Grants and Prizes

Dr. Nadia Dominici (HMS), has been given a VIDI grant for her research proposal FirSTeps - the emergence of walking in children. Dr. Dominici's research will study the spontaneous changes in brain and muscle activity that appear when young children start to walk independently. The results of her research will be applied to the identification of optimal rehabilitation therapies for children with cerebral palsy.

Prof. dr. Sue Gibbs (VUmc/ACTA) has won the 2015 LeF in het Lab prize. The prize was awarded by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals and is awarded annually to a scientist who is committed to reducing the use of animals in scientific experiments.

Dr. Michail Koutris (ACTA), was during the IADR (International Association for Dental Research) meeting in March awarded the 1st price of the "IADR Neuroscience Group Young Investigator Award by Willey-Blackwell Journal of Oral Rehabilitation 2015" for his poster presentation Experimental DOMS does not influence the masticatory system's psychophysical properties. The meeting was held in Boston, Mass., USA.

Dr. Melvyn Roerdink (HMS), has been awarded the ISPGR (International Society for Posture & Gait Research) Young Scientist Award. The prize is awarded to young scientists who have achieved excellent research results in Posture and/or Gait early in their career. Melvyn will in July travel to Seville to receive his prize during the ISPGR annual meeting.

Lizeth Sloot (VUmc) has been given a travel grant from the International Society of...
Biomechanics to travel to the 2015 meeting in Glasgow, Scotland. The meeting will take place 12th - 16th July.

Changes to one of the MOVE partners
As per June 1st 2015, the Faculty of Human Movement Sciences will merge with the Faculty of Psychology and Education and together form the Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences. Professor dr. Peter J. Beek has by the board of the university been appointed dean of the new faculty. Professor dr. Carlo Schuengel has by the university board been appointed head of the research portfolio. The merger will bring new opportunities for research collaboration, existing collaboration and research projects will not be affected by the merger.

Ethical Committee Human Movement Sciences
As a result of the changes to the faculty structure, the Human Movement Sciences based Ethical Committee will cease to exist. As per June 1st all ethical issues will be dealt with through the VCWE (Vaste Commissie Wetenschap en Ethiek). The new committee will work much along the same guidelines, however, as of June 1st, all proposals must be handed in through a web based portal: VCWE where the exact guidelines and procedure can be found.

Police under stress
In a time when one can read about inappropriate police performance on an almost daily basis, Peter Renden (HMS), will on June 23rd defend his PhD thesis on exactly this subject. In his research, financed by the Police & Science Program, he concluded that police officers can learn to make proper use of their primary stress reactions during violent incidents. Peter was on his project supervised by dr. Raoul Oudejans. For more information on this project, please visit Police-training-requires-stress.

Talent Scheme Information Meeting
On June 26th, there is an information meeting in the Hague for scientists who plan to write a Veni, Vidi or Vici grant proposal. For more information and registration please visit the NWO website. Note that registration is compulsory.
**Amsterdam Science & Innovation Award 2015**

Dr. Katinka van der Kooij (HMS) has been announced as one of the ten finalists for the Amsterdam Science & Innovation Award 2015. Katinka will pitch her idea *Fake it 'till they make it*, where she introduces FittMi; a friendly rehabilitation boost. To support Katinka and hear the other candidates, visit the finale on May 27th. Please remember to [register](#) in advance.

![Amsterdam Science & Innovation Award 2015](#)

Innovative and useful ideas with impact

**Webinar on a Tunable Model of Spasticity**

On May 21st dr. Marjolein van der Krogt (VUmc) and dr. Lynn Bar-On (KUL) in cooperation with Stanford University gave a webinar entitled *An Individually Tunable Model of Spasticity and Contracture in Patients with Cerebral Palsy*. The presentation centered on the ‘SimSpas’ project, in which they created and evaluated musculoskeletal simulations of instrumented spasticity assessment data. There are some technical details in the presentation, but also a clear clinical relevance and it is accessible to a wide audience. The webinar is still available online.

![Webinar on a Tunable Model of Spasticity](#)

**Visit from Italy**

Early May a group of Italian medical students who took part in the Twinning project paid a visit to the Virtual Reality Lab at the department of rehabilitation at the VUmc. The students were treated to an analysis of gait patterns of various patient groups, where the focus was on CP and knee osteoarthritis, using the GRAIL (Gait Real-Time Analysis Interactive Lab). The students were given a demonstration by PhD student Fabian van de Bunt (VUmc) and, as can be seen on the picture, one of the students volunteered in the demo.

![Visit from Italy](#)

**New Members**
Fabian van de Bunt has joined the VUmc as a PhD student on the project *The search for objective determinants to assess the outcome of total knee arthroplasty*. Fabian is supervised by prof.dr.ir. Jaap Harlaar and prof.dr. Barend van Royen. The project is financed by a grant from the Dutch Reuma foundation.

Kaj Emanuel has joined the VUmc as a PhD student on the project *A mechanical analysis of the healthy and degenerated intervertebral disc*. Emanuel is supervised prof.dr.ir. Theo Smit and dr. Idsart Kingma. The project is funded by the Dutch Reumafonds and NWO.

Rosalien Veldhuizen has joined ACTA as a PhD student on the project *Titanium implants and their emerging health problems: Development of a new and accurate diagnostic test for titanium sensitivity in patients*. Rosalien is supervised by professor dr. Sue Gibbs, professor dr. Albert Feilzer and dr. Cees Kleverlaan. The project is financed by a grant from the STW.

Annemarie de Witte (HHS/HMS) currently works on the project *The perfect sports wheelchair*. Annemarie is supervised by prof.dr. Dirk-Jan Veeger, prof.dr. Luc van der Woude (RUG), dr. Marco Hoozemans (HMS) and dr. Monique Berger (HHS).