



Rudolf Magnus Institute of Neuroscience

Rudolf Magnus Bulletin 06

Again Two VIDI-grants awarded to Rudolf Magnus Staff

The VIDI-programme is part of the Innovational Research Incentives Scheme ('Vernieuwingsimpuls') of NWO, which is intended as support for senior staff members. Innovational aspects and quality of research are the most important criteria for funding. Per grant about € 600,000 will be available. Like in 2002, staff of our Institute was quite successful in acquiring these prestigious grants. Hilleke Hulshoff Pol, Department of Psychiatry, acquired a VIDI-grant for her research application entitled, *Genetic risk for neuronal network changes in schizophrenia*. Carl Moons, who has a 50% appointment at our Institute via the subdivision of Anaesthesiology, was awarded with a VIDI-grant for his proposal, *Diagnostic prediction rules: innovative methods to improve their applicability*.

Research Technician wins Award

Inge Wolterink has won the Award for the best article in 2002 in 'Biotechniek', a professional journal in biotechnics. Inge is research technician in the Department of Pharmacology and Anatomy and works in the group of Jan M. Van Ree. She has won the Award with an article on an animal model for developmental disorders, in particular schizophrenia and autism, in which small, localised lesions are made in the amygdala of 7 days old rat pups. The article describes in detail the technical procedures in applying these lesions to the rat brain.

Marie Curie Grant for PhD student

Heidi Lesscher, PhD student of the Department of Pharmacology and Anatomy, has won a Marie Curie Outgoing International Fellowship awarded by the European Committee. This grant is intended to promote training and mobility of European researchers and is aimed at young post-docs who will go abroad for 1-2 years and then return to their Institute to implement the acquired expertise. Congratulations to Heidi are appropriate, especially since the competition for these Fellowships is fierce.

INFORMATION: About Marie Curie grants, j.dekker@med.uu.nl

Rudolf Magnus Research Award 2003

The Rudolf Magnus Research Award 2003 was won by Roger Adan for his article '*Inverse agomism gains weight*' published in TRENDS in Pharmacological Sciences in 2003. A National Jury selected the work of Roger from 13 nominees. The work describes, among others, the actions of AgRP, which acts as antagonist with respect to binding of α -MSH to brain melanocortin receptors. But AgRP also suppresses the constitutive activity of particular melanocortin receptors, identifying AgRP as inverse agonist. The balance of the actions of α -MSH and AgRP on the melanocortin receptors is highly relevant for the control of body weight. In its report, by the words of the committee's chair Hans Stoof, the jury highly valued the innovative character of the research and its clinical relevance.

Rudolf Magnus Bulletin Welcomes New Journal

Many staff of our Institute work within the Division of Neuroscience. This Division will shortly launch a newly styled journal (in Dutch), concentrating on news and human-interest items of the Division. In close co-operation with the editors of this new journal, the Rudolf Magnus Bulletin will remain concentrated on news facts regarding research and education of the Rudolf Magnus Institute/Graduate School. All news items from the Institute regarding research and education should be send to the address below. Then it will be decided if these items will be published in this Bulletin and/or in the new journal of the Division, or that a press release is warranted. The first issue of this new journal of the Division of Neuroscience will appear (very) soon, and the publication frequency will be 8 issues a year.

COPY: Please mail all news items involving research and education to j.dekker@med.uu.nl

Personal Web-pages for Staff and PhD students

The new website of our Institute that can be found under www.rudolfmagnus.nl holds a personal page for each member of staff and PhD student. Most of these pages contain yet only the most essential information, like section of the Institute and address of the researcher. All staff and PhD students are invited to visit and to update their personal page (by mailing to the webmaster, see below). Also you can visit the website to obtain information of the Institute, including an agenda of meetings and courses, information on the research training for PhD students (including AGIKOs), and news items.

VISIT: Your personal page at <http://www.rudolfmagnus.nl>, click on 'Staff'. Send all remarks and additions to the webmaster, j.dekker@med.uu.nl.

Accreditation of the Rudolf Magnus Graduate School

The evaluation report of the Rudolf Magnus Institute and Graduate School has been send to the Board of the Utrecht University. This report, together with the report of the International Review Committee will be send by the University to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) to be judged by the national evaluation committee for graduate schools. In the months to come we will learn if our efforts to establish a structured Research Training Programme for our PhD Students are sufficient to yield (re-)accreditation of the Graduate School of Neuroscience for the years 2004-2009.

TEXTS: The full texts of both the research report by the Institute and the report of the evaluation committee are available on the website <http://www.rudolfmagnus.nl>.

Academic Promotions

Since September we celebrated another six PhD-graduations (supervisors between brackets).

- Reinoud De Jongh, *Fear versus anxiety and the role of corticotropin-releasing factor* (B.Olivier, L.Groenink)
- Bon Verweij, *Cerebral Oxygen Transport and Energy Metabolism after Severe Traumatic Brain Injury Emphasis on Mitochondrial Dysfunction* (J.P.Muizelaar, C.A.F.Tulleken)
- Marja Schoenmakers, *Functional Aspects of Spina Bifida in Childhood* (P.J.M.Helders, A.J.H.Prevo, R.H.J.M.Gooskens, V.A.M.Gulmans)
- Ciska Wolters, *The protective effect of melanocortins on cisplatin-induced hearing loss* (G.F.Smooenburg, S.F.L.Klis, F.P.T.Hamers)
- Willem Alpherts, *Neuropsychological Aspects of Epilepsy Surgery* (C.W.M.Van Veelen, F.H.Lopes da Silva, P.C.Van Rijen)
- Ralph Kupka, *Rapid Cycling. Discriminating factors in rapid and non-rapid cycling bipolar disorder* (W.A.Nolen, H.A.Drexhage, R.M.Post)