



From the VLAG Office

VLAG Graduate School celebrated its silver jubilee

The celebration of 25th anniversary of the VLAG Graduate School is behind us!

Almost 200 PhD candidates, postdocs and (former) staff members joined the celebration.

Two VLAG alumni Dr Martine Alles (Danone) and Prof. Joris Sprakel (WUR) reflected upon their experience in industry and academia and shared their advice for current PhDs.

The VLAG PhD council tested our knowledge by means of a PhD quiz.

Our parting scientific director dwelled upon his views and our future director presented her ambitions for VLAG. Plenty of inspiration for the discussions over dinner. The celebration went on until late into the evening.

We thoroughly enjoyed it and the feedback we received confirmed that this feeling was shared widely.

Thank you all for your part in the celebration!



Pictures by [Sven Menschel](#)

🎄 ***From all of us; we wish you all a merry Christmas and a beautiful 2020*** ✨

VLAG PhD Research Proposal

As part of the formal admittance procedure a PhD research proposal has to be submitted to VLAG within 6 months. The VLAG Board decided to adjust the procedure for the research proposals for all PhD candidates who start as of January 1st 2020.

All information can be found on [our website](#).

VLAG Calls

2020 VLAG Graduate Programme

Herewith we would like to announcement the 2020 VLAG Graduate Programme. It involves the funding of two PhD positions with a start date in 2020. In the document on our website you can read who can apply and what the time line is. Also, be aware that the student has to be selected to participate and submit a proposal.

If you have remaining questions, please attend the information meeting on January 8th, 13.30-14.30 (Axis, Grote Zaal). For more information click [here](#)

VLAG People

Prof. Karin Schroën new scientific director of VLAG



On January 1st 2020, professor Karin Schroën will start her term as scientific director of VLAG, following prof. Renger Witkamp who has held this position for the last 4 years. During the 25-year jubilee meeting that was held on 12 December, the new director already lifted part of the veil that currently

still hides the vision that she is developing for her term as scientific director. Check the following [link](#) for more information on our new scientific director.

Ingeborg van Leeuwen-Bol is leaving VLAG



As of 1 January 2020, Ingeborg van Leeuwen-Bol will leave the VLAG Office. Her new job as project secretary will be at WFSR. At WFSR she will also continue her work for the NuGO Association.

Ingeborg thanks all the colleagues she worked with during her 20 years at VLAG.

Pepijn Beekman (WUR-ORC) and Dilu Mathew (UT) won the 4TU Impact Challenge

VLAG PhD candidate Pepijn Beekman and Dilu Mathew (University of Twente) won the Dutch 4TU Impact Challenge. The two developed a new type of biosensors that quickly and effectively detect cancer. Read more [here](#)



VLAG Courses

2020

- 8 January: [Symposium Towards healthy and environmentally sustainable diets for European consumers](#)

- 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)
- 6-9 Apr: PhD week
- 28 Apr-1 May: [Healthy Food Design](#)
- 2-4 June: [Applied Statistics](#)
- 10-12 June: [Chemometrics](#) (Multivariate Statistics)
- 14-18 June: [Glycosciences](#) (registration will be open soon)
- 6-10 July: Reaction Kinetics in Food Science
- 9-13 November: Management of Microbiological Hazards in Food (MMHF)

[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](#).

[Human Nutrition & Health PhD Tour to Canada](#)



From October 20 to November 2, 24 PhD students from the department of Human Nutrition and Health have been on a study trip throughout Canada. During these two weeks, we visited ten institutions. These institutions did a great job in creating interesting programs for us. On a typical day, we would wake up early for breakfast in the hotel together, after which we left to the university. There, we had full-day programs, with scientific presentations, poster presentations, networking lunches in between and beers afterwards. Quite intense, for two weeks. But luckily we could also enjoy some free time, in the evening and the weekend. During the weekend, we went to a hockey-match, and to the Niagara Falls (see picture). We have seen a lot of the country, and connected with many scientist there. The first collaborations and exchanges have already been set-up, and many of us now consider a post-doc in Canada! For more information about this tour, please see our website:

<http://2019.phdtour.nl/home.html>

Other events

2nd Summerschool ZELCOR

6-10 June, Versailles, France.

For more information click [here](#).

Grants

ERC Advanced Grant

The ERC Advanced Grant is for established top researchers. The candidate's CV must show that they are scientifically independent