Jaap Harlaar receives NWO investment grant

Dr. Jaap Harlaar and his research team received a €150,000 NWO investment grant for a so-called V-Gait (MOTEK Amsterdam). This instrument is a dual-belt treadmill that applies small perturbations in an immersive virtual reality environment (see photograph). It includes software for real-time musculoskeletal modeling analysis. The V-gait will be used for advanced gait diagnostics, stability analysis, training research in pediatric rehabilitation, neurorehabilitation, aging, and osteoarthritis of the knee, as well as to study sensorimotor control during walking. The V-Gait will facilitate translational research projects on the etiology of pathological gait, and eventually contribute significantly to the treatment of patients with walking problems.

Appointed Professor

Prof.dr. Marinus de Kleuver, MD, was appointed as professor of Spinal Column Surgery at the VU University Medical Centre, Dep Orthopaedics, on 1 December 2011.

After completing his medical studies at Leiden University and medical training in Leiden and Buffalo (USA,) he completed his training as Orthopaedic Surgeon at St. Radboud’s Hospital and St. Maarten’s Clinic in Nijmegen. Professor de Kleuver has been employed as Orthopaedic Surgeon and later as director of the Orthopaedic Centre at St. Maarten’s Clinic in Nijmegen since 1998 where he specializes in Spinal Column Surgery.

Professor de Kleuver divides his time between the Vumc in Amsterdam and the St. Maarten’s Clinic, Nijmegen, 30% and 70% respectively. He is internationally involved with the Scoliosis Research Society, AOSpine and various national committees including the Dutch Spine Society. Professor de Kleuver is also advisor to the Dutch Society of Scoliosis Patients.
**Spineweek 2012**

Prof.dr. Barend van Royen and Prof.dr. Marinus de Kleuver are organizers of the SPINEWEEK 2012, that will be held from 28 May to 1 June 2012 at the Rai in Amsterdam. The previous two SPINEWEEKS were highly successful, and therefore the organizers are proud to be hosting this third SPINEWEEK meeting. The meeting aims to coordinate and simplify the annual meetings of the leading scientific spine societies in one location, and encourages the delegates to participate in the meetings of the various societies and to interact with participants from all societies. For more information and registration, please visit: www.Spineweek2012.

**MOVE pre-lustrum celebrations**

On Friday 30 March 2012 a MOVE pre-lustrum celebration was held commemorating MOVE’s 5 year anniversary since its initial founding by ACTA, FBW and VUmc. The real Lustrum celebration will be held early 2013. At the pre-lustrum, MOVE’s achievements over the past 5 years were summarized, and future plans unfolded. Approximately 70 MOVE members attended the pre-lustrum and witnessed the introduction of the new MOVE logo. For more information on the pre-lustrum celebrations, please visit www.move.vu.nl

**New Members:**

**Mariette Maarseveen** joined the faculty of Human Movement sciences as a Junior Researcher on the project *Perceptual Training for Basketball Shooting*. Co-supervisor: Dr. R. Oudejans. *(Funding: InnoSportNL, the Dutch Basketball Association (NBB), and the Center for Topsport and Education Amsterdam (CTO Amsterdam)).*

**Robert Ton**: PhD student on the project: *The Kuramoto model under impact of multiplicative noise*. Supervisors: Prof.dr. A. Daffertshofer and Prof.dr. Gustavo Deco (U. Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona). *(Contract funding/direct funding.)*

**Dinant Kistemaker, PhD**: *Optimality principles in human sensorimotor*. Supervisor: Prof.dr. J. Smeets. *(Funding: Marie Curie Career Integration Grant topped up with an additional research grant and direct funding.)*