is important to know that the choice of the minor is different for medicine or biomedical science students. Notice the following: Medicine students only need to choose one minor. Depending on your cluster, you can choose a Monday/Tuesday minor (together with Cluster C/D) or a Thursday/Friday minor (together with Cluster A/B). Remaining days in your schedule are filled with the continuation of the lines KVS, KVH and PPG. Biomedical sciences students need to choose one of each type of minors, one Monday/Tuesday, one Wednesday and one Thursday/Friday minor.

External minors

It is also possible to do an external minor, this means a minor that is not in your curriculum (usually outside the medical faculty in Nijmegen). You could do a minor at the Radboudumc, Radboud University or another institution with academic education at the level of a university.

If you would like to do this, a few rules are applicable:

- Only academic education is a possibility (only 2nd and 3rd years courses);
- The minor needs to be approved by the board of examiners beforehand;
- The content of the external minor needs to contribute to your personal journey in a more in-depth or broadening manner in the field of biomedical sciences;
- You can choose an existing minor (12 EC) or make a package of courses.

If you choose the latter one, a mentor must guarantee your study plan via a signature. Your mentor also needs to make sure that there is cohesion and no overlap between courses and between the curriculum (a special form is available on the website).

For biomedical premaster students, popular minors are B3MIN01, B3MIN02, B3MIN04, B3MIN05, B3MIN14 and B3MIN27 because they connect well to the HBO programme.

Monday & Tuesday

Minors

MED-B3MINO1 – Efficacy and Safety of Drugs

General information

Name coordinator: dr. S. Heemskerk
E-mail coordinator: suzanne.heemskerk@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.7

Description

In this minor you will deepen and broaden your understanding of how drugs act, by familiarizing yourself with the principles that underlie the rational and safe application of drugs in patients. You will address the challenges associated with drug treatment of special patient populations (pregnancy, pediatrics, geriatrics), while also examining various scientific approaches to study effects of drugs on a molecular, organ and patient and population level. You will examine the nature of side-effects of medical drugs, and familiarize yourself with various aspects of market approval, pharmacovigilance and possible withdrawal of drugs from the market due to adverse effects. Finally, we will study and evaluate the medical effects and societal impact of drugs of abuse.

Student opinion

This minor has a nice balance between contact hours and self-study. It is focused on research and the clinic, this makes it interesting for both medicine and biomedical science students. The grading consists of seven parts. The minor is well organized, however because of the assignments and switch in teachers it can become a bit chaotic. This minor contains a lot of group projects. The teachers are all very enthusiastic!

Strengths:

- Many interesting and different excursions and subjects.
- Enthusiastic and very helpful teachers.
- Views from different perspectives.

Limitations:

- The organization can seem a bit chaotic.

MED-B3MINO2 – Visualizing Health and Disease: from Molecule to Man

General information

Name coordinator: prof. dr. A. Cambi
E-mail coordinator: alessandra.cambi@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.8

Description

How can we visualize single molecules in cells? How can we follow the growth and metastasis of tumors? How can we track the migration of immune cells through the body? Imaging in biomedical sciences is vital for research, diagnosis and visualization of health and disease. Rapid technological developments in the imaging field are increasing our capabilities to address important biomedical questions. This Minor provides an in-depth and hands-on introduction to the various imaging modalities used both in preclinical and clinical settings. Going from molecule to man, this Minor will allow the students to understand and operate several key imaging techniques, including those at the molecular/cellular level (e.g.: fluorescence and electron microscopy), at the tissue/animal level (immunohistochemistry and intravital imaging) and at the whole-body level (X-ray/CT, ultrasound, MRI and PET/SPECT). In addition, students will practice how to perform a basic analysis on the images generated by these techniques and will get a first glimpse on the application of artificial intelligence for image analysis. During these practical courses, the students will also gain hands-on experience with basic techniques required for preparation of samples for the different imaging modalities, such as immunolabeling with antibodies. After this Minor, students will be able to design experiments involving imaging, with an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of each modality. This Minor builds on prior molecular, cell biological, genetic and immunological knowledge provided in the Bachelor's programs for Biomedical Sciences and Medicine.

Examination

- Assessment consists of five parts (each must be graded at least 5.5 or 'Pass' to pass the course):
- Written Midterm Exam (individual; weight 25%)
- Practical course (individual, pass/fail; weight 0%)
- Group assignments (group; weight 20%)
- Portfolio (individual; weight 15%)
- Written Final exam (individual; weight 40%)

Student opinion

In general, all students appreciated the teachers, the topics and the types of learning activities. Students are satisfied with the organization and quality of the education. Also, the examination and study load were considered appropriate by the students. Students spend around 10-18 hours a week on this minor, including educational activities.

Strengths:

- Course meets expectations.
- Little overlap with rest of curriculum; a lot of new knowledge.
- Clear structure of the course.
- Great addition to the regular study program.
- Different types of course elements (lectures, practical's, demonstrations etc.)

Limitations:

- Writing the reports took a lot of time.

MED-B3MINO4 – Cancer mechanisms and immune defense

General information

Name coordinator: ing. J.M. Pots
E-mail coordinator: jeanette.pots@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.4

Description

Cancer is still an increasing problem as the number of cancer patients is predicted to increase by 70% over the next two decades according to the World Health Organization. Insight in cancer development, therapies, and prevention is rapidly increasing making cancer research a leading field in biomedical life sciences. This Minor deals with all aspects of cancer from a molecular/cellular, clinical and population point of view with focus on the translation from bench to bedside. Themes that are included in this Minor are: molecular basis of cancer, anti-tumor immune responses, cancer diagnostics and screening, epidemiology, and treatment modalities.

An essential part of the educational format of the Minor will be in the form of small workgroups (consisting of 3-5 students) that will design, perform and present scientific cancer research. The module offers personalized education through multiple possibilities to select your own preferences (i.e. focus on more molecular and/or clinical cancer topics). The students will be challenged to come up with ideas that may improve research. This Minor will provide basic insight in scientific knowledge and tools in cancer research, thus preparing a solid basis for the Bachelor internship in Pathobiology, Toxicology, Human Genetics, Tumor Immunology and cancer cell biology.

Student opinion

The enthusiastic teachers contributed to the development of many skills in a positive way. The feedback they give is appreciated by the students. The balance between focusing on different specific subjects regarding cancer and immunology is experienced differently by students. Medicine students also mention they have a gap in their research knowledge compared to Biomedical students, which meant they had to invest more time in preparation of the practicals and understanding the techniques. Pre-master students also found difficulties due to lack of previous knowledge. Students spend on average 14-22 hours per week on this minor, including educational activities.

Strengths:

- The lab practicals are very informative, and they provide the possibility to obtain multiple lab skills. Also, the guidance and enthusiasm from the teachers is very good. The processing of the experiments in lab journal entries a part of the portfolio provides insight into why you do things, what the goal is and how you can apply the techniques in other settings.
- Great balance between theory and applicability in more complex assignments.
- Lots of variation (lectures, presentations, practicals, working groups, examination, etc.) and versatility in subjects with specific people from the work field.
- Almost all of the student say that it is a valuable component of their study program.

Limitations:

- There is a big difference between weeks, some are busier or more chaotic than others. Workload in the beginning is higher than in the middle.
- Some subjects seemed too in depth for this minor, for example cell biology.

