MOVE Newsletter

March 2011

MOVE-ACTA Meeting on Oral Regenerative Medicine on April 1, 2011
Use this excellent opportunity to see the progress within this important domain of MOVE; please remember to register for the meeting on www.move.vu.nl/scientific-meetings/registration/

Marjolein van der Krogt selected for the Visiting Scholars Program at the NCSRR at Stanford University
Marjolein van der Krogt has been selected for the prestigious Visiting Scholars Program at the National Center for Simulation in Rehabilitation Research (NCSRR) at Stanford University.

The advisory board said in their recommendation that ‘The applicant pool was large and highly competitive, but your proposal was at the top, with the potential to have a significant impact in the fields of biomechanical simulation and rehabilitation...’.

Marjolein will visit the NCSRR this summer for a period of 10 weeks.

First Scientific MOVE Osteo-Arthritis meeting
The First Scientific MOVE Osteo-arthritis meeting on February 22nd at the VU-VUmc was a big success! Approximately 20 scientists visited the meeting: the group was heterogeneous, with investigators from the departments of rehabilitation, ACTA, orthopaedics, endocrinology and rheumatology. After an introduction by Willem Lems (rheumatology), Joost Dekker (rehabilitation) gave an excellent overview on the role of physical therapy in osteoarthritis, followed by an inspiring lecture on cartilage reconstruction techniques by Barend van Royen (orthopaedic surgeon). Both lectures were followed by a lively and thoughtful discussion.

NWO/MaGW grant for Jeroen Smeets
Jeroen Smeets and Pieter Medendorp have received a grant from the NWO/MaGW for the project Illusions in the Brain: A new approach to understanding visual processing. The recruitment of the candidate for the project will start shortly, and the selected candidate will carry out his/her research both at the VU University Amsterdam and at the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour at the Radboud UMC Nijmegen.
Petra Juffer and Rishikesh Kulkarni receive ECTS/IBMS New Investigator Award

Petra Juffer and Rishikesh Kulkarni have each received an ECTS/IBMS New Investigator Award for their abstracts submitted to the 3rd joint meeting of the European Calcified Tissue Society and the International Bone and Mineral Society.

Petra Juffer’s paper entitled “Osteocytes Produce Factors Involved in the Adaptive Response of Muscle to Mechanical Loading” was written with the co-authors R.T. Jaspers, P. Lips, A.D. Bakker and J. Klein-Nulend.

Rishikesh Kulkarni’s co-authors are A.D. Bakker, E.V. Gruber, T.D. Chae, J.B.B. Veldkamp, V. Everts and J. Klein-Nulend and the paper is entitled “MT1-MMP Affects the Mechanosensitivity of Osteocytes”.

Petra is a PhD student participating in a multi-disciplinary research program funded by MOVE called PROTECT. In this program, researchers from ACTA, VUmc, and the Faculty of Human Movement Sciences work together in one research project, studying mechanical loading as a means to prevent fractures in the elderly. Rishikesh is PhD student on a MOVE-related project funded by the University of Amsterdam.

Petra and Rishikesh will present their work at the Athens 2011 ECTS/IBMS Congress from 7-11 May.

MOVE AGE Recruitment

The application procedure for the MOVE AGE PhD fellowships 2011 closed on February 1st. Over 100 complete applications were received through the site and the student selection procedure has been completed. Out of this procedure 9 fellowships were proposed to the EU by February 28th.

Exercise is Medicine; an Erasmus Mundus PhD programme proposal

Geert Savelsbergh and Willem van Mechelen (EMGO+) have received financial support for extending and submitting a grant proposal for a joint Erasmus Mundus PhD Programme entitled ‘Exercise is Medicine’. In addition to MOVE and EMGO+, the joint partners participating in the programme are the MRC Epidemiology Unit, U of Cambridge; the School of Sport and Human Movement Studies, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Gent, BE and finally the MRC Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, RSA. The final proposal will be submitted in April.

Should the proposal go through, the project will during its cycle bring about joint doctorate degree programmes for 50 PhD candidates. We’ll keep you posted on the status of the grant proposal.