Grants and Prizes

Dr. Nadia Dominici (FBM), has received an ERC starting grant of M€1.4 for her project **Learn2Walk - Brain meets spine: the neural origin of toddlers’ first steps.** The ERC grant enables Nadia to research the neural mechanisms underlying the emergence of walking in children and to unravel the detailed processes underpinning the process of learning to walk. Nadia will apply the results to the identification of optimal rehabilitation techniques for children with cerebral palsy. In the long term Nadia aims to exploit the fundamental insights into neuro-motor control for promoting normal walking in children with motor impairments.

The Classification Research and Development Centre (CRDC) for athletes with vision impairment at the FBM / VU Amsterdam (VU), directed by David Mann, has received a k€90 grant for a PhD Research Fellowship from the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA). VU masters graduate Kai Krabben has been awarded the Fellowship to improve the classification system in judo. Because of the visually demanding nature of the grip fighting in judo, in the adapted form of the sport in which people with vision impairment compete (VI judo), athletes start with a grip on their opponent already in place. This helps make the sport less visually demanding and is thought to make the sport fairer for people who are completely blind. As a result, VI judo uses only one class and all qualifying athletes must compete against each other, irrespective of their level of impairment. This grant will enable the CRDC to develop a new evidence-based system of classification for judo, which should lead to fairer competition and encourage new athletes to the sport.

Pieter Coenen, Idsart Kingma, Jaap van Dieën (all FBM), together with VUmc scientists Cécile Boot and Paulien Bongers have together been awarded the 2015 Liberty Mutual Medal by the International Ergonomics Association (IEA). The medal is awarded for the paper **Detailed assessment of low-back loads may not be worth effort: A comparison of two methods for exposure-outcome assessment of low-**
Scientific American

Dr. Peter Renden (FBM) has been quoted in an article in Scientific American on stress training for police officers. Peter and other experts on performing under stress offer their advice in the article, based on recent research results. Peter aims to further extrapolate the research results from police training to other potentially stressful professions such as fire fighting (with Raoul Oudejans [FBM]) and emergency care in hospitals (with Anne de la Croix [FBM] and Ralf Krage [VUmc]).

MOVE - VUmc PhD call 2016

Thirteen research proposals were submitted for the MOVE - VUmc PhD call 2016, of which seven applied for the 100% MOVE - VUmc funding, and six for the 50% MOVE - VUmc funding, topped up with 50% additional funding. All proposals were sent to at least 2 external and independent reviewers who were asked to offer their recommendation on the proposals. The quality of the proposals was high, as the ratings from the external reviewers showed. The MOVE research committee, for the occasion enlarged with an additional VUmc member, judged the proposals based on the external advice.

The research committee was made up of

- Prof.dr. Willem Lems, VUmc (Chair)
- Prof.dr. Michel Coppeters, FBM
- Prof. dr. Vincent de Groot, VUmc
- Prof.dr. Jenneke Klein Nulend, ACTA
- Dr. Raoul Oudejans, FBM
- Prof.dr. Jeroen Smeets, FBM
- Prof.dr. Marco Ritt (additional VUmc member)

The MOVE management team accepted the advice from the research committee and congratulate the winners:

J. van den Noort, J. Harlaar and M. Maas for the project Comprehensive ankle and foot biomechanics: Relating musculoskeletal imaging to functional movements and loads in cerebral palsy and osteochondral defects. Winner of the 100% financed project.

T.H. Smit, G.M. Kerkhoffs, M.N. Helder, M. Maas and N. Bravenboer for the 50% financed project A cushion for the lesion: the prevention of trauma-induced ankle osteoarthritis.

M. den Heijer, P.H. Bisschop and A.D. Bakker for the 50% financed project Bone marrow adipocytes as mediator of postmenopausal bone

back pain, published in Applied Ergonomics, Vol. 51, pp. 322-330. The medal and prize of k€10 will be presented in November during the Human FactorsNL congress in Amersfoort, the Netherlands.

Scientific American

Dr. Peter Renden (FBM) has been quoted in an article in Scientific American on stress training for police officers. Peter and other experts on performing under stress offer their advice in the article, based on recent research results. Peter aims to further extrapolate the research results from police training to other potentially stressful professions such as fire fighting (with Raoul Oudejans [FBM]) and emergency care in hospitals (with Anne de la Croix [FBM] and Ralf Krage [VUmc]).
**Final Draft Plan Human Movement Sciences**

The final draft plan for Human Movement Sciences has been distributed amongst all (potential) members and current MOVE members and has also recently been presented to the deans of the participating institutions.

The plan has been written by members of the working group from the different partner institutions: Jaap van Dieën and Richard Jaspers from the Faculty of Behaviour and Movement Sciences (FBM), (FBM also being the host institution for MOVE research institute Amsterdam), Frank Lobbezoo and Sue Gibbs both from ACTA, Jaap Hartaar and Theo Smit from VUmc, Geert Streekstra and Gino Kerkhoffs from AMC and Raymond Ostelo and Evert Verhagen representing EMGO+ (the Musculoskeletal Health program), the group was chaired by Mario Maas (AMC) and Frans Nollet (MOVE). During the writing process backbench scientists, both junior and senior, have been asked for input, and when offered, this was taken into account when appropriate. The working group meetings were characterized by enthusiasm and members identifying new opportunities. MOVE research institute Amsterdam and its members will be integrated in Amsterdam Movement Sciences.

If you would like a copy of the final draft plan, please send a mail to moveoffice@vu.nl

**SAVE the DATE: the kick off meeting for Amsterdam Movement Sciences is 27/01/2017!**

**PhD Competence Tool**

The Dutch University Medical Centers have developed a competence tool for PhD candidates to use as a guideline for professional career development and to recognize acquired competences, or where additional training and skills are needed. It is a self-assessment tool, with the emphasis on career development and orientation, and is for the PhD candidate's own use. The tool is recommended to all PhD candidates within life sciences, and can come in handy when completing the Training and Education form. Although the tool was developed for PhD candidates, it is also recommended for postdoc candidates. Click [here](#) for more information and to download the tool as an excel file.

**New Members**
Kai Krabben has been appointed fellow on the PhD Research Fellowship part financed by the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA). As a part of his fellowship, Kai is responsible for evaluating the present classification system and putting forward recommendations for an evidence-based judo-specific system of classification to be used in future IBSA competitions. The project entitled Classification of vision impairment in judo, is embedded within the Classification Research and Development Centre for athletes with vision impairment at the FBM / Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Kai is supervised by Prof.dr. Geert Savelsbergh, Dr. David Mann and Dr. John van der Kamp, all FBM.