



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

NEWSLETTER 2016

General announcement from the BSCDB Board

Via this newsletter, the newly installed BSCDB Board wishes to thank our present and new members for their continuous support and participation in BSCDB activities in 2015. By the beginning of each new year, you therefore receive this short activity overview for the past year and an outlook to exciting events in 2016, including the one-day BSCDB **spring meeting**, the two-day BSCDB **autumn meeting**, BSCDB **Travel Grant Awards** and - last but not least – a new call for the BSCDB **PhD Excellence Award 2016**. Additionally, in 2016, we will continue giving the stage to young scientists, including PhD-students, for presenting their results in selected oral presentations or poster sessions and to compete for our BSCDB **poster prizes**.

2015 Activity Report

In 2015, the following BSCDB meetings were successfully organized:

The **2015 BSCDB spring meeting** on “Neural stem cells and cortex development” organized on June 5, 2015, in Liège.

Two poster prizes of €250 were awarded to:

Giovanni Morelli (U Hasselt) for his poster presentation entitled: “DISRUPTION OF CORTICAL CIRCUITRY DEVELOPMENT IN GLYCINE RECEPTOR ALPHA 2 KNOCKOUT MICE.”

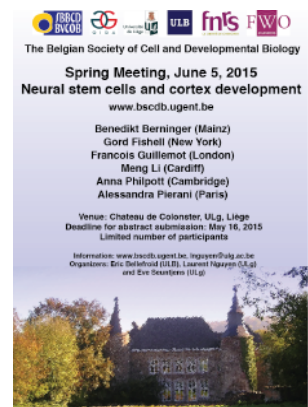
Nuria Domínguez Iturza (KU Leuven) for her poster presentation entitled: “EMBRYONIC CORTICAL NEURONAL MIGRATION AND CIRCUITRY ARE AFFECTED IN MOUSE MODELS FOR AUTISM.”

The **2015 BSCDB autumn meeting** on “Developmental programming and organ repair” co-organized by the FWO-BELSPo DevRepair network on November 23-24, 2015, in Leuven.

Four poster prizes of €250 (of which 2 funded by the DevRepair Network) were awarded to:

Abhishek Sohni (KU Leuven) for his poster presentation entitled: “DYNAMIC REGULATION OF TET1 AND TET2 EXPRESSION DURING CELL STATE TRANSITIONS BETWEEN NAIVE AND PRIMED PLURIPOTENCY.”

Valeria Fernandez-Vallone (ULB) for her poster presentation entitled: “TROP2 IS INVOLVED IN GASTRIC REGENERATION PROCESSES AFTER EPITHELIAL DAMAGE.”





Sander Craps (KU Leuven) for his poster presentation entitled: "PRDM16 AS A NOVEL CANDIDATE FOR INDUCING ARTERIAL SPECIFICATION AND GROWTH."

Eleni Dakou (VUB) for her poster presentation entitled: "USING AN ES CELL BASED MODEL AND THE CRISPR/CAS9 TECHNOLOGY TO ANALYZE GENE FUNCTION IN THE CONTEXT OF MESODERM INDUCTION AND PATTERNING: A CASE STUDY ON NODAL."

In 2015, the following BSCDB travel grant applications were awarded:

Also note that from on 2015, higher refunds of €400 for conferences within Europe and of €500 for outside Europe were granted (instead of €250 before).

Tom Van Nieuwenhuizen (UGENT): €500 for attending the "AACR Annual Meeting 2015" (Philadelphia, USA), with the following abstract: "TALEN MEDIATED MUTATION OF APC AND B-CATENIN IN XENOPUS TROPICALIS AS POWERFUL MODELS FOR WNT DRIVEN CANCER AND FAMILIAL ADENOMATOUS POLYPOSIS (FAP)."

Inge Mannaerts (VUB): €400 for attending the "The International Liver Congress" (Vienna, Austria), with the following abstract: "THE HIPPO PATHWAY EFFECTOR YAP CONTROLS MOUSE HEPATIC STELLATE CELL ACTIVATION."

Cécile Augereau (UCL): €500 for attending the "Gordon Research Conference on Pancreatic Diseases" (South Hadley, USA), with the following abstract "ROLE OF HNF6 IN THE INITIATION OF PANCREATIC DUCTAL ADENOCARCINOMA."

Dearbhaile Dooley (U Hasselt): €400 for attending the "EMBO Workshop on Cell Therapy Today: Achievements, hopes and hype" (Manchester, UK), with the following abstract: "MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS OVEREXPRESSING IL-13 DECREASE LESION SIZE AND DEMYELINATION AFTER SPINAL CORD INJURY".

Virginie Janssens (UCL): €400 for attending the "14th EMBO Endocytosis Meeting" (Mandelieu-la-Napoule, France), with the following abstract: Identification of a novel population of V2 interneurons in the developing mouse spinal cord".

BSCDB Website

Also in 2016 we will continue to develop and update the new BSCDB website. All information about our meetings, interesting other meetings, job announcements, as well as forms to apply for Travel awards, etc... can be found here:

www.bscdb.be

2016 BSCDB Travel Awards - Application deadlines

Pre-doctoral researchers and **junior post-doctoral researchers** (max 2 years after obtaining the PhD degree) 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 2016, the BSCDB will award 4 of these travel grants.

The following application deadlines will apply:

- **31/05/2016** for conferences between 01/06/2016 and 31/08/2016.
- **31/08/2016** for conferences between 01/09/2016 and 31/12/2016.