MED-B3MIN05 – Moving questions: an introduction to Clinical Human Movement Science

General information

Name coordinator: prof. dr. E.J.M. Tanck
E-mail coordinator: esther.tanck@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.4

Description

Research in the field of Clinical Human Movement covers a broad range of patient problems. Physically moving seems to be the best possible way to stay healthy and the best medicine for most patients. It is, therefore, very important to keep patients active as good and as long as possible. How to assess and ameliorate impaired movement is our motivation and we like to know: Which of the following questions moves you?

How much physical activity is needed to stay healthy? What happens in the human body while exercising? How can human movement be quantified? What techniques are available? How do patients with a neurological disorder move? What are the differences with healthy controls? How to predict the clinical performance of an implant? How to assess pathological gait? Are you fascinated by human movement and do you want to contribute to our understanding of its secrets? Then this minor perfectly suits you.

This research minor is an introduction to clinical human movement sciences. You will study and learn fundamental theory to understand how the skeletal, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems play an important role in human movement. If one of the systems fails, it immediately influences the other systems. Hence, the systems are connected and integrated and form the human movement system. Impaired movement is often the result of the failure of one system. You will learn basic skills to calculate, analyze, interpret and report the relationship between a clinical diagnosis and a movement problem, making use of different approaches within Clinical Human Movement Sciences (CHMS). During this minor, you will perform a small scale research project to optimally prepare you for the Bachelor internship in the field of CHMS. This minor is strongly advised for students who are interested in biomedical research and would like to do a specialization in Human Movement Sciences. It should also be mentioned that you will use your knowledge of physics and mathematics that you learned in high school.

Student opinion

Overall students found this minor to be interesting and educational. The different course elements like patient contact days, dissections and group work made it varied and interactive. The mini research project that was done was found to be informative and good. The teachers were very engaged and knowing. Some students found there to be too many contact hours however the study load was perceived as good. Students spend 10-18 hours per week on this minor including educational activities.

Strengths:

- Interesting and good introduction to clinical human movement science.
- Good opportunity to practice with executing a research and writing a scientific report.
- A self-study package was made for Medicine and premaster students to meet the level of this minor, which was appreciated.
- A lot of different topics are discussed, which makes it more fun.

Limitations:

- Long days including a lot of self-study
- Not all of the teachers teach in English, which makes it sometimes too much of both languages.
- Some students would have liked less obligatory lessons / group work and more self-study.

MED-B3MIN06 – Global Health and Infectious Diseases

General information

Name coordinator: prof. dr. R.M.P.M. Baltussen
E-mail coordinator: rob.baltussen@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.9

Description

Globalization affects every corner of the world, forcing us to approach important health issues more and more from a global perspective. The interest in global health and infectious diseases is therefore increasing. It provokes a great deal of media, student, and faculty interest, has driven the establishment of several academic programs, is supported by governments as a crucial component of foreign policy, and has become a major philanthropic target. Global health is the health of populations in a global context, and it goes beyond the perspectives and concerns of individual countries. Global health is about the prevention and control of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and dengue, as well as non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cancer, as well as about health system research and universal health coverage.

As a Biomedical Sciences or Medical student, studying global health and infectious diseases is relevant. Challenges of global health are at the intersect of molecular, clinical, epidemiological, economic and other socio-behavioural sciences. The present Minor reflects this multidisciplinary nature and offers you a broad scope of methods, instruments and techniques stemming from the different disciplines. The course is designed for you to acquire theoretical knowledge, practical insights and hands-on skills, e.g., through lab courses and literature review exercises. You will also learn how to translate scientific knowledge into policy recommendations and to deliver these in writing and through oral presentations in English.

In week 1 you will be introduced to global health and infectious diseases. Throughout the course you will gradually expand your view and breadth of analysis, from a molecular perspective (week 2-5), and patient and clinical perspective (weeks 6-12), to a health systems and policy perspective (week 13-19). From week 15 onwards, you will work on your Global Health in Action project, a parallel group project for which you will study in-depth a highly relevant issue in global health. During the minor you will engage with leading researchers at Radboudumc and meet professionals working in Global Health and Infectious Diseases at public health institutions, knowledge institutions, and non- governmental organizations. If possible, this minor includes one visit outside of Nijmegen. In week 10 of the minor, a Study Tour will take place to Geneva to visit the World Health Organisation and you will present the results of your Global Health in Action project and receive feedback from experts.

Student opinion

In this minor you learn a lot about research in different topics and different settings in the world, most students found this to be very interesting. For biomedical students there was some overlap in previous knowledge, medical students missed some of this prior knowledge, but this was not a big problem. The teachers were also very enthusiastic and knowledgeable. The study load was also deemed good by the students. However, students would have liked to be more challenged sometimes. Students spend 14-18 hours per week on this minor including educational activities.

Strengths:

- Diversity in subjects.
- Clear minor guide, this was a great addition with background information on learning goals, plannings, examination data etc.
- Enthusiastic and easy to approach teachers with presentations of good quality.
- Not too much work to do at home.

Limitations:

- Medical students don't have all the prior knowledge that biomedical students do have, for example in preparation on the lab days.
- It was not very clear what would be in the exam.
- Student would have liked to be more challenged sometimes.

MED-B3MIN14 – Neuroscience of stress-related psychopathology

General information

Name coordinator: dr. E.J. Hermans
E-mail coordinator: erno.hermans@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.4

Description

Stress is a pervasive phenomenon in our lives that can have severe consequences at levels of organization ranging from molecule to population. This course explains the cognitive and neural (dys)functions underlying the development of stress-related psychopathology. It will provide an overview of relevant disorders such as major depression, anxiety disorders, and addiction. The course will explain how symptomatology observed across these disorders can be mapped onto neural systems supporting cognitive functions such as emotion and mood regulation, attention, motivation, and social cognition. Disease development will be discussed within a theoretical framework of gene-environment interaction, which assumes that psychopathology results from a complex interplay of genetic risk factors and environmental stressors. The course has a broad interdisciplinary and translational character: it will explain how animal models for stress-related disorders are developed in molecular and behavioural neuroscience, how (dys)functions of relevant neural systems are investigated using neuroimaging methods in humans, and how knowledge gained from this research is applied to advance treatment.

Student opinion

Students said they gained a lot of knowledge in neuroscience, which they hadn't had too much before. However, not much prior knowledge is needed, and teachers explain this new knowledge very good. Students would have liked more information on the educational materials, such as the lecture slides. Student spend 10 hours per week on this minor, including educational activities.

Strengths:

- The minor was very versatile.
- The writing and presenting of the research proposals and the guidance of the mentors were received very well.
- The study workload is not too high.
- Organisation was good.
- Teachers were experts and very interesting to listen to.
- Not much too contact hours.

Limitations:

- The format of the discussion workshops after the lectures did not work very well.
- Feedback on written exams is difficult to obtain.
- It was difficult to know what information from the lectures would come back in the test.
- Some questions on the exam were too specific.
- The connections between lectures was sometimes unclear.

MED-B3MIN18 – Hemato-Oncology: From Concept to Cure

General information

Name coördinator: dr. A.B. van der Waart
E-mail coordinator: anniek.vanderwaart@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 8.6

Description

The therapeutic field of hemato-oncology is a combination of clinical, molecular and immunological aspects, and is rapidly evolving. On one hand, new insights on the molecular-biological causes of the malignant cells can be used to develop new therapeutical targets. On the other hand, hematological malignancies are excellent targets for cellular immune therapy.

In this minor, the deregulated pathways, clinical aspects, diagnostic and (up-coming) therapeutic strategies are discussed according to the four main groups of hemato-oncological disorders: leukemia's, myeloproliferative disorders, plasma cell disorders, and lymphoma's. Here, both the molecular and immunological aspects are discussed from pathobiology and diagnosis to (molecular & immune) therapy. The knowledge gained in this first part of the minor will be tested by a written exam.

