



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

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

### General announcements from the BSCDB Board

First of all, the BSCDB Board wishes via this Newsletter to thank our present and new members for their support and participation in BSCDB activities in 2014, including:

The **2014 spring meeting** on “Ins and outs of omics: meet and ask the experts” within the framework of the “The Princess Lilian Foundation visiting professor chair 2013-2014” awarded to prof. Frank G. Grosveld.

The **2014 autumn meeting** broadly themed on “Epigenetics and Stem Biology” co-organized by the Belgian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Especially for this experimental meeting, we would like to thank you for your numerous presence and participation in this meeting. We are currently evaluating this new format for (partial) inclusion in upcoming meetings.

Of course, in 2015, we will remain an active society with as a top priority the organization of high-level and at the same time informal meetings for young scientists in the broad fields of cell and developmental biology. As in 2014, one of our major aims is to continue giving the stage to young scientists including PhD-students, our next generation of scientists, for presenting their results in selected oral presentations or poster sessions and to compete for our poster prizes.

As such, in 2014 the BSCDB awarded 3 poster prizes of €250 at the **2014 autumn meeting**:

**Rik Janssens** (Rega Institute, KU Leuven) for his poster presentation entitled: “Natural CXCL12 nitration reduces its receptor signaling, chemotactic and anti-HIV activity.”

**Héloïse Gaide Chevronnay** (De Duve Institute, UCL) for her poster presentation entitled: “Physiopathology and mechanisms of correction by stem cell therapy of cystinosis in a mouse model.”

**Sylvia Tielens** (GIGA, ULG) for her poster presentation entitled: “Deciphering the role of Elp3 in cortical interneuron migration during development.”

Also in 2014, we reformed our **BSCDB travel grant support** for our young members to attend and participate actively in conferences in their field of research. Note that from the middle of 2014, higher refunds of €400 for conferences within Europe and of €500 for outside Europe were granted. The following BSCDB travel grants were awarded in 2014:

**Sarah De Clercq** (ULB-IBMM): €250 for attending the “Neural stem cells to neural circuits meeting” (Chania, Greece), with the following abstract: “Dissecting DMRT5 function in cortical development in vivo using conditional DMRT5 knockout and transgenic mice”.

**Marc Keruzore** (ULB-IBMM): €250 for attending the “Neural stem cells to neural circuits meeting” (Chania, Greece), with the following abstract: “DMRT5 and DMRT3 control PAX6 expression in cortical progenitors independently of their action on WNT signaling”.

**Estefanía Tarifeño** (GIGA-ULG): €500 for attending the “11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Zebrafish Development and Genetics” (Madison, WI, USA), with the following abstract: “Transcriptomic signature of mature endocrine pancreatic cells”.

**Ioanna Petta** (UGent): €500 for attending the “cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meeting on Nuclear Receptors & Disease” (Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA), with the following abstract “Identification and functional analysis of molecular interaction partners of the glucocorticoid receptor in inflammation”.

**María Hidalgo-Figueroa** (UCL): €400 for attending the “EMBO Workshop on Development and Regeneration of the spinal cord” (Sitges, Spain), with the following abstract: Identification of a novel population of V2 interneurons in the developing mouse spinal cord”.

And last, but not least, in 2014 the BSCDB awarded the two-yearly **BSCDB PhD Excellence Award** of €5000 to **Jelle van den Aemele** (ULB) for his excellent PhD work on “Bcl6, Notch and Sirt1, a ménage à trois during cortical neurogenesis.

## **BSCDB Website**

The BSCDB from now on announces all its activities via our new website <http://www.bsddb.ugent.be/>.

## **2015 BSCDB Travel Awards - Important Changes & Application deadlines**

From now on, **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 2015, the BSCDB will award 3 of these travel grants.

The following application deadlines will apply:

- **31/05/2015** for conferences between 01/06/2015 and 31/08/2015.
- **31/08/2015** for conferences between 01/09/2015 and 31/12/2015.

In addition, the BSCDB will award one additional Travel Award of **500€** specifically for attending the 6<sup>th</sup> EMBO meeting in Birmingham, September 5-8<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This call is open to **pre-doctoral researchers and junior post-doctoral researchers** (max 2 years after obtaining the PhD degree). The application deadline is **31/05/2015**.

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

## **BSCDB events in 2015**

The **BSCDB Spring Meeting 2015** on “Neural stem cells and cortex development”, which will be held in the beautiful setting of the Colonster castle in Liège (Belgium) on Friday June 5th 2015.

For more information, see: <http://www.bsddb.ugent.be/>

Abstract submission (deadline May 16<sup>th</sup>) and registration (deadline May 27<sup>th</sup>) via the link above.



**The Belgian Society of Cell and Developmental Biology**

**Spring Meeting, June 5, 2015**  
**Neural stem cells and cortex development**  
[www.bsddb.ugent.be](http://www.bsddb.ugent.be)

**Benedikt Berninger (Mainz)**  
**Gord Fishell (New York)**  
**Francois Guillemot (London)**  
**Meng Li (Cardiff)**  
**Anna Philpott (Cambridge)**  
**Alessandra Pierani (Paris)**

**Venue: Chateau de Colonster, ULg, Liège**  
**Deadline for abstract submission: May 16, 2015**  
**Limited number of participants**

**Information: [www.bsddb.ugent.be](http://www.bsddb.ugent.be), [lnguyen@ulg.ac.be](mailto:lnguyen@ulg.ac.be)**  
**Organizers: Eric Bellefroid (ULB), Laurent Nguyen (ULg)**  
**and Eve Seuntjens (ULg)**



The **BSCDB Autumn Meeting 2015** will be jointly organized within the scope of the IUAP DevRepair consortium and will bring together internationally recognized speakers in the field of developmental signaling and fate determination in tissue repair. This meeting will take place in Leuven end of November 2015 (presumably on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>). More detailed information will follow soon.

## Other meetings brought to your attention

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

- **Interuniversity Stem Cell Meeting** organized by KUL, UH, UG, VUB and UA on Monday April 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 in Leuven. For more information: [www.kuleuven.be/scil](http://www.kuleuven.be/scil). Abstract submission deadline: April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. Free Registration deadline: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## BSCDB Membership renewal 2015

May we kindly remind you to become or to remain a **BSCDB MEMBER in 2015** – if you have not yet done so?

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

- sending a short e-mail with your full coordinates to our secretary [peter.ponsaerts@uantwerpen.be](mailto:peter.ponsaerts@uantwerpen.be) **and** to our treasurer [alain.chariot@ulg.ac.be](mailto:alain.chariot@ulg.ac.be)
- **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 2015 is obligatory for participation in BSCDB meetings and for applying for travel grants.

## BSCDB Board and Executive Functions in 2015

The present composition of the BSCDB board is as follows:

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