



Rudolf Magnus Institute of Neuroscience

Rudolf Magnus Bulletin 02

Rudolf Magnus Research Award/ Mini-symposium

Yearly, the article that describes the most innovative research from our institute is granted the Rudolf Magnus Research Award. This year, twelve high quality papers have been nominated, and a national committee is appointed to select the winner. To highlight this occasion, a mini-symposium is organised entitled "Genomics and brain research". Notably, we were able to attract a celebrity on genetic research, **Prof. Dr. Hans Galjaard** (Erasmus MC Rotterdam), who will speak on "Societal aspects of genetic research". Roger Adan, Herman Van Engeland, and Gabriël Rinkel will inform us about the latest advances in genetic research regarding eating disorders, autism and aneurysms, respectively. (Presentations in Dutch)

VENUE: The mini-symposium and the subsequent Rudolf Magnus Research Award will take place on Wednesday November 13th, green lecture room, UMCU, 16.00-17.30 h.

Masters Neuroscience and Cognition: Up and Running!

September 2002, the 'Research Masters programme Neuroscience and Cognition' has started, consisting of lectures, seminars, laboratory work, practical research, and theoretical courses. It has got immediate momentum by the registration of 16 students, an exceptionally high number for a new masters programme. Students can follow two tracks within the programme. '*Experimental and Clinical Neuroscience*' covers large fields of research, ranging from gene to organism, from man to laboratory animal, from ethology to cognition, from microscopy to neuro-imaging, and concerns healthy individuals, but also patients with psychiatric and neurological disorders. '*Cognitive neuroscience*' focuses on research of mental skills such as memory, perception or language and the consequences of neuropathology for cognition. A distinctive element in this Masters is the course '*Principles of Neuroscience*'. A broad committee, chaired by Isabel Thunnissen (Dept Pharmacology and Anatomy, RMI) develops this high standard 8-10 weeks course, which will encompass most elements of neuroscience. This course will be an important hallmark of the Masters programme, meanwhile marking the level of education for masters who will be enrolled in our Graduate School.

Research Class, Neurodevelopment: Principles and Phenotypes

On January 31st 2003, the Rudolf Magnus Institute, in close collaboration with the NeuroFederation, organises and hosts the first National Research Class in Neuroscience. The programme links basic research on mechanisms and processes of brain development to clinical research focusing on human phenotypes of brain disorders. Speakers include (inter)national experts on four separate themes. The Research Class is a national event, and is intended for (under)graduate students, post-doctoral and experienced researchers in Neuroscience. (Presentations in English)

VENUE: Friday January 31st 2003, UMCU, 9.00-18.00 h.

Genomics Centre UMCU

In the past months, advanced plans for a UMCU genomics centre within the Stratum of the UMCU have been discussed in university circles. This centre will not only include a large part of the genomics research of the UMCU, it will also house genomics facilities for the ABC faculties. In the first phase, the genetic research of the Divisions of Neuroscience and Medical Genetics will be clustered within this centre. The plans are presently awaiting a positive decision of the board of directors of the UMCU, which is expected shortly.

Orations and Academic promotions

Two professors held their orations to present their visions on the future of their scientific fields.

- October 16th, Johan Bolhuis, 'Evolution of behavioural biology'.
- November 6th, Gabriël Rinkel, 'Researched healing' ('Onderzoekend genezen').

Since September we celebrated another thirteen PhD-graduations (promotors between brackets)

In September:

- G.J.M. Rutten, Presurgical identification of language areas with functional MRI (C.W.M. van Veelen, M.A. Viergever, N.F. Ramsey, H.P.C. van Rijen)
- H. Snoek, Psychoneuroendocrinological aspects of aggressive behaviour in children. (H. van Engeland, S.H.M. van Gooszen)
- M.R. Hoeksma, Psychophysiological perspectives on autism. (H. van Engeland, M.N. Verbaten, C. Kemner)
- C.H.J. Asbreuk, The role of homeobox genes in brain development with a focus on ventral forebrain and midbrain. (J.P.H. Burbach, M.P. Smidt)
- L de Groote, 5-HT_{1B} receptors and serotonin function. Microdialysis studies in rats and knockout mice. (H.G.M. Westenberg, B. Olivier)
- J Spijker, Determinants and consequences of chronic major depression in the general population. (W.A. Nolen, R.V. Bijl)
- C.M.P.C.D. Peeters-Scholte, Neuroprotective strategies following perinatal hypoxia-ischemia. (F. van Bel, K. Nikolay, P.R. Bär, F. Groenendaal)

In October:

- J.C. Vester, Measurement of the effects of psychoactive drugs on driving ability and related psychological processes. (M.N. Verbaten, E.R. Volkerts)
- S.A. Wich, The structure and function of male Thomas Langur loud calls. (J.A.R.A.M. van Hooff, C.P. van Schaik, E.H.M. Sterck)
- W.E.E. Meijer, The value of observational research on antidepressant use: A broadened perspective. (H.G.M. Leufkens, W.A. Nolen, E.R. Heerdink)
- M. Kromkamp, Homeobox genes and thalamic pathology in schizophrenia. A postmortem study. (J.P.H. Burbach, R.S. Kahn, M.P. Smidt)
- M.J.S. Zonneville-Bender, Emotional functioning in anorexia nervosa patients. A study on emotional experiences and neurophysiological responses. (H. van Engeland, P.T. Cohen-Kettenis, S.H.M. van Gooszen)
- D. van Dijk, Outcomes after off-pump coronary bypass surgery. (C. Kalkman, D.E. Grobbee, P.P.Th. de Jaegere)

Summer school 2003

The date for the Rudolf Magnus Summer school 2003 has been set on September 12-14, 2003.

Farewell to Dirk Versteeg

After 37.5 years of service to the Rudolf Magnus Institute, Dirk Versteeg will leave us. He started his career as graduate student with Prof. Dr. D. de Wied and Dr. A. Witter in 1965. He held several positions in the Institute, lastly as professor of Medical Pharmacology since 1990. Besides his extensive scientific work, Dirk has also put much effort in the organisation of the Institute, the medical faculty and academic teaching.

VENUE: The reception/party (for registrants only) will take place in the 'Aula' of the Academy building, 29 Domplein, Tuesday December 10th, 2002, 19.00-22.00 h, with an interlude for speeches 20.00-20.25 h.