

WIAS News



11 June 2007

Contents

News

- WIAS Director steps down end of this year
- New IAB member
- Statistics course great success
- WIAS professors visit China
- Graduations in the next four weeks

In-depth courses, seminars and symposia

- Initiative for Poultry Discussion Group
- Lustrum Symposium Biometris 'Modeling for the Life Sciences'
- PE&RC Workshop 'Multiple views on scales and scaling'

Skills courses

- WIAS Workshop Career Coaching
- CERES workshop 'Competences for Integrated Agricultural Research'
- WGS Courses
- Wageningen UR Library courses
- Writing for Academic Publication

NEWS

WIAS Director steps down end of this year

Prof. Johan van Arendonk, WIAS Scientific Director since February 2004, has informed the rector and the WIAS board that he will step down from this job after completion of the midterm review at the end of this year. Johan added that it has been a very rewarding period and that he has learned a lot from it. 'After completion of the midterm review I want to hand over to my successor and spend more time on my job as professor in Animal Breeding and Genetics,' he said. The WIAS Board has started the search for a successor. If you have suggestions, please send them to the chairman of the WIAS board, Prof. Johan van Leeuwen.

New IAB member

Carlos Seré, member of the WIAS International Advisory Board (IAB), has ended his three year term and indicated he wanted not to do a second. He is succeeded by Shirley Tarawali, also from ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) in Nairobi, Kenya. We are very happy to have her on board and continue to have this valuable input from ILRI; after all, 40% of WIAS PhD students come from developing countries.

Statistics Course great success

Statistics is a research tool that anyone needs, so it was no surprise that PhD students indicated the need for more statistics courses in an enquiry held last year by the WAPS Council. WIAS acted upon that suggestion and it materialised in the course 'Statistics for the Life Sciences' given last week. The twenty participants evaluated the course very positively, with an average score of 4.4 on a 5-point scale. Thanks to the course teachers Gerrit Gort, Bas Engel and Henk Bovenhuis.

WIAS professors visit China

In May, Wouter Hendriks and Johan van Arendonk visited the College of Animal Science and Technology and the State Key Laboratory for Agrobiotechnology in China. With their Chinese counterparts they made a plan for collaboration: Chinese PhD students in WIAS, exchange of staff, joint workshops, joint application in EU

programmes. 'It was a great experience,' Johan remarked upon his return. 'The Chinese know what they want and only seek collaboration with the best – and so do we.'

Graduations in the next four weeks

- Mai Anh Khoa ANU 22 June

IN-DEPTH COURSES, SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA

Initiative for Poultry Discussion Group

Because currently a number of students are working on poultry in very different fields, Henry van den Brand has taken the initiative to see if a discussion group on poultry is feasible. The idea is that bimonthly (to be discussed) PhD students come together to discuss a certain topic related with poultry. Discussing a paper (from literature or from yourself) or inviting a person to discuss a certain topic, or maybe a kind of excursion are possibilities to give body to such a group.

The first meeting will be held at June 12, at 14.30 till 16.00 h in room C Zodiac. This is an introduction meeting, in which we make an inventory of the wishes of the participants, who will act as contact person, what about credits etc. After that meeting we make a schedule of topics to be discussed in the coming year. Thereafter, it is up to the participants to run that meetings. Contact Henry van den Brand before the first meeting if you are interested.

Lustrum Symposium Biometris 'Modeling for the Life Sciences'

Date: 21 June 2007. Venue: Aula, Generaal Foulkesweg 1a, Wageningen

Symposium 10.00 - 15.00:

- Martin Kropff, rector magnificus Wageningen UR: Opening address
- Hans Heesterbeek, Theoretical Epidemiology, UU: Mathematics for the control of infectious diseases
- Paulien Hogeweg, Theoretical Biology / Bioinformatics, UU: Gene regulation and evolutionary signatures
- Chris Klaassen, Mathematics Statistics / IBIS, UvA: Pseudo maximum likelihood estimation for differential equations: a gene regulatory network of the Drosophila
- David Rand, Director Warwick Systems Biology Centre, UK: Some mathematical challenges from Systems Biology

Inaugural lecture (in Dutch) 16.00 - 16.45:

- Jaap Molenaar, Biometris, Wageningen UR: De kracht van wiskundig modelleren

Information and registration: www.biometris.nl / biometris@wur.nl

PE&RC Workshop 'Multiple views on scales and scaling'

Organisers:

Prof. A.K. Bregt (Laboratory of Geo-information Science and Remote Sensing)

Prof. K.E. Giller (Plant Production Systems group)

Prof. A. Veldkamp (Soil Inventory and Land Evaluation group)

Content of the workshop:

Scale and scaling is one of the strategic research topics of Wageningen UR and a field of growing scientific attention worldwide.

But, what do we mean with scales and scaling? What is the role scaling in your research? Is there a difference between scaling in social- and natural sciences. What are the methodologies and the scientific questions of this topic? These questions will be addressed during the workshop.

The workshop is organized in three blocks. In the first block a few scientists from Wageningen UR will present their view on the topic as food for discussion.

In the second block the participants will discuss in groups their research activities and/or questions.

In the third block common research topics and methodologies will be formulated and identified.

