



From the VLAG Office

VLAG Graduate School celebrates its silver jubilee



On December 12th 2019 the VLAG community will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the formal recognition of VLAG Graduate School and its first steps in 1994.

Focus of the celebration is on our credo: ***Excellence in research and postgraduate education.***

What does it mean to you? A PhD programme, a platform to collaborate,... What do we need to focus on in the coming years?

We have invited the VLAG PhD council and two VLAG alumni, Dr Martine Alles (Danone) and Prof. Joris Sprakel (WUR), to trigger the discussion by reflecting upon their experience, and sharing their views about the importance of the PhD education for the future career steps whether in academia or industry.

Our parting scientific director will dwell upon his view on the Graduate School, while our future director will present her ambitions for VLAG.

PROGRAMME

Moderator: Prof. Harry Bitter (chair VLAG Board)

14:30 **Registration, birthday cake, coffee & tea**

15:00 **Welcome address**

by Prof. Harry Bitter, chair VLAG Board

15:10 **Discussion based on propositions**

- 15:30 **Alumni perspective** by Prof. Joris Sprakel,
Professor at Physical Chemistry and Soft Matter, Wageningen University
- 16:00 **Alumni perspective** by Dr Martine Alles,
Science Catalyst Director, Danone Nutricia Early Life Nutrition
- 16:30 **PhD-Quiz**, by VLAG PhD council
- 17:00 **Legacy of a Scientific Director**,
by Prof. Renger Witkamp, Scientific Director (2016-2019)
- 17:15 **Ambition for the following 4 years**,
by Prof. Karin Schroën, Scientific Director (2020-2013)
- 17:30 **Wrap-up** by Prof. Harry Bitter
- 17:45 **Food & Drinks**
- 20:00 **VLAG Party**

VENUE: ORION (WUR building 103), room C1040 & C2050

REGISTRATION: To register click [here](#).

VLAG People

CGIAR award for Dr Elise Talsma

Elise Talsma (Human Nutrition & Health) received a CGIAR (Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research) grant to work with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on sustainable and healthy diets in Vietnam and Bangladesh.

VLAG Courses

2019

- 21-24 Oct: [Big Data in the Life Sciences](#)
- 14-15 Nov: Masterclass [Dairy Protein Biochemistry and Proteomics](#), Aarhus, DK, directly after the 16th International Symposium on Milk Genomics and Human Health
- 1-6 Dec: [Production and Use of Food Composition Data in Nutrition](#)
- 2-5 Dec: [PhD week, 45th edition](#)

2020

- 16, 23, 30 Jan and 6, 13, 20 Feb: [Philosophy and Ethics of Food Science and Technology](#)
- 10-11 Feb: [Introduction to R](#)
- 2-5 March: Energy Metabolism and Body Composition
- 16-20 Mar: Bioprocess design (BioTech Delft, location: Wageningen)
- 28 Apr-1 May: Healthy Food Design
- 2-4 June: Applied Statistics
- 10-12 June: Chemometrics (Multivariate Statistics)
- 14-18 June: Glycosciences
- 6-10 July: Reaction Kinetics in Food Science

Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS) courses

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

Thesis defenses

For an overview of the forthcoming thesis defenses please visit the [VLAG webpage](#).

Wageningen PhD Symposium 2019



THE 6TH WPS 2019 - SCIENCE WITH IMPACT

For more information and registration please click [here.](#)

Other events

A new initiative organized by PhDs for PhDs

Being a PhD candidate is hard, but also rewarding work. To discuss the commonalities of what PhDs are going through, we are organizing sessions of informal, judgement-free round-table conversations about everything that being a PhD entails. Interested in attending one or more of these sessions? Sign up for our mailing list by clicking [here.](#)

Wageningen Evolution & Ecology Seminar (WEES): Role of lactic acid bacteria in nutritional properties of cereals

Tuesday, 22 October

Orion C3033, 16.00h (seminar). There will be free drinks with the speaker after the seminar in The Spot!

For more information click [here](#)

Course Nutrient delivery and impact on human health

4-6 November 2019

The course will be addressed to PhD students, post-docs and early career researchers in the food and health area from all Europe.

Information on the course is available [here.](#)

International Conference Nutrition Disparity and Equity: From Differences to Potential

Friday, 8 November 2019, Wageningen International Conference Centre

Junior scientists (PhDs and postdocs) will be offered the possibility to present their work through pitches and/or oral presentations.

The conference will be offered free of charge. For more information click [here.](#)

The Young EFFoST Day

Monday 11 November 2019, Rotterdam

The Young EFFoST Day is an event packed with inspiring talks, an interactive networking programme and tasty food for young food professionals. The aim is to inspire and connect early career food professionals working in academia, industry or start-ups throughout Europe.

For more information click [here.](#)

To register click [here](#).

Dutch Chemometrics Society - Masterclass on Data Visualization

12 November 2019

Bar Beton, Utrecht Central Station

Deadline registration is 20 October 2019. For more information and registration click [here](#).

Grant application course

16-17 January 2020, Amsterdam

PhD students and postdocs can enhance their academic career prospects by improving their grant writing skills.

For more information click [here](#).

Grants

Best PhD Thesis Award: Promoting Flavor Research amongst PhD Students in Europe

Deadline applications: 31 October 2019.

For more information click [here](#).

News from NWO

Register now for the new research communities of Life Sciences

Since September 2019 the five Research Communities for life sciences have started. These have been set up by the Life Sciences Round Table, in close consultation with the research field. Through these five research communities, the life sciences research field will be able to make an effective contribution towards recommendations for and monitoring of research at the Dutch Research Council (NWO). The link between researchers and NWO is essential to ensure that signals in the field are picked up by NWO, and that NWO is able to gain access to the field. The research communities connect life scientists and promote collaboration with other disciplines. The NWO Life Sciences Round Table invites researchers to register for membership of one or, at most, two research communities. For more information click [here](#).

Interested in becoming a member of a selection committee?

NWO is continually in need of enthusiastic researchers who want to join selection committees. These committees are essential for a proper and meticulous assessment of applications. Researchers have a lot to gain from membership of a selection committee: a peek behind the scenes at NWO, knowledge about how to write a good application and excellent networking opportunities. Selection committees play a central role in the assessment procedure for funding applications, both in Open Competitions and the Talent Scheme, and in thematic research programmes developed by NWO in conjunction with researchers and other parties. With the help of external expert advice and possibly an interview with the applicant, the committees assess the quality of the research applications and establish prioritization. Which applicants are awarded funding is decided on this basis. For the Science (ENW) domain click [here](#).

Perspectief round 2019/2020 open for applications

18.9 million euro is available for research aimed at innovation with an economic and societal impact. Information on application, conditions and planning can be found on the website. The monetary value of The NWO Domain AES contribution for each program is 1,5 – 4 million Euros.

- Phase 1: Program initiative: November 5, 2019
- Phase 2: Program design: December 3, 2019
- Phase 3: Program proposal: May 14, 2020

For more information click [here](#).

The call text is only available in Dutch. If you have any questions about the conditions please contact [Jos Teunissen](#).

Throughout the year NWO organizes events especially for science professionals. But NWO also organizes events that open the world of science to the general public. Most events are in Dutch. For more information click [here](#).