

WIAS News



12 January 2007

Contents

News

- Award for WIAS alumnus Oliver Schneider
- Graduations in the next four weeks

In-depth courses, seminars and symposia

- WIAS Seminar 'Robustness in future animal production systems: stakeholder visions'
- Livestock's long shadow - livestock revolution and the global environment
- European Life Science conference
- Sixth International Advanced Course Ecophysiology of the gastrointestinal tract
- WIAS Science Day
- WIAS Statistics Course 'Design of animal experiments'
- Animal Training and Behavior Seminar

Skills courses

- WIAS Workshop 'Career Coaching'
- WGS Course Career Perspectives
- NWO Talent Days
- Course Citation analysis

Funding and awards

- European Research Council Grants
- NWO Rubicon Grants
- Unilever Science Prize

NEWS

Award for WIAS alumnus Oliver Schneider

The Aquaculture Engineering Society has awarded its 2006 Best (Superior) Paper Award to a paper published by Oliver Schneider and co-authors (also the 2nd chapter in Oliver's PhD thesis) out of all papers published in the journal 'Aquaculture Engineering'. Congratulations! The paper is:
O. Schneider, V. Sereti, E.H. Eding and J.A.J. Verreth. 2005. Analysis of nutrient flows in integrated intensive aquaculture systems. *Aquacultural Engineering* 32(3), 379-401.

Graduations in the next four weeks

Arash Azarfar	ANU	29 January
Saskia van Hemert	ABG	31 January

IN-DEPTH COURSES, SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA

WIAS Seminar 'Robustness in future animal production systems: stakeholder visions'

Tuesday afternoon 23 January 2007.

WIAS research should be relevant for society and what happens in society should have its reflection on form and contents of research. For this reason WIAS brought together a group of 10 PhD researchers that work on the theme of robustness. Their research is aimed at improvement of livestock animals and the farming systems they live in, in such a way that disturbances (disease, climate, market) do not affect their functionality. In the past weeks, the group of PhD researchers has been interviewing stakeholders of animal

production in the Netherlands to make an inventory of how the WIAS focus on animals fits within the perspectives of various stakeholders on development of a robust livestock production in the Netherlands. In the seminar three aspects will be dealt with:

- 1) recent developments in robustness research
- 2) stakeholder visions, and
- 3) chaired by Prof. Leo den Hartog a discussion between audience, experts and stakeholders about the question: how can stakeholders and WIAS mutually benefit from each other?

Programme

Venue: Room C18 Haarweg 10 Wageningen

Invited will be: stakeholders, WIAS staff and PhD students

13.30 Prof. Johan van Arendonk: Introduction

13.45 PhD students: Presentations

Expectations of stakeholders

Required research lines

Relevant PhD projects

Venue: Room C40 at Zodiac

15.00 Break

15.30 Panel discussion with professors and stakeholders. Discussion will be chaired by Leo den Hartog

16.30 Drinks in hall Zodiac

Registration is not necessary. More info from the organisers: Kor Oldenbroek and Simon Oosting.

Livestock's long shadow - livestock revolution and the global environment

A revolution is going on in global livestock. Population growth, urbanization and improved living standards in emerging market economies are boosting the demand for meat, milk and eggs. The rapid increase in global livestock production offers opportunities for poor livestock farmers, but may also degrade soils, deplete water resources, cause problems of pollution and diseases, and raise the emission of greenhouse gases. Under the title *Livestock's long shadow*, FAO's LEAD group has recently published an overview of the massive scale of these environmental problems and of potential solutions.

On January 26th, the WU Platform for Food Security and Sustainable Development is organizing a **debate where Dr. Henning Steinfeld, leader of the FAO group, will present Livestock's Long Shadow.**

Wageningen food technologist Tiny van Boekel, anthropologist Han van Dijk, production ecologist Rudy Rabbinge and animal scientist Akke van der Zijpp will give their reactions to his presentation. There will be ample time for discussion of the dilemmas and trade-offs involved in the issue. The debate will be chaired by WIAS Director Johan van Arendonk.