Development of new therapies against hematological malignancies requires (bench-based) research as well as (bedside-based) clinical trials. In the 2nd part of this minor, the gained knowledge will be used to develop a clinical protocol for the development and testing of a new therapy. This will be performed in small work groups (2-4 students) and will be examined via a report and oral presentation.

Combined, this minor will give you insight in the pathobiological, clinical, diagnostic and therapeutic field of hematological malignancies, which you will use to develop a new clinical trial to improve patient outcome in hemato-oncological disorders.

Facts on MED-B3MIN18

- Understand affected molecular processes in major malignant blood cell disorders.
- Use small molecules to correct abnormal cancer cell pathways.
- Learn how immune cells can be trained and modified to specifically kill cancer cells.
- A clinical perspective with molecular and immunological perceptions.
- Design clinical trials to improve patient outcome using precision medicine – pick your own topic!
- ~30% face-to-face education, ~70% self-study and group work.
- Practical on flow cytometry analysis
- Interviews with patients with a hematological malignancy.
- Training your presentation skills.
- Training your writing skills.
- Practicing explaining your clinical trial in a patient (=teacher) – physician (=student) setting.
- Formative exams.
- Very active participation of enthusiastic teachers (clinicians and biologists that in real life team up to design and execute clinical trials).
- Appreciated by both medicine as well as (pre-master) biomedical science students.

Examination

The assessment of the minor consists of 4 parts:

- 2 Written examinations (weight 2 x 0.25)
- Report Clinical protocol (weight 0.4)
- Presentation Clinical protocol (weight 0.1)

All components must be graded 5.5 or higher to pass the course.

Student opinion

The minor Hemato-Oncology: from concept to cure is a well-organized minor where well qualified and enthusiastic teachers take you along in the world of hematological malignancies: from clinical symptoms and diagnostics to personalized targeted and immunological therapies. Within the different educational activities (work groups and writing of a clinical protocol) there is freedom to focus on your own (sub)topic. Overall, the in-dept knowledge gained during this minor is very valuable for both medicine and (pre-master) biomedical science students. Students spend 14-18 hours per week on this minor, including educational activities.

Strengths:

- Well organized course.
- Enthusiastic teachers with interactive and well-prepared lectures.
- In-depth knowledge, learning new concepts in cancer development and precision medicine.
- Prompts students to do their own research and study by themselves.
- Opportunity to focus on individual interests, within this field.

Limitations:

- Lots of new information as Hematology is limited in the rest of the Bachelor (this is also seen as a positive aspect).
- Study load was quite high but the distribution was good.

MED-B3MIN22 – Hemostasis, a delicate balance!

General information

Name coordinator: dr. B.A.P. Laros- van Gorkom
E-mail coordinator: britta.laros-vangorkom@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.3

Description

Regulation of Hemostasis is an essential part of daily clinical practice. Nowadays, more than 50% of the hospitalized patients are treated to prevent thrombotic complications. Most life-threatening complications derive from thrombotic or bleeding events, and searching for the right balance can be a major challenge both for in-hospital and out-patient practice. Thrombosis and hemostasis is an area of continuing innovation and development.

In our minor we provide a translational approach for you to get involved in the magic world of hemostasis. You will get possibilities to integrate your newly acquired knowledge in practice by patient interviewing together with hand-on laboratory diagnostics. Training and coaching in personal presentation skills will be an integral part of the course.

You will be introduced to other stakeholders, like pharmaceutical industries and patient organizations broadening your view. Finally, the course will challenge you to think out of the box with respect to the current therapeutic options; what to do with the giant possibilities with respect to genetics and personalized medicine?

Students opinion

Students note that this minor doesn't contain a big research component and that compared to other research minors this one seems more clinical. Students found the examination to be consistent with learning objectives and the assignments to be very interesting. A lot of time, however, went into looking at and presentations of students which was a bit repetitive and dull. Aside from this most students found this minor to be interesting and in line with earlier knowledge. Also, the teachers were very enthusiastic and gave good feedback. The study load was also deemed good by students.

Strengths:

- The clinical aspects of the minor made it very interesting and easy to follow.
- The teachers were enthusiastic and created an open atmosphere which made it easy to ask questions.
- The structure was good, and the Brightspace course was user-friendly. Communication was good as well.
- The presentations and protocols that the students needed to make provided in-depth knowledge of the subjects, which was useful for the exam.

Limitations:

- The minor is quite clinical.
- Sometimes it was hard to follow all the presentations for a long time.
- The unsupervised working groups were often too long and resulted in everyone working individually.

MED-B3MIN23 – Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunity

General information

Name coordinator: dr. S. van Selm
E-mail coordinator: saskia.vanselm@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.8

Description

The discipline of pediatric infectious diseases covers a broad range of infections. Incidence and manifestations of infections are influenced by the development of the child and the associated maturation and shaping of the immune system, especially in newborns and infants.

Pediatric infectious diseases have been a very fruitful area of science, leading to major new insights and improvements in medical care worldwide. The development of preventive interventions of childhood diseases like diphtheria, measles, polio and pertussis has made a major contribution to the improvement of health worldwide.

In this elective course the student will learn more about the scientific process and principles, while increasing knowledge on pediatric infectious diseases, the developing immune system, immunodeficiency's and vaccines. Understanding of the interplay between the causative agents, pathogenesis and the immune system is an essential step in achieving control and elimination of disease. The course aims to further educate on the scientific process in the medical sciences. You will be able to be inspired by participation in a clinical round, an interactive lab tour and research meetings, and to be in close contact to experts in the field for reflection on the assignments.

Student opinion

This minor is well organized. It has more self-study assignments than lectures. The minor was quite clinically orientated and gave students the chance to choose their own learning path by letting them choose subjects. The examination is split over tests and infographic which most students liked. The study load is well distributed. The minor is in line with knowledge from Q4, however, some subjects were out of line with previous knowledge. Students spend 10-13 hours per week on this minor, including educational activities.

Strengths:

- Interesting lectures.
- Enthusiastic and helpful teachers.
- A tour in the hospital to see your knowledge in practice.
- Study load was good.

Limitations:

- Less research-based than the other minors.
- Type of education was sometimes unnecessary, such as some self-study.
- It is not always clear how much you have to learn for the exams.
- The materials covered in the lessons weren't always consistent with the test.
- A lot of time spent on watching each others presentations.

MED-B3MIN27 – Genomics research – from molecule to population

General information

Name coordinator: dr. ir. D.R.H. de Bruijn
E-mail coordinator: diederik.debruijn@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 8.5

Description

It is safe to say that genome variation contributes to every human disease, except perhaps trauma-related injuries. The relation between genome structure, function, variation and disease-related phenotypes can be studied using genetic, epidemiological, and bioinformatic tools. These tools encompass the whole field from molecular (in vitro, in vivo), in silico, to population-based studies. It is likely that any (bio)medical researcher will encounter or use these tools in his/her own research activities. This minor focuses on the application of such tools to (bio)medicine. In other words: To use the information contained within the genome of patients to understand and diagnose diseases, and (when possible) define strategies for prevention, treatment and/or curing these diseases.

