Grants and Prizes

Erwin van Wegen PhD, from the department of Rehabilitation at VUMC, has received a research fellowship from the Hersenstichting entitled: POTENTIAL: P Ostural feedback ThErapy combined with Non-invasive TranscranIAL direct current stimulation in patients with stroke.

Postural feedback training (PFT) is a common rehabilitative therapy to improve standing balance control in patients with stroke, but does not offer additional benefit to usual care. The early period after stroke is characterized by a critical time window of neuroplasticity. A combination of early applied noninvasive trans-cranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) and PFT by modern virtual reality techniques (VR-PFT) may improve balance in patients with stroke to a level unattained by PFT alone. POTENTIAL will be the first phase II trial to investigate this innovative promising intervention.

A new Research and Development (R&D) Centre for the classification of athletes with visual impairment will be established at the VU following a research grant of almost 300 K€ to HMS’s Dr. David Mann from the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). The International Paralympic Committee Postdoctoral Research Fellowship will be funded by the grant for a period of over three years. The R&D centre, to be embedded in the HMS perceptual-motor control research group, will be one of three world-wide R&D centres established by the IPC to develop evidence-based classification systems for athletes seeking to take part in Paralympic competition. The R&D centre for physical impairment will be managed by Dr Sean Tweedy at the University of Queensland in Australia, and a R&D Centre for intellectual impairment will be supervised by Prof Yves Vanlandewijck at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium.

The work performed by the research team will...
seek to establish new evidence-based rules for classifying athletes with a visual impairment. The existing rules that govern eligibility for Paralympic competition are based purely on visual acuity and/or peripheral vision and are uniform across all Paralympic sports. The IPC wish to move towards sport-specific classification rules formulated to ensure that athletes are competing in comparable classes. Importantly, these classes should minimize the impact of the visual impairment on the outcome of the competition. Over the first three years of the project, the team will work on the development of new classification rules and competition classes for IPC swimming.

Prof. dr. Gert Kwakkel (VUmc) has received a ‘Proof of Concept’ grant (150 K€) from The European Research Council for marketable innovations. The project is a collaboration with prof. dr. Frans van de Helm (TU-Delft) and dr. Jan de Munck (VUmc) as part of the currently running 4D-EEG program. 4D-EEG ERC is an advanced grant aiming to provide insight in the dynamics of cortical interactions involved in recovery of motor function over the course of stroke rehabilitation.

The ‘Proof of Concept’ involves the development of two systems that facilitate accurate on-site EEG measurements by creating a patient tailored 3D head model used for state-of-the-art EEG analysis within minutes. The improved head model combines head shape and electrode positions with in vivo tissue conductivity properties. The methods contribute to accurate source localization of neural electrical activity using portable EEG measurements.

VU/VUmc Grants Database

As from September 2013, the Grants Desk VU/VUmc has made a comprehensive grant database available to all researchers, staff and students of the VU and VUmc. Research Professional is a funding database which offers you the opportunity to search for research funding in all disciplines from a wide range of sponsors in the Netherlands, Europe and elsewhere. All funding information in the database is pre-screened for eligibility for the VU and VUmc. The database features an easy-to-use interface and powerful searching and customisation tools, and is designed to assist you in searching, finding and sharing research funding opportunities.

The database is accessible from any computer or tablet within the University network and there is no need to install any special software. We advise you to register for a personal account as well as this gives you e.g. off-campus access, automatic periodic updates tailored to your personal profile, saving searches and to add deadlines to your daily
calendar. Using this service is free of charge to all researchers, staff and students of the VU and VUmc.

Please visit the intranet site for more information or start searching immediately by visiting ResearchProfessional.com and choosing Self-registration or Campus Access.

Announcements

Obesity and Lifestyle in Brussels
On September 17th, there is a conference in Brussels on Cardiometabolic risk, Diabetes, Obesity and Cardiovascular disease. The symposium has invited renowned speakers and centers on the causes and solutions for obesity, how to raise awareness on lifestyle modifications and how to ensure that Europeans make healthy choices. To register, please visit myhealthywaist-events

PCDI Postdoc Retreat
From October 30 - November 1st there is a Postdoc retreat aimed at Postdocs and PhD students in their final year. The 3 day event is organized by the Postdoc Career Development Initiative (PCDI) and especially targets researchers in Science, Technologies, Engineering and Maths. The course aims at putting you on the right track for the future. For more information and to register, please visit www.pcdi.nl Please remember that your supervisor will have to approve the retreat, in connection with the costs!

Kick-off HORIZON 2020
The Dutch kick off for the HORIZON 2020 takes place in RAI Amsterdam on Tuesday November 12th as part of the Innovation relay. During the opening session representatives from Agentschap NL will be present to advice you on your participation, and partners with hands on experience in European research and innovation programmes will be there to inform and assist you. To see the programme and/or to register, please click here.

Annual SMALLL Congres and Award
The Society of Movement Analysis Laboratories in the Low Lands organizes its annual meeting in Antwerp on November 15th. This year the theme is Een stap naar stabiliteit. For more information and how to register, please visit smalll congres

During the congress an award will be given to a student who during the past academic year has excelled in his or her work in the field of movement analysis. The award is aimed at students either in the field of technical or in the field of clinical movement analysis. If you know any potential candidates for the award, please refer them to this site for more information: smalll award.
**Symposium: Muscle and Bone, a Common World?**

On November 18th, following Petra Juffer's PhD defense ceremony there will be a symposium in the small lecture room in the ACTA building starting at 2.30 pm.

The speakers at the symposium are

- Prof. dr. Jörn Rittweger, DLR Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Cologne-Porz, Germany
- Dr. Athanassia Sotiropoulos, INSERM, Paris, France
- Prof. dr. Jaap H. van Dieën, Human Movement Sci., VU University Amsterdam
- Dr. Richard T. Jaspers, Human Movement Sci., VU University Amsterdam
- Dr. Astrid D. Bakker, Dept. Oral Cell Biology, ACTA, Amsterdam
- Drs. Regula Furrer, Human Movement Sci., VU University Amsterdam

**BrainModes 2013**

The 7th annual BrainModes meeting this year takes place at the Lloyd Hotel in Amsterdam on December 2-3rd. The meeting seeks to explore innovative means of understanding complex brain activity and multimodel neuroscience data sets. The objective of the meetings is to foster informal discussion of brain modeling and multivariate data analysis (EEG, MEG, fMRI etc.) The central motif is that of "modes"- i.e., understanding how complex brain activity is organized around low dimensional manifolds. For more information and how to register please visit: Brainmodes-2013.

Please note: the registration is limited to 50 participants based on a first come registration.