



Société Belge de Biologie Cellulaire et du Développement
Belgische Vereniging voor Cel- en Ontwikkelingsbiologie
Belgian Society for Cell and Developmental Biology

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2014

General announcements from the BSCDB Board

First of all, the BSCDB Board wishes via this Newsletter its present and new members a **personally as well as scientifically splendid 2014**.



Of course, in 2014 we will remain active as a vivid Society. Our top priority, since the official establishment of the BSCDB in 1972, is still to stimulate, mainly **via local meetings at least twice a year**, high-level and at the same time informal meetings for young scientists in the broad fields of cell and developmental biology. One of our major aims is to **continue giving the stage to young scientists including PhD students**, i.e. our next generation of scientists, for presenting their results in selected oral presentations or poster sessions. Furthermore, at each meeting 2 (at 1-day meetings) or 4 (at 2-day meetings) poster prizes of 250 € each will be awarded.

As such, in 2013 the BSCDB awarded 4 poster prizes of 250 euro at the 2-day autumn meeting in Liège on “Experimental Models of Human Diseases” (organized by board members Alain Chariot and Laurent Nguyen). These poster prizes were granted to:

Hong Thi Tran (University of Ghent) for her poster presentation entitled: “A novel approach to study modulators of Wnt/beta-catenin pathway using Wnt reporter transgenic *Xenopus* and tailored - TALENs mutagenesis.”

Sophie Laguesse (University of Liège) for her poster presentation entitled: “Loss of elongator activity leads to microcephaly in mice.”

Laurence Borgs (University of Liège) for her poster presentation entitled: “Novel strategy to differentiate human induced pluripotent stem cells into dopaminergic neurons.”

Pia Vidal (University of Hasselt) for her poster presentation entitled: “ADAM17 is a survival factor for microglial cells in vitro and in vivo after spinal cord injury in mice.”

Rather than becoming a member society of larger societal entities that organize big international conferences every 4 years or so, our international outreach concentrates on **BSCDB travel grant support** for our young members to attend and participate actively in conferences in their field as well as in the EMBO Meeting for which we have extended our co-operation with EMBO.

As such, for attending conferences abroad in 2013, the BSCDB awarded 4 BSCDB travel grants of 250 euro to:

Oriane Carnet (University of Liège) for attending the “Tumour-host interaction and angiogenesis congress (Ascona, Switzerland)” with the following abstract: “Interaction occurring between Mesenchymal Stem Cells and Cancer Cells in vitro and in vivo: Implication of Amphiregulin.”

Julie Lecomte (University of Liège), for attending the “Tumour-host interaction and angiogenesis congress (Ascona, Switzerland)” with the following abstract: “Contribution of cancer associated fibroblasts in the remodelling of a collagen-rich tumour microenvironment.”

Eleonora Billi (University of Ghent) for attending the “Gordon Research Conference on Cell Contact & Adhesion (Barga, Italy)” with the following abstract: “Identification and functional analysis of molecular interaction partners of delta-protocadherin family members with putative roles in cancer.”

Debbie Le Blon (University of Antwerp) for attending the “ESGCT and SETGyC COLLABORATIVE CONGRESS 2013 (Madrid, Spain)” with the following abstract: “Expression of the M2-type cytokines IL4 and IL13 prevents mesenchymal stem cell graft infiltration by microglia/macrophages in the central nervous system of immune competent mice.”

In addition, the BSCDB provided 1 BSCDB travel grant of 500 euro for attending the EMBO 2013 meeting (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) to:

Aurélié Ladang with the following abstract: “Elp3 deficiency eradicates tumour initiation in the intestine.”

Obviously, the BSCDB will continue this support program in 2014 ! For application deadlines and new reimbursement fees, see below in this newsletter.

BSCDB Website

The BSCDB announces its activities via <http://www.bscdb.ugent.be/>, but in a new format. The old webpage <http://bscdb.ugent.be/> will continue to exist and provides information on the past only, but will no longer be updated.

BSCDB Travel Awards – New Reimbursement Fees !