Student opinion

Students found this minor to be very interesting and really a deep dive into genomics. Some students found it to be quite difficult because the prior knowledge from Q2 was sometimes forgotten a bit. Furthermore pre-master student can have a lack of prior knowledge at the start of this minor. Also, the teachers sometimes didn't realize the levels of knowledge of the students, so some lectures were a bit repetitive however, others were too difficult. The different ways of testing in this minor are very nice. The minor is very well organised and has a good build-up of theory. There are only a few teachers in this minor, who are very approachable and have a lot of knowledge. The bioinformatics part of this minor may be quite hard for Medicine students, since the Biomedical students have already had some bioinformatics previously in their Bachelor. Students spend 10-13 hours per week on this minor, including educational activities.

Strengths

- Good build-up of theory.
- Assignments were very well related to the lessons.
- Approachable and enthusiastic teachers.
- Different ways of testing.
- Study load was deemed good, you did not have to do too much at home.
- Different types of practicals, such as computer and lab practicals.

Limitations

- Sometimes the theory was not explained properly, because teacher gave too detailed information.
- Test at the end of the minor was very long.
- Bioinformatics hard for medical students since they have never had this in the rest of the Bachelor. Whereas Biomedical students have had some bioinformatics.

MED-B3MIN30 – Challenges of a future healthy healthcare system

General information

Name coordinator: Wietske Kievit
E-mail coordinator: Wietske.kievit@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 6.7

Description

For you as a future (bio)medical professional it is increasingly important to understand the basic concepts of how healthcare systems work (governance, models of care and models of business) and how its institutions are organized (financing, regulations, policies, decision making). Not only as a practitioner but also in future research, you should be able to positively embed your working goals within the wider healthcare system that comes with all kinds of specific constraints. Furthermore, you will find jobs ranging across a broad spectrum that range from consultants to surgeons. In these roles you also will have to manage 'business' aspects of healthcare provision, such as financial sustainability or the development of new models of care. A good understanding of these topics is therefore essential for (bio)medical students.

This minor will give you the opportunity to gain a better understanding of healthcare systems and finance, but in a practical way. It will do this by forming a learning community of future practitioners and researchers. Learning how to tackle common institutional constraints for innovative approaches from a (bio)medical perspective is what makes this minor unique. Thus, a truly interdisciplinary approach – bridging medicine and biomedical sciences with its social context - is at the forefront of this minor.

At the start of the minor, you assimilate yourselves with relevant trends in different healthcare fields that might spur the development of new models of care: chronic diseases, public health, and elective care. Established expert staff from Radboudumc will guide you to main process innovations such as care networks, digital health, minimal invasive surgery, hospital at home and possible effective models of care needed in order to effectively implement these innovations. At the end of the minor, you have written a case report on what these changes would demand of specific transitions of the health care system.

Student opinion

Students found a nice overlap with the bachelor so there were no issues with prior knowledge. The minor had a nice build-up of knowledge, the further along in the minor the more clear everything became. However, some students said it felt a little all over the place sometimes. The study load was good, and the teachers were enthusiastic. Students spend 10-18 hours per week on this minor, including educational activities.

Strengths:

- This subject isn't really taught in the bachelor, so this was a nice addition.
- Enthusiastic and approachable teachers.
- Site visits were fun because here the literature and practice come together.
- The study load and distribution were good.
- Sufficient balance between types of testing (protocol and test).

Limitations:

- Sometimes a better communication about what was required for the test and what not would have made topics more clear.
- Students missed some structure.
- Some lectures were not educational for the test.

Wednesday

Courses

MED-B3KOB – Advanced data analysis and programming: How to make more of your results?

General information

Name coordinator: dr. A.M.A. Pistorius
E-mail coordinator: arthur.pistorius@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.6

Description

In many areas of the biomedical sciences you, as a researcher have the task to discover relevant parameters in sometimes large data sets or to match experimental data with a theoretical model. It appears not easy to make a choice from a wealth of specialized, user-friendly, commercial software and to remain critical with respect to the method and the outcome, when using these packages. In order to prevent scientific errors and to improve reusability of data and software, data-analysis is often carried out using e.g. MATLAB, R or Image-J. Although the latter two open-source programs are more specialized for statistics and image analysis respectively, these all-purpose programs are available for several computer platforms and might be considered as standard programs for tackling all kinds of data-acquisition, analysis, and visualization of scientific data in many fields of science. By virtue of their open character, you are free to adapt its functionality and to design new functionality to tailor the program to your own needs.

In this practical course, you will develop experience in the use of MATLAB as an example of one of the most important scientific software suites. Training in the use of such a program may prove advantageous in later stages of your study or career when research data have to be analysed or when literature data have to be critically assessed. Moreover, armed with this experience, you are able to understand and to adapt programs or scripts in other programming languages when needed. MATLAB will be introduced as an all-round, full-fledged programming environment. Elements of the syntax and the use of function M-files are treated and applied to research questions from the biomedical sciences (data analysis, statistics and graphical presentation) which you will elaborate with a fellow-student. Case studies are selected from biochemistry, bioinformatics, cell biology, pharmacology, neurosciences, physiology, hematology and cardio-vascular studies. You are invited to work on research projects of your own choice.

Student opinion

Every Wednesday starts with an introduction lecture which can be very in-depth very soon, which makes it hard to follow sometimes. After this, you will make the practice assignments in pairs of two. In the afternoon there are practicals based on biomedical literature, these are the most interesting part of the day. They were mostly on campus and were combined with peer feedback. The exam was hard, but aligned with the learning objectives and was very doable. Students spend 5-8 hours per week on this minor, including educational activities.

Strengths:

- All the activities fit in the daily schedule, so not much extra work.
- The introduction in data analysis and programming is very applicable.
- The teacher was very willing to help.
- The course is very well organized.

Limitations:

- Too little assistance during the practicals. – This will be changed for the course of 2024-2025.

MED-B3KOE – Science in action, philosophy & the dynamics of science

General information

Name coordinator: dr. A.J.M. Oerlemans
E-mail coordinator: anke.oerlemans@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.9

Description

Science was long regarded as an isolated practice of small groups of experts, completely separate from “the real world”, whose products eventually trickled down into society. In the 20th century, this sharp divide vanished. Many now consider science a social phenomenon, which takes shape in a context with many different influences. Scientists, policymakers, interest groups, patients, political forces and societal developments all shape scientific thinking and the products of science.

In this course we will look at this social phenomenon through the eyes of different philosophical and sociological theories. We will use different case studies – HIV/AIDS, sickle cell anemia, ADHD, among others – to consider the different actors and contextual factors that influence biomedical science. Throughout the course we will look at the influence of societal developments, technology, political activism, external sponsors, the institutional context and the role of the scientists themselves. You will work on two group reports, in which you apply the different theories and perspectives to one specific case study (disease or condition).

After completing this course, you will be able to take a broader perspective towards scientific practice and reflect on the context that influences biomedical science and its products.

Student opinion

In this course, you will learn about different science-related issues which will broaden your perspective on science. The course is well organized and divided into some interesting themes that are logically scheduled. On the basis of working groups and SSAs the themes will be sufficiently discussed. There are enough opportunities to ask questions or additional explanations. Besides, a report has to be written where pairs can delve into their own topic of interest. Students spend 5-7 hours per week on this course, including educational activities.

Strengths:

- Interesting study materials, different from the rest of the bachelor's program.
- Good and enthusiastic teachers.
- Interactive and small scaled lectures.
- Clear structure.

Limitations:

- Some of the preparation texts were very complex and thus hard to read.
- What information was needed for the exam was not very clear.
- The workload is experienced differently by students, some say its fine and some say it's not equal throughout the course.

