



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

NEWSLETTER 2018

General announcement from the BSCDB Board

Via this newsletter, the BSCDB Board wishes to thank our present and new members for their continuous support and participation in BSCDB activities in 2017. By the beginning of each new year, you receive this short activity overview for the past year and an outlook to events in 2018, including the **BSCDB spring meeting**, the **BSCDB autumn meeting**, the **BSCDB Travel Grant Awards** and the **PhD Excellence Award**. Additionally, 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**.

2017 Activity Report

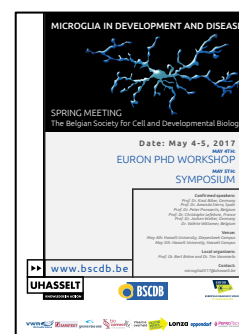
In 2017, the following BSCDB meetings were organized:

The **2017 BSCDB Spring meeting** on “**Microglia in Development and Disease**”, which was co-organized with the European Graduate School of Neuroscience on May 4-5, 2017, in Hasselt.

Two poster prizes of €250 were awarded to:

Monara Angelim (INSERM, Paris) for her poster presentation entitled: “Role of immature macrophages during early development of dorsal root ganglia sensory neurons in the mouse embryo.”

Lien Andries (KUL) for her poster presentation entitled: “Neuroinflammation drives dendritic shrinkage and axonal regeneration in the injured mammalian central nervous system: MMP-2 as possible modulator.”



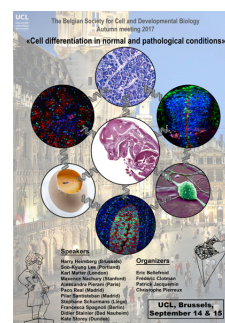
The **2017 BSCDB autumn meeting** on “**Cell differentiation in normal and pathological conditions**” organized on September 14-15, 2017, in Brussels.

Two poster / one presentation prize of €250 were awarded to:

Joke Robijns (UA) for her oral presentation entitled: “Identifying the drivers of nuclear envelope rupture and repair using live cell imaging and quantitative image analysis.”

Navrita Mathiah (ULB) for her poster presentation entitled: “Mechanisms of primitive streak morphogenesis and nascent mesoderm ingression during mouse embryo gastrulation.”

Alessandra Quarta (UA) for her poster presentation entitled: “Differentiation of eGFP+ RFP-microglia precursors from CX3CR1-eGFP/CCR2-RFP transgenic iPSC using a combination of growth factors and conditioned media.”



In 2017, the following BSCDB travel grant applications were awarded:

Jonathan Degosserie (UCL): €400 for attending the “SFBD/SBCF Meeting: When Development meets Cell Biology” (Lyon, France. April 26-29, 2017), with the following abstract: “Role of extracellular vesicles in thyroid folliculogenesis.”

Sophie Smolders (UHASSELT): €500 for attending the “Gordon Research Conference on Fibronectin, Integrins & Related molecules: The Regulation of Cell Behaviour by Cell-Extracellular Matrix Interactions” (Ventura, USA, January 28 – February 3, 2017), with the following abstract: “Age-specific function of alpha5beta1 integrin in microglial migration during early colonisation of the developing mouse cortex.”

Pierre Gillotay (ULB): €390 for attending the “10th European Zebrafish meeting” (Budapest, Hungary, July 3-7, 2017), with the following abstract: “A CRISPR/Cas-based mutagenesis approach in zebrafish to delineate gene function underlying congenital hypothyroidism.”

Benoît Haerlingen (ULB): €390 for attending the “10th European Zebrafish meeting” (Budapest, Hungary, July 3-7, 2017), with the following abstract: “Coordinated BMP and FGF mediate heart and thyroid interactions.”

Giuliano Ferrero (ULB): €390 for attending the “10th European Zebrafish meeting” (Budapest, Hungary, July 3-7, 2017), with the following abstract: “Insights into the Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Microglia Ontogeny.”

Joke Robijns (UA): €500 for attending the “The Nuclear Lamina and Nuclear Organization meeting” (Yearim, Israel, June 25-29, 2017), with the following abstract: “Identifying the drivers of nuclear envelope rupture and repair using live cell imaging and quantitative image analysis.”

BSCDB Website

In 2018 we will continue to develop and update the BSCDB website. All information about our meetings, interesting other meetings, job announcements, as well as forms to apply for Travel awards or the PhD Excellence Award, etc... can be found at www.bscdb.be

2018 BSCDB Travel Awards - Application deadlines and Important Changes

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 or course in the broad field of cell and developmental biology. In 2018, the BSCDB will award 4-6 of these travel grants.

Please note that the BSCDB Board has decided on its last Board meeting on January 20, 2018, to allow application for Travel Awards both for conferences (with abstract submission) as well as for advanced technology courses (without abstract submission). We have made this change as we feel that scientific education is equally important as dissemination of research results. Since evaluation of Travel Award applications is based on scientific quality of the submitted abstracts, you are invited to submit an abstract of your current PhD work in case you are applying for a course (where no abstract is required). Furthermore, from now on each applicant is requested to provide a short (half page) motivation explaining why attending this meeting or course may benefit your current PhD/Post-doc plans.

