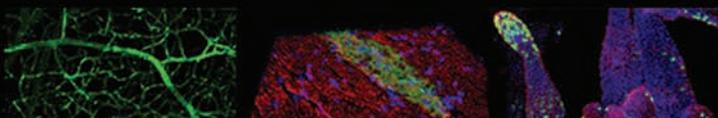


Cancer, Stem cells & Developmental biology

Newsletter July 2016



Students Committee
CSnD Master's Programme

Introduction

Dear CSnD'ers,

Congratulations, you've done it! You're there! You dragged yourself through all the ups and downs of another academic year and finally have reached the sunlight at the end of the tunnel!

Summer has come at last!

Okay, maybe I am exaggerating. Summer isn't all that summery this year and the chance is big that you are still plowing away in the lab, writing your research report or thesis, or trying to arrange your research project abroad. But if you are one of the lucky ones that can enjoy an old-fashioned, careless summer break:

congratulations, you've done it!

Yet, despite the generally never-ending flow of work, summer is still a moment of conclusions and new beginnings. This also holds for StuCom 2015-2016. Over the past year, you have had the chance to participate in the various activities organized by Joep, Claire, Dennis, Axel, My Anh, Morgan Shauna and myself. There were seminars, social events and one (dare I say "amazing"?) retreat! It has been a real pleasure to work together in this group of people and even a greater pleasure to see you all enjoy the fruits of our efforts.

Our top accomplishment was, of course, the retreat to Brussels. The process of organizing this event started in December, when we came up with potential locations and ended about a month ago when we all got out of the bus in Utrecht, tired but happy. Thanks to the efforts of my fellow StuCom board members, the whole trip went by nearly flawlessly (not counting an unforeseen police parade and my inability to read maps). But of course, the organization was merely necessary, but not sufficient to make the retreat such a success. Cheesy as it sounds, the true success lay in the attitude and mood of the whole group. The atmosphere was truly amazing: serious and attentive in the lecture halls, cheerful and open in the bar. Thank you all for that!

Now, the StuCom expiration date is rapidly approaching. Only a few activities remain to be organized, a few borrels to attend. But, like I said before, summer is also a time of new beginnings.

In September, it will be time for a new StuCom to begin and continue organizing the events that bring the CSnD group together.

Speaking from my own experience, being in StuCom is a lot of fun and not nearly as stressful as you might expect. So, if you are interested in becoming part of StuCom 2016-2017, send us a message!

Having said all of this, it is also time to bring this introduction to an end. To those that are finishing up their master in the next few months: Good luck! Drop by one of the borrels some time to report about the real world. To those that still have a while to go: I hope to see you all again in September!

*Warm regards,
Franka*

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Is mise le ghrá

'You-Treck?', 'Ooo-Treck?', 'What country is that in?!' were some of the initial, exasperated reactions I got from my family when I told them I was accepted to the CSND master in Utrecht. Did I forget to mention that I was planning on leaving the country? My bad!

I have a small history of packing up and leaving to another city a little out-of-the-blue so it wasn't a massive shock to the Kehoe clan. I would consider myself an easy-going traveller, after living in several cities previously another move didn't seem like that much of a leap. Almost 9 months down the line I didn't realise the enormity of the journey that an international student pursues. With this continuing journey of many ups and some downs has come a lot of respect for all the fascinating and fun cultures I have been exposed to. My stepping stone away from Ireland I can now admit that not only do I feel at home bending over a bitter pint of Guinness but also here, amongst the many, many bicycles.

I never considered myself an international. To me they were the exotic, droves of Spanish students that came for an erasmus year to Galway. I guess the lack of a language barrier and the overall friendliness of students from many disciplines in Utrecht really helped with integrating into this new life. Another helping hand in this integration was joining StuCom. Our meetings had me discussing surrounding institutes, different academic speakers with names I could never pronounce and intriguing Dutch holidays. All discussions took place over tasty dinners at one of the member's houses. Hosting StuCom in one of my many houses was also an enjoyable affair that I wasn't used to, I think they all liked the Thai green curry I produced. I hope! Furthermore, I had more interactions with our programme coordinator, Joost, who always welcomed me to meet with him to provide some guidance for planning my masters. Thank you Joost!



