News

Business Lunch Katleen Verleysen

On Thursday January 17th, we welcomed the first female speaker for a Business Lunch, Katleen Verleysen, CEO of Pronota NV, a Gent based biotech company developing biomarkers for pre-eclampsia, sepsis and ovarian cancer. Katleen Verleysen holds a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Ghent where she worked under the supervision of Prof. Pat Sandra together with the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. After her PhD, she took a sabbatical where she learned a lot of things e.g. dealing with criticism, negativism, need for problem solving, broadening the mindset, dealing with different cultures,… After this sabbatical, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Medical Center of Duke University (Durham, NC) in the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, where she was responsible for setting up a Proteomics Core Facility. She explained that this postdoctoral experience in a US university was the ideal steppingstone to get into the US industry. After only 9 months of postdoctoral experience, she started working as one of the founding scientist and Group Leader of the Analytical Department of the Biotech Start-up company, Serenex. During this job, she learned a lot about people management, solving problems and she was involved in all aspects of the biotech start-up company. This knowledge was a true asset when she returned to Belgium in 2005. In no time, she got a number of excellent job offers. She chose to become head of Technology Department at Pronota. After being Director of Technology Department, vice president Operations & Technology Development and COO, she became CEO in 2012. A big change in her life was the birth of her son in 2011. She recently decided to move to the French Alps where she and her husband will start a business that organizes AlpineSingletrack Mountain Bike Holidays. She will be able to spend more time with her family and make her favorite hobby mountainbiking into a job., We wish her all the best!

Dr. Frederik Verbrugge receives Young Investigator Award

The Belgian Society of Cardiology has awarded Frederik Verbrugge (Ph.D. fellow of Hasselt University and Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg) with the Young Investigator Award. This prestigious award intends to reward the most promising research project of a young Belgian Investigator.

Dr. Frederik Verbrugge got the award for his research to optimize the efficiency of cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT) in heart failure. He and his research group - led by prof. dr. Wilfried Mullens (Hasselt University - Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg) - have described a new parameter to better assess diastolic dyssynchrony, which is important to predict clinical response and outcome after
implantation of the CRT device. This is of great importance because not all patients benefit equivocally from this expensive therapy. This investigation is part of the Limburg Clinical Research Program (LCRP).

The Young Investigator Award was handed over during the yearly scientific Sessions of the Belgian Society of Cardiology, a forum for young investigators and experienced researchers to communicate scientific results and new evolutions in Cardiology.

### Important data & deadlines

#### 1. Symposia

* Leerstoel Medische Ethiek; 5 lectures in January and February  
  [link](http://www.uhasselt.be/knapen2013)

* Annual WOG MS Symposium, Antwerp University, March 14th 2013  
  Registration and abstract submission: March 1st  
  [link](http://www.uhasselt.be/WOG-MS)  

* International symposium: The precautionary principle in medicine and public health; March 22nd; The Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine  
  [link](http://www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be/KAGBagenda/)

* PhD symposium: Cell-based Therapies in CNS Pathology; April 12th;  
  [link](http://www.uhasselt.be/SymposiumCNSPathology)

* 1st European Neuroscience Meeting of Doctoral Students; April 18th-19th  
  [link](http://www.encods.eu/)

* Symposium, Family in Science  
  Date available soon

* Postdoc symposium  
  Date available soon

#### 2. Events

* Info session: FWO Research projects and research grants; February 22th; B4 (Campus Diepenbeek)  
  Registration via [link](http://www.uhasselt.be/infosessionFWOprojects)

* Infosessie: Sociale Innovatie; 25 Februari; Aula ‘Gouverneur Roppe’ (kleine aula) van de oude gevangenis  
  [link](http://www.uhasselt.be/SocialeInnovatie)
* Interuniversitaire debat: Kenniswerkers voor morgen; February 28th
  http://kenniswerkersvoormorgen.be/

* Career Day; March 5th
  http://www.uhasselt.be/careerday

* Lecture: Prof. dr. De Vries: April 4th; Bioville
  “The neurovascular unit in health and disease; implications for MS lesion development”
  http://www.uhasselt.be/UH/WOG-MS/NewsAgenda/(11301)-Agenda/(11301)-Agenda-2013/Lecture-Prof-de-Vries.html

* Knowledge for Growth; May 30th
  http://flandersbio.be/events/knowledge-for-growth-2013/

* Biomedica; June 19th
  http://www.biomedicasummit.com/

3. Courses

* Project Management, managing my PhD
  Data available soon

* qPCR course by Biogazelle; March 7th-8th

* Postdoc course: Academic Leadership
  Data available soon

* FTNLS workshops in Hasselt:
  “Life Long Fitness and Ageing: can we monitor, can we treat?”

* Save the date: Summerschool Wetenschapscommunicatie en communicatievaardigheden; 3-5 Juli

  http://www.vib.be/en/training/research-training/Pages/Courses-overview.aspx
  http://www.vub.ac.be/phd/doctoralschools/lsm/
  http://www.flames-statistics.eu/ (Flanders Training Network for Methodology and Statistics)

4. Congratulations to...

* Wendy Martens
  Wendy received a Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds Travel grant

* Kathleen Sanen
  Kathleen received an FWO grant for a short term stay abroad
Wendy and Kathleen will visit the Open University - Milton Keynes (UK) for 4 weeks in February 2013. In the lab of Dr. James Phillips, they will get acquainted with the techniques to prepare a cell-aligned collagen type I hydrogel and to use it in an in vivo model of peripheral nerve injury.