From now on, young BSCDB members (preferentially pre-doctoral researchers, i.e. not holding a PhD degree yet) can apply for travel grants of at maximum **400 €** (within Europe) or **500 €** (outside Europe) for the purpose of attending an international meeting in the broad field of cell and developmental biology. For the remaining of 2014, the BSCDB will award 4 of these travel grants!

In the section *Grants, Awards & Membership* on our new website <http://www.bscdb.ugent.be/>, you find **new** downloadable application forms, including for BSCDB travel grants. Please do not use the old forms from the old website any longer (they will no longer be accepted as a valid application)!

In addition, we have **installed a timetable for travel grant applications**, and also indicate the application periods by number. As we wish to guarantee a timely review process, we cannot allow exceptions from these dates.

Period	for meetings between	Latest application date	Notification
1	01/06/2014 – 31/08/2014	31/05/2014	June/July 2014
2	01/09/2014 – 31/12/2014	31/08/2014	September/October 2014
3	01/01/2015 – 31/05/2015	31/12/2014	January/February 2015
4	01/06/2015 – 31/08/2015	31/05/2015	June/July 2015
5	01/09/2015 – 31/12/2015	31/08/2015	September/October 2015

The **next deadline is May 31, 2014** for meetings that take place between June 1st and August 31st 2014.

BSCDB PhD Excellence Award, EXCEPTIONAL CALL 2014 !


The BSCDB Board has decided to launch a call for the PhD Excellence Award of 5,000 € (usually awarded in uneven years), for an **exceptional award in 2014**.

This call gives exceptional access to PhDs obtained in the period that also applied for the call 2013, i.e. this exceptional call is **now open for PhDs of the years 2011, 2012, 2013 and for those with an already fixed date for public PhD defence prior to September 30, 2014**.

Further information and instructions are found at the end of this Newsletter and In the section *Grants, Awards & Membership* on our new website <http://www.bscdb.ugent.be/>

Deadline for application: April 30, 2014.

January 30, 2014



Société Belge de Biologie Cellulaire et du Développement

Belgische Vereniging voor Cell- en Ontwikkelingsbiologie

Belgian Society for Cell and Developmental Biology

1st ANNOUNCEMENT

EXCEPTIONAL EXTRA CALL

5,000 € BSCDB PhD Excellence Award 2014

Encouraging research in cell and developmental biology

The BSCDB PhD Excellence Award wants to recognise and reward a young scientist for outstanding research achievements in the fields of cell and/or developmental biology, and to encourage young scientists to make the next step in their scientific career. **This Award does that by supporting the mobility for post-doctoral training abroad.** It consists of a certificate of scientific distinction, and the accompanying funds (**5,000 €**) are available to provide support to the awardee who wishes to engage or is already engaged in post-doctoral research abroad. This prize will be awarded at the occasion of the BSCDB Autumn Meeting 2014, where the winner is expected to present her/his work.

Who can apply?

- Full-time young researchers having demonstrated a capacity to perform outstanding research in cell and/or developmental biology and who are doing or did their PhD in one of the universities located in Belgium.
- Building on these excellent achievements, the candidate must propose a short plan or perspectives for further research and for acquiring novel insights and cutting-edge expertise. You will indicate how the present or planned stay abroad in the chosen novel environment is supporting your overall career plans and further excellence. These plans may of course extend on past achievements. Yet, a plan that identifies new challenges or anticipates on recent evolutions in life sciences may very well include a change of fields.
- Note that only those candidates will be eligible that are registered and paid-up BSCDB members in 2014. For becoming a member, see <http://www.bscdb.ugent.be/>
- For applicants, the PhD degree should have been obtained after **January 1, 2011** and defended in the calendar year **2011, 2012 or 2013, or the applicants have a PhD public defence fixed date prior to September 30, 2014**.

Selection

One grant for one person is available for the Award 2014. A Committee appointed by the Board of BSCDB will decide upon the laureate end of June 2014. It is composed of BSCDB Board members and at least 3 foreign experts in the field of cell and/or developmental biology, the latter being the first ones to rank the applicants. The BSCDB preserves the right not to award the prize if the quality of the research is not considered outstanding.

