**Newsletter 9+10-2012**

**News**

**Workshop Model Organisms: Nature’s gift to Translational Medicine**
The Flemish Training Network Life Sciences, a new joint initiative of the five Flemish universities and VIB, organized 5 high-level workshops for researchers active in life sciences. One of these workshops, “Model Organisms – Nature’s Gift to Translational Medicine”, has been organized by our Doctoral School and took place at the Campus Diepenbeek. This workshop illustrated how mammalian and non-mammalian models – by being used as living laboratories – boost (early) translational research. On top of the model talks, an historical overview on animal experimentation, different sessions on ethical aspects (including the 3 R’s) and talks with focus on the value of animal models for translational research were part of the program. At the end of the three days, there was a panel discussion between the ethicists, the managers of the companies, the researchers and the audience. They concluded that important steps need to be taken to improve scientific research based on animal experiments like the incorporation of systematic reviews and meta-analysis in the standard procedure for animal experiments and the comparison of results from animal experiments with results from clinical studies. In the coming year, the doctoral school for Medicine & Life Sciences is planning to integrate these steps in its curriculum.

**Interuniversity Postdoc Symposium: Postdoc Career Development**
On Friday September 14th, Hasselt University organized together with Ghent University and VUB a symposium for postdoctoral researchers entitled: Postdoc Career Development. During this symposium, speakers from academia and industry gave their vision on a support program for postdoctoral researchers. Since it was the first symposium dedicated to this topic in Belgium, the symposium brought together a large group of postdoctoral researchers from different fields. Yves Soen, HR-manager at Hasselt University, gave an interesting presentation about ‘How to improve your employability in private companies?’. Karen Vandevelde, ECOOM-UGent, gave more information about careers of researchers in Flanders and Lucia Smit explained the function of the career center which was recently established at the VUB. Marijke Lein, HR director at VIB, explained what it means to be a postdoctoral researcher at VIB and Isabelle Halleux, R&D executive director at University de Liège, gave a talk about the postdoc career pathways in Wallonia. From Johnson & Johnson Koen Vanhoutte, Sr scientific director analytical director and CoE, explained the different industrial postdoctoral research programs. The plenary session was closed with a short presentation from Sven Hendrix who presented preliminary results of the Belgian Postdoc Survey 2012. In the afternoon, 40 postdoctoral researchers were selected to follow the
Leadership Skills training, “Knowing me, knowing you – leading people in academia and industry”. The postdoctoral researchers were very enthusiastic about this symposium/training and we plan to organize a similar symposium next year!

**Important data & deadlines**

1. **Symposia**
   

   * Symposium: The cultural meaning of Life Sciences; November, 13th [http://www.huizingainstituut.nl/](http://www.huizingainstituut.nl/)


   * Belgian Proteomics Symposium: From analytical to functional proteomics; November 29th – 30th; [http://www.belgianproteomics.be/](http://www.belgianproteomics.be/)

2. **Events**

   * PhD Job Fair; October 30th; [http://phdjobfair.org/](http://phdjobfair.org/)

   * OPINNO module 1; November 14th; [http://module1.opinno.be/](http://module1.opinno.be/)
     Deadline registration: November 7th

2. **Courses**


3. **Congratulations to...**

   * **Nina Swinnen**
     **Article:** Microgla proliferation is controlled by P2X7 receptors in a pannexin-1-independent manner during early embryonic spinal cord invasion.
     Chiara Rigato, Nina Swinnen, Roeland Buckinx, Isabelle Couillin, Jean-Marie Mangin, Jean-Michel Rigo, Pascal Legendre, and Herve Le Corronc.
     Journal of Neuroscience, IF = 7.18

   * **Bieke Broux**
     **Article:** Pathogenic features of CD4+CD28- T cells in immune disorders.
     Bieke Broux, Silva Markovic-Plese, Piet Stinissen and Niels Hellings.
     Trends in Molecular Medicine, IF = 10.36

   * **Tom Struys**
     **Article:** Small-animal PET imaging of the type 1 and type 2 cannabinoid receptors in a photothrombotic stroke model.
Caroline Vandeputte, Cindy Casteels, Tom Struys, Michel Koole, Daisy van Veghel, Nele Evens, Anneleen Gerits, Tom Dresselaers, Ivo Lambrichts, Uwe Himmelreich, Guy Bomans, Koen Van Laere.
The European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, IF = 4.99

* Pia Vidal Vera
**Article:** The role of ‘anti-inflammatory’ cytokines in axon regeneration.
Vidal PM, Lemmens E, Dooley D, Hendrix S.
Cytokine & Growth Factor Reviews. 2012, IF = 7.81

Article: Late blocking of peripheral TNF-α is ineffective after spinal cord injury in mice.
Vidal PM, Lemmens E, Geboes L, Vangansewinkel T, Nelissen S, Hendrix S
Immunobiology. 2012, IF = 3.025

* Myrthe Rouwette
**Article:** Novel cerebrospinal fluid and serum autoantibody targets for clinically isolated syndrome.
Journal of neurochemistry, 2012, IF = 4.06

* Wendy Martens
She obtained an FWO travel grant to participate at the congress ‘3rd TERMIS World Congress 2012- Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine’.

**WELCOME**

Started in July/August/September

**Dr. Anneleen Staelens**
PhD Student
Maternal cardiovascular characteristics in vascular preeclampsia, maternal preeclampsia and genuine intra-uterine growth retardation. Cluster gynaecologie

**Ilse Palmers**
PhD Student
Identification and characterization of novel antibody biomarkers in post-spinal cord injury
Research group: Immunology-biochemistry

**Jo Mailleux**
PhD Student
De rol van het cholesterolmetabolisme tijdens remyelinisatie in MS
Research group: immunology – biochemistry
Marjan Vanheusden
PhD Student
A role for immunosenescence and CD4+CD28null T cells in patients with multiple sclerosis?
Research group: Immunology-biochemistry

Stefanie Lemmens
PhD Student
Research group: Morphology

Sara Deville
PhD Student
The impact of nanoparticles on antigen-presenting cells: a label-free imaging approach
Research group: Biofysica (Hasselt University) and Milieurisico en gezondheid (VITO)

Dorien Deluyker
PhD Student
Research group: Physiology

Annelies Thijssen
PhD Student
Sperm Banking in Belgium: Medical, Ethical and Economical Aspects
Research group: Physiology
LCRP program: Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Karen Geunes
Assistant-plaatsvervanger
Thimet Oligopeptidase: een metallopeptidase betrokken in verschillende multiple sclerose geassocieerde pathways?
Research group: Immunology-biochemistry

dr. Tim Vanmierlo
Doctor-navorser
Research group: Immunology-biochemistry

dr. Rozhin Penjweini
Doctor-navorser
Research group: Biophysics
**dr. Ilse Baert**
Doctor-navorser
Research group: Immunology-biochemistry

**Ine Hanssen**
Stafmedewerker Reki

**Eline Ceustermans**
Dierenverzorger animalium

**Kim Ulenaers**
Technician

**Jessica Boes**
Kredietcel

**Laura Mercier**
Kredietcel