

By-laws
for the “Network Aging Research” network at Heidelberg University

Heidelberg University, the German Cancer Research Centre Heidelberg, Mannheim University, and the Central Institute of Mental Health/Mannheim founded a cross-institutional cooperation under the name of “Network Aging Research (NAR)” as partners in 2006. The cooperation pursues the object of cross-institutional networking of existing activities in the area of aging research, which is growing in relevance for society.

A university-internal network is to be established to combine and coordinate the activities of the scientists involved in this collaboration in order to support and expand internal university networking.

The Senate of the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg adopted the following by-laws for this network in its meeting of 28/02/2023 in accordance with § 19 (1), sentence 2, no. 10 LHG:

§ 1
Goals and tasks

(1) The Network Aging Research at Heidelberg University is a university-internal network of humanities and natural scientists as well as physicians investigating aspects of aging in an interdisciplinary manner using an integrated, systemic approach. The university’s Aging Research Network is applying new methods of knowledge transfer in this context in order to securely connect the subjects, as well as theory and practice.

This is achieved by

- research in all areas represented in the three pillars of the University’s Aging Research Network
- dialogue that spans disciplinary boundaries
- promotion of junior researchers
- public relations

(2) The university's Aging Research Network shall coordinate the university-internal research activities in the area of aging research. It shall be involved in the inter-institutional "Network Aging Research" founded in 2006. The scientists involved within the university – including co-opted members – will each be assigned to one of the following pillars:

- Basic biological research and medical aging research
- Aging research in the humanities, social and behavioural sciences
- Medical, digital, and socio-economic intervention points

The Rectorate shall be in charge of official supervision of the network.

(3) Each pillar shall elect two spokespersons from among its members.

§ 2 Management

(1) The network shall be headed by an executive director or, if they are prevented from doing so, a deputy director.

(2) The executive director shall be appointed by the Rectorate for a term of office of 2 years upon the proposal of the spokespersons for the three pillars (in accordance with §1 (3)) of the NAR. Re-appointment shall be possible. The executive director must be from one of the faculties of natural sciences or humanities and social sciences at Heidelberg University. The deputy shall also be appointed by the Rectorate upon the proposal of the executive director. The term of office of the deputy shall end along with the term of office of the executive director. Re-appointment shall be possible.

(3) The executive director shall conduct the day-to-day business of the network and make decisions on its affairs. They shall represent the network towards the committees and boards of the university and shall be obligated to keep the Rectorate informed at all times.

§ 3
Members

- (1) Members of the network shall include all scientists of the university who cooperate within the scope of projects in the area of aging research. Membership must be requested from the network's office (§ 4) and shall require written confirmation by the executive director. Membership in the network shall generally end upon completion of the research activity in the area of aging research or work at Heidelberg University. In justified cases, membership may continue with the executive director's consent even if the requirements are no longer met.
- (2) The executive director shall convene a general meeting at least once per year, in which all members of the network shall be authorised to participate. The meeting has the purpose of enabling scientific exchange between the members as well as to provide information on current matters of the network and make decisions on the proposals to the Rectorate for appointment of the executive director.

§ 4
Administration/finances

The executive director shall be supported by an office headed by a scientific manager who is a member of the management board. The head of the office shall handle the administrative tasks and implement any decisions of the executive director. This shall apply in particular to internal distribution of the resources provided to the network (personnel and material resources, rooms).

§ 5
Entering into effect

These by-laws shall enter into effect on the first day of the month following their publication in the Rector's Gazette.

Heidelberg, 03/03/2023

Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Bernhard Eitel
Rector