

A MORE UNIFIED RESEARCH INTEGRITY POLICY

At Erasmus MC

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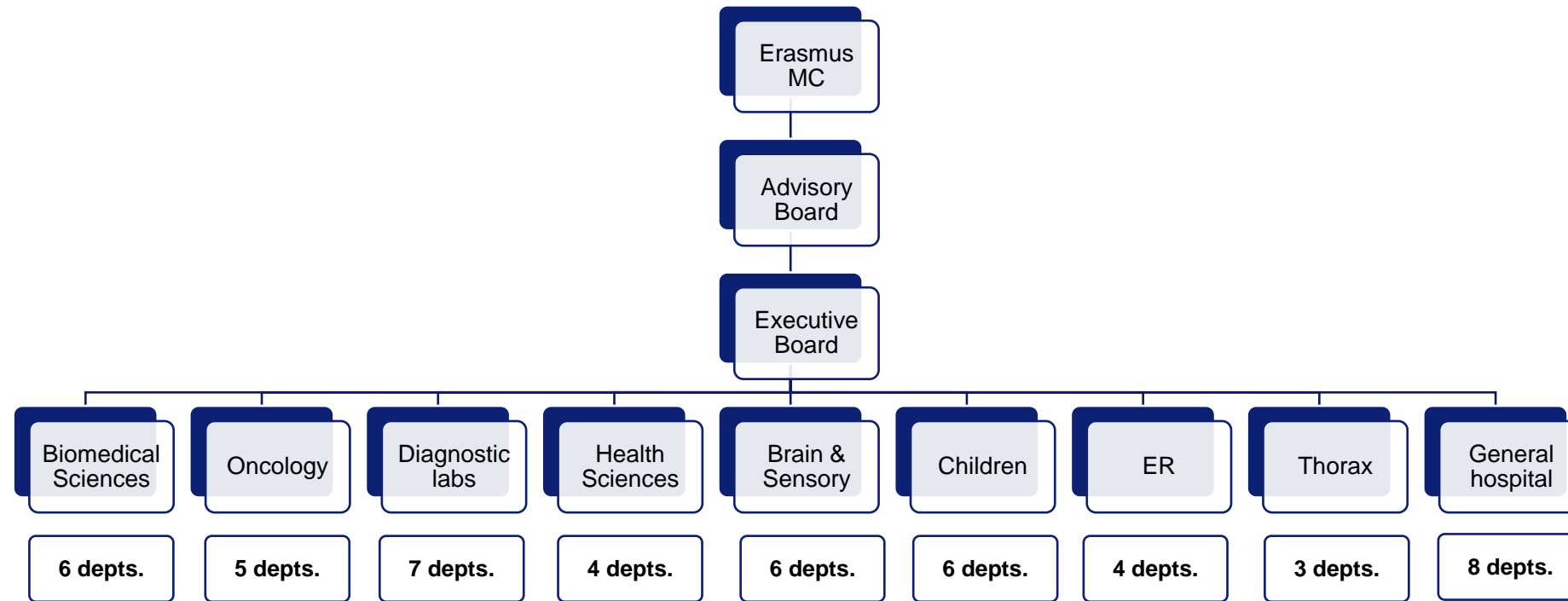
Erasmus MC
University Medical Center Rotterdam



RESEARCH INTEGRITY IN ERASMUS MC

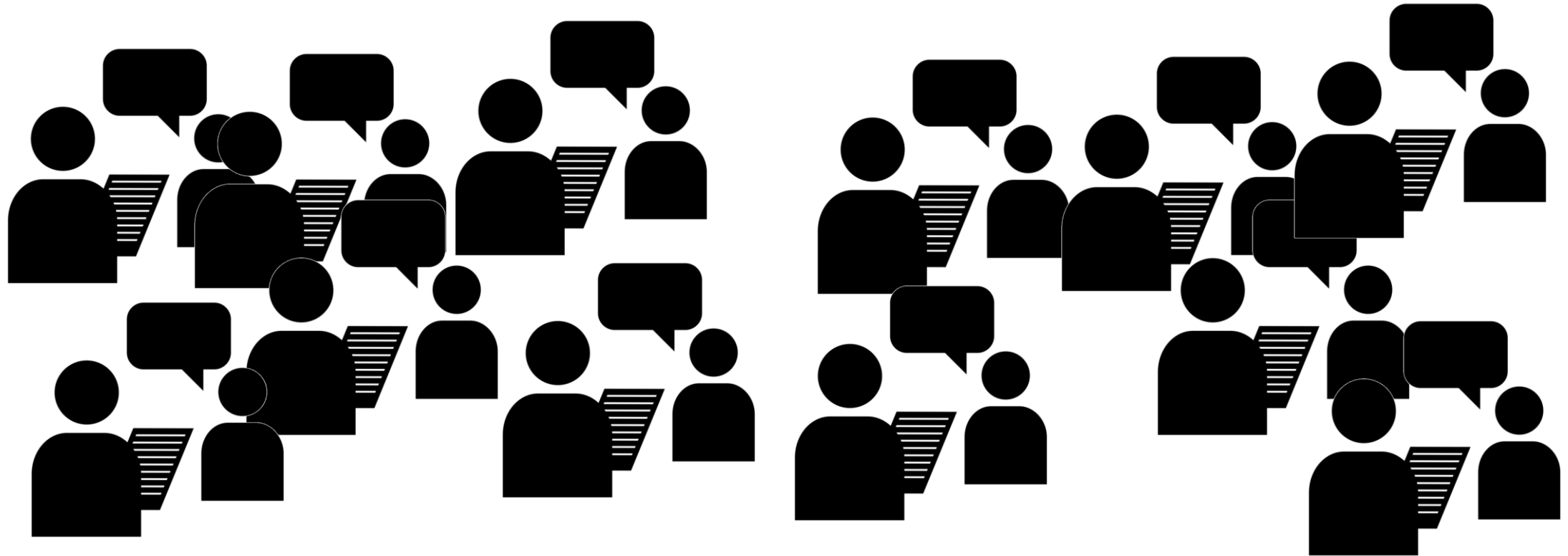
Erasmus MC is the largest teaching hospital in the Netherlands

It consists of 49 clinical and non-clinical departments, each with considerable autonomy in managing their specific healthcare, research and teaching activities.