Pretty soon I found myself proudly cycling in high-heels and a ball gown, living in a house with three lovely, Dutch boys and eating so, so, so much cake with colleagues. It's a life that you can really get used to! I am quite ashamed to say that my Dutch is woeful. Thus far, I can perfectly and politely ask for a medium, caramel, latté with soya milk to-go however any further inquires will reveal my ignorance! Thank you everyone for your translations, for 'switching to English' and encouraging me to keep trying!

Currently, I am working in the lab of Prof. van Rheenen in Hubrecht, diving into the last experiments, scratching my head over data analysis and drinking copious amounts of coffee (I think Jeroen wants to give me a heart attack!) while I write my report. My next endeavour will find me writing a research proposal in the lab of Prof. Sluijter in the RMU. I hope that this is the beginning of my career of heart development and regenerative research, time will tell!



So far I have visited a good friend in Groningen, partied at a 14-hour rave in Tilburg, spent Liberation day with my housemates in Wageningen and have made Amsterdam my alternative haunt when Utrecht starts to feel small. I've got a few more cities jotted down on the agenda this month making the next few weeks quite busy but without a doubt incredibly fun!



To all the other internationals that have joined, I hope that some aspects of my story echo your own experiences and thoughts. To everyone in CSND, I hope that wherever you find yourself in life that you always feel as welcomed and as happy with your decisions as I do.

Is mise le ghrá, Shauna.



StuCom Event



The last StuCom event of the year took place this Tuesday, the 5th of July, by the Cambridgeflats on de Uithof. The BBQ organised by StuCom collected an intimate group of CSnD students together to sip cold beers, eat chicken that didn't look like chicken and reminisce on the good old days of Brussels past.

Many students were either beginning to endeavour on what seemed to be the tiresome task of writing their final report, settling visas, satisfying documents upon documents of mundane applications or were just in the midst of their research whirlwind.

With all the chaos that surrounded the conversations of 'Have you started writing yet?', 'Where are you going for your next internship?' and 'You must tell me where you got those killer shades!' (Tiger Stores guys ;)) there was still a settling calm in the air. The new friendships made in Brussels were maintained and new connections were established as students pieced together and compared the geographies of their future pursuits.

Well wishes, hugs and a few good-hearted sly digs (and one creeper photo) were exchanged while many pitched in to help in preparation for the last StuCom event before Summer hit. Like all the events before the atmosphere was wonderfully warm and that wasn't just from the flames Joost fired up!

Wow! Are those tears in my eyes?! Nah! It's probably just smoke from the BBQ!

