

# WIAS News



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## NEWS

### New WIAS Scientific Director

It's official now: Prof. Bas Kemp will succeed Prof. Johan van Arendonk as new WIAS Director as per 1 January 2008.

### Midterm Review

In 26-27 November, the WIAS International Advisory Board will visit us for a midterm review of WIAS and the Chair groups. The Advisory Board will report its findings on Tuesday 27 November at 16:00 in room 80 in Zodiac. You are all invited.

### WIAS End of the Year Party 13 December

On Thursday 13 December, WIAS will have its End of the Year party, starting at 17:00 with drinks, followed by a buffet. We are open for suggestions on a good catering company: send your idea to [info@wias.nl](mailto:info@wias.nl).

### Graduations in the coming months

Iyob Tsehaye	AFI	13 November
André Bannink	ANU	26 November
Erwin Winter	AFI	7 December

## IN-DEPTH COURSES, SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA

### WIAS Science Day 13 March 2007

Registration is open at [http://www.wias.nl/courses/view\\_course.php?ID=88](http://www.wias.nl/courses/view_course.php?ID=88).

## Centre of Human Nutrigenomics Seminar 'Learning By Doing: The Results'

22 November 2007, WICC, Wageningen

**12.30:** End of Masterclass Nutrigenomics  
Sandwiches and coffee/tea

*Chairs: Dirk Bosch and Jolanda Boer*

**13.00 Jaap Keijer:** 5 years Centre of Human Nutrigenomics

**13.15 Rinke Stienstra:** The role of PPARs in inflammation and obesity

**13.35 David Cohen:** Functional analysis of a lactic acid bacterium *Lactobacillus plantarum*: A proteomic approach

**13.55 Pim de Waard:** Natural Ah receptor agonists in the human diet: beneficial food components or unperceived risk factors?

**14.15 Vincent van Beelen:** Nutrition & Chemoprevention: Omega-3 fatty acids

14.35 Tea break

*Chairs: Roelof van der Meer*

**15.15 Gabrielle Gross:** Host-microbe interactions: Mannose-specific adhesion of *Lactobacillus plantarum* to the intestinal epithelium

**15.35 Ping Wang:** Proteomic, transcriptomic and epidemiological analysis of adipocyte-secreted proteins — towards a system biological understanding of adipocytes

**15.15 Geert Heidema:** The challenge in nutrigenomics: analyzing multiple factors to understand complex human diseases

*Chair: Ben van Ommen*

**16.10 Michael Muller and Edwin Mariman:** The next 5 years in Nutrigenomics, two visions.

**16.30** Closing and Drinks at the bar

## New PE&RC PhD student discussion group on Stakeholder Participation in Research

The aim of this group is to offer a space for PhD students from different disciplines to discuss how different methods of stakeholder participation can be implemented in research. Stakeholder participation can have many benefits for research that focuses on societal and/or environmental issues by gaining access to local knowledge and providing clues for cooperative development. However, working with stakeholder groups can also bring up particular challenges. These opportunities and challenges will be the topic of this discussion group. Stakeholder participation will be discussed in relation to these topics:

- Socio-spatial interactions
- Social learning
- Multi-scale dynamics
- Innovative communication techniques
- Interdisciplinary research / knowledge co-creation
- Applied research

At least once per month, a PhD student or a guest speaker presents a case study in which stakeholder participation plays a relevant role.

If you are interested, email the coordinators of the group: Mathijs van Vliet ([Marthijs.vanVliet@wur.nl](mailto:Marthijs.vanVliet@wur.nl)) and Frans Hermans ([Frans.Hermans@wur.nl](mailto:Frans.Hermans@wur.nl)).

## SKILLS COURSES

### Bio Career Event 21 May 2008

On 21 May 2008, the fourth edition of the Bio Career Event will take place in the Amsterdam RAI. This unique network & recruitment event brings talent in the Life Sciences in touch with future employers, recruitment agencies, training agencies and other parties that play an important role in their career development.

