

Manfred Kayser
Full professor
Genetic Identification
Email: m.kayser@erasmusmc.nl



Research interests

For more than 20 years, I am full Professor of Forensic Molecular Biology at Erasmus MC University Medical Center Rotterdam. My research focuses on human (epi)genetic variation, links with phenotypic diversity in externally visible normal traits and diseases, their underlying molecular mechanisms, and the development of knowledge and tools for broadening and advancing practical applications such as in forensic casework. Particular areas of interest are: (epi)genetic variation underlying normal and disease-associated externally visible traits and the prediction of appearance; population genetic variation and the prediction of biogeographic ancestry; Y-chromosome variation and the identification of male individuals; epigenetic variation underlying environmental exposure and the prediction of externally visible habits; single cell transcriptome and genome variation and the identification of individuals from multi-person mixtures; gene expression and microbiome variation and the prediction of tissue types; circadian biomarker variation and the prediction of trace deposition time; age-dependent DNA and RNA variation and the prediction of age. I combine generating scientific knowledge with developing and validating tools for bringing our newly discovered biomarkers into practical applications, such as in forensics, medicine or anthropology. My publications are cited more than 48,400 times and my h-index is 111 (meaning 111 of my publications are cited more than 111 times) according to GoogleScholar <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=0yDsnFwAAAAJ&hl=nl>. I am listed as the most cited scientist in the field of Forensic Genetics and second most cited in the field of Forensic Medicine in the period from 1960 to 2025 <https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/btchxktzyw/8>.

Qualifications

Full Professor of Forensic Molecular Biology (Hoogleraar 1), Erasmus MC
2009 → 2035

Head, Department of Genetic Identification (department closed together with others due to institutional reorganisation), Erasmus MC
2015 → 2025

Founding head, Department of Forensic Molecular Biology (department renamed in 2015), Erasmus MC
2004 → 2014

Full Professor of Forensic Molecular Biology (Hoogleraar 2), Erasmus MC
2004 → 2008

Heisenberg Fellow, Department of Evolutionary Genetics, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
2004

Habilitation (Doctor rerum naturalium habilitatus, Dr.rer.nat.habil.) in Genetics, University of Leipzig
2004

Staff scientist, Department of Evolutionary Genetics, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
1999 → 2003

Research Associate, Anthropological Genetics Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, The Pennsylvania State University
1998 → 1999

PhD, (Doctor rerum naturalium, Dr.rer.nat.) in Biology / Genetics, Humboldt University of Berlin
1998

Research scientist and Doctorandus, Genetics Research Laboratory, Institute of Forensic Medicine, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
1994 → 1998

Master, (Diploma) in Biology (Dipl.-Biol.), University of Leipzig
1994

Study of Biology (majors: genetics, biochemistry, zoology, ecology), University of Leipzig
1989 → 1994

Prizes

Biennial Scientific Prize of the International Society for Forensic Genetics
Kayser, M. (Recipient), 2017

Elected Member of the Academia Europaea - The Academy of Europe
Kayser, M. (Recipient), 2025

Elected Member of the European Molecular Biology Organization
Kayser, M. (Recipient), 2023

Heisenberg Fellowship of the German Research Organisation
Kayser, M. (Recipient), 2004

International Fellowship of the Institute of Environmental Science and Research New Zealand
Kayser, M. (Recipient), 2004

PhD (Dr.rer.nat.) with summa cum laude
Kayser, M. (Recipient), 1998

Research Award of the German Society of Legal Medicine
Kayser, M. (Recipient), 1998