MED-B3KOF – From mice to men: translating animal research into clinical benefit

General information

Name coordinator: dr. K.E. Wever
E-mail coordinator: kim.wever@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.7

Description

In this course you will gain a deep understanding of the impact of animal research on human health(care). The role of animal research in e.g. drug development and toxicology is controversial: it is both championed as essential and criticized as unethical and ineffective. Bear in mind that the ethical justification of animal studies critically relies on their expected contribution to improving human health; an expectation which is often unmet. Most therapies showing promising results in animals fail to translate to patients in terms of efficacy or safety. For instance, despite successful testing in animals, up to 85% of early clinical trials for novel drugs fail! Thus, translating animal data to humans is apparently not an easy task. How can the value of necessary animal studies be maximized?

In this course you will investigate the possible causes of translational failure when translating results from animal studies to humans. You will learn how to signal and prevent a variety of important limitations, biases and systematic failures in the use of animals as models for human disease. We will cover aspects of construct validity, internal validity, external validity, reporting quality, meta- research and we will discuss non-animal alternatives to animal models. You will work on case studies from disease areas such as stroke, Alzheimer's disease, spinal cord injury, renal failure, MI and cancer. After this course you will be equipped to assess the quality and robustness of an individual animal study, as well as a set of animal studies. Furthermore, you will have the knowledge needed to optimize the experimental setup of future animal studies.

Student opinion

This minor gives you an introduction to animal research. Different topics regarding the translational problems involved in animal research are covered. Since this topic is not part of the regular program of Biomedical Sciences it is very useful for students interested in performing animal studies. During the minor you will work on a topic of your choice and describe the translational issues in the study of that specific disease. This assignment gives you the opportunity to directly incorporate the knowledge you have learned during the lectures. Students spend around 5-8 hours per week on this course, including educational activities.

Strengths:

- Speed date sessions were very interesting
- Gives you a clear overview of the pros and cons of animal studies.
- A lot of contact hours, not a lot of work to do at home.
- Approachable and enthusiastic teachers.
- A lot of different educational methods (work groups/lectures/self-study/pitches/interviews etc.)

Limitations:

- In the beginning the main goal of the assignment was not totally clear for the students.
- The pitch training was experienced very time consuming by some students.

MED-B3KOG: Popular science writing

General information

Name coordinator: L.H. Faulds, MA
E-mail coordinator: lorraine.faulds@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 8.0

Description

Academics are increasingly expected not only to be able to write research papers for a specialist audience, but also to have the ability to communicate important findings and the relevance of their research to the public. In this course, participants develop their English writing skills and learn to write texts on scientific topics aimed at general audiences.

Participants will work in groups to create a popular science magazine containing a variety of different popular scientific texts. Each student will write one article about a recent scientific paper or finding that conveys the relevance of this research to a lay audience. In addition, students will collaborate on an interview article which introduces a scientist and their work to the broader public. These assignments will then be put together in a final publication, which may also include other short articles and features to attract their chosen reader.

Students will be graded on the style, coherence and appeal of their individual article and their contribution to the group assignments.

Student opinion

Very informative course about writing articles – both popular and scientific! Students found this minor to be interesting and useful. The study load is on the lower side, some assignments seem to easy which lead to students losing some motivation. Aside from this the students appreciated the enthusiastic teacher and the amount of feedback. Students spend less than 5 hours per week on this course, including educational activities.

Strengths:

- Enthusiastic teachers with good feedback.
- Concepts that were taught (such as structure and word usage) were not only helpful for popular science writing, but also for other assignments.
- Low studyload
- Multiple occasions for receiving feedback on articles.

Limitations:

- Brightspace was sometimes chaotic.

MED-B3KOH: Consultancy

General information

Name coordinator: dr. ir. R.P.B. Reuzel
E-mail coordinator: rob.reuzel@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 8.0

Description

'Consultancy' is one of three career profiles students of Biomedical Sciences can choose in their master's program. It has been developed for those who aspire to assume a role as an advisor, i.e. someone who based on his or her scientific background can determine what are effective solutions to biomedical problems, but also has the communicative skills to manage the possibly different views and stakes of persons involved. The latter requires that, apart from a solid scientific background, analytical skills, and creativity, you have developed competencies such as listening, maintaining a client focus, negotiating, and managing resistance. And this, in turn, requires that you have a clear view on who you are, understand what your signature strengths are, and can use these to manage yourself in interaction with others. This course offers an introduction to consultancy and the required communicative skills. It has been developed for those who already know that their future is in consultancy, as well as for those who wish to discover whether consultancy suits them.

This is a matter of learning by doing. You and your peers will constitute your own learning lab and engage in a series of workshops that will have your personality and signature strengths surface. Based on feedback you will reflect on your behaviour and its effectiveness, and experiment with alternatives. Very importantly, you should understand that essentially this is about you. You should participate only if you feel comfortable being approached personally and sharing your thoughts and feelings with your peers.

Student opinion

This course is very good for both your self-knowledge and your personal development. This course is more about the student him/herself than the study material! The students spend 5-7 hours per week on this course, including educational activities.

Strengths:

- Students appreciate the personal attention from the teachers for their development. The safety in the group makes it possible to be yourself and show a more vulnerable side. There is a positive accent on talents instead of learning goals.
- Students were enthusiastic about the mini-advisory trajectory based on a real client case.
- Not much work to do at home.

Limitations:

- Students would like to see more theory of consultancy.
- Some elements were a bit vague for the students.

Thursday & Friday

Minors

MED-B3MIN03 – Cardiovascular science; nothing beats the heart

General information

Name coordinator: prof. dr. D.H.J. Thijssen
E-mail coordinator: dick.thijssen@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 6.8

Description

In this minor, a group of dedicated (pre)clinical investigators will introduce you to the field of Cardiovascular Science. Cardiovascular disease remains the world's leading cause of death, which highlights the importance of understanding the regulation of the cardiovascular system and how to prevent the development or progression of cardiovascular disease. Arguably, prevention of cardiovascular disease starts before birth, and should remain a central focus of contemporary medicine throughout the rest of one's life. For this reason, we have structured this minor around the themes of primary (i.e. development of atherosclerosis), secondary (i.e. care around acute events) and tertiary (i.e. development of heart failure and associated pathology) prevention of cardiovascular disease. By better understanding of the underlying pathologies, insight into state-of-the-art technology to evaluate cardiovascular health, and discussion of future opportunities, we will provide a comprehensive overview of the cutting-edge research and innovations in the field of cardiovascular science.

In short, you will first learn about the pathophysiology of atherosclerosis, the novel insights into the role of inflammation in atherosclerosis progression, and its impact on the function of structure of the heart (Part A). Subsequently, we will focus on the moment when it all goes wrong; a myocardial infarction, the need for (immediate) surgery, rhythm problems, and pathologies of the heart valves (Part B). Finally, we learn about the longer-term impact of abnormalities of the heart, often leading to heart failure and its complex, multi-organ and multi-factorial aetiology (Part C). A cross-cutting theme in this minor is the translation of preclinical and population research findings to humans in vivo in order to improve health care and outcome of patients (Part D). For this reason, you will collaborate in research teams of 3-4 students to design your own research project. Within this group-based work, you will acquire specific skills around presenting (infographics, pitch-type presentations, figures) and writing (grants, papers).

Student opinion

This minor was well received by biomedical science students as by medicine students, even though the minor focusses on research. The teachers are very enthusiastic and know a lot about their field of expertise. The practical's are very informative and were explained properly. The minor goes deep into the subject of matter, which is sometimes experienced as too difficult.

Strengths:

- Material available to repair any deficiencies in prior knowledge.
- Much in-depth knowledge.
- Good distribution of the study load and contact hours.
- Enthusiastic teachers.

Limitations:

- Long days.
- Many presentations.