In the section Grants, Awards & Membership on our new website, you find updated application forms.

2016 PhD Excellence Award - Application deadline

The **BSCDB PhD Excellence Award** wants to recognize 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 2016 in Ghent, where the winner is expected to present her/his work.

The application **deadline** is **31/03/2016**.

In the section Grants, Awards & Membership on our new website, you find the updated application guidelines.

BSCDB events in 2016

The **BSCDB Spring Meeting 2016** will be co-organized with the **BeSSCR** on the topic of “**Stem Cells as Disease Model and for Gene Therapy**”, which will be held at the VUB (Brussels, Campus Etterbeek) on Friday May 27, 2016.

Abstract submission (May 2nd, 2016) and registration (May 18th, 2016) via the BSCDB website (www.bscdb.be).



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1st ANNOUNCEMENT

BSCDB PhD Excellence Award 2016

Encouraging research in cell and developmental biology

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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. She/he will further have to indicate how the present or planned stay abroad in the chosen novel environment is supporting her/his 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. Crucial in the application is then how the training in the two fields will then convincingly converge in the plans for the next step of the career.
- Note that only those candidates will be eligible that are registered and paid-up BSCDB members in 2016. For becoming a member, see <http://www.bscdb.be>.
- For applicants, the PhD degree should have been obtained after January 1, 2014 and defended in the calendar year 2014 or 2015, or the applicants have a PhD public defense date (fixed and certified) prior to September 30, 2016.

Selection

One 5,000 € grant for one person is available for the Award 2016. A Committee appointed by the Board of BSCDB will decide upon the latest end of June 2016. It is composed of BSCDB Board members and at least 3 foreign experts in the field of cell and/or developmental biology who have been fully informed about the specific nature and aims of this award, the latter reviewers 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 March 31, 2016**. The application should contain:

- a brief curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages; A4) that includes a list of publications.
- a 2-pages 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
dr. Peter Ponsaerts
E-mail: peter.ponsaerts@uantwerpen.be



Stem Cells as Disease Model and for Gene Therapy Symposium

► Organizers

Mieke Geens Claudia Spits
Laurent Dollé Luc Leyns

► Program Highlights

► Keynote Speakers

Dr. Peter Ponsaerts
Antwerp, BE

Dr. Rachel Eigés
Jerusalem, IL

Dr. Bon-Kyoung Koo
Cambridge, UK

Dr. Thierry VandenDriessche
VUB, BE

► Breakout Topics

IL13-mediated alternative
activation

DNA repeat instability

CFTR gene correction

Duchene muscular dystrophy

► To register go to:
www.bscdb.be



Date: Friday, May 27, 2016

Time: 9:00 – Registration
9:30 am to 5:25 pm – Program
5:25 pm – Poster awards
5:40 pm – Belgian Beer Bar

Venue: Vrije Universiteit Brussels,
Campus Etterbeek, Brussel, BE

Fee: €50 for members or €75* for others
(*€50 symposium + €25 for membership fee)

! Submit your exciting work!

**6 will be nominated for oral presentation
and 2 will be rewarded for their posters****

** Number of attendees is restricted. Participants will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.



Also, we would already like to inform you about the **BSCDB Autumn Meeting 2016** which will bring together internationally recognized speakers in the field of “cell adhesion” and will take place in “Het Pand” in Ghent on October 13-14, 2016. More detailed information will follow soon. Also at this meeting, the winner of the 2016 PhD Excellence Award will be announced and present her/his results.

Other meetings brought to your attention

We would like to draw your attention to the following meetings:

- **New Frontiers in Oxidative Stress and Redox Regulation** organized by the The FNRS Contact Group «Oxidative Processes and Antioxidants» on Friday April 22, 2016 in Louvain-la-Neuve. For more information and registration:

<https://www.uclouvain.be/en-528069.html>

Abstract submission and registration deadline: March 14, 2016.

- **12th International Congress of Cell Biology** held under the auspices of the International Federation for Cell Biology (IFCB) in Prague from 21st to 25th July 2016. For more information and registration:

<http://www.iccb2016.org>

Abstract submission for oral presentations: March 31, 2016.

BSCDB Membership renewal 2016

May we kindly remind you to become or to remain a **BSCDB MEMBER in 2016** – if you have not yet done so?

You can join us as a **new member or renew your membership** by

- send an e-mail with your full coordinates to peter.ponsaerts@uantwerpen.be (BSCDB secretary) **and** to christophe.pierreux@uclouvain.be (BSCDB treasurer)
- **and** 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.

Note that membership in 2016 is obligatory for participation in BSCDB meetings and for applying for travel grants.

BSCDB Board and Executive Functions for 2016-2017

The present composition of the BSCDB board is as follows:

Bellefroid Eric (ULB)
Brone Bert (UHasselt)
Close Pierre (ULiège)
Costagliola Sabine (ULB)
Hermant Damien (UNamur)
Huylebroeck Danny (KU Leuven), ***President***
Jacquemin Patrick (UCL)
Knoops Bernard (UCL)
Leyns Luc (VUB)
Nguyen Laurent (ULiège)
Pierreux Christophe (UCL), ***Treasurer***
Ponsaerts Peter (UA), ***Secretary***
Nicaise Charles (UNamur)
Timmermans Jean-Pierre (UA)
van Hengel Jolanda (UGent), ***Vice-President***
Vleminckx Kris (Ugent)
Zwijzen An (KU Leuven)