Venue: WICC (Kleine Veerzaal), Lawickse Allee 9

Time: 14.00 to 17.00 hours (With opportunity for drinks and a chat afterwards).

To participate, please send an email to lonneke.budel@wur.nl.

More information on Livestock's long shadow is found on:

www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2006/1000448/index.html

In the morning, we will try to organise a meeting at Zodiac with Dr. Henning Steinfeld specifically for the WIAS community. Details on this meeting will be made public soon.

WIAS Statistics Course 'Design of animal experiments'

Date: 13-15 February 2007

The design and analysis of experiments, using plants, animals, or humans, are an important part of the scientific process. Proper design of an experiment, apart from its proper analysis, is important so as to convince a researcher that your results are valid and that your conclusions are meaningful. Were enough individuals (experimental units) tested, for example, so as to detect the desired difference, were enough replications used to be able to draw wide inferences, or were proper procedures used to randomize the treatments to the experimental units or, if you wish, the experimental units to the treatments?

The course is given by Wiebe Koops and Michael Grosman. Previous issues of this course were evaluated very positively by the participants. Supervisors are also welcome...!

A few places are still available, so register now: http://www.wias.nl/courses/view_course.php?ID=57.

European Life Science conference

On 25–27 February 2007 the European Life Science conference for Young Scientists (ELSYS) will take place on the campus of Twente University, Enschede, The Netherlands. ELSYS is an initiative of the Dutch Genomics Network for Young Scientists (GeNeYouS, www.geneyous.nl), and is advised by a group of internationally renowned scientists on organization and scientific content. ELSYS aims to bring together 150 young researchers (MSc and PhD students and postdocs) working in life sciences. Hereby we would like to invite the members of your institute/organization to attend this first ELSYS Conference.

The objective of ELSYS Conference is to give young life scientists the opportunity to present their own data in parallel sessions or in poster-sessions and to learn from each others experience. In addition, they can learn about new techniques and skills in the lab in technique workshops and gain insight in career options and development. More information about program and registration: www.elsys-conf.org.

Sixth International Advanced Course Ecophysiology of the gastrointestinal tract

This VLAG/WIAS course will be given 26 February – 2 March 2007. A few places are still available! For WIAS PhD students with an approved TSP, WIAS will pay the fee.

Information and registration: www.wau.nl/vlag/courses/ecophys.htm

WIAS Science Day

The WIAS Science Day is this year on Thursday 8 March and, as usual, organised by the WIAS PhD Students Council. For WIAS students and staff the day to be! Oral presentations by twelve PhD students and two invited speakers, poster presentations, and lots of opportunities to expand your network. For the evening dinner only 50 places are available! Place: Hotel School Wageningen, Marijkeweg 5, close to Zodiac. Register now: www.wias.nl/courses/view_course.php?ID=59.

Animal Training and Behavior Seminar

ANIMAL TRAINING & BEHAVIOR through Positive Reinforcement - further challenging and advanced issues, a seminar with KEN RAMIREZ, 07 - 09 DECEMBER 2007 near Munich.

More info at <http://www.clickerreiter.de/KenRamirez1.htm>

The content includes basics of operant conditioning, but the main emphasis will be on advanced topics.

SKILLS COURSES

WIAS Workshop ‘Career Coaching’

Thursday 1 February 13:00 – 17:00 h, Zodiac room 41.

The workshop is intended for PhD students who are in the second or third year of their PhD study, and for all supervisors 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. Short introductions by WIAS alumni Annet Velthuis and Sjo Koumans, and by supervisors Ulrike Müller and Martin Verstegen. Frank Little, known by most students as excellent facilitator in the WIAS Introduction Course, will lead the workshop.

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.