INTERVIEWING DEPARTMENT HEADS

With respect to research and education, we conducted structured interviews with all Departmental Heads to understand how they oversee research integrity within their respective departments.



HOW RESEARCH INTEGRITY IS INTERPRETED

Department Heads have varying interpretations of research integrity, generally falling into three categories:



individual scientists' behavior



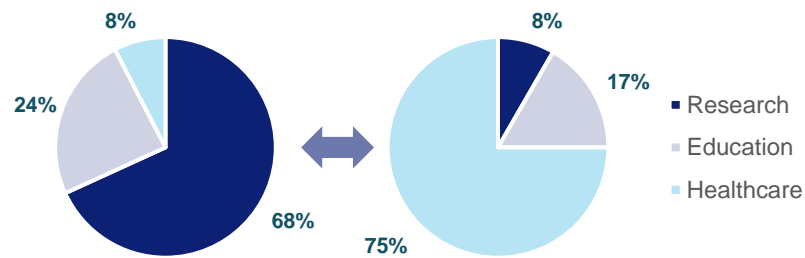
interpersonal dynamics
within research groups



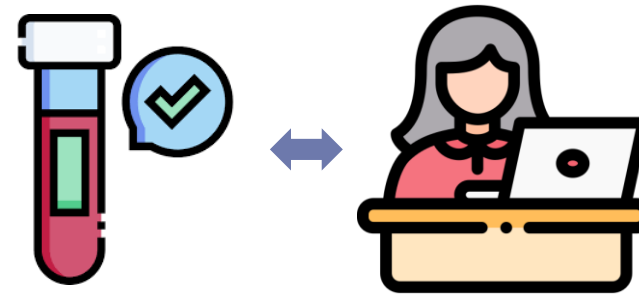
the broader research environment
in which the department operates

KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING THE APPROACH

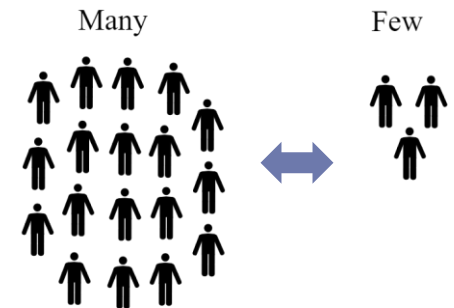
Notable variations in approaches to research integrity, influenced by three key factors:



whether the department prioritizes research/education or healthcare



the types of research data and methods predominantly used



the department's size in terms of fte

METHODS TO ENCOURAGE ETHICAL CONDUCT

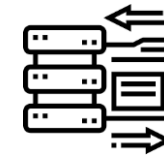
Methods departments employ to encourage ethical conduct:



fostering
collaboration



implementing forms
and procedures



establishing data
storage guidelines



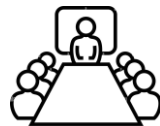
providing research
integrity education



mentoring
junior researchers



appointing
confidential counselors



incorporating research integrity
discussions into regular meetings



promoting an open and
transparent culture



conducting
internal audits

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?

According to Department Heads

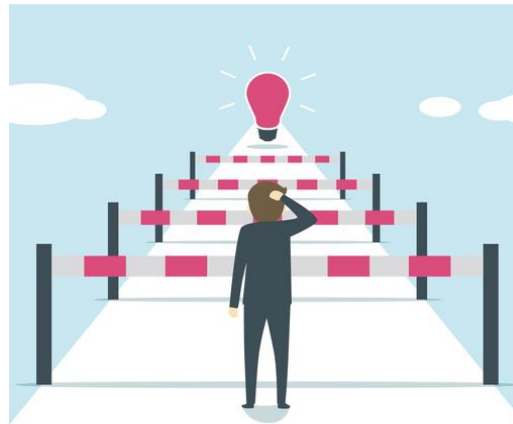
Erasmus MC's institutional policy for promoting research integrity should be:

normative, effective, cautious, and consistent.

They suggest three areas where Erasmus MC could enhance its adherence to the Dutch code of conduct:



improving communication about existing guidelines and responsible officers within the organization



lowering (perceived) barriers to reporting potential violations of research integrity



fostering greater coordination and collaboration between central and decentralized confidential counselors

AND NOW?

The road forward



- The extent to which the methods are actively applied differs significantly across departments, creating the need to **streamline** best practices as part of a learning organisation.
- We started an **Ethos Office** to provide information and communication and improve visibility.
- We started an **Ethos Community**, with ambassadors from all departments to keep research integrity on the departmental agenda and to learn from each others best practices.

Ethos is a Greek term that refers to the credibility or reliability of a person, organization or message.

Ethos is often associated with the reputation, expertise and character of the speaker or writer.

A person or organization with a positive ethos is likely to be seen as credible and trustworthy, and their arguments or claims are likely to be accepted.

Ethos can be established through references, expertise, reputation, experience or personal qualities such as honesty, integrity and sincerity.