



# Rudolf Magnus Institute of Neuroscience

## Rudolf Magnus Bulletin 05

### Evaluation of the Institute

On June 9-11 the International Review Committee visited our Institute. The members of the committee spoke with all coordinators of the Sections. The committee took in consideration the extensive written report we prepared, including our achievements in the years 1999-2002, and our research plans for the years 2004-2009.

Part of the evaluation concerned the Research Training Programme for our PhD students (AIOs and AGIKOs). The committee spoke with the Research Training Committee, responsible for the implementation of the training programme, and with a delegation of PhD students. Although it was clear that the programme was not yet fully implemented, the committee found sufficient grounds for an overall positive judgement.

To quote from the report: *"A structured Research Training Programme was only recently implemented. Plans, structure, as well as the description of the training and supervision contract are well-planned."*

The general quality of education provided by the Graduate School was considered adequate, and the importance of the Research Masters in Neuroscience and Cognition was recognised.

To quote from the report: *"The reputation of the Graduate School is high and increasing (in which the recent (2002) start of an in house Research Masters in Neuroscience is instrumental). This results in high numbers of well-qualified PhD-students."*

Our achievements and research plans impressed the committee. The committee drew up a detailed evaluation report, judging each of the Sections and the Institute. The committee made several recommendations, and concluded that not all Sections show yet optimal coherence. Despite these reservations, the overall judgement of the committee on the Rudolf Magnus Institute was positive.

To quote the conclusions of the report: *'The warm and inclusive, albeit firm, style of leadership of the Institute, together with clinical leaders with a great interest in top-quality research and the mutual understanding between scientists in preclinical and clinical fields, form an excellent basis for future success of this Institute in the coming years. The overall quality and productivity of the Institute has impressed the Committee highly. The societal impact of the research activities is very high. The committee has rated the overall status of the Rudolf Magnus Institute as 'excellent'.*

With the report in hand we will apply for re-accreditation of our Institute by both the UMCU and the Utrecht University. Moreover, this report will form the basis for this year's application to the KNAW for re-accreditation of our Rudolf Magnus Graduate School.

**TEXTS:** The full text of both the research report by the Institute and the report of the evaluation committee will be made available soon on the website [www.rudolfmagnus.nl](http://www.rudolfmagnus.nl).

### Academic Promotions

Since May we celebrated another three PhD-graduations (supervisors between brackets).

- W.Cahn, Brain morphology during the early course of schizophrenia (R.S.Kahn, H.E. Hulshoff Pol)
- E.M.Van der Meulen, Genetic aspects of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder in children: A family study on environment, phenotype and genotype (J.K.Buitelaar, D.L.Pauls, R.J.Sinke)
- B.K.G.Van Meijel, Relapse prevention in patients with schizophrenia: A nursing intervention study (M.H.F.Grypdonck, R.S.Kahn, M.Van der Gaag)

## Rudolf Magnus Symposia

Two more symposia are scheduled for this year. On September 25<sup>th</sup>, a symposium is organised on 'Addiction', featuring M.J.Kreek who is a widely recognised expert on addiction, and several members of staff and PhD students from our Departments of Pharmacology and Anatomy and Psychiatry. On November 26<sup>th</sup>, a symposium is scheduled on the 'Functional consequences of genetics', which will bridge fields of genetic research and the research of the function of the brain.

**DATE AND VENUE:** 'Addiction', Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup>, Blue Lecture Hall, UMCU, 13.15-17.00 (drinks afterwards), 'Functional consequences of Genetics', Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup>, Green Lecture Hall, UMCU, (drinks afterwards). For an update on Rudolf Magnus Symposia and Lectures visit [www.rudolfmagnus.nl](http://www.rudolfmagnus.nl)

## Improved Websites of the Institute/Graduate School

To accommodate all information of the Institute/ Graduate School it became necessary to increase the capacity of our webdomain. Our website, [www.rudolfmagnus.nl](http://www.rudolfmagnus.nl) now opens into a site entitled 'Rudolf Magnus Institute', containing all pertinent information of the Institute, including an agenda of meetings and courses, information on the research training for AIOs and AGIKOs, and news items. Each Department of the Institute, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Pharmacology and Anatomy, and Psychiatry, now has its own homepage. The core of these homepages is formed by an up-to-date description of the research in the Department in its Section, and by the personal pages of staff. All four sites are linked at strategical places so that information is only one mouse-click away.

**VISIT:** The improved websites via <http://www.rudolfmagnus.nl> to get acquainted with the new sites.

## Rudolf Magnus Research Award 2003

Also this year the Rudolf Magnus Research Award will be awarded to the author (PhD student or member of staff) of the article of our Institute that reports on the most innovative research. A national committee will judge the nominated work. Candidates must be nominated before September 12, 2003. The Award (a certificate and 3500 Euro) will be announced during the Rudolf Magnus Symposium on November 26<sup>th</sup> (see above).

**NOMINATIONS:** Mail a letter of recommendation, the Curriculum Vitae of the candidate (in 5-fold), a short motivation explaining the importance of the work (in 5-fold), and 5 copies of the article to J.M.Van Ree, STR5.203, [j.m.vanree@med.uu.nl](mailto:j.m.vanree@med.uu.nl)

## The Office of the Institute/Graduate School

The Office of the Institute/ Graduate School manages all general affairs regarding the organisation of the Institute and Graduate School, assisting the Director. With the growing number of tasks it became necessary to increase staff of the Office. Next to Marijke Van de Nadort (contact for all affairs of the Institute) and dr. Jan Dekker (advisor to the staff of the Institute and coordinator of the Graduate School), the new staff members are Hilly Van de Giessen (contact for the Graduate School regarding research training), and Prof. dr. Dop Bär (part-time advisor to the Institute regarding international affairs).

## Oration

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Roger Adan will present an overview of his field of research (Molecular Pharmacology), during an oration entitled, 'The drug between gene and brain disease'.

**DATE AND VENUE:** Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 16.15 h, Academy Building, Domplein 29, Utrecht, with reception afterwards.