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## Grants and Prizes

**Nadia Dominici** (FBM), has been awarded an Aspasia grant of €100,000 from the NWO. The grant is linked to her VIDI grant FirSTeps - the emergency of walking in children and is an NWO policy tool to encourage the advancement of female candidates toward higher positions within academia. Dr. Dominici will use part of the grant to appoint a postdoc, the remainder will be used by the Faculty to improve diversity policy.

At the 63rd annual ACSM (American College of Sports Medicine) meeting, held in Boston, MA. from May 31 - June 4 2016, **Nico Hofman** and **Jac Orie** (both FBM) were awarded the best poster prize in the winter sports interest group. Nico and Jac presented their research into the predicting value of lab tests on ice skating results. The ACSM annual meeting is the leading world congress in the field of sports- and movement sciences.

## Appointed Professors

**Cees Kleverlaan** was appointed professor of Biomaterials at ACTA in January. Professor Kleverlaan will set forth his research into filling materials such as composites, the bonding and adhesion between different dental materials and the tooth, and metal allergy. Professor Kleverlaan's research interests further centers on the development of new materials and the prediction of failing biomaterials, both biological and physical. Professor Kleverlaan will give his inaugural speech on the 26th of October at 16:00 at the Aula of the University of Amsterdam.

**Mirjam Pijnappels** (FBM) was appointed to the Fenna Diemer-Lindeboom chair as professor of Mobility in Ageing last January. The
goal of this chair is to further investigate the effects of ageing on neuromuscular and cognitive aspects of mobility. This involves research on mobility on a functional level as well as daily life activities by combining experimental lab-studies with epidemiological studies. The obtained knowledge and assistive technology will be implemented to maintain and promote mobility in older adults. As soon as the date has been set for the inaugural speech, we will let you know.

**hDMT (Human Disease Model Technologies)**
In collaboration with CCA, ICaR-VU and MOVE, VUmc will join the national institute hDMT (Human Disease Model Technologies) with the aim to further develop the Organ on a chip platform. hDMT integrates human stem cell technologies with engineering, physics, chemistry, biology clinical and pharmaceutical expertise. The starting point at VU is skin-on-a-chip, but in the time to come other organ models will be developed throughout campus. Professor Sue Gibbs will be the contact person on the VU campus. For more information, go to [hDMT](#).

**MechanoBiology Meetings (RaMBaM)**
The first of a series of monthly RaMBaM meetings in mechanobiology took place on May 31st. The meeting was well visited and inspirational! Mechanobiology is an emerging research field at the interface of biology and engineering, focusing on the way physical and chemical cues modulate cell fate and adaption, and how changes in cell or tissue mechanics contribute to development, physiology and disease. The RaMBaM sessions will be a meeting place for researchers and clinicians with the aim to inform, inspire and stimulate interaction and collaboration between researchers.

The 2nd meeting will be chaired by Dr. Astrid Bakker, and is planned for July 7th, 4 - 5.30 pm. Please join us, you are welcome!

- 15:45-16:00 Welcome
- 16:00-16:05 Introduction (RaMBaM vision) by the chair
- 16:05-16:45 Manuel Schmitz, MSc, (Dept Orthopaedic Surgery, Spinogenesis Group, VUmc, MOVE): Mechanobiology of Somitic Epithelia
- 16:45-17:15 Dr Jan Harm Koolstra (ACTA, MOVE): What is wrong with a dolichofacial morphology?
- 17:15 Discussion, followed by closure with drinks

Register in advance by mail to: moveoffice@vu.nl by listing 1) your name, 2) affiliation, 3) 2nd MOVE MechanoBiology meeting.

**Open Access**
To encourage VU and VUmc researchers to publish Open Access, the University Library has made arrangements with several publishers offering VU and VUmc scientists a discount on publication costs, and in some cases the possibility of publishing Open Access free of charge. For a list of the publishers involved within the agreement, visit the [University Library](#) site. To encourage and support publishing in OA journals, the university library has started an OA working group. If you
have questions on OA, get in touch with openaccess.ub@vu.nl.

**Research Professional: Grants Database**

We would again like to draw your attention to the Research Professional database that you can use to search for available grants in all disciplines and all types of grants; from small to large, both national, European and global. You are advised to create an account when you access the database for the first time; this enables you to use the database from outside the campus and to save your preferred settings. All funding in the database is pre-screened for eligibility for the VU and VUmc. Use of the database is free of charge for VU/VUmc employees. If you should want more information on the database, please mail moveoffice@vu.nl.

**Project Website: PreventIT**

The PreventIT website, linked to the project of the same name by professors Pijnappels and Maier with the aim to improve health and active aging with mobile technology is now live. To visit, go to PreventIT. You can also follow the project on social media; go to:

- Twitter
- Facebook

**Project Website: Spexor**

The Spexor website, linked to the project with the same name by professors van Dieën and de Looze, with the aim to develop a spinal exoskeleton to prevent low-back pain in able bodied workers is live! To visit go to SPEXOR.

**PhD Advice from Start to Defense and Beyond**

Academic Transfer, Eva Lantsoght PhD, and Bookboon have together written a book on how to obtain a PhD in the Netherlands. The book is based upon Dr. Lantsoght's blog PhD talk. The book is aimed at (potential) PhD students and Postdocs. Download the book, free of charge: PhD Advice from Start to Defense and Beyond.

**New Members**

Michèle Hillege has joined the department of Human Movement Sciences at the FGB as a PhD candidate on the project The role of TGFβ and myostatin receptors ALK4 and ALK5 in muscle function. Michèle's supervisors on the project are Dr. W. Hoogaars and Dr. R. Jaspers. The project is financed by a grant from the Prinses Beatrix Spierfonds and will primarily take place in the Laboratory for Myology.
Ouren Kuiper has joined the department of Human Movement Sciences as a PhD candidate on the project *Motion sickness in self-driving cars*. Ouren is supervised by Professor J. Bos (FGB/TNO) and dr. C. Diels (Coventry University). The research project is a collaboration with Ford Research and Advanced Engineering Center in Aachen, Germany and Coventry University, UK.

Diana van Winden has started as a PhD candidate on the project *Injury prevention and return to play/perform after injury*. The project is a cooperation with Codarts Rotterdam, Hogeschool voor de Kunsten and is financed by SIA: Nationaal Regieorgaan Praktijkgericht Onderzoek. Diana is supervised by Professor dr. G.J.P. Savelsbergh, Dr. R.R.D. Oudejans and Dr. J.H. Stubbe (Codarts Rotterdam).