For more information and registration: <http://www.biocareerevent.nl/>

## WGS Courses

For complete overview of WGS courses look at:

<http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/General+Courses>

### *NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE*

#### **Long-term dynamics of food and human development (15-22 February 2008)**

The growth in world population, the rising demand for high quality food, and the growing awareness of sustainability issues has increased the need for knowledge that helps to feed humanity while making a balanced use of natural resources. As a leading university in the life sciences, Wageningen University sees it as its mission to work for such knowledge. However, what knowledge effectively promotes sustainable food security given the complex nature of socio-ecosystems is a challenging question. The translation of much knowledge that has been developed into actual practice appears to run up against hard constraints. On the one hand, an intractable unsustainability spiral continues reproducing poverty and resource depletion in poor regions. On the other hand, competing claims for feed and biofuels/chemicals might affect the availability of food for poor people in the future. To take on these constraints requires an understanding of the complex dynamics in which they are rooted. This course makes a contribution by analyzing the co-evolution of population, techniques, cultures and natural resources of agriculture-based socio-ecosystems in a long-term and global perspective.

The program encompasses core issues of food and human development such as:

- sustainable growth and unsustainability crises in the co-evolution of population, natural resources, techniques and institutions;
- competing claims on natural resources
- agriculture & economic development, agricultural markets, farm & trade policies;
- evolution of farming systems, crop ecology, green & gene revolution;
- role of livestock and the coming livestock revolution;
- novel protein foods, biorefinery, biobased economy;
- ecological modernization, multilateral governance.

### *LANGUAGE RELATED COURSES*

#### **Presentation Skills (start next course: 12 November 2007)**

This course is intended for people who regularly have to give presentations in English. How do you come across as being enthusiastic and convincing and which techniques can you apply to achieve that?

#### **Writing Grant Proposals (start next course: 8 November 2007)**

This course is intended for PhDs in their last years and post-doc researchers, who want to learn how to write a project proposal for funding. The course will focus on clear and concise writing that meets the requirements of funding agencies.

#### **Techniques for Writing and Presenting a Scientific Paper (start next course: 11 December 2007)**

Communicating science is as important to the scientific process as designing and conducting the experiment itself. This workshop focuses on essential techniques for effective writing and presentation of scientific information, and includes a session on the publishing process and on ethics of scientific publication. The following issues will be covered: sections of a scientific article, coherence, choice of words, tight writing, parallel structure, and transitions to link ideas. Further correct grammar, punctuation, preparation of tables and figures, and writing statistics will be discussed. You will practice writing an abstract, delivering an oral presentation, and creating a poster.

### *SKILLS COURSES*

#### **Project and Time Management (several courses in 2008)**

For PhD students, planning, control, monitoring and management of their research project and time are essential in accomplishing the PhD. Achieving this in 4 years time is a real challenge. To manage the research projects better and to get more out of time is what this course is all about. This 3-day short

course provides insight into project and time management and ways to improve them. Hence it is time well spent.

***THERE IS STILL ONE PLACE AVAILABLE IN THE LAST COURSE OF 2007 (6 November, 20 November & 18 December 2007). If you are interested in following this course, please send an email to [Henneleen.Koppe@wur.nl](mailto:Henneleen.Koppe@wur.nl)***

#### **Scientific Publishing (29 November 2007)**

This one-day workshop provides insight and awareness in the process, rules, ethical aspects of scientific writing and publishing.

#### **Interpersonal communication for PhD students (start next course: 1 November 2007)**

This course aims at improving your communication skills and recognising different styles of communication. Several subjects such as communication with your supervisor, negotiating, solving conflicts and giving and receiving feedback will be treated.

#### **Information Literacy (start next course: 27 November 2007)**

This course is all about finding information relevant to your PhD study. Subjects that will be treated are: effective use of Wageningen Desktop Library, citation searching and impact factors, reference management and preparing a personal information plan for your PhD study together with an information specialist.

### **ASSESSMENTS**

#### **PhD Competence Assessment (start next assessment: 19 February 2008)**

This assessment (quick scan) focuses on one's personal strengths and pitfalls in relation to doing a PhD study and how to overcome these pitfalls. The assessment will focus on competences such as organising capacity, analytical thinking, collaboration and personal characteristics. Target group: first year PhDs

#### **Career Assessment (start next assessment: November 2007)**

This assessment helps PhD candidates to get more insight in which competences are important or even required to succeed in their current and future jobs and how to reach their goals in a more effective way. Target group: third and fourth year PhDs

### **NWO Talent Days and Talent Classes**

More than a 1,000 researchers have already participated in the NWO Talent Days, since we started organising them in 2003. Most participants clearly indicated to have a need for a follow-up, with more in-depth and personalised information. We received a lot of positive and enthusiastic reactions from the participants, and also many requests to continue with the Talent Classes.

