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VLAG brings the message of researchers home



In the times that we live in, traveling and giving presentations in just about every corner of the world is not what the VLAG community is doing. We as VLAG team thought that this should serve as an excellent opportunity to bring all these ground breaking ideas, cutting edge knowledge, and expertise of the VLAG community home. In a sense, it is very strange that we do not share our knowledge that much within WUR, and yes, I am also guilty as charged. As a matter of fact, I do (read: used to) run into researchers from Wageningen

University in faraway places to find out that there is a common interest that should have made us work together for years. But somehow that simply did not happen often enough, and thus we missed out on an opportunity that should not have been missed in the first place.

As a first new step to bring the VLAG community closer together (yes, I said first, so you can expect more steps to follow), we will start with an on-line lecture series. The underlying idea is of course to share knowledge and get everyone more broadly interested in work done at WUR. Ideally this also acts as a nucleus for discussion, and maybe even collaborations. Since the PhD candidates have to cope with postponement or cancellation of courses, we came up with the idea to use the lecture series as a means to modestly supplement ECTS for the Training and Supervision Plan. Please keep in mind that actively participating in the lectures by reading a paper prior to the lecture, and sending in questions before the lecture, is a prerequisite for this. Vesna has already sent out a message with all the details on how things will be organized to all VLAG PhDs and postdocs.

I hope that you are all enthusiastic about the initiative, and I look forward to giving the first lecture that will revolve around the use of microfluidic tools. I apply them to investigate ‘processes’ in great detail, and based on that design sustainable food processes and products. Furthermore, I will share my vision about how these devices can serve as a means to bring technical and nutritional functionality of

food together, and how both researchers interested in fundamental and applied sciences can contribute to this.

It is a challenge to bring this message that I have presented at ICEF (a very large food conference) home to a community with a very diverse background in disciplines. At the same time, I feel that it is my duty (a very nice one) to share what I know, and make that information accessible since it is my very strong opinion that researchers should always be curious about what others do, and take inspiration from that for their own work. I love crazy ideas, so if that is what I create in your minds, I have done what I have set out to do, and would also like to help you further explore what is possible. For now, stay safe and stay healthy.

Kind regards, also on behalf of the entire VLAG team,
Prof Karin Schroën, Scientific Director VLAG

Every cloud has a silver lining: VLAG Online Expert Lectures Series

It seems like forever since the last memory of normality at the Campus, namely the Dies celebration of our University on March 9th. Nevertheless, the last 10 weeks induced many good things as well; our sense of compassion, creativity and resilience. Among other developments, a few ideas for VLAG activities that we had envisaged but were not quite ready to actually implement, turned into reality. Thanks to the VLAG Board members who volunteered to kick-off a series of live online expert lectures we have scheduled a few events in May and June and we will continue to do so in the coming months. Please visit the [registration page](#) and register separately for all lectures you would like to attend.

Important news from the Dean of Research

On May 12th the Dean of Research has informed all PhD thesis supervisors on the following changes:

- The PhD education budget to attend postgraduate courses and other relevant scientific events has increased to €3,500 for all PhD candidates that started this year (January 1st, 2020 onwards)
- New PhD candidates can come to Wageningen again from August 1st onwards. Once in Wageningen, the safety rules, regulations, and guidelines for working at WUR facilities must be strictly adhered to.
- Clarity regarding English proficiency: New PhD candidates must provide internationally recognised, certified proof of their [English proficiency](#) before the start of the PhD programme. This clear rule is in power as of 31st August 2020 and applies for the new PhD candidates starting on this date and beyond.

Word from the VLAG PhD council



VLAG PhD COUNCIL

Dear fellow PhDs,

We hope that you are doing well in these rather bizarre times. As it seems that things are heading in a positive direction now, we as the VLAG PhD council understand that the situation has affected everyone in a different way. Some are finding it very efficient to work from home, whereas others are experiencing a lack of motivation or have concerns about the future of their research. That is why we want to stress even more that the VLAG PhD Council is still here and working hard to make sure your experiences and opinions are heard in VLAG and the university. If you have any questions or worries, please [contact us](#) so we can try to answer or help you solve it.

We wish you all the best,
VLAG PhD Council

VLAG courses

Courses open for registration:

- [Modelling of habitual dietary intake](#), 12-13 October 2020, Wageningen
- [Food proteins: functionality, modifications and analysis](#), 9-13 November 2020, Copenhagen

Statistics courses open for registration:

- [Introduction to R](#): 18-19 August 2020, Wageningen
- [Applied Statistics](#): 25, 26, 27 August 2020, Wageningen
- [Chemometrics](#): 13, 14, 15 October 2020, Wageningen

Other courses planned for 2020-2021:

- Safety by design, October 2020
- Sensory perception and food preference, 7-10 December 2020
- Advanced Food Analysis, March 2021
- Healthy food design, April/May 2021
- Summer school Glycosciences, June 2021
- Reaction kinetics in food science, July 2021

Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS) courses

For a complete overview of all competence, skills and career development training activities, please click [here](#).

Calls and grants

VLAG Graduate programme 2021

Information on the 2021 VLAG Graduate programme can be found in the document on our website which has also been sent to the students via their education programme director. If you know an excellent MSc student who e.g. is planning to do an MSc thesis with you, it might be interesting to discuss this opportunity with her/him. An early start of the literature study for their thesis might be helpful in making it possible to fit the Research Master Cluster course in their study programme. Click [here](#) for more information.

Information session for the support courses and NWO procedure for Veni round 2021

All researchers interested in applying for an NWO Veni grant in 2021 that will be carried out at Wageningen University can join the course "[Getting on Track with Your Veni Application](#)". More information on the time schedule of the course will become available after NWO announces the deadline for the full proposals. For the domains AES, SSH and ZonMw, submitting a pre-proposal (deadline January 2021) is part of the procedure. For researchers who will submit their proposal to those domains, a short course "[Preparing your Veni pre-proposal](#)" will be organised in October 2020. An (online) information session on these courses and on the NWO procedure will be held on Thursday 25 June 2020 from 15:00-16:30. If you are interested in attending the information session, please send an email to vlag@wur.nl.

The Dr ir Aalt Dijkhuizen Scholarships call

The Dr ir Aalt Dijkhuizen Fund provides scholarships to talented MSc students and PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers at Wageningen University & Research who would like to visit a leading institute abroad to gain new, high-tech knowledge.

[Applications](#) for 2020 can be submitted until the 31st of May 2020, 23:59.

ERC starting and ERC consolidator course

October 6th, 2020 Yellow Research will give an ERC starting grant and consolidator grant course. For information check the following [intranet page](#).

Candidates can register by sending an email to [Henrieke de Ruiter](#)

KNAW Early Career Award

The KNAW Early Career Award is aimed at researchers at the start of their career who are capable of developing innovative and original research ideas. The young talented researchers have obtained their PhD a minimum of three and a maximum of seven years ago and hold a position at a Dutch university or a Dutch research institute. Professors at a Dutch university (a.o.) can nominate using the form, deadline 1 July 2020. For more information and the form look at the [website](#).

BCF Grant Application Course

For PhD candidates, postdocs or starting group leaders who want to enhance their career in academia and wish to improve one of the most vital skills of succeeding in science, the BCF Grant Application Course is a great programme. During this intensive two-day course, **22 – 23 June 2020**, participants will be taught by seasoned scientists, grant application experts who have reviewed hundreds of grants, assessors from funding bodies such as NWO and many more.

Please note, to comply with the current sanitary measures and to guarantee your health and safety, this course will be taught online, but digital 1-1 feedback and personal advice will be offered to ensure you get the full benefits of this course. Click [here](#) for more information.