How to apply?

Applications should arrive by e-mail as one single PDF file at the BSCDB secretariat, and this **no later than April 30, 2014**. The application should contain:

- a brief curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages, A4) that includes a list of publications.
- a 3-page document (A4, Arial11, line spacing 1) with three equally important sections:
 - 1 page summarizing the PhD research performed, indicating also why it should be considered for the BSCDB Excellence Award
 - 1 page about the post-doc plans abroad or the already on-going post-doc there,
 - 1 page explaining why you have chosen the specific lab abroad.

Secretariat BSCDB





Peter Ponsaerts


Email: peter.ponsaerts@bvbvcegen.be

BSCDB events in 2014

The **Princess Lilian Foundation visiting professor chair 2013-2014** and a **BSCDB co-organized mini-symposium** on the **"Ins and outs of omics: meet and ask the experts"**.

October 7, 2014





Prof. Dr. Frank GROSVELD

Erasmus MC, Rotterdam

Scheduled public events

Monday, March 17, 2014, 16:00-17:45

KU Leuven Campus Gasthuisberg, Herestraat 49, Building Onkx/Novi

Opening ceremony, in the presence of K.H.H. Princess Emeralda

Welcome

Introduction by Prof. em. Walter Fiers

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Frank Grosveld

Gene transcription and chromatin: traps and traps

Followed by reception

Friday, March 21, 2014

KU Leuven Campus Gasthuisberg

Joint meeting BSCDB / FWO CC-CHI network / KU Leuven Doctoral School Biomedical Sciences / Melpo IAPV1-07 Development

09:30-13:00: Symposium on "Ins and outs of omics: meet and ask the experts"

Building Onkx/Novi, 4th floor, room 04.330

14:00-18:30: Symposium on "Transcription factors and chromatin in cell (re)differentiation"

Frank Grosveld: Scaling down omics at 30-fold per minute

Followed by reception

For more information and registration (which is mandatory) for the opening ceremony and/or symposium: go to <http://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/plf>

Deadline for registration: February 28, 2014

Local organizers

Danny Huybreck

danny.huybreck@med.kuleuven.be

Catherine Verkle

catherine.verkle@med.kuleuven.be

This chair was awarded to KU Leuven and to **Prof. Frank G. Grosveld** from Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The Princess Lilian Foundation has established a high profile visiting professorship with the specific aim to foster interaction between researchers in Belgium and established experts.

In the week of March 17, 2014, Prof. Grosveld will, in addition to meeting with numerous Belgian research teams, deliver in Leuven two lectures on his research topics, including one at the opening ceremony on Campus Gasthuisberg (March 17th, 16:00) and one at a mini-symposium, co-organized by the BSCDB (March 21st), where also young scientists present their results.





His lectures will focus on his research on **Transcription and Chromatin Regulation in Cell Differentiation and Disease**, which is accompanied by frontline development and the use of multiple genome-wide omics approaches.


For more information and for registration (which is mandatory) for the opening ceremony and/or mini-symposium: <http://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/plf>

Please note that upon registration you will have to fill in both the subject box (i.e. to indicate for which event you are registering) and the comments box (i.e. to fill in your details).

Deadline for registration for one event or both events: February 28, 2014.

January 13, 2014





Princess Lilian Foundation visiting professorship

2013-2014

Accompanying event of Friday, March 21, 2014

BSCDB / FWO CC-CHI network / Melpo IAPV1-07 Development

KU Leuven Doctoral School Biomedical Sciences

Joint meeting especially intended for young scientists

Friday, 21 March, 2014 @ KU Leuven

09:30-13:00: Symposium on "Ins and outs of omics: meet and ask the experts"

KU Leuven Campus Gasthuisberg - Building Onkx/Novi, 4th floor, room 04.330

Speakers

- Dennis Remond (Namur)
- Timmy entry into germline development regulated by a co-acting INCRA in flower year
- Peter Madigan (Ghent)
- The genetic basis and the role of non-coding RNAs
- Willem van Ocken (Antwerp)
- The genetic basis and the role of non-coding RNAs
- Raymond Post (Antwerp)
- Transcription factor interaction networks, how to get them, and their possibilities