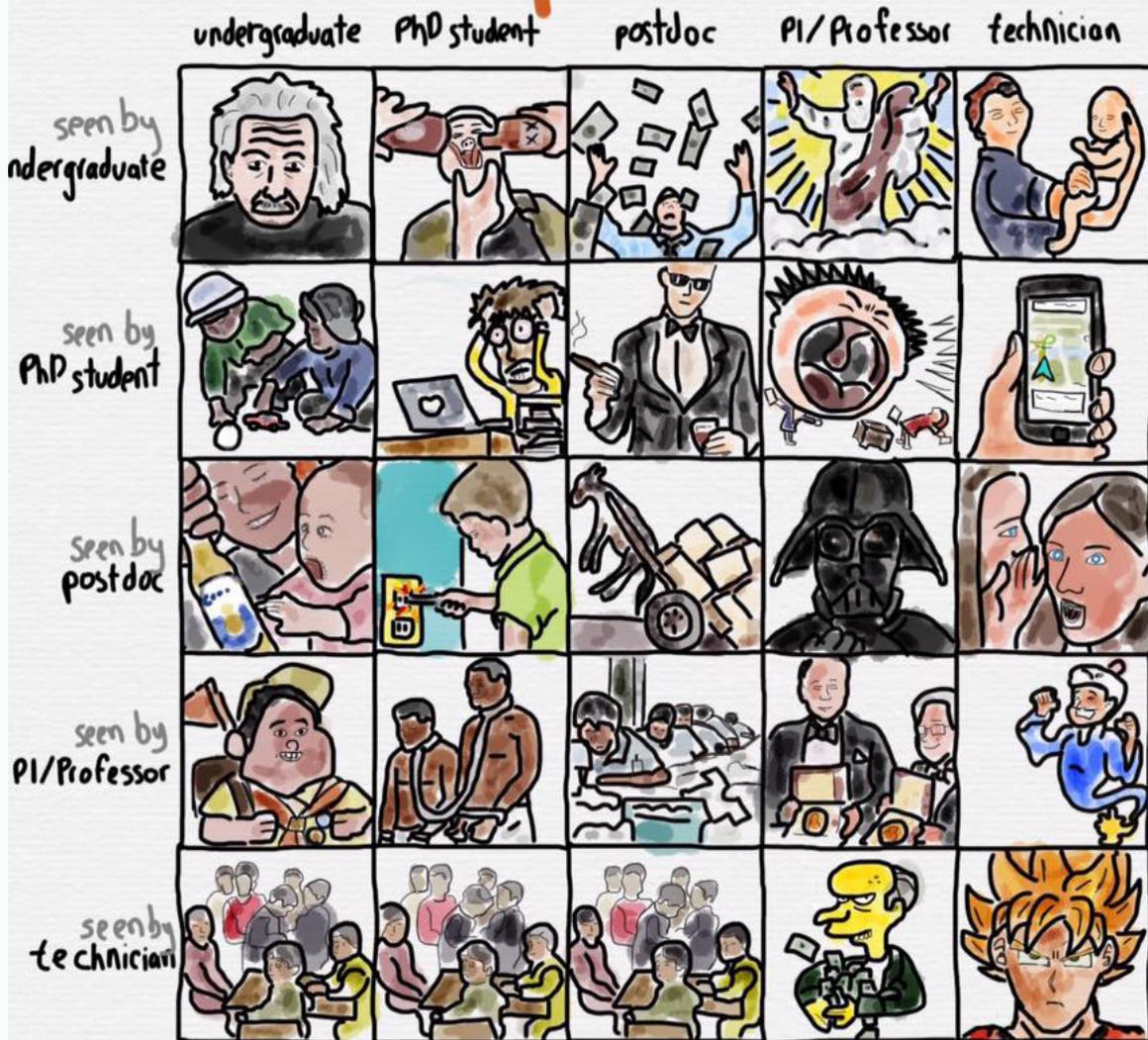


I asked them to smile and this is what I got. Where is the love?!

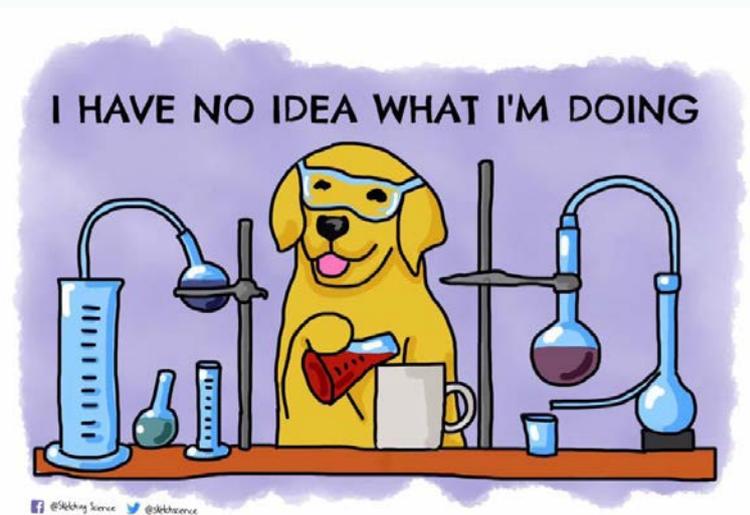
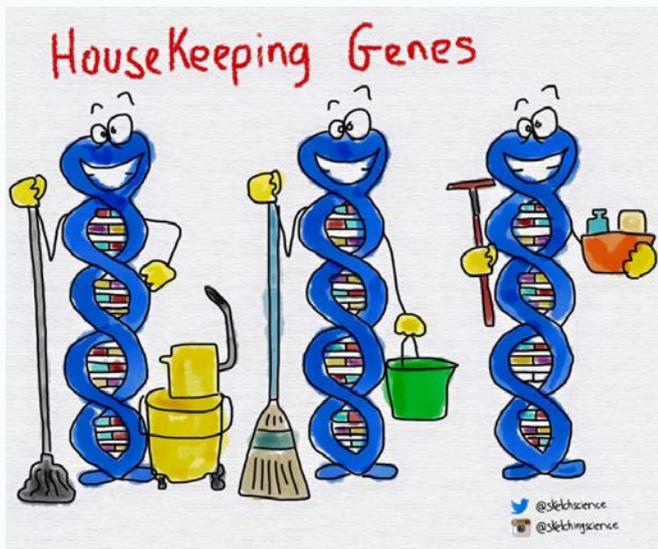