Participation is limited to thirty persons. Register now: www.wias.nl/courses/view_course.php?ID=58

WGS Course Career Perspectives

The key to a successful career planning is a solid understanding of: one’s natural talents, acquired and preferred skills, working and communication style and areas of interest. The aim of this course is to support PhD students and Postdoc researchers, who have to a certain extent reflected upon the direction in which they want to continue their professional career, in obtaining the above-mentioned understanding. More specifically the course provides the tools necessary to prepare and conduct an effective job search. Moreover, the course deals with the skills enabling the course participants to keep their future development and employability permanently on the agenda. With the obtained insights, they will be able to grow a professional network and successfully apply for jobs that match their goals. The course is organised by Meijer & Meijaard (Wageningen), specialists in job counseling and job coaching. Note: although this course primarily focuses on the Western European/North American job market, many aspects of the course are

applicable in an international setting.

Thus, the goals of the course are as follows:

- Awareness of one's talents, skills, ambitions
- Exploring career options
- Preparing for job search process
- Maintaining employability on the long run

Information:

http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/WGS_CareerPerspectives

Dates: 13, 27 February, 6, 13 March and 3 April 2007 plus an additional come back day

Please register as soon as possible.

NWO Talent Days

More than a 1,000 researchers have already participated in the NWO Talent Days, since we have started organizing them in 2003. Most participants clearly indicated to have a need for a follow-up, with more in-depth and personalized information. Thanks to the support of the Social Fund for the Knowledge Sector (SoFoKleS) we were able to set up equally successful Talent Classes in 2005. We received a lot of positive and enthusiastic reactions from the participants, and also many requests for continuing with these Talent Classes.

Next year we will have 6 masterclasses. You are invited to participate. Here's your chance to get professional training and advice against a reduced fee. The first and second masterclasses will take place on 6 March and 24 April 2007.

The masterclasses take up one full day and deal with one of the following issues. The masterclasses are in Dutch, unless indicated otherwise. If you don't speak Dutch, but would like to participate in a Dutch-spoken workshop, let us know by sending an email to verdieping@nwo.nl. Indicate your name, email address and workshop of choice, and the organisation will do its best to respect your wish.

The masterclasses of 2007 will take place at the NWO in The Hague on the following dates:

6 March

24 April

12 June

25 September

30 October

4 December

Registration for the March and April Talent classes starts Tuesday 12 December. You can register on www.nwo.nl/talentclasses to participate in the masterclasses. We would strongly advise you to do so soon after the start, since the number of places available is limited and registration will be closed for fully booked masterclasses.

Course Citation analysis

Date: 31 januari 2007, 09.00-12.30. Place: Jan Kopshuis.

In this course of half a day you will learn:

- How to make a citation analysis.
- How citations are used to assess researchers and research groups.
- How to improve your own citation score.

Maximum 15 participants. More info on <http://library.wur.nl/desktop/services/courses>.

FUNDING AND AWARDS

European Research Council Grants

A new element in the EU FP7 programme is the European Research Council Grants for excellent young researchers, comparable to the NWO VIDI and VICI grants. A formal call will be issued any moment – and typically the deadline will be very short – so WIAS advises you not to wait and take action now if you have spotted an excellent candidate.

The first call will be for 'starting independent researcher grants' who are 2-8 years past their PhD graduation, i.e. comparable to VIDI. Later, a call for 'advanced investigator grants' (comparable to VICI) will be issued. Agreements and guarantees by the University are needed prior to submitting a proposal. More info on http://erc.europa.eu/index_en.cfm and http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/sir-grant-strategy_en.pdf.

NWO Rubicon Grants

NWO Rubicon grants are a step up to an NWO Veni grant and can be submitted in 2007 on 2 April, 3 September and 3 December. Info on www.nwo.nl/subsidiewijzer.nsf/pages/NWOP_6H2G7R?Opendocument

Unilever Science Prize

The Unilever Vitality Science Prize is offered once every three years to an outstanding scientist in the fields of life sciences, nutrition science, physical sciences, social sciences, medicine or combinations thereof. The Unilever Vitality Science Prize is €250,000; it shows Unilever's commitment to scientific excellence that drives breakthrough innovations that help people look good, feel good and to get more out of life. Candidates must be nominated by other scientists or institutions. Prospective nominees should be active scientists who are expected to continue their research activities for at least five years. Their achievements must be outstanding and a source of inspiration to others. Deadline 2 March 2007. More info <http://www.unileverscienceprize.com>)