Target group:

The workshop is open for staff members and PhD students of Wageningen UR with an interest in the topic.

The exchange of ideas and opinions between different scientific disciplines is one of goals of the workshop.

Date: Wednesday June 13th, 2007, 13.00-17.00 hr

Venue: Gaia, Droevendaalsesteeg 3, room 1, Wageningen (WUR building nr 101)

Registration by email to: Antoinette.Stoffers@wur.nl

SKILLS COURSES

WIAS Workshop Career Coaching

Tuesday 18 September 2007, Zodiac room 41

The workshop is intended for PhD students, postdocs and staff in WIAS. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the student's future career and the steps which need to be taken now to help you get the job you want. PhD students and supervisors (2:1 ratio) will discuss their experiences and share their learning about career development. Frank Little, known by most students as excellent facilitator in the WIAS Introduction Course, will lead the workshop. Participation is limited to thirty persons.

By the end of the workshop, students will have clearer ideas of what they seek in a job, and what knowledge, skills and experience such a job might require them to have developed already during the PhD study. Supervisors will have learnt how to help students to prepare for the job they want.

Short introductory talks by:

- Arjen van Tunen (director Keygene) on what his company seeks in a future employee
- Annet Velthuis (WIAS alumnus) on balancing professional and personal demands
- Sjo Koumans (WIAS alumnus) on how to turn personal interest into a full-time job
- Martin Versteegen (still active as supervisor) on how he helps students to prepare for their future career.

For details and registration http://www.wias.nl/courses/view_course.php?ID=76

CERES workshop 'Competences for Integrated Agricultural Research'

Date and place: 9-12 July, in a beautiful location near Venlo, The Netherlands.

The workshop is meant for those who want to develop their competences for more effective interaction with farmers, research team members, colleagues and others. These are competences that 'come in handy' when doing PhD research, but are in any case necessary for being a professional in today's field of agricultural research and development in which interdisciplinarity, participation and facilitation are the buzz words. The basic idea is to use tools that are grounded in theoretical concepts to look at yourself, at others and your research. These tools can again be applied for your own learning as well as for your PhD research.

The workshop is open for PhD students from other Graduate Schools. The fees are E 450 - 700 for others, depending on the research school. Part of this fee may be returned, pending an application for subsidy for the implementation of this course.

For application and more specific interest: conny.almekinders@wur.nl or jet.proost@planet.nl

WGS Courses

Language Related Courses

Techniques for Writing and Presenting a Scientific Paper (start 3 July 2007)

Scientific Writing (start next course: 27 September 2007)

Skills

Project- and Time Management (start next course: 11 September 2007)

Information Literacy, including Introduction Endnote (start next course: 11 September 2007)

Personal Efficacy (start next courses: 18 October and 15 November 2007)

PhD Assessments

PhD Competence Assessment (next assessment: 5 September 2007)

Career Assessment (start next assessment: May 2007)

Career Oriented Courses

Career Orientation (start 17 October 2007)

Career Perspectives (start 23 October 2007)

Courses for Supervisors

Professional in Supervision (17 October 2007)

For more information go to: [General courses](#)

Wageningen UR Library courses

- 7 June: Citation Analysis, 9.00 am -12.30 pm, room PC707, Forum, building 102 (100 euros)

- 14 June: Searching the Wageningen UR Digital Library, 4.00 pm - 4.45 pm, room C70, Leeuwenborch, building 201 (free)
 - 26 June: Working with EndNote 9, 9.00 am - 12.30 pm, room PC425, Forum, building 102 (100 euros)
 - 27 June: EndNote Advanced, 9.00 am - 12.30 pm, room PC771, Forum, building 102 (100 euros)
- More information registration <http://library.wur.nl/desktop/courses>.

Writing for Academic Publication

Course goals:

- Planning and drafting your research article or conference paper.
- Reading and editing more purposefully, applying practical insights from genre research, psychology, reading (and writing) research, academic publishing and other areas.
- Finishing the paper, in a small, friendly group.
- Submitting the finished paper to a conference and a peer-reviewed journal or (for proposals) a funding agency.
- Revising in consultation with the instructor (even after the course).
- Publishing (or receiving funding).

Method:

- Small, friendly workshops based on your current writing project.
- Access to the instructor (an experienced editor) both in person and by email outside class time.
- Personalized follow-up (by email) both during and after the course period.
- Course material based on research on scientific writing; assignments all based on your paper.
- Taught in English, useful for all levels of English including native speakers. The course is about writing, editing and publishing scientific papers. Individual questions about English usage will be answered, but this is not the focus.

Participants:

- Any researcher with results (or ready to write a review or proposal) and willing to commit sufficient time to complete a journal article or conference paper. Open to researchers, PhD students, group leaders or university faculty.

Instructor:

- Linda McPhee, specialist in academic writing, has taught research-based writing worldwide and spent many years editing academic books and working on international journals.

Time & Place:

- Friday afternoons, 28 September; 5, 12, 19 and 26 October and 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 November 2007
13:00 – 16:00, at CIDC, Lelystad or at Wageningen

For more information, see www.write-research.com, to register, contact [Paul van Olm](#)