StuComics

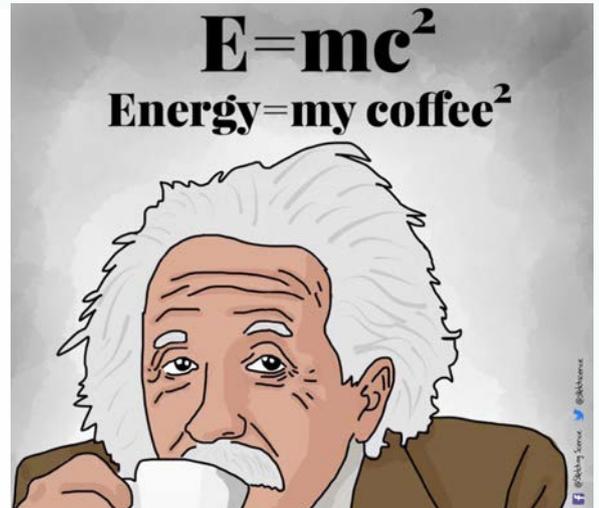
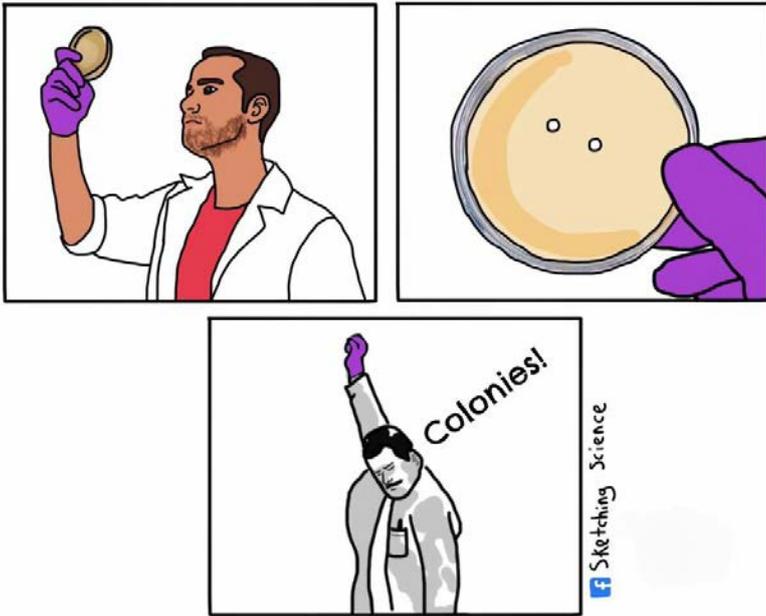
People in Science