14:00-18:30: Symposium on "Transcription factors and chromatin in cell (re)differentiation"

KU Leuven Campus Gasthuisberg - Building Onkx/Novi, 4th floor

Honorary speaker

Frank Grosveld (Rotterdam)

Princess Lilian Foundation 2013-2014 visiting professor

Scaling down omics at 30-fold per minute

Followed by 7-10 presentations by young scientists

Participation is free but registration for the symposium is mandatory: go to <http://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/plf>

Deadline for registration: February 28, 2014

By e-mail to danny.huybreck@med.kuleuven.be

Local organizers

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Catherine Verkle

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The **BSCDB 2014 autumn meeting**.

Our members know that we have always been very successful in organizing BSCDB meetings on certain topics or fields, covered by international and national top scientists. We will continue to do so. But, inspired by our British colleagues of the BSCB (<http://www.bscb.org/>) and BSDb (<http://bsd.b.org/>), the BSCDB will organize **also meetings that no longer will be "themed"** (see <http://www.bscb.org/?url=meetings/newspringmeetingsformat>).

We will do that for the first time in our upcoming Autumn Meeting 2014 in Antwerp on November 5-6, 2014 (Thursday and Friday, not Saturday!). More details will be communicated later.

The major aim is of course to continue to cover the most exciting new discoveries in the areas of cell and developmental biology. However, we hope that all of you will always want to attend our meetings, either "themed" or even if the sessions are not focused on your exact interests (hence the choice for the "non-themed" meetings). In addition, we will strive maximally at **implementing another change**: we will invite top Belgian researchers to attend the meeting and chair each session, even though they will *not* be presenting a talk. This will ensure that many of our top scientists are at the meeting and can meet with young scientists.

BSCDB events in 2015

The BSCDB envisages participation in the organization of a 2-2.5-day international symposium on ***Developmental signalling in tissue and organ repair***, to take place in Leuven, and with the Belgian Interuniversity Network *DevRepair* (IUAP/Belspo-VII-07 project) as main organizer.

Other meetings brought to your attention

For an interesting and well-detailed website with meeting announcements in different, clickable fields, see <http://www.biomeeter.com/>

Further, we draw your attention to:

The joint Biochemical Society / British Neuroscience Association Focused Meeting on **Astrocytes in Health and Neurodegenerative Disease**, April 28-29, 2014, at University College London, Institute of Child Health, UK.

The ISDN2014 and NeuroDevNet2014 joint meeting (20th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Developmental Neuroscience and the 5th Annual NeuroDevNet Brain Development Conference) on **Development, Functions and Disorders of the Nervous System**, to take place in Montreal, July 19-24, 2014.

The 10th international symposium on **Bone Morphogenetic Proteins**, to take place in Berlin, September 16-20, 2014.

BSCDB Membership renewal 2014

May we kindly remind you to become or to remain a **BSCDB MEMBER in 2014** - if you have not done so?

You can join us as a **new member or renew your membership** by the following 2 tasks:

1) send an e-mail with your full coordinates to our secretary peter.ponsaerts@uantwerpen.be and to our treasurer alain.chariot@ulg.ac.be

2) transfer within two weeks your annual membership fee of 25€ to the

BSCDB bank account **BE02 3100 1773 6740**

and include - obviously - your name and preferably also [in the message] your affiliation.

Membership for 2014 is obligatory for free participation in BSCDB meetings (except in cases where there is a surcharge) and for applying for travel grants and the PhD Excellence Award.

