

RSN General Meeting

Meeting Minutes
Montreal, March 14, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Number of people connected: 128

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Presentation of the Executive Committee
3. Adoption of the RSN charter
4. Student Committee presentation
5. Scientific Committee presentation
6. Links with our partners
7. Events planned for Year 2
8. Varia
9. Closing Remarks
10. Adjournment

Opening of the session

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. Martin Vallières, Co-Director of the RSN, welcomed all members. He introduced all members of the RSN Executive Committee and management team. He presented the meeting code. The presentation was in French with English subtitles. Participants were able to ask questions in the language of their choice.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Martin Vallières reviewed the agenda contained in the calendar invitation. He reminded the members that the documents such as the Charter and the presentations of the meeting were attached to the agenda.

No varia items were proposed. The agenda was proposed by the Executive Committee and supported by Camille Besse by a show of hands.

2. Presentation of the Executive Committee

Sara Ahmed presented the RSN's strategic positioning, the specificities, the ecosystem challenges, the mission, and the vision. Sara Ahmed emphasized the importance of the contribution of various disciplines, particularly those related to social sciences.

Sara Ahmed presented the research axes, fields of action and founding principles of the RSN along with their respective co-leaders. She also outlined the RSN's three objectives, which are at the heart of the roadmap for the RSN and its components.

Sara Ahmed presented a summary of the RSN's history from April 2024 to September 2025 and outlined the year's budget and expenditures. She presented the RSN's priorities for Year 2, with a budget of \$1.475 million. The budget consisted of 60% towards supporting members in Year 2 and over \$500,000 in additional institutional contributions to support member initiatives.

Sara Ahmed presented the RSN's monitoring and reporting intentions. These will be refined over time as roadmaps are developed and refined. For the RSN's three strategic objectives, she outlined the initiatives by timeline.

Rainer Banken asked if there were any activities to clarify and put into action the founding principle of open science. Sara Ahmed replied that there were, indicating that the roadmaps for the axes, fields of action and founding principles were currently being drawn up.

Patrick Archambault responded in the chat to Reiner Banker and wrote that he and Holly Wittmann are the co-leaders of the principle concerned and will work with the other co-leaders to promote the FAIR and open science principles.

3. Adoption of the RSN charter

Martin Vallières presented the RSN Charter, which, as for all FRQ networks, must be drawn up in Year 1. Martin Vallières explained the Charter design process, as well as the consultation process with co-leaders and the wider membership.

Martin Vallières presented the content of the Charter sections. In particular, he explained the types of RSN members, as well as the scientific structure and funding rules. Martin Vallières pointed out that changes have been made in response to comments from RSN members.

Alexandre Bureau asked whether membership renewal is indefinite. A minor correction was made to the Charter. At the request of a member, Martin Vallières projects on his screen the passage of the Charter concerned in section 4.1. The corrected passage now reads as follows: "The mandate is for a maximum of four years (network renewal) and is renewable indefinitely after sending an updated CV and filling in an information form."

Catherine Wilhelmy suggested adding a Patient Partner category to the list of members, but when she saw that the Partner category already exists, she announced that it was okay as it stands.

To proceed with the adoption of the charter, Martin Vallières asked the members if anyone supported the approval of the Charter or if anyone wanted to propose its adoption. No member requested a vote. Regular member Rainer Banken proposed the adoption of the Charter, and the Charter was adopted unanimously.

4. Student Committee presentation

Rado Malalatiana Ramasy Razafindratovo took charge of the presentation. Rado introduced the members of the Student Committee and its objectives. Each objective was associated with specific activities to achieve it, such as conferences and inter-university competitions. He emphasized the importance of digital health training for the student community.

Rado presented the Student Committee's action plan and the established relationships with other student committees, between March 2025 to the end of 2025. He also summarized the upcoming events in which the Committee is involved.

In the chat, François Kajiramugabi asked how the process for connecting mentors and students in digital health works. Rado responded that there were lots of ideas and proposals for structuring suggestions, and that an answer will be given shortly.

Marie-Pierre Gagnon suggested extending student activities beyond Montreal. Rado agreed with this proposal. In a new round-up, digital health events at other universities will be identified.

Philippe Jouvét mentioned that a new virtual reality conference on AI will be held soon. It will be a way to bring distant members together to organize a virtual event.

Philippe Latouche pointed out in the chat that other business students should not be forgotten. Rado agreed and reiterated the concern to involve all students in disciplines related to digital health.

