



Rudolf Magnus Institute of Neuroscience

Rudolf Magnus Bulletin 09

Susanne la Fleur wins VENI-grant

Susanne la Fleur (Pharmacology and Anatomy) was awarded a VENI-grant for her research application, '*How the hepatic vagus and the melanocortin system are involved in the response against fat-induced obesity*'. Recent studies have shown that disruptions of the hepatic vagus and the central melanocortin system accelerate fat-induced obesity. Furthermore, hepatic vagotomy prevents fat-induced changes in POMC mRNA, a precursor of the melanocortin peptide alpha-MSH. The aim of this study is to determine how and where in the brain the hepatic vagus and the melanocortin system interact in the response against fat-induced obesity. A total of 88 grants were awarded of 330 applications, and 5 of the VENI-grants were awarded to researchers of the UMCU.

High potentials

Marten Smidt (Pharmacology and Anatomy) and Freek Beekman (Imaging Sciences Institute, and seconded to our Institute) have been awarded a Utrecht University grant for 'High Potentials'. Their 5-years project is entitled, '*BAMI, Brain analysis through molecular imaging*'. These high potential grants were established to promote interdisciplinary research among excellent researchers at Utrecht University. A total of 56 applications were submitted and 11 of these were granted.

Rudolf Magnus Graduate School Accredited

The Rudolf Magnus Graduate School of Neuroscience has been (re-)accredited by the Netherlands Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences. Following previous accreditations of the Graduate School in 1994 and 1999, the accreditation has hereby been extended to 2009.

www.rudolfmagnus.nl a success

The website of the Institute and Graduate School that is 'live' since January 2003 is still increasing in popularity, as statistics show. The site consists of four interlinked homepages, one for the Institute/Graduate School, and one for each of the three Departments of the Institute. During January of this year these homepages were visited about 350 times by individual users (unique IP numbers), and collectively these visitors visited some 10.000 pages of the website. In July of this year, these numbers were increased to about 1000 individual visitors, who collectively visited 15.000 separate pages of our website.

INFORMATION, The webmaster (j.dekker@med.uu.nl) welcomes relevant information for the website, especially to fill the personal web pages that are assigned to each of the Institute's researchers.

BrainDays

On Friday and Saturday, 1-2 October 2004 a meeting is organised entitled, '*BrainDays: Assessing, Localising and Modulating Brain Function*'. The first day will provide an overview of the current techniques and possibilities of pre- and intra-operative localisation of function. The second day will be dedicated to new ways of reading and influencing brain function, that open up vistas of treating brain damaged patients.

VENUE: Pink Lecture Hall, UMCU. Registration deadline, 17 September, contact j.dirckx@neuro.azu.nl, or visit the website www.rudolfmagnus.nl.

Certificate of the Graduate School

The Director and the Research Training Committee of the Rudolf Magnus Graduate School of Neuroscience took pleasure in presenting the Certificate to Wouter A.J.Nijenhuis.

INFORMATION: Graduate School and criteria to receive the Certificate, www.rudolfmagnus.nl.

Master's Programme has new website

The Master's Programme Neuroscience and Cognition has launched a new website: <http://www.neuroscience-cognition.org>, containing all pertinent data regarding training and education of the Masters students.

Rudolf Magnus Research Award 2004

Also this year the Rudolf Magnus Research Award will be awarded to the author (PhD student, post-doc, 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 that must be published between July 1st 2003 and June 30th 2004. Candidates must be nominated before September 24th, 2004. The Award (a certificate and € 3500) will be announced during the Rudolf Magnus Symposium on November 17th (see below).

NOMINATIONS: Send (all in 5-fold) the Curriculum Vitae of the candidate, a short motivation explaining the importance of the work, and a copy of the article (presenting original data) to J.M.Van Ree, STR5.203, j.m.vanree@med.uu.nl.

Rudolf Magnus Symposium

The yearly symposium in which the winner of the Rudolf Magnus Research Award 2004 is to be announced will be held in the afternoon of Wednesday November 17th, 2004. The keynote lecture during this symposium will be delivered by **Robin Murray**, distinguished researcher of the Institute of Psychiatry in London who will speak about, '*Schizophrenia, no longer an enigma, merely a puzzle*'.

VENUE: Wednesday, 17 November 2004, 14.00-17.15, Green Lecture Hall, UMCU, with reception afterwards in the Foyer. For the full programme see, <http://www.rudolfmagnus.nl>.

Address of the Institute

In a recent analysis it appeared that quite a number of publications from our Institute still shows a wrong or incomplete address. Please use the following primary affiliation:

Name(s) author(s)
Rudolf Magnus Institute of Neuroscience
Department of (either Neurology and Neurosurgery/ Pharmacology and Anatomy/ Psychiatry)
optional: Section: ...
University Medical Center Utrecht
Utrecht, the Netherlands