MED-B3MIN08 – State-of-the-art research technologies in cancer, immunology and diagnostics

General information

Name coordinator: dr. ir. W.F. Daamen
E-mail coordinator: willeke.daamen@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 6.9

Description

This minor focusses on molecular and biomedical technologies and strategies used in modern laboratories all over the world. Focus is on contemporary challenges in cancer, immunology and diagnostics. The minor has a strong emphasis on practical skills, and prepares students for their traineeships in pathobiological, toxicological and biomedical research. The technologies practiced are all firmly embedded in current medical challenges such as cancer, inflammation, biomarkers and toxicological issues. Technologies that will be addressed include molecular-biological techniques for DNA/RNA/protein analyses, (immune)histological and cell-based techniques. Hands-on (lab) activities with the aforementioned techniques constitute a major part of the minor. In addition, ample training will be given to rationally apply technologies to design research strategies, and to be able to communicate data/designs in a comprehensive way. The minor will be capped by a mini-symposium in which the student will be given the opportunity to present a self-designed research strategy focused on a biomedical issue of her/his own choice. Realize that this minor is considered very demanding for students with little (practical) lab experience. As the goal of the minor is to prepare students for a lab internship, both theoretical and practical knowledge on research techniques are being taught.

Student opinion

The minor was very educational, but medicine students experienced a lack in knowledge and practical skills compared to biomedical students. The set-up of the minor contains a lot of lab practical's, which most students found to be very instructive. The subjects are very diverse and in-depth. The teachers are enthusiastic and motivated.

Strengths:

- Enthusiastic and motivating teachers.
- Almost all modern biomedical techniques were considered, both in theory and practice.
- Lots of practical work, with clear instructions and protocols.
- Good distribution of study load.

Limitations:

- Long days with many contact hours (because of the lab work).
- Some themes were less instructive than others.
- Some teachers appeared a bit chaotic.
- Not enough time scheduled to write the report.

MED-B3MIN10 – Diagnostics and molecular research in kidney disease

General information

Name coordinator: prof. dr. D. Swinkels
E-mail coordinator: dorine.swinkels@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.3

Description

Each day, 180 liters of plasma is filtered by your kidneys to remove waste products from the circulation and maintain volume homeostasis. Around 99% of this filtrate/pro-urine is reabsorbed within the kidney via various transport processes, making the kidney a true hub of activity. A vast number of factors governs transport in the kidney, many of which are still largely unknown to us.

This is where you come in! In this minor, you will adopt the role of a renal researcher, attempting to answer questions like: Can we come up with alternatives to kidney transplants? What is the link between hypertension and kidney disease? Which cells are involved in scar-formation in focal segmental glomerulosclerosis? How does the kidney regulate excretion of magnesium and calcium, even though dietary intake varies wildly? How accurate and precise are the diagnostic tools that we currently have, and can we improve them?

In addition, there will be multiple opportunities to discuss the impact of renal disease with patients suffering from kidney diseases. What is it like to receive a renal transplant? What is the impact of having to travel to the dialysis ward almost every day?

This will provide you with the framework you need to set up and conduct your very own experiments at the one of the Radboudumc departments with ongoing ground-breaking renal research programs.

Over the course of several weeks, you will function as a PhD student at such a department, and hopefully add exciting new knowledge on renal disease mechanisms and associated leads for novel diagnostic tools or treatment targets kidney. You will present your newly found data to the other researchers at the department and in a scientific article.

Taken together, this minor introduces you to current topics in renal disease, using a bench-to-bedside approach. A variety of lab, diagnostics, clinical and social experiences will help you gain a better understanding of the connection between fundamental kidney research and clinical practice. And will let you experience top-notch research first-hand to prepare you for your bachelor internship.

Student opinion

Interesting and varied minor given by enthusiastic experts and supervisors. The content of the courses was well received by both medical and biomedical students. This minor provided the opportunity to dive deep into a nephrological research topic. Both clinical and research topics were discussed.

Strengths:

- Enthusiastic, helpful and specialist teachers.
- Diverse and interesting courses with much room for in-depth knowledge.
- The exams match with the study materials.
- Good distribution of the study load.

Limitations:

- Long in-between hours.
- Variety in guidance of a supervisor during the grant proposal project.

MED-B3MIN12 – Assessment of Surgical Innovation

General information

Name coordinator: dr. M.J.G.M. Tummers
E-mail coordinator: Marcia.tummers@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.7

Description

This minor is for those who want to improve surgical care by ensuring that innovative interventions match the needs of patients, physicians, and other stakeholders. Therefore, we need to look at surgical practice from the perspectives of all relevant stakeholders and understand what working mechanisms contribute to problems in the field. We need to understand which working mechanisms (biological, social, political) contribute to problems, and identify new interventions to solve them. We also need to employ mechanism- and evidence-based approaches to evaluate the interventions. This all helps to understand the value of interventions, identify barriers and facilitators to implementation, and recognize possibilities for improvement.

You will learn basic methods of problem structuring (interviewing, qualitative research, interactive evaluation), and health technology assessment (outcome measurement, economic analysis and decision modelling). This minor involves practice-based learning, you and others working with stakeholders on real problems in the field of surgery.

Student opinion

Students are really enthusiastic about the knowledge they collected during the minor. A big part was dedicated to a project, in which students learned to implement innovations in a clinical environment. The minor introduced students with qualitative research, for example by performing interviews. The project was very realistic and was an addition to their methodological knowledge and their personal development.

Strengths:

- You get the chance to work on a big project which focusses on implementing clinically-relevant innovations.
- In the projects there is a lot of communication with the involved patients, doctors, HTA- experts and other people.
- Good communication from the coordinator.
- Individual feedback sessions.
- The theoretical lectures were tailored to the needs of the students.

Limitations:

- The required knowledge for the exam was not always clear.
- Some lectures were repetitive or felt unnecessary

General information

Name coordinator: dr. R. Wansink
E-mail coordinator: rick.wansink@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 8.6

Description

Medical biotechnology comprises the application of living cells or cell material in the development or generation of products to prevent, diagnose or treat human disease. Historical examples of biotechnology in support of medicine are the development of vaccines against smallpox and the production of antibiotics or human insulin by bacteria or yeast. Exciting 21st century developments are genetic engineering with CRISPR/Cas (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020), gene therapy, mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 and stem cell-based regenerative medicine. Medical biotechnology is a fascinating and rapidly evolving field, integrating molecular, cell biological, genetic and immunological research areas.

The first part of this Minor runs together with the course NWI-MOL104 Medical Biotechnology for students from the Faculty of Science from the RU and provides an overview of how interdisciplinary efforts help shaping modern healthcare by developing biotechnological diagnostics and therapeutics for precision medicine. Principles and concepts of medical biotechnology will be discussed in a scientific and medical context, including legal, societal and ethical considerations. Together with students from different life sciences disciplines you will write a medical biotechnological research proposal and present this at a mini-symposium.

In the second half of the Minor you will carry out experiments in four different projects in the lab. These include molecular diagnostics (e.g., PCR, sequencing), recombinant DNA techniques, recombinant protein production, cell culture and adhesion assays, and cell transfection experiments mimicking gene therapy.

Altogether, Medical Biotechnology towards Clinical Practice presents an excellent practical and theoretical course for students interested in molecular life sciences and in biotechnological innovations for patient care.

