

# JURY REPORT

## SURF Research Support Champions 2023

***It is great to see so many excellent research supporters for the third year in a row. Working hard in different ways to achieve so many different goals.***

While it's often researchers that are put in the spotlight, supporters are indispensable for high-quality scientific and scholarly output. They do vital work, but their work is often invisible. From an IT, data management and open science perspective, research supporters are the bridge between researchers and research IT. The SURF Research Support Championship recognises those who have made remarkable efforts to support research within their institution.

The candidates for the award are nominated by their colleagues, by researchers and by managers. The jury determines the winners based on the descriptions in the nomination forms. First and foremost, the jury wants to stress that *all* the research supporters that were put forward by their colleagues in this year's championship are winners. When reading the nomination forms that were submitted, it's clear that they all have enormous added value. It is nice to see that the people who nominated these research supporters are so incredibly appreciative of them.

The diversity of the candidates was another thing that struck us. This also illustrates how diverse the field is. What is needed to provide research support, is reflected in the varied list of candidates. Those jury members who work in research, enjoyed seeing that so many people are so committed to the research they support.

However, the jury did succeed in unanimously choosing evident Research Support Champions in three categories. Please note that jury members refrained from judging when a candidate was employed at their own institution. To the winners we would like to say: this is not so much an award from SURF - it's really a recognition by your peers, who have taken the trouble to nominate you.

*Winner in the category Universities:*

## **Silvie van Dam**

**Eindhoven University of Technology**

Silvie is a true supporter. She is a connector who thinks along and does a lot of work behind the scenes. She knows how to bring people and groups together. This is exactly the kind of work that has impact but often goes unnoticed because it does not lead to direct 'output'. However, it is precisely the kind incredibly important work, which the jury wants to reward with this award.

As a jury, we also find impressive the way Silvie guides faculties within the TU/e that want to store data according to the FAIR principles. These are principles for making digital assets more **F**indable, **A**ccessible, **I**nterchangeable and **R**eusable. It is a now widely applied guideline framework for data management.

The jury finds her substantive knowledge highly commendable and sees great added value in this. She is involved in choices about research at all levels: from government, TU/e and the faculty. Silvie knows how to assess what these choices mean for research and researchers, and she initiates the processes that anticipate them.

### **Some highlights from the nomination forms we received:**

"The Faculty of Architecture is not originally a research faculty but has managed to develop steadily in recent years. There are obviously several aspects that have made this growth possible but a strong project office, organised and prior years mainly led solely by Silvie, has proved essential in this."

"Extremely competent and active, Silvie connects all research staff and aspects in the most synergistic fashion."

"Silvie is a great communicator all over the parties. She can quickly understand you and propose a solution to your problem."

"It is quite a challenge to be able to facilitate all the variety of people within our faculty, something she seems to manage effortlessly."

"Her the team works together as one, with the aim of providing the best research support within the changing needs of the researcher."

"Silvie is service-oriented, and she sees solutions where others see problems. And on top of that she will treat everyone equally!"

"Silvie sees the potential of all the new opportunities that have come along over the years. What opportunities this gives researchers without losing sight of what is essential for the business support side of research."

"She will always be there to help the young researchers, PhDs and EngDs giving them more confidence and allowing them to grow and develop well."

*Winner in the category Universities of Applied Sciences:*

## **Susan Berentsen**

**HAN University of Applied Sciences**

The Jury praises the way Susan knows how to get her message across to the people she speaks to and to whom she gives training. She is communicative and takes an active role in supporting researchers. Her role as an ambassador for research integrity is impressive.

What is special about this is that Susan deals with research integrity in the setting of Universities of Applied Sciences, where research integrity has not been such a visible topic until now. So, she does not choose the easy path, even if it sometimes takes more time and energy.

The jury is impressed by Susan's activities at the Netherlands Research Integrity Network (NRIN) and the Network for Education and Research Quality (NERQ). In these networks, Susan shares her knowledge and experience on research integrity across Europe. And her efforts are also seen internationally. At the European H2020 project Path2Integrity, for instance, a presentation was made on the TETRIAS training.

### **Some highlights from the nomination forms we received:**

"Research integrity is a topic close to Susan's heart. Because of this, she is driven and ambitious to put this topic well on the agenda within research and education at Universities of Applied Sciences. Through her skills and the method and design of her trainings, she also knows how to motivate her colleagues to put this topic on the agenda and pass it on to other colleagues and students."

"Susan knows how to spark a sense of 'we need to do something with this' in people."

"Through her drive and enthusiasm, Susan puts research integrity on the agenda within HAN, and beyond."

"Susan is one of the pioneers who aims to meet the knowledge need on scientific integrity for researchers, and she does so with verve."

"Susan translates the seemingly abstract theme into concrete examples in the perception of the teacher-researcher and student. In doing so, she does not take the easy way out but first investigates the wishes and needs of the target group."

"The impact of Susan's work is significant because the approach is to set up her research in such a way that it is also applicable within other institutions. The roadmap she has created to this end is a very useful and easily transferable tool to others."

*Winner in the Category UMC & Research:*

## **Anne Mickan**

**RadboudUMC**

The jury finds it impressive to see that Anne solves so many technical problems of researchers. As far as we are concerned, that is the core of research support, and her way of working is therefore perfectly in line with the needs of researchers.

The jury also noticed Anne's versatility as a research support engineer. With a great sense of communication, she helps researchers, but she also makes an important technical and substantive contribution to the grand-challenge.org platform. With her contribution to this platform, she has a substantial share in developing a standard for machine learning solutions in biomedical imaging for researchers around the world.

The jury also praised her organisational talent and great sense of responsibility. She responds quickly to questions and always looks for the best solution. She is a team player and knows how to connect well with RadboudUMC researchers. These skills make her exceptional and we want to reward that with this award.

### **Some highlights from the nomination forms we received:**

"Very impressive to see Anne solving so many technical problems of researchers. This is the epitome of research support as far as I'm concerned and is a perfect match for the needs of researchers."

"Anne Mickan is an outstanding research software engineer with a great sense of responsibility. She is a real teamplayer and an essential member of our research software engineering team. She is very strong in her communication with researchers."

"She shows researchers the benefit of good research software practises and clearly demonstrates the value of working on a common platform."

"She is one of the leading persons behind the grand-challenge platform, which is used by researchers all over the world. The grand-challenge platform pushes forward how researchers will use the cloud in the future."

Samen aanjagen van vernieuwing

## The jury:

**Ron Augustus - Jury chairman**

Chief Innovation Officer at SURF

**Joris van Eijnatten**

Director Netherlands eScience Center

**Anna Roodhof**

Board member Promovendi Netwerk Nederland

**Sarah Coombs**

Advisor Research Support at Saxion – Research Support Champion 2022

**Michèle Huijberts**

Informatiearchitect Radiologie Research at UMC Leiden - Research Support Champion 2022

**Serkan Girgin**

Hoofd Expertisecentrum Big Geodata Science at Universiteit Twente- Research Support Champion 2022