Louise Ringuette reminded us not to forget bioethics students.

5. Scientific Committee presentation

Bouchra Nasri took charge of the presentation and recalled the objectives of this committee. She presented the Scientific Committee's roles and composition.

She then presented the roadmaps that had been drawn up with the co-leaders of the axes and themes. Working groups were held online for strategic planning. Bouchra Nasri thanked the members and participants for their commitment and contributions. The details of each roadmap were then presented, including their objectives. Bouchra Nasri reminded us that each axis roadmap contained priority actions and initiatives. She used the example of axis 2 to illustrate this.

Bouchra Nasri reminded us that strategic projects will soon be financed after the launch of the call for projects. A specific webinar will be organized shortly to answer questions.

Reiner Banken raised his hand and asked about platforms and the availability of space for RSN working groups and communities of practice. Sara Ahmed indicated that the RSN has not yet decided on this matter and mentioned that the RSN is open to suggestions. Ranken suggested OpenDesk because it is made with open software (<https://opendesk.eu/en/>). In the chat, Ranken explained that OpenDesk is used in a public health network in Germany.

In the chat, Gabriel Devenyi asked about the amount of funding and Bouchra Nasri answered the question by indicating \$40,000 / over 2 years per project. Claudine Auger asked about the criteria for "Research Center" partners, and Bouchra replied that there are no specific criteria, but diversity in applications is important to encourage collaborations.

6. Links with our partners

Aude Motulsky presented the list of RSN partners. Aude Motulsky described regular meetings with Carole Jabet and Gabrielle Wilson of the FRQ. She also noted the interactions with Santé Québec. She asked members to indicate their affiliations with other networks on the newly launched registration form, the [link](#) to which was shared in the chat.

Philippe Jovet indicated in the chat that an interesting partnership would be to approach Dominique Leclerc, who created the play "Une Vie Intelligente" and proposed measures to reduce the impact of digital health on the environment: <https://duceppe.com/solutions-environnement/>.

Aude Motulsky talked about the RSN's internal Advisory Committee, which aimed to align the RSN's objectives with those of the other players in the ecosystem. Links have also been forged with institutions at the national and international level. Institutions in British Columbia and Switzerland are already connected to the RSN, as seen at the launch. She called on members to suggest mentors and experts to join the committee.

Claudine Auger asked about the criteria for research center partners. Sara Ahmed and Aude Motulsky responded that there are no restrictive affiliation criteria for digital health research centers.

7. Events planned for Year 2

Philippe Després recalled that a symposium on digital health training was held on November 28, 2024.

The RSN also aimed to promote student training. Philippe Després cited the example of travel grants awarded to four students to support their participation in the [annual meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada in Saskatoon](#).

Digital health is a cross-cutting issue for all networks. A full day of inter-network exchanges will be organized on May 7 at ACFAS to promote the transfer of practices and knowledge. Exchanges have also taken place between the RSN and the Cancer Research Network (RRCancer).

Philippe Després presented RSN-supported events such as the RBIQ Imaging Colloquium, which will feature the presentation of honorary awards for talented

researchers. Philippe Després also invited members to encourage their students to submit proposals.

He noted that next year's AGM will be held in conjunction with the RSN scientific conference.

Finally, Philippe Després reminded members that the RSN is responsible for sharing information about events organized by members and partners, notably via the RSN newsletter. Members can send their proposals to the RSN gestion e-mail address (rsn.gestion@rimuhc.ca).

There were no questions.

In the chat, Adda Mehdi shared an event on April 10: Journée scientifique du Centre de recherche du CISSS de Chaudière-Appalaches "Les transitions numériques pour un système de santé et de services sociaux apprenant : naviguer dans la complexité et saisir les opportunités". He was invited to send the information by email.

8. Varia

There were no varia.

9. Closing Remarks

Sara Ahmed delivered the closing remarks. She thanked the members for their contributions and comments throughout the meeting. She noted that the RSN wished to expand its presence in academic institutions across the province. She asked for members' help in sharing information and promoting the RSN. Sara Ahmed thanked the team for their help.

Alban da Silva asked a question about digital didactics. He wondered whether the methodology of teaching digital health is also covered by RSN members.

Sara Ahmed indicated that questions concerning this type of methodology are integrated into various scientific themes within the network, including Theme 2. She invited Alban to contact the RSN to share his questions and thoughts on the subject.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. by Martin Vallières after a final word of thanks.