

Academic Careers Understood by Measurement and Norms

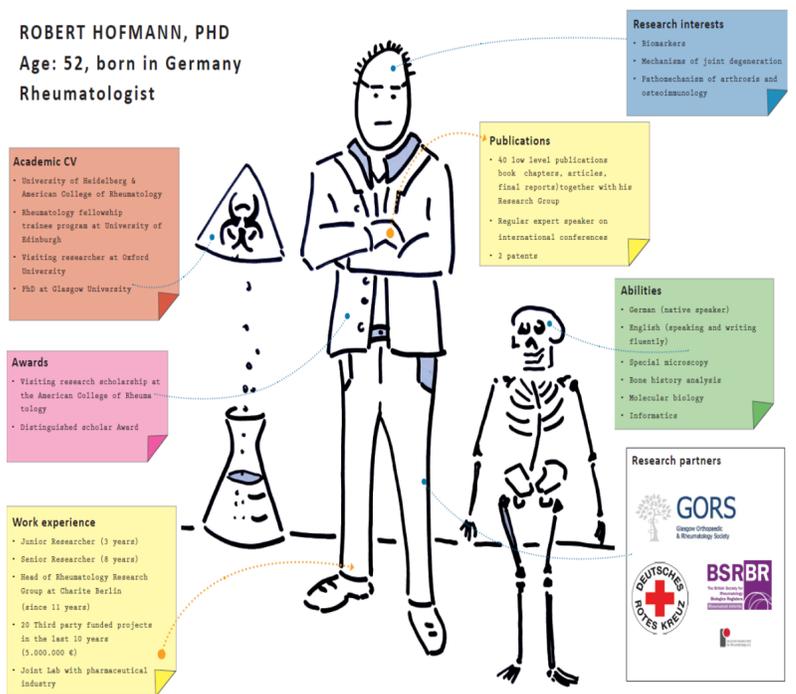


The Aim

ACUMEN is a European research collaboration aimed at understanding the ways in which researchers are evaluated by their peers and by institutions, and at assessing how the science system can be improved and enhanced. This FP7 project is a cooperation among nine European research institutes with Professor Paul Wouters (CWTS – Leiden University) as principal investigator.

- the development of new web-based indicators and web-based evaluation tools and
- a comparative analysis of the implications of current and emerging evaluation practices for the career development of women researchers.

Institutional partners



Persona



The Approach

The structure of the ACUMEN Portfolio for individual academics will be based upon comparative research on:

- the peer review system in Europe;
- new quantitative performance indicators;
- new ways of using the web by researchers and
- gender effects of evaluation.

ACUMEN is based on a specific conceptualization of what evaluation in scientific and scholarly research performs, and on a diagnosis of some of the key problems in the current evaluation system in Europe.

These are the main ideas that drive the research agenda of ACUMEN

The ACUMEN Portfolio will be based on:

- a comparative analysis of current peer review systems in Europe;
- an in-depth exploration of novel peer review practices;
- an assessment of the use of scientometric indicators in performance evaluation;

Main Results

Within the framework of the Lisbon Agenda, ACUMEN will develop criteria and guidelines for Good Evaluation Practices (GEP).

These will culminate in recommendations for an ACUMEN Portfolio of evidence in support of individual career achievements for researchers throughout science and engineering, social science and the humanities.

Each researcher's ACUMEN Portfolio will combine multiple qualitative and quantitative evidence sources about their career and contributions.

Project Duration

March 2011 to April 2014