

### **Summary SEP assessment of the Research Institute Brain and Cognition (B&C)**

The committee finds B&C research to be at a very good to excellent level with many faculty members who are world-leading experts. The very high level of productivity, significant impact, international and interdisciplinary nature of the work are applauded, as are the warm environment and excellent infrastructure which facilitate these. The PRC praises B&C's mission to translate basic research to clinical results, the high number of clinical trials and commitment to involving patients, all of which have resulted in innovative work. The levels of funding, tenured staff and PhD students have been stable during the evaluation period, but encouraging investigator-led grants is advised. The committee finds PhD training and newly-initiated postdoc support to be excellent, and overall, the committee highly values that the focus is on the quality of PhD supervision rather than on unlimited growth. Though the institute has reframed its research aims and successfully restructured in order to deliver on its mission, this situation may not be viable given the UMCG's matrix structure. and the PRC advises to monitor this closely. A key element contributing to B&C's high viability is the quality of its leadership, the value that is placed on teamwork and mentoring, and strong and fair people management. Finally, the committee is very impressed with the cohorts and 'Benches-to-bedside' translational efforts which are extremely important for the Institute's future. As a result, further enhancing clinical-preclinical collaboration and making optimal use of cohorts should be a priority.

#### **Research Quality**

- Continue to develop new innovative projects and make the most of the prestigious funding opportunities available, using the cohort data to 'harvest' on.

#### **Societal relevance**

- Develop a clear vision, goals and expectations for societal impact, and install infrastructure to proactively support and manage the impact pipeline.
- Further enhance participation of patients and families.

#### **Viability**

- Work around thematic transdiagnostic topics to further tie up clinical-preclinical interaction and collaboration, and generally support opportunities for interaction.
- Make seed funding available to spark new areas of research and new collaborations particularly in areas involving clinical staff.
- Improve the network function of B&C for researchers at postdoc and assistant-professor level, broaden approaches to diversity to include neurodiversity and ethnicity, improve clarity of different career tracks and continue to work on shortening PhD duration.