BSCDB Board and Executive Functions for 2014

The present composition of the BSCDB board is as follows:

Bellefroid Eric (ULB)
Chariot Alain (ULiège)
Costagliola Sabine (ULB)
David Guido (KU Leuven)
Hermant Damien (UNamur)
Huylebroeck Danny (KU Leuven)
Jacquemin Patrick (UCL)
Lambrichts Ivo (UHasselt)
Leyns Luc (VUB)
Nguygen Laurent (ULiège)
Pierreux Christophe (UCL)
Ponsaerts Peter (UA)
Poumay Yves (UNamur)
Timmermans Jean-Pierre (UA)
van Hengel Jolanda (UGent)
Vleminckx Kris (UGent)

President of BSCDB

Vice-president of BSCDB

Treasurer of BSCDB

Secretary of BSCDB

Danny Huylebroeck

Jolanda van Hengel

Alain Chariot

Peter Ponsaerts

danny.huylebroeck@med.kuleuven.be

jolanda.vanhengel@dmbr.ugent.be

alain.chariot@ulg.ac.be

peter.ponsaerts@uantwerpen.be

January 30, 2014



Société Belge de Biologie Cellulaire et du Développement
Belgische Vereniging voor Cel- en Ontwikkelingsbiologie
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1st ANNOUNCEMENT

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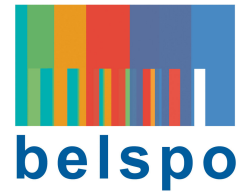
Secretariat BSCDB

Peter Ponsaerts
E-mail: peter.ponsaerts@uantwerpen.be

PhD Excellence Award 2014

February 7, 2014

Princess Lilian Foundation 2013-14 visiting professorship @ KU Leuven



KU LEUVEN



**Prof. Dr.
Frank GROSVELD**
Erasmus MC, Rotterdam

Scheduled public events

Monday, March 17, 2014, 16:00-17:45

KU Leuven Campus Gasthuisberg, lecture room GA1, Building Ond&Nav1

Opening ceremony, in the presence of H.R.H. Princess Esmeralda

Welcome

Introduction by Prof. em. Walter Fiers

Lecture by Prof. Dr. Frank Grosveld

Gene transcription and chromatin: hoops and loops

Followed by reception

Friday, March 21, 2014

KU Leuven Campus Gasthuisberg

Joint meeting BSCDB / FWO-CC-CMI network / KU Leuven Doctoral School Biomedical Sciences / Belspo IAPVII-07 DevRepair

09:30-13:00: Symposium on

"Ins and outs of omics: meet and ask the experts"

Building Ond&Nav4, 4th floor, room 04.330

14:00-18:30: Symposium on

"Transcription factors and chromatin in cell (de)differentiation"

Frank Grosveld: *Scaling down omics at 50-fold per minute*

Followed by presentations by young scientists

Building Ond&Nav2, BMW3

**For more information and registration (which is mandatory) for the opening ceremony and/or symposium: go to <http://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/plf>
Deadline for registration: February 28, 2014**

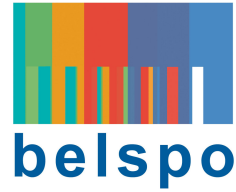
Local organizers

Danny Huylebroeck
danny.huylebroeck@med.kuleuven.be

Catherine Verfaillie
catherine.verfaillie@med.kuleuven.be

February 10, 2014

Princess Lilian Foundation visiting professorship Accompanying event of Friday, March 21, 2014



**BSCDB / FWO CC-CMI network / Belspo IAPVII-07 DevRepair
KU Leuven Doctoral School Biomedical Sciences**

Joint meeting especially intended for young scientists

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09:30-13:00: Symposium on

"Ins and outs of omics: meet and ask the experts"

KU Leuven Campus Gasthuisberg - Building Ond&Nav4, 4th floor, room 04.330

Speakers:

- **Damien Hermand** (Namur):

Timely entry into gametogenesis regulated by a cis-acting lincRNA in fission yeast

- **Pieter Mestdagh** (Gent):

Decoding non-coding RNAs in cancer

- **Wilfred van Ijcken** (Rotterdam):

On the way to improve health: NextGenSeq and other omics from research to diagnostics

- **Raymond Poot** (Rotterdam):

Transcription factor interaction networks, how to get them, and their possibilities

14:00-18:30: Symposium on

***"Transcription factors and chromatin in cell
(de)differentiation"***

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by e-mail to danny.huylebroeck@med.kuleuven.be

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