Examination

Assessment consists of eight parts (each must be graded at least 5.5 to pass the course, except the lab introduction and reporting):

- Written exam Q9 (midterm; individual; weight 20%)
- Participation during research proposal writing (individual; weight 5%)
- Written mini-review and research proposal (group; weight 20%)
- Oral presentation of research proposal (group; weight 5%)
- Lab introduction and reporting (individual; pass/fail)
- Oral presentation of a lab project (individual; weight 5.0%)
- Three written lab project reports (individual; total weight 40%)
- Participation and performance during lab practicals (individual; weight 5%)

Student opinion

This minor will prepare you well for your internship, the broadest way possible. The first nine weeks are only dedicated to theory and the writing of a research proposal together with FNWI students. The last eleven weeks comprise four different lab projects in which a lot of experimental skills are obtained.

Strengths:

- Enthusiastic, approachable, knowledgeable teachers.
- Interesting and innovative topics.
- Well organized minor (lectures, self study, response course).
- Great practicals, which prepare for wet lab internship.
- Writing of research proposal in teams with students from Science Faculty.
- Writing of research lab reports was very educational.
- Fills life sciences knowledge gaps from bachelor.

Limitations:

- A lot of theory and different topics given in a short time.
- Ambitious, sometimes difficult lectures.

General information

Name coordinator: dr. D. Schubert
E-mail coordinator: d.schubert@donders.ru.nl
Grade: 7.4

Description

Why are there currently still no cures even for intensively studied neurodevelopmental and movement disorders, such as autism spectrum disorders? Starting from this basic question you are going to set a frame in this interfaculty minor “Translational Neuroscience” and draw upon the following topics: What is nowadays known about the neurobiological mechanisms underlying these disorders – and what is not known? What state of the art scientific tools do we currently have to investigate these disorders? Where is preclinical and clinical research now and are there new treatments and therapies in sight? The problems clinicians and researchers nowadays face with neurodevelopmental and movement disorders range from diagnostics, neurobiology, genetics and choosing suitable research methodologies to therapy.

Aim of this course is to enable you to apply the current knowledge in neurobiology to propose translational research strategies that will help to either better understand the etiology of neurological disorders or their potential treatments. The course has been found very valuable by students of medicine, biomedical sciences, biology and molecular life sciences that want to learn about clinical neuroscience and neurobiology - and - how to bridge between these two disciplines: that is *Translational Neuroscience*.

A core element of the minor is that during its entire length you will work in groups of three students in order to produce together a translational research proposal for studying a particular neurological or movement disorder. During this project you will carry out a systematic review of the scientific literature complementary to the information that has been taught in the course modules. Each group will be supported by a “personal tutor”, who is an expert scientist or clinician in the respective field.

For a short information slide presentation about MED-MIN16, please also visit: www.schubert-neurolab.org/med-min16.html

Content wise, we will first introduce the clinical problem settings. Partially using patient demonstrations, clinicians, who have hands-on experience on the respective disorders, will introduce the clinical aspects of selected relevant neurological and movement disorders. Subsequently researchers will provide you with the fundamental knowledge of neurobiological and genetic processes as well as state of the art methodologies (including (lab) practical(s)), at a level where you can appreciate the mechanisms that (potentially) underlie neurological disorders. Finally, we will explain and illustrate the current applications of various methodologies in translational and clinical research as well as in therapy and diagnostics. Towards the end of the course, you will have two times the chance to spend 1.5 days either in a lab or in a clinical department and to get hands on experience in translational research.

Taken together you will learn about the applicability, advantages and disadvantages of the experimental methodological approaches that are currently available to study the animal and human brain and how to integrate all this in your translational research proposal project.

Student opinion

The minor offered students a lot of new information that had not been educated during the bachelor. Students especially enjoyed the dissection practical. The minor starts with a bootcamp which helps with refreshing the knowledge. Teachers were well-prepared, enthusiastic and passionate about their expertise.

Strengths:

- Great build-up throughout the module.
- Lot of variation in teaching methods, lectures, practical's, presentations, exercises.
- Amount of contact hours and study load were fine.
- Teachers were experts in their field and very enthusiastic.
- Well organized.

Limitations:

- Lack of prior knowledge for medical student
- High study load

Only for Pre-master students!

General information

Name coordinator: dr. I.S.L.M. van Rooij
E-mail coordinator: iris.vanrooij@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.6

Description

The minor Biomedical Research Methods is specifically designed for premaster students of Biomedical Sciences. In this minor students will learn most of the research content that regular BMS bachelor students learned during their first 1.5 years of study. It is about human-based research in populations. Research methods and practice starting from formulating a research question to reporting about results will be taught, including finding literature, data collection methods, study designs, sources of bias, and statistical analyses. Besides epidemiology and statistics, ethical concerns in scientific research will be discussed and students will learn to build and use models to study dynamic biomedical processes and to make predictions based on these models. Students will get practical experience with the program SPSS in this minor and will actively work on the design of a study for pregnancy outcomes and on analysing data to explore causal factors for bladder cancer or diabetes mellitus.

Student opinion

A very instructive minor to receive education in research methodology, statistics and modelling as a pre-master BMW from higher vocational education or another university bachelor's degree.

Strengths:

- Enthusiastic and involved teachers.
- Contact hours and self-study assignments are divided well over the weeks.
- The minor really connects to the HBO.
- Logical structure of the minor.
- It is nice to gain practical experience based on the theory of research methods and statistics.

Limitations:

- High study load with many self-study assignments and deadlines.
- The teaching of the "Modelling" component does not tie in very well with the test.
- Teachers use both Dutch and English interchangeably.

MED-B3MIN19 – Clinical Exercise Physiology

General information

Name coordinator: dr. T.M.H. Eijsvogels
E-mail coordinator: thijs.eijsvogels@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 8.8

Description

Knowledge about exercise physiology is getting more and more important in clinical practice. Exercise tests are often used to diagnose patients and regular exercise has been proven to be vital in primary/secondary prevention and treatment of several diseases. In the Biomedical Sciences and Medicine curriculum there is limited attention for the physiological changes that occur in response to acute and chronic exercise. The relevance of this knowledge for medical sciences is only minimally addressed as well. Therefore, the purpose of this minor is to focus on clinical exercise physiology by offering a 20-week program developed to gain all knowledge needed to apply the principles of exercise physiology in (medical) practice and in a scientific context.

The first part of the minor (week 1 - 9) starts with a recap of the general physiology followed by in-depth discussion of the respiratory, circulatory and muscular systems, which are the primary organ systems in exercise physiology. For each system you will learn the physiology at rest, in response to acute exercise, and of adaptations following long-term exercise exposure. The lectures, working groups and practical work meetings will be based on a combination of patient cases and observations in athletes.

The second part of the minor (week 10 – 19) will focus on practical application of your exercise physiology knowledge. For example, you will learn to perform and interpret exercise tests and use the outcomes of the test to diagnose abnormalities in patients. We will visit National Sports Centre Papendal to observe how scientific knowledge is implemented in (clinical) practice. You will also learn the principles of training physiology and apply this knowledge by developing a training program for an athlete or patient. Finally, you will also get acquainted with pre- peri- and post-treatment exercise programs in oncology and the cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation programs of the Radboudumc.

The minor is highly recommended for biomedical sciences students with interest in the field of human movement sciences, and/or medical students interested in physiology and in specializations using the clinical application of exercise testing (i.e. oncology, cardiology, lung disease, (neuro)muscular disorders, sports medicine, etc).

Student opinion

Interesting, diverse, and in-depth minor for anyone who has an affinity, passion or ambition for sports and exercise. A very valuable addition to the core curriculum for both medicine and biomedical sciences students.