@sketchscience
 @sketchingscience



StuComics



FUCK THIS SHIT



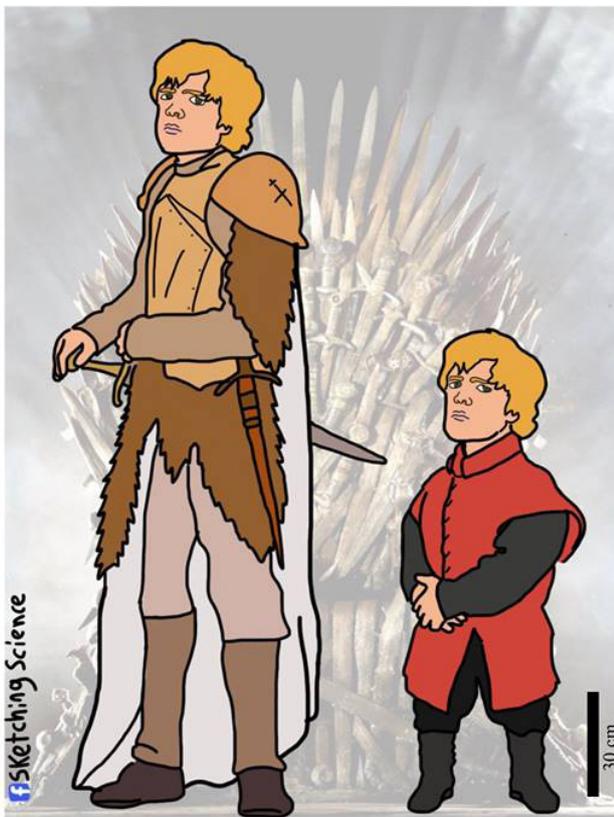
JUST KIDDING, I NEED A PAPER



@Sketching Science @sketchingscience @sketchscience

A moment of silence for all the samples that were lost

GENES OF THRONES



WT

lannister



@Sketching Science

Retreat Photos



Dennis strategically placing himself in all StuCom working photos. Yeah, sure, all that cart pushing and paper holding looks tasking but this man may have coined the term 'fake it till you make it'.



However, Dennis, always smiling, made sure the beginning of the CSND retreat went as smooth as possible, highest respect!



Some students sleepily read on the journey to Brussels, others slept and others took pictures of the unsuspecting sleepers. Weird. All creeps aside, we made it to our first activity, a tour through Janssen & Janssen. This included a warm, organised welcome, several tours through company grounds and a lunch that was highly praised by all students. I think Machiel even had steak! #living #blessed #grateful

Retreat Photos



Delirium Café in Brussels baby! Standing at over 2,004 different brands of beer from over 60 countries. Great haunt to wet your whistle!



Retreat Photos

Academic day at the IRIBHM and (pictured) de Duve Institute. With kind hosts in both institutes tailoring interesting and diverse talks for CSND students.



We all gotta agree that the provided lunch and the private de Duve/CSND borrel was pretty fantastic. Passing on the latest gossip or discussing the academic day over a large selection of craft beers was a smooth move by Prof. Demoulin. Hats off!



Unfortunately, this is where we discovered that Claire had a pretty serious drinking problem. She even drank the Irish girl under the table. We not too sure whether to be concerned or impressed.

CSND poster session..
Interesting..



Retreat Photos



CHILL TIME
CHILL TIME
CHILL TIME



Retreat Photos



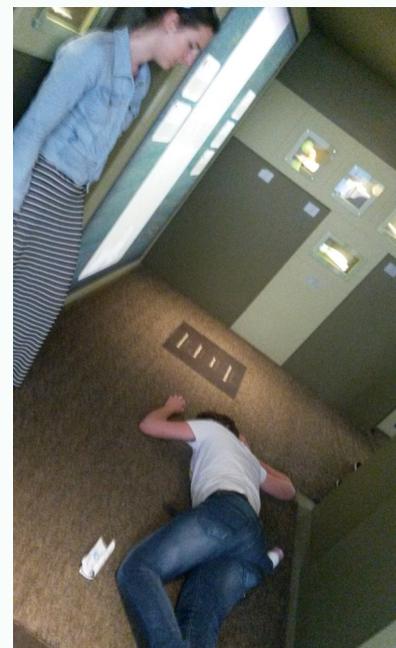
Retreat Photos



With such a dense programme during the retreat moments of relaxation like these were few and far between. Unless this is not a result of relaxation but a product of sheer exhaustion

StuCom Chair, Franka, cracked the whip too damn hard..I think we've lost him!

Even the sculptures in the botanical gardens in Brussels were exhausted after our visit.



Retreat Photos



The end of the retreat gathered everyone to a rustic restaurant just a stones throw from The Grand Place square. A well-organised Claire made sure that meals were served in a timely fashion while everyone chilled and chatted.

Joost's kind words on the enthusiasm of all CSND students and the work of StuCom rang in all our ears as we sipped on one last beer before packing into the bus for a uncomfortable but much needed snooze. Regardless of the lack of legroom the atmosphere remained elated from start to finish.

Thank you everyone for your participation and thank you for the wonderful representation of CSND



StuCom's happy place, Dennis!

After overseeing the pictures that have been included in the CSND newsletters over the year I began to recognise quite an interesting trend. The significance by which the one to two-thumbed Den popped up in photos was substantial. Caught off-guard either opening Sinterklaas presents or flipping burgers, without fail Dennis would flash a fabulous smile and raise his thumbs in approval of the situation in which he found himself. Fair play Dennis! You're a fine lad! Keep those dreams high and pointing to the sky, like your thumbs!