**You are cordially invited to participate in the next NWO Talent day which will be held on Tuesday 18 March 2008.** Only a limited number of places are available. Registration starts 6 December.

**Why the NWO Talent days?** NWO tries to support and stimulate young scientific talent, e.g. NWO provides various grants for talented researchers (<http://www.nwo.nl/subsidiewijzer>).

**On 22 April, 20 May and 17 June 2008 we will have NWO-Talent Classes and you are invited to participate.** Registration **starts 17 December 2007.** Here's your chance to get professional training and advice against a reduced fee. Please check the website [www.nwo.nl/talentclasses](http://www.nwo.nl/talentclasses) for registration and information.

### **Organization and Leadership for PhD students**

Professionals like PhD students are more and more expected to take up a more leading role in the organization. For instance as a coordinator of a project. The course 'Organization and Leadership' is meant for PhD students who are interested in taking up this role in their recent or future work.

In the course the participants are given the opportunity to learn about organization processes (why are things organized, or not organized, as they are?) and leadership (how can I influence these processes).

Secondly they are given the opportunity to learn practical skills that can help them to function better in a leading role. More info: <http://www.usg.uu.nl/index.cfm/site/USB0/pageid/63C6663D-E081-2E3C-90FCF5364F1623F0/index.cfm>

## FUNDING AND AWARDS

### Fulbright fellowships

The Fulbright Center offers Fulbright grants for study and research in the United States to Dutch students who wish to study at the graduate level at a reputable U.S. university, as well as to Dutch PhD students and scholars at Dutch universities and non-profit research institutions. This message gives information about these grants. Students can apply until March 1, 2008; scholars and PhD students can apply until December 1, 2007. The grants are for a study or research period during the 2008-2009 academic year. For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.fulbright.nl>.

### NWO Veni

Deadline NWO: 8 January 2008.

### NWO Rubicon

This grant can be requested three times a year and the next closing datum for applications is 3 December 2007. For more details: [www.nwo.nl](http://www.nwo.nl).

### COST Action F&A0601 - Fish Reproduction and Fisheries

Netherlands has signed the COST action to participate in the network of European and North-Atlantic researchers to co-operate on the improvement of i) knowledge on fish reproduction in relation to fisheries and ii) current assessment methodology in order to promote sustainable exploitation of marine fish resources. The Action will form a focal point for the disparate national, European and North-American research initiatives in this research area. Further, it aims to assist in the development of future marine policy objectives, such as the recovery of overexploited fish stocks. The economic dimension of the activities carried out under the Action has been estimated, on the basis of information available during the planning of the Action, at approximately 30 million EUR in 2005 prices.

The COST Action provide funds for a.o. to support participation in international symposia; support exchange visits and collaborative activities.

Further information: <http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=181&action%20number=FA0601>.

## NEW BOOKS

### Emerging pests and vector-borne diseases in Europe

*edited by: Willem Takken and Bart G.J. Knols*

2007 – 500 pages – paperback – ISBN-13: 978-90-8686-053-1 – € 94 – US\$ 125

Ecology and Control of Vector-borne diseases - ISSN 1875-0699 - Volume 1

This is a multi-authored book concerning the perceived threat and recorded increase of emerging pests and vector-borne diseases affecting man and animals in Europe.

In 24 chapters this book provides examples of the most likely pests and diseases affecting man and animals in Europe, with emphasis on ecological factors favouring these diseases and methods for prevention and intervention. The authors are recognized experts in specific fields. All chapters are peer reviewed.

For table of contents see: [www.WageningenAcademic.com/ecvd-01](http://www.WageningenAcademic.com/ecvd-01)

For more information on the book series on Ecology and Control of Vector-borne diseases, see [www.WageningenAcademic.com/ecvd](http://www.WageningenAcademic.com/ecvd)