Strengths:

- Enthusiastic teachers and great communication.
- Interesting study materials, useful lectures/working groups, challenging practical's.
- Good balance of study load.

Limitations:

- Some students found that there was an overlap in information in the working groups.
- The level of English varied between teachers

MED-B3MIN21 – Breast cancer; biology, treatment, patient

General information

Name coordinator: dr. M.M.P. Zegers
E-mail coordinator: mirjam.zegers@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 7.3

Description

About 14,000 women (and 100 men) are diagnosed with invasive breast cancer each year in the Netherlands, which means that 12-13% of women will develop breast cancer at any time in her life. Early detection, particularly via national breast cancer screening, combined with locoregional treatment and systemic adjuvant therapy has improved the prognosis in women with breast cancer (Breast Cancer Guideline, NABON 2012). In this minor, we will use breast cancer as example to understand the many factors that determine successful translational research on a human disease. Breast cancer is a good example for this approach as it is major cause of mortality, and a well-studied disease with various underlying molecular defects to which targeted therapies can be designed. Furthermore, breast cancer patient support and advocacy groups are relatively large and well-organized and are an important factor in research fund raising.

The main aspects covered in this minor include the following:

- The molecular mechanisms that cause the disease.
- Preclinical cell and animal models to study the disease and to predict therapeutic efficacy.
- Methods for diagnosis, and to design targeted and personalized treatment.
- How to monitor efficacy of therapy?
- Patients-involvement in decision making?
- How to write a research proposal.

Student opinion

Interesting minor with great teachers. Especially the lab work and the writing of the lab report were highly appreciated. The workload was high, but the balance between contact hours and self-study time was good.

Strengths:

- Involvement, quality and enthusiasm of the teachers.
- Variety of subjects.
- Lab work and report writing, lectures.
- Doable in the time that was scheduled for it.

Limitations:

- Some students received limited feedback on their assignments.
- Skewed distribution of study load.

MED-B3MIN25 – Sustainable healthcare improvement: principles and practice

General information

Name coordinator: dr. J.C.C. Braspenning
E-mail coordinator: joze.braspenning@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 6.2

Description

The aim of this minor is to deepen the understanding and teaching the skills regarding methods of quality of care management and research. The minor is structured around three themes on quality of care that is (1) healthcare (systems), (2) different stakeholder's perspectives on quality of care, and (3) designing an appropriate improvement plan (innovation and implementation). Knowledge on healthcare systems and their health outcomes shows improvement possibilities. The definition of meaningful patient outcomes is crucial in this process. Quality of care relates to various outcomes. Furthermore, patients, doctors and payers draw attention to different aspects of these outcomes. So, choosing outcomes is more or less a profession in itself, and it is basic material for the evaluation of care. Nowadays, care is often organised in care pathways (integrated care) in which different professionals need to collaborate (interprofessional collaboration). Integrated care stresses the search for meaningful outcomes even more, but raises also questions on the governance of the collaborative. Who is ideally in charge? How is information shared? These questions are addressed in the minor as well. As professionals will have to keep on track with all these changes, the development of an improvement plan to introduce changes will be at the heart of the minor. To learn how quality management takes place in clinical practice an excursion to a nursing home will be arranged.

Student opinion

Very interesting minor that connects to current affairs. The practical experience was received very well, and the guidance was enthusiastic and of good quality. There was a lot of reading work, but it was a great addition to the rest of the bachelors program.

Strengths:

- From the perspective of various stakeholders (healthcare providers and patients).
- Nice practical experience in a nursing home.
- Good enthusiastic guidance with useful individual feedback.
- Clear, good planning.

Limitations:

- Minimal contact hours in the last ten weeks, because of the research proposal assignment.
- Many presentations

MED-B3MIN28 – Human embryology in perspective

General information

Name coordinator: Annelieke Schepens-Franke

E-mail coordinator: annelieke.schepens-franke@radboudumc.nl

Grade: 8.4

Description

If you are fascinated by the complex process that leads from just two cells to the development of a complete human being and would like to know more about the causes and clinical aspects of birth defects, you will like this minor. It will enhance your knowledge of embryonic and fetal development of all major organ systems of the human body and will show you the variety of birth defects in these organ systems. In addition, you will get familiar with research and care involved in pregnancies complicated by birth defects and in children with birth defects. Clinical aspects, such as prenatal screening, diagnosis, treatment, prognosis and ethical issues will be addressed and discussed with clinicians working in the field. You will also acquire knowledge on the influence of several non- genetic / environmental risk factors, such as smoking or medication use during pregnancy, on embryonic and fetal development. You will apply your knowledge and skills acquired during the minor by developing a research proposal, and literature related to your topic will be discussed in a small journal club. Finally, you will get the chance to meet and collaborate with patients with a birth defect or their parents to get familiar with the social and emotional context of these disorders.

During the minor, you will work individually or in small groups on different projects.

Birth defects are important causes of chronic illness and disability and even prenatal or childhood mortality, whereas some birth defects may be prevented by vaccination, changes in lifestyle habits or medication, adequate food intake and/or adequate antenatal care. This minor provides insight into the work of the epidemiologist, gynaecologist, clinical geneticist, neonatologist, paediatrician, developmental biologist and others concerned with causes and consequences of birth defects and clinical care of patients with a birth defect as well as insight into the lives of patients with birth defects and their parents.

Student opinion

The students learn a lot about embryology, the clinic and experience of congenital anomalies, as well as conducting research into these abnormalities and risk factors for their development. They think it is a varied minor with, in addition to embryological knowledge, a lot of attention for both the clinic and scientific research.

Strengths:

- Enough material available to refresh knowledge about embryology.
- Wide variety in forms of education (patient contacts, practical's, clinical visit)
- Enthusiastic teachers and guest lecturers.
- Students liked the Welearn patient participation program and the chicken egg practicum.

Limitations:

- High, uneven study load.
- Unclear to what extent certain knowledge was expected to be known.

MED-B3MIN29 – Control of Infectious Diseases

General information

Name coordinator: dr. J.L.A. Hautvast
E-mail coordinator: Jeannine.hautvast@radboudumc.nl
Grade: 8

Description

This minor focuses on the acquisition of essential scientific knowledge and skills to contribute to the prevention, containment, rational antimicrobial treatment and control of infectious diseases in hospital and community settings. Topics include: antimicrobial resistance (microbiology, pharmacology, guidelines, stewardship and point prevalence survey), hospital infection prevention and control (in the Netherlands and low-resource countries), whole genome sequencing, TB, one health, surveillance (general, laboratory-based and data analysis), outbreak investigation and communication, vaccinations as tool for prevention and modelling. This minor prepares students for a research and clinical internship in the area of infectious diseases and infection control. Students will work in small groups on their own research database resulting in a scientific paper.

The minor uses various teaching manners, such as lectures, group work, presentations, joining a point prevalence study in the hospital, a table-top exercise on outbreak control in the hospital, a serious game on outbreak control in the community, and an excursion to the high-level isolation unit. Evaluations from previous years show that students appreciate the enthusiasm of the teachers, the various exercises, games and excursions, and they value their acquired academic skills by performing their own data analysis, presenting the results, and writing a scientific article.

Student opinion

The minor is a good addition to the bachelor and provides knowledge about antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance that students find unique compared to the regular bachelor courses. Most of the study work could be finished during the contact hours, which resulted in a minimal amount of homework.

Strengths:

- Even distribution of study load.
- Time scheduled to work on group projects, which makes it easy to plan meetings with your group.
- Enthusiastic teachers.
- Variety in forms of education.

Limitations:

- A lot of group presentations, especially in the beginning of the minor.