The following application deadlines will apply:

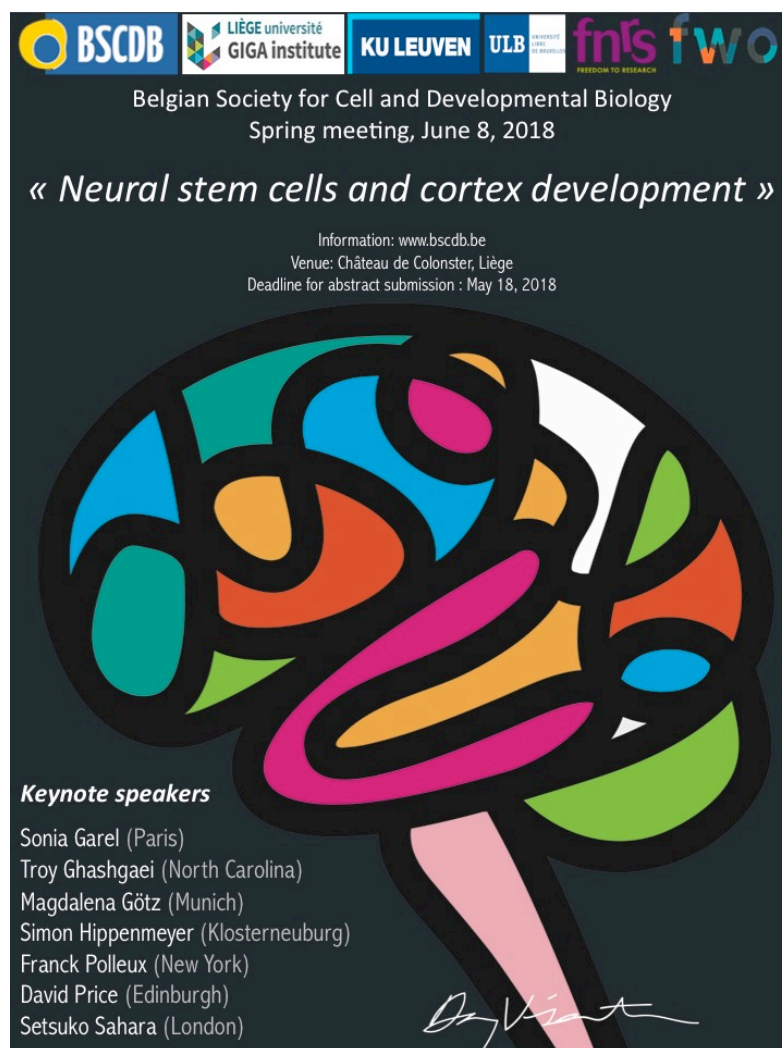
- **31/05/2018** for conferences between 01/06/2018 and 31/08/2018.
- **31/08/2018** for conferences between 01/09/2018 and 31/12/2018.

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

BSCDB events in 2018

The **BSCDB Spring meeting 2018** will be organized on June 8, 2018, in Château de Colonster (Liège) on the topic of ***“Neural stem cells and cortex development”***.

Abstract submission (deadline May 18, 2018) and registration will be opened in February 2018 via the BSCDB website (www.bscdb.be).



Also, we would already like to inform you about the **BSCDB Autumn meeting 2018**, which will be co-organized with the Royal Belgian Society for Microscopy (RBSM), on the topic ***“Multidisciplinary imaging of cellular and acellular biomaterials”*** and will take place at the University of Antwerp (Campus Drie Eiken) on September 20-21, 2018. More detailed information will follow soon.

PhD Excellence Award 2018 – 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 2018 in Antwerp, where the winner is expected to present her/his work.

The application **deadline** is **March 1st, 2018**.

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



Société Belge de Biologie Cellulaire et du Développement
Belgische Vereniging voor Cel- en Ontwikkelingsbiologie
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BSCDB PhD Excellence Award 2018

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 **2018**. For becoming a member, see <http://www.bsddb.be>
- For applicants, **the PhD degree should have been obtained after January 1, 2016 and defended in the calendar year 2016 or 2017, or the applicants have a PhD public defense date (fixed and certified) prior to July 31, 2018.**

Selection

One 5,000 € grant for one person is available for the Award 2018. A Committee appointed by the Board of BSCDB will decide upon the laureate end of June 2018. It is composed of BSCDB Board members and at least 3 national or international 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 1st, 2018**. 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

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

PhD Excellence Award 2018

BSCDB Membership renewal 2018

May we kindly remind you to become or to remain a **BSCDB MEMBER in 2018** – 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 **BE81 3630 4266 8724** (new number since December 2016) and include - obviously - your name and preferably also (in the message) your affiliation.

Note that membership in 2018 is obligatory for participation in BSCDB meetings and for applying for travel grants and the PhD Excellence Award.

BSCDB Board and Executive Functions for 2018-2019

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)
Jacquemin Patrick (UCL), **Co-Treasurer**
Knoops Bernard (UCL)
Leyns Luc (VUB)
Nguygen Laurent (ULiège), **Vice-President**
Pierreux Christophe (UCL), **Treasurer**
Ponsaerts Peter (UA), **Secretary**
Nicaise Charles (UNamur)
Timmermans Jean-Pierre (UA)
van Hengel Jolanda (UGent), **President**
Vleminckx Kris (UGent)
Pascalle Zimmermann (KU Leuven)
Zwijssen An (KU Leuven)