



Rudolf Magnus Institute of Neuroscience

Rudolf Magnus Bulletin 03

2003, The Year of Truth

In 2003 the Rudolf Magnus Institute will be evaluated following the Standard Evaluation Protocol by NWO and KNAW. It will be an interesting year, as we are required to be (re-)accredited both as a national Graduate School of Neuroscience and as University Institute. We will need to prepare an extensive and detailed report on our past performance, but also on our plans for research in the next 6 (!) years. Not only the coherence of our research will be focus of evaluation, also our Research Training Programme for PhD students will be judged. To be as efficient as possible we will prepare one report on both science and graduate education. Our performance and plans will be scrutinised during a site visit by an international expert committee on June 10-11th 2003, which has been appointed by the dean of the Faculty of Medicine to this responsible task.

CONTACT: For all information regarding the procedure, Dr. Jan Dekker, j.dekker@med.uu.nl, 030-253.8110.

Rudolf Magnus Web site: Now Life !

On January 1st, the Rudolf Magnus Web site became operational. Presently all scientific research of the Department of Psychiatry of the Rudolf Magnus Institute is represented. The web site also gives general information about the Institute, news facts, and an institutional agenda. In the next months the other Departments of the Institute will be included, and eventually all researchers of the Institute will have their own personal page to present their scientific work. All researchers are kindly requested to furnish a personal page to enable the further construction of the web site.

VISIT: www.rudolfmagnus.nl, mail personal information to j.dekker@med.uu.nl

Geert-Jan Rutten wins Rudolf Magnus Research Award 2002

Geert-Jan Rutten (Department Neurology and Neurosurgery) was awarded the Rudolf Magnus Research Award for his excellent work "Development of a functional MRI protocol for intraoperative localisation of critical temporoparietal language areas", published in Annals of Neurology. The animated mini-symposium "Genomics and brain research", that was organised on November 13th 2002 to highlight this occasion, included Roger Adan, Herman Van Engeland, and Gabriël Rinkel, and Hans Galjaard, who spoke on "Societal aspects of genetic research".

PhD Students Platform

A PhD Students Platform has been formed, representing the PhD students within the Rudolf Magnus Graduate School. As official organ of the Graduate School, it will advise, solicited and unsolicited, the Director of the Graduate School and the Research Training Committee on all matters of research training and organisation of the Graduate School. The platform members will act as spokespersons on behalf of the PhD students of the Graduate School, and as such gather information from, and disseminate information to, the PhD students on the working floor.

VISIT: For the members of the PhD Students Platform, www.rudolfmagnus.nl.

Research Training Programme

In 2003 a new Research Training Programme for PhD students will be implemented. This Programme provides PhD students and their supervisors with the framework to shape the research training within each PhD project. General requirements have been formulated for the graduation in the Rudolf Magnus Graduate School, ensuring a uniform high level of education of the PhD students. However, considerable freedom of choice exists in the individual Research Training Programme to tailor it to the specific requirements of the individual PhD student. The programme also defines the obligations and responsibilities of the PhD student, the supervisors, and the Rudolf Magnus Institute with respect to all aspects of research training. The final text of the training programme awaits discussions among of the official organs of the Rudolf Magnus Institute: the Director, the Research Training Committee, the PhD Students Platform, and the Advisory Board.

Academic promotions

Since November we celebrated another 4 PhD-graduations (promotors between brackets).

- M.C.M. Appels, Phenotypic markers in schizophrenia: a study in parents of patients (R.S. Kahn, M.M. Sitskoorn)
- J.C.M. van Denderen, Cerebrovascular innervation: Adaptation to changes in metabolic demand and flow fluctuations in rats (D.J. de Wildt, R.L.A.W. Bleys)
- R.M. van den Berg-Vos, The spectrum of lower motor neuron syndromes. Classification, natural course and treatment (J.H.J. Wokke, M. de Visser)
- S. Durston, Imaging brain structure and function in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (H. van Engeland, J.K. Buitelaar, H.E. Hulshoff Pol, B.J. Casey)

A television broadcast featuring Sarah Durston is scheduled in the series 'JOTA!', in which her research on ADHD will be highlighted (Sunday, April 6th, 16.50 h).

Rudolf Magnus Institute in the News

Many interesting news items remain hidden within scientific articles. The director of the Rudolf Magnus Institute took the initiative to pave the way to more exposure of good science to a broader public. Thereto all scientists including PhD students within the Institute are kindly requested to prepare a short press release of news facts regarding research or closely related items. The press releases will be published on the web sites of the Institute and the UMCU home page. When relevant, these news items will be brought to the attention of the national media. The first news item that we launched in this way was on an article on schizophrenia by Wiepke Cahn and colleagues from the Department of Psychiatry. The news item was published in national newspapers ('Volkskrant', 'Algemeen Dagblad') and an interview with Wiepke Cahn was broadcasted on regional and national television.

CONTACT: For all potentially interesting news items, Dr.Jan Dekker, j.dekker@med.uu.nl, 030-253.8110.

Rudolf Magnus Symposium

On April 3rd, the first of a new series of Rudolf Magnus Symposia will be held, entitled: 'Rudolf Magnus Symposium on Neurodegeneration'. A balanced ensemble of staff members and PhD students from our Institute will update us about the role of neurodegeneration in many disorders, both from a clinical and pre-clinical angle. The symposium will be closed by a Rudolf Magnus Lecture by the distinguished [Marcel Leist](#) (H.Lundbeck A/S, Denmark), who will place the role of neurodegeneration in broader medical and experimental perspective. The symposium committee welcomes ideas for Rudolf Magnus Lectures and Symposia (contact, m.vandenadort@med.uu.nl).

VENUE: April 3rd, 2003, Green Lecture Theatre UMCU (Groene College Zaal), 14.00-17.00 h, with drinks afterwards in the Foyer of the Yellow Lecture Theatre (at small walking distance). Consult www.rudolfmagnus.nl for future dates of Rudolf Magnus Lectures and Symposia.