Grants and Prizes

Mirjam Pijnappels PhD (HMS) has been given a VIDI grant for her research proposal *Falling: a mismatch between perceived and actual abilities in older adults?* Dr. Pijnappels' research centers on mobility and falls in the elderly and in this project she will investigate the consequences of a mismatch between perceived and actual abilities for fall risk and physical activity in older adults in experimental and epidemiological studies.

Rouwen Cañal Bruland PhD (HMS) has in cooperation with Prof.dr. Markus Raab of the German Sport University Cologne, been awarded €176,000 by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for a project entitled *The groundedness of temporal and spatial representations in movement: Examining the bidirectionality and asymmetry hypotheses from an embodied cognition perspective*. The to-be-appointed PhD student will primarily be based in Cologne.

Huub Maas PhD (HMS) and Alain Frigon of Université de Sherbrooke, Département de physiologie et biophysique, Faculté de médecine et des sciences de la santé in Canada, have been granted C$ 245,000 by the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Nature et technologies for the project *La neuromécanique: une approche intégrative et plateforme expérimentale pour l’étude du contrôle moteur*. The overall goal of the project is to determine the relationships between structure and function in a pair of antagonist muscles in relation to left-right coordination during locomotion. To accomplish this goal, we will establish a neuromechanics framework and experimental platform at the Université de Sherbrooke that will integrate kinesiology, physiology, neuroscience, biochemistry, physics, and engineering. The research will primarily take place in Quebec.
DirkJan Veeger Appointed Professor of Biomechanics and Sport Engineering

DirkJan Veeger PhD (HMS) was per May 1st 2014 appointed professor of Biomechanics and Sport Engineering at the HMS. Professor Veeger was in 2010 appointed professor of Musculoskeletal Mechanics at the TU Delft, to which this second professorate has now been added. In the professorate at the HMS Professor Veeger will combine his expertise on human movement sciences and engineering to further develop and intensify the link between engineering and teaching, with special focus on sports. In addition he plans to develop a course where both human movement scientists as well as engineers can get together and interact on maximizing the athlete-in materials interaction.

Michel Coppieters Appointed Professor of Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy

Michel Coppieters (PhD) was appointed Professor of Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy at the faculty of Human Movement Sciences (20 January 2014). Michel will coordinate the new Master of Science program in Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation Sciences, which will start in September 2015. This master will address the growing demands from within the profession for a higher degree of qualification, and the need for more musculoskeletal physiotherapy research in The Netherlands. He will start up new lines of research, mainly focusing on (neuropathic) pain and its impact on performance. Other aims are to gain a better understanding of the mechanisms behind certain musculoskeletal pathologies and which mechanisms physiotherapy management might be able to influence, and how.

After having worked clinically as a physiotherapist for several years, and following the completion of his PhD in 2002 at the University of Leuven, Michel accepted a post-doctoral position at The University of Queensland in Brisbane. Although the initial plan was to only stay for a couple of years, he remained in Australia for 12 years. First as post-doc, later as Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor. The close collaboration with mentors like Paul Hodges, Gwendolen Jull, Bill Vicenzino and others, the institution itself, and the superb climate, were all valid reasons to postpone returning to Europe. Michel taught in the Bachelor and Master programs, and directed the Neuropathic Pain Research Group which aimed to (1) increase the evidence for the clinical diagnosis and non-invasive management of patients with neuropathic pain, and (2) gain a better insight in the pathophysiology of neuropathies. As such, he was able to blend more fundamental animal research focusing on the pathophysiology of nerve compression, with more clinical
research focusing on patient management.

In 2012, he lived a year in Nepal where he volunteered at Kathmandu University, assisting the local staff in setting up a Bachelor program in Physiotherapy. Since that experience, he will take any opportunity to travel back to Nepal to catch up with friends and go for a hike in the high Himalayas.

Although traveling on a Dutch passport, Michel has only lived in The Netherlands since his appointment at the VU earlier this year (hence the quirky accent). Moreover, these are the first few months he has actually lived in a country where he holds citizenship.

**VU support programme voor VI candidates**

If you or one of your colleagues are planning to submit a Veni or Vidi proposal later this year, we advise you to follow the grantwriting workshop organized by the VU/VUmc Grants Desk. This is a two day workshop, free of charge for VU/VUmc employees. It is held on various dates in July and September, with the second day in October. For more information and to register in advance, please visit: Grantwriting workshop.

**Veni, Vidi, Vici Information Meeting**

On June 12th, the NWO will hold an information meeting about the personal grants in the Veni, Vidi, Vici scheme. There will be an information session where expert candidates give practical tips and tricks and answer questions. To register please visit the NWO information page.

**CWTS 2014 Leiden Ranking**

Earlier this month the CWTS Leiden Ranking published its 2014 results in which 750 universities worldwide are compared based on Web of Science indexed publications for the period 2009-2012. While VU University Amsterdam did well with a 19th place based upon the European scores, VU University Medical Center did excellent by being placed first of the Dutch Medical Research centers. In addition to that, the VUmc ranks 15th within Europe and world wide the ranking is 38! We congratulate all VU and VUmc researchers!

To see for yourself, please visit Leidenranking.com

**Various Workshops: Patents, Valorisation and Opportunity Knocks**

One June 12 there is a workshop on various relevant aspects of patenting - what it is, what are the objectives, the benefits for the
participants and the procedures around patenting. The workshop is held at the UvA Science Park. For more information and to sign up for the workshop, please visit Patent-workshop.

On June 17th The TTO (Technology Transfer Office) organizes a workshop on how to recognize opportunities around your ideas and/or research. For more information and registration on this Dutch language workshop, please visit: Workshop-Opportunity-Recognition

On June 26th the workshop Valorisation: an Introduction will be given by the TTO. The workshop is primarily aimed at scientists who want to get started with valorisation. For more information and to sign up for the workshop, please visit Valorisation-workshops.

**Pro VU day**

On June 25th the ProVU organizes its annual day for VU/VUmc PhD students and PostDocs. This year the day will center on the theme: “Science, connecting people”. Visit the website to see the whole programme.

**New Members**

**Nadia Dominici** PhD, has joined the HMS as a Postdoc on the project Neural correlates of development in young children – emergence of motor skills. The project will focus on the analysis of balance and gait development. We aim for a longitudinal study assessing kinematic patterns and nervous activity in young children. In particular we search for emergent behavior, e.g. the onset of standing and walking skills at an early age. Nadia's supervisor is Prof.dr. A. Daffertshofer. The project is contract funded.