* Nina Swinnen
Nina received a Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds Travel grant. She will visit the laboratory of Pascal Legendre (UPMC6) in Paris to learn about the patch clamp technique and perform patch clamp experiments on embryonic microglia.

* Sofie Carmans
**Article:** Systemic treatment with the inhibitory neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid aggravates experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis by affecting proinflammatory immune responses.

* Nathalie Geurts
**Article:** Zymography methods as reverse degradomics technology
Nat Methods, IF = 19.276
**Article:** Meprins process matrix metalloproteinase-9 (MMP-9)/gelatinase B and enhance the activation kinetics by MMP-3.
Nathalie Geurts, Christoph Becker-Pauly, Erik Martens, Paul Proost, Philippe E. Van den Steen, Walter Stöcker and Ghislain Opdenakker
FEBS Lett, IF = 3.538
**Article:** AT2-receptor stimulation enhances axonal plasticity after spinal cord injury by upregulating BDNF expression.
Neurobiol Dis, IF = 5.403

* dr. Remco Koninckx
**Article:** The cardiac atrial appendage stem cell: a new and promising candidate for myocardial repair.
Remco Koninckx, Annick Daniëls, Severina Windmolders, Urbain Mees, Regina Macianskiene, Kanigula Mubagwa, Paul Steels, Luc Jamaer, Jasperina Dubois, Boris Robic, Marc Hendrikx, Jean-Luc Rummens and Karen Hensen.
Cardiovascular Research, IF = 6.064

* Ingrid Meex
**Article:** Cerebral tissue oxygen saturation during therapeutic hypothermia in post-cardiac arrest patients.
Ingrid Meex, Jo Dens, Frank Jans, Willem Boer, Kristof Vanhengel, Guy Vundelinckx, René Heylen, Cathy De Deyne.
Resuscitation, IF = 3.601
* Sofie Nelissen  
**Article:** The role of mast cells in neuroinflammation.  
Sofie Nelissen, Evi Lemmens, Nathalie Geurts, Peter Kramer, Marcus Maurer, Jerome Hendriks and Sven Hendrix  
Acta Neuropathologica (review), IF= 9.32

* Ann Swijsen  
**Article:** Validation of reference genes for quantitative real-time PCR studies in the dentate gyrus after experimental febrile seizures.  
BMC Res Notes, IF =

**Article:** Experimental early-life febrile seizures induce changes in GABA(A)R-mediated neurotransmission in the dentate gyrus.  
Epilepsia, IF = 3.961

**Article:** Long-lasting enhancement of GABA(A) receptor expression in newborn dentate granule cells after early-life febrile seizures  
Dev Neurobiol, IF = 3.55

* Kathleen Tomsin  
**Article:** Impedance cardiography in uncomplicated pregnancy and pre-eclampsia: a reliability study  
K. Tomsin, T. Mesens, G. Molenberghs & W. Gyselaers  
Obstetrics, IF = 0.542

* Dr. Frederik Verbrugge  
**Article:** Response to cardiac resynchronization therapy in elderly patients (≥ 70 years) and octogenarians  
Eur J Heart Fail, IF = 4.896

**Article:** Cardiac resynchronization therapy with or without defibrillator: experience from a high-volume Belgian implantation centre.  
Acta Cardiol. IF = 0.605

**Article:** Co-management of atrial fibrillation and heart failure: case studies.  
Verbrugge FH, Mullens W.  
Heart Fail Rev (review), IF = 3.200
**WELCOME**

Started in January/February:

| **Dr. Genbrugge Cornelia** | PhD student, LCRP, Cluster Anaesthesia and Central Nervous System  
“COPERNICUS trial: cerebral oxygenation in post cardiac arrest patients monitored with NIRStechnology from out of hospital”  
Promoters: Prof Dens, Prof De Deyne |
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| **Kenneth Verboven** | PhD student, REVAL  
“Endocrine regulation of lipolysis during acute exercise in obesity: impact of exercise intervention”  
Promoters: Prof. dr. Dominique Hansen (Hasselt University) and Prof. dr. Ellen Blaak (Maastricht University) |
| **Leen Willems** | PhD student, LCRP, Cluster Cardiology  
“Study of the activation of endogenous repair mechanisms of the heart and the suppression of fibrosis for myocardial recovery after an infarction”  
Department of Experimental Hematology  
Promotor: Prof. dr. Karen Hensen |
| **Bojoua Schouten** | PhD student  
“Psychosocial aspects of cancer care and their embedding in the transmural care pathway of the patient”  
Promoter: Prof. dr. Johan Hellings |
| **Rani Berben** |  
Secretary/ Receptionist BIOMED |
| **Bianca Ceccarelli** |  
LTL Project Manager Med Tech |