



Newsletter of the Dutch Society for Matrix Biology Nr 20 winter 2012

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Preface

It is the end of January 2012, the year some say the world will come to its end as the ancient Maya calendar stops in this year. Although I am not very susceptible to this kind of predictions (may have forecast the end of the world at various moments, but all have had to admit that they made a slight miscalculation when the sun rose again the day after the presumed disaster), one must admit that mankind has seen brighter moments in its history. Hopefully, the dramatic sinking of the cruise ship *Costa Concordia* off the Tuscany coast will not be emblematic for the entire year. The economical crisis holds on and can be expected to become more severe in the foreseeable future. Governments announce sometimes draconic budget cuts and higher education and research are commonly among the victims. The Dutch government recently proposed a new attitude towards scientific research, laying much more emphasis on partaking of the private sector, hence redirecting research into directions where valorisation and potential commercial value are key drivers. While publicly boasting that Holland will belong to the global top 5 of "knowledge economies" (for not attaining this goal the 2020 government can be blamed), the actual government cuts no less than 31% of the budget for scientific research. This may affect many of us and we might have to prepare for hard times.

Notwithstanding the somewhat gloomy economical situation, science still brings much progress and innovation and also much joy to the scientists involved. The Dutch Society of Matrix Biology is prospering and now has 119 members, about 20% more than our usual membership of around 100. Our annual meeting last May in Lunteren was successful with a high number of attendants and also the one-day symposium on inflammation that was held November 11th, 2011 in Amersfoort was a big success. The attendance was with 78 over the expected number and we had to negotiate with the venue about enlarging the room the meeting was held in (which fortunately appeared to be possible). The general opinion after the meeting was that it was a success and the Society will continue with organizing an annual one-day event on a given specific topic. Of course we'll also continue our annual two-day meeting that will be held again in Lunteren this year on May 24-25. During this meeting some preliminary information will be given on the FECTS 2014 congress that will be organized in collaboration with the Society in Rotterdam. Instructions for registering and abstracts will be sent soon by email. I certainly hope to meet all of you there.

Although a bit late and against all predictions by pessimistic fortune tellers I wish everybody a healthy, happy and successful 2012!

René van Weeren, chairman

Board mutations

Leonie Los will lay down her position as treasurer and Esmeralda Blaney Davidson and Lucienne Vonk will take over this position. Leonie Los will also leave the board after the next meeting in May in Lunteren. Therefore, the board is looking for an enthusiastic new member to reinforce the team from May 2012 onwards. Everyone involved in matrix biology research and interested in management of a scientific society, please step forward by sending a mail to info@matrixbiology.nl.

Annual meeting

We would like to invite you for our annual meeting on *May 24 and 25 2012* in *de Werelt in Lunteren*.

Presentations

For the (oral) presentations we would like to ask you to submit an abstract. Every abstract that is submitted, will be scheduled for an oral presentation. The abstract format can be found on our [website](#). Please send in your **abstract before April 27**.

At the end of the second day of the meeting, the Pauline van Wachem award for the best oral presentation and Arnold van den Hooff award for the best contributor to the discussions will be presented among the AIOs/OIOs/AGNIOs/ technicians. Moreover, the Bertus Kemp award will be awarded to one of the researchers that have defended their thesis in the year 2011 (more information below).

The evening lecture will be given by Roger Smith, professor of equine orthopaedics at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in London (not yet confirmed).

Registration

For attending the meeting there is a choice between several options listed in the table below. **Onsite registration and registration after April 27** will be more expensive. Unfortunately, also the NVMB is suffering from the consequences of the current economic recession resulting in the lack of extra funding. We had to raise the registration fees therefore.

	members		non-members	
	before april 27	after April 27	before April 27	after April 27
2 days without hotel room	125	150	150	175
2 days single room	175	200	200	225
2 days double room	160	185	185	210
attendance May 24 only (incl dinner)	100	125	125	150
attendance May 25 only	65	90	90	115

You can [register](#) via our website until **April 27**. Please remember the registration fee you have to pay after you registered via our website. You will receive a general e-mail confirming your registration, but without details on your specific registration.

Bertus Kemp award

Every year the SBBN, 'De Stichting ter Bevordering van Bindweefselonderzoek Nederland', awards the Bertus Kemp prize for the best thesis in the field of connective tissue research. On behalf of the board of the SBBN we invite you and your colleagues to submit the thesis, if defended in 2011, for the Bertus Kemp award 2012.

To be eligible for the 2012 award, you need to send your thesis together with a list of most recent accepted papers to every member of the committee (one set per member). The deadline for submitting your thesis is **April 2** 2012 and at least five theses should be submitted in order for the committee to reward the prize.

The Bertus Kemp prize will be awarded during the annual meeting on May 25, 2012. The winner is kindly asked to present his or her work during the meeting.

The committee consists of the following members:

Prof. W. van den Berg Reumatologie, NCMLS Geert Groteplein 28 6525 GA Nijmegen	Dr. J. Cleutjens Pathologie, UMCM Postbus 616 6200 MD Maastricht	Prof. Dr Ruud Bank (voorz.) Stem Cell & Tissue Engineering UMCG Hanzeplein 1 9713 GZ Groningen
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Prof. Dr. V. Everts Dept Oral Cell Biology (ACTA) Gustav Mahlerlaan 3004 1081 LA Amsterdam	Prof. G. van Osch Orthopaedie & KNO, Erasmus MC Dr Molewaterplein 50, Room Ee1614 3015 GE Rotterdam
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PhD defences

July 6, 2012
Wouter Schuurman, Utrecht University and UMC Utrecht
"stratified strategies in cartilage bioprinting"

Vacancy

PhD student at the Dept. of Orthopaedics, UMC Utrecht.

The department

The dept of Orthopaedics at the UMC Utrecht harbours a fast-growing and multidisciplinary research group consisting of biomedical researchers, engineers and medics that has regenerative medicine as main focus. In particular, the processes involved in degeneration of cartilaginous tissues, such as articular cartilage and the intervertebral disc (IVD), are of interest. Presence and action of proinflammatory degenerative cues are being studied in patients presenting with cartilage and IVD pathology, such as osteoarthritis and chronic low back pain and mechanisms are subsequently being elucidated in vitro. To this end, extensive collaborations exist with both internal (amongst others, dept Rheumatology, Immunology and Pediatrics) and external (VU Amsterdam, EU Rotterdam, Mayo clinic, USA, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, AO institute Switzerland etc) research groups. Within the scope of the NIRM programme we have a vacancy for a PhD candidate. The research focus will be on the application of biomaterials-based controlled release strategies for targeting IVD degeneration, by releasing growth factors and antidegenerative compounds. Along with this focus, attention will be devoted

to elucidation of mechanisms of IVD degeneration, cell-biomaterial interactions and epigenetic mechanisms in degeneration.

The position

The candidate will carry out the research in collaboration with a postdoc, PhD student and a technician, all under supervision of a senior investigator. Although an outline of the project is available, there is room for new research ideas. The work will include cell and tissue culture, with as primary analytical techniques biochemistry, molecular biology, histology, RNAi, cell biology. In vivo experiments may follow at the end of the project.

Your profile

You have a Bachelor or Master in a relevant area, such as Biomedical Sciences, Biology, Biomedical Technology, Pharmaceutical Sciences or a medical degree. Preferrably you have a background in biomaterials research. You are enthusiastic, concise and enjoy employing several techniques in a project that is both fundamental and clinically applied. Moreover, you are capable of working in a research group including varying backgrounds and personalities.

Information

Dr. Laura B. Creemers, l.b.creemers@umcutrecht.nl, tel. 088 75 50293.

Summer school on Regenerative Medicine

July 16-27, 2012: summer school on Regenerative Medicine in Utrecht. For advanced bachelors/beginning masters in the (bio)medical and life sciences. For information and registration see [website](#).

Conferences

2012

2012 Joint meeting of The Wound Healing Society & The European Tissue Repair Society	Atlanta, Georgia	April 19-22, 2012
2012 World Congress on Osteoarthritis OARSI	Barcelona, Spain	April 25-29, 2012
International Cartilage Repair Society (ICRS) 2012	Montreal, Canada	May 12-15, 2012
Annual Meeting of the International Society for Cellular Therapy	Seattle, Washington	June 5-8, 2012
Federation of European Connective Tissue Societies (FECTS)	Katowice, Poland	August 25-29, 2012
2012 TERMIS World Congress	Vienna, Austria	September 5-8, 2012

2013

2013 Annual meeting of the ORS	San Antonio, Texas	January 26-29, 2013
2013 World Congress on Osteoarthritis OARSI	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	April 25-28, 2013
TERMIS-EU	Istanbul, Turkey	June 12-15, 2013

2014

Federation of European Connective Tissue Societies (FECTS)	Rotterdam, The Netherlands	July 5-9, 2014
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