

CS&D Newsletter

Cancer,
Stem cells &
Developmental
biology

Introduction

Dear fellow CSnD students,

A new academic year has started and many new students joined the CSnD program, whereas others finished their masters and graduated: welcome and congratulations! In this newsletter you will find a summary of the previous activities, an overview of upcoming activities, and an introduction of the new StuCom members. They will continue organizing interesting and great activities during this academic year. They are looking forward to see you at our activities to discuss science, to share experiences, and to have dinner together.

We want to remind you of our facebook group

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/658827320829393>) and LinkedIn group

(<https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=8190467>). Join those groups to stay in touch with

current students and alumni and to remain updated about activities. If you have any questions, suggestions, or if you want to subscribe for an activity, please contact us via stucomcsd@gmail.com.

Good luck with your internships, courses, and theses!

StuCom 2014-2015



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New StuCom members

With the start of a new academic year, new students have taken over the StuCom and the current members will stop. Eelco and Merel won't be responsible for the finances and contacts anymore; their functions are taken over by Claire van Woudenbergh, Joep Sprangers, and My Anh Truong. Claire will arrange all financial matters, Joep will send you all emails and reply to your questions, and My Anh will make sure that everything is documented well. My function as chair is taken over by Franka Rang.

During the past year we organized several interesting seminars, and we had a lot of fun organizing a quiz, a scavenger hunt, and a barbeque. Those seminars and activities would not have been so great without you attending them, thank you all! The best activity of last year was definitely the retreat to Heidelberg. It took quite some effort and last-minute flexibility, but in the end it was a great week. We really enjoyed organizing this retreat and learned a lot during the seminars and your (poster) presentations.

We wish all new member good luck and lots of fun with the organisation of new activities. We hope that you will like their activities as much as ours!

On behalf of the StuCom 2015,

Sanne Boersma

Chair: Franka Rang

Hello and nice to meet you, fellow CSnD students. I am Franka and I have recently started the CSnD master program. My previous academic background is pleasantly messy, having done a bachelor at University College Utrecht with a major in Biology, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics. However, after a gap year doing some bio internships abroad, I am now a fully pledged biologist as well as the new StuCom chair. I am looking forward to meeting (hopefully) all of you in the months to come and organize some great activities with my fellow StuCom members. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or funny stories you'd like to share, please feel free to contact me or one of the other members.

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Treasurer: Claire van Woudenbergh

Hi! My name is Claire van Woudenbergh and I started my master in February. I am 22 years old and live in Utrecht. For the past three years I have studied Biomedical Sciences in Utrecht. Currently, I am doing my major internship at the Lens group in the Stratenum. I investigate the regulation of the recruitment of the chromosomal passenger complex to the inner centromere. As a member of the StuCom I hope to organize a lot of scientific and also social activities. I am looking forward to it!

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Secretary: Joep Sprangers

Hi! My name is Joep Sprangers, I am 22 years old and started with the CSND master last February after I finished my bachelor in Biology in Utrecht. Currently I am doing my major internship in the lab of Hugo Snippert in the Stratenum, where I am trying to make a cell type specific markers for intestinal organoids. My hobbies include playing and producing music as a DJ, running and watching movies with friends. I really enjoyed last year's retreat and look forward to organize it this year myself, besides other interesting and fun activities. Hope to see you there!

j.sprangers@students.uu.nl

**Secretary: My Anh Truong**

Hi, my name is My Anh, I'm 21 and I come from Hanoi, Vietnam. I did my Bachelor in Lyon, France and just came to Utrecht 2 months ago. Right now I'm doing my major research project at Susanne Lens' lab (UMCU), studying the recruitment of Haspin kinase to the centromere during mitosis. Beside Science I also love singing, playing piano and traveling - I'm trying to make the most out of my years in Europe! I'm joining the Student Committee this year with the hope to meet more people and help bringing the CSND Master students closer together with fun/science-related activities. I look forward to see you all at the events organized by the StuCom!

truongmyanh@students.uu.nl

**Dennis Nahon**

Hi everyone! My name is Dennis Nahon and I started CSND past February. As a bachelor I studied Life Science & Technology, which is a combined study of the University of Leiden and the TU Delft. After my bachelors, I took half a year of to work and travel. I am currently finishing up my first internship in the group of Jacco van Rheenen, investigating the influence of chemotherapy on Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition using an organoid system. Hobbies include beer, music, soccer and reading. I am looking forward to meeting all of you during the coming activities.

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Morgan Hoftijzer

Hi everyone! I am Morgan Hoftijzer and I am 21 years old. For the last three years I studied Biomedical Sciences in Utrecht. Currently, I am doing my first internship at the Korswagen group at the Hubrecht Institute. Besides spending my days in the lab, I like to cook, listen and play music, travel and spend time with my friends. I joined the StuCom because I like organising activities and to meet other students of CS&D. I am looking forward to organise a lot of nice activities and have lots of fun. I hope to see you all on our upcoming activities!
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Axel Rosendahl Huber

Hi everyone, I'm Axel and joining this year's StuCom. I'm 22 years old and after finishing the bachelor Biomedical Sciences in Utrecht I chose the master CSND in February, still living in the fantastic city of Utrecht. Till now I've been doing my major internship at the Bos lab studying the gene PTPL1 in its role in polarizing intestinal cells. When I'm not at the lab, I like to row at the Merwedekanaal in Utrecht and bike around the area surrounding Utrecht. And not forget organizing great activities (and the retreat!) for all students of the CSND master. See you at our next seminar!

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Shauna Kehoe

Dia dhuit! My name is Shauna, I am an Irish CSnD/CSD/CS&DB masters student and I am currently doing my major research project at the Hubrecht Institute with Sander Steenbeek in the lovely van Rheenen group. In between eating a lot of celebratory cake and drinking free coffee I spend my time studying extravesicle (EV) transfer in the tumor microenvironment via the Cre-LoxP method. I am currently working in-vitro, imaging EV uptake at the Hubrecht Imaging Centre and optimizing methods of EV isolation. I hope to apply this project at its later stage in-vivo to have a more comparative story to tell however until then you can find me in the cell culture lab wearing an oversized lab coat and a smile. In relation to StuCom, I would like to help continue to achieve StuCom's goals in organizing memorable retreats and keeping a friendly and accessible social and educational platform for students. Is mise le ghrá, Shauna.

Shauna.kehoe@hotmail.com



Nobel prizes 2015

When inventor, poet, and multimillionaire Alfred Nobel passed away in 1896, he left his fortune to honor annually "those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to mankind", within the fields of Physics, Chemistry, Physiology and Medicine, Literature, and Peace. Since 1901 Swedish and Norwegian committees have awarded 889 Laurates with the highest achievable honor: Nobel prizes. In the first weeks



of October, the world was inform that eight men, two women and one organization will receive this year's prizes. On the 10th of December, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death, the kings of Sweden and Norway will award the Nobel Medals, Nobel Diplomas and documents confirming the Nobel Prize amounts.

Members of the Karolinska Institutet have decided that the Physiology and Medicine Nobel prize should honor the discoveries of novel therapies against parasites that can cause Malaria or Riverblindness. **Youyou Tu** (China) conducted large-scale screens with natural substances to identify an effective anti-Malaria drug. The resulting molecule, Artemisinin is widely used by patients with Malaria. Remarkably, Youyou Tu does not speak English and she hardly ever published in non-Asian journals, suggesting that publishing in high-impact factor journals is not the only way of doing breakthrough research. **Satoshi Ōmura** (Japan) found a unique bacterial species on his golf course. Together with **William Campbell** (Ireland) he identified a molecule that was secreted by those bacteria. This molecule, Avermectin, appeared to block effectively neuronal ion pumps of non-vertebrates. As a result, many parasite diseases can be treated and particularly the parasite that causes Riverblindness is sensitive to this treatment. Avermectin and Artemisinin have been suggested to have saved millions and their discoveries were therefore considered Nobel prize-worthy.

The Physics Nobel prize has a long history of honoring discoveries in the field of theoretical physics. For example, the most recent Dutch Nobel prize (Gerard 't Hooft; 1999) was awarded for this search into the most elementary particles. **Takaaki Kajita** (Japan) and his team used the Super-Kamiokande and discovered that neutrinos can oscillate: they can convert into another flavor of neutrinos. Detections of the SNO of **Arthur McDonald** (Canada) and his team demonstrated that this oscillating behavior is not limited to one type of neutrinos. The oscillating behavior of neutrinos can only be explained if neutrinos would have a mass. The combined effort of this year's Nobel prize recipients hence contributes to the understanding of the most elementary particles.

Although some would expect that discoveries within the field of DNA damage repair would be recognized by the Physiology and Medicine committee, the Chemistry committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences appreciated discoveries of repair pathways as well. **Paul Modrich** (USA) identified in yeast how mismatches arising during DNA replication are repaired. He elucidated molecularly which proteins are essential and to what extent these are conserved in human cells. Although **Tomas Lindahl** (Sweden) is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, he was not involved in the decision

that his work concerning DNA excision repair is Nobel prize worthy. Finally, **Aziz Sancar** (Turkey) is selected to be awarded a Nobel prize for revealing essential components of the thymidine dimer pathway.

This year's Literature prize is to be awarded to **Svetlana Alexievich** (Ukraine), whose books are hardly available in Eastern European or Russian book stores. Her books, like *The Unwomanly Face of War*, are based on interviews with many different people about their experiences during the Cold War in the Soviet Union. She is planning on spending the monetary part of the Nobel prize to provide more bookstores with her books.

The only Prize not to be rewarded in Stockholm is the Peace Prize for the **National Dialogue Quartet** (Tunisia), which is traditionally awarded in Oslo. This Quartet was formed by four major organizations and their combined effort was essential during the after matches of the revolutions in 2013.

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2015 is not an official Nobel Prize as it was not mentioned in Nobel's will. However, this prize is generally considered the Nobel prize for Economics ever since its establishment in 1968. This year's price is to be awarded to **Angus Deaton** (UK) for his economic analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare.

For more information see www.nobelprize.org

Upcoming CS&D activities

On Wednesday 11th November, Marvin Tanenbaum will give a seminar at the Hubrecht Institute. He developed a technique to recruit individual antibody-GFP fusion proteins to a protein or organelle of interest. Because many GFP molecules can bind to the scaffold, the fluorescent signal can be amplified, which enables imaging of biological processes with single molecule sensitivity. This technique, termed SunTag, can be used for many applications, including visualizing gene expression control. Marvin Tanenbaum will tell about the research he has been doing on this subject and his current research at the Hubrecht Institute.

What: Seminar Marvin Tanenbaum

When: Wednesday 11th November – 17.30h

Where: Auditorium Hubrecht Institute

Registration: send an e-mail to stucomcsd@gmail.com

Annual retreat

The new StuCom board will be busy organizing this retreat in the months to come! You will be kept up to date on the progress.



Other News & Activities

UBV activities

The students' association of Biology students, UBV, frequently organizes activities. To check their activities, please visit their website (<http://ubv.info/activiteiten/>).

Mebiose activities

The students' association of Biomedical students, Mebiose, frequently organizes activities. To check their activities, please visit their website (<http://mebiose.nl/>).