

Professional Profile Medical Microbiological Researcher (MMR)

Introduction

This professional profile describes the vocational responsibilities and tasks of the “Medical Microbiological Researcher” (MMR). In addition, the profile describes the position of this professional discipline within the field of medical microbiological research and within the Dutch Society of Medical Microbiology (NVMM). The field of microbiology is changing rapidly, in particular in areas involving molecular microbiology, medical biology and immunology. These developments have resulted in a more prominent role of the MMR within the field of Medical Microbiology.

MMR education and certification

Any researcher within the field of medical microbiology can acquire MMR certification after completing the MMR education successfully. The requirements and guidelines for this education have been set by the Foundation for Biomedical Scientific Research Training (or SMBWO).

The SMBWO is also responsible for granting the MMR certification of a researcher. The regulations and code of conduct as determined for the MMR education are described separately and can be found at www.smbwo.nl.

Vocational responsibilities and tasks of a MMR

An MMR is employed by a medical microbiology laboratory and can perform fundamental, translational or applied research. These research activities are primarily taking place within university medical centres, large regional hospitals as well as other medical laboratories. The tasks of an MMR can include diagnostics, epidemiological or fundamental research within the wide scope of medical microbiology. The MMR is (partly) responsible for the research taking place within the laboratory. In most cases, research is performed in collaboration with medical specialists such as clinical microbiologists, infectious disease consultants or medical molecular microbiologists (MMMs). The MMMs are certified MMRs who have completed a subsequent 2-year training approved by the NVMM. The specific responsibilities and tasks of the MMM focus on the molecular microbiological diagnosis of infectious diseases. The MMM professional profile can be found at www.NVMM.nl. Training for MMM certification can only be started after the candidate is certified as MMR.

Article 1: Definitions

- MMR: Medical Microbiological Researcher; a certified expert as defined by requirements set by the SMBWO
- NVMM (Nederlandse Vereniging voor Medische Microbiologie): Dutch Society of Medical Microbiology

- SMBWO (Stichting voor opleiding tot Medisch-Biologisch Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek): Foundation for Medical and Biomedical Scientific Research Training
- MMM: Medical Molecular Microbiologist; a MMR who has subsequently completed a 2-year training program approved by NVMM
- Medical microbiology laboratory: the complete laboratory facility, comprised of laboratory space, personnel and materials, aimed at performing fundamental, translational and/or applied research.

Article 2: Medical Microbiological Research

The main task of the MMR is to perform scientific research in the area of Medical Microbiology. This can be fundamental, translational or applied research. The MMR and his/her supervisor(s) are responsible for the performed research.

Article 3: Medical Microbiology Laboratory

The research activities of the MMR are performed within an accredited medical microbiology laboratory. The laboratory fulfils all requirements needed for performing these tasks. The laboratory will provide a suitable environment including facilities and personnel for performing research in agreement with appropriate regulations regarding security and safety. The MMR contributes to and is (partly) responsible for maintaining a safe laboratory environment (including all access restrictions needed for biosafety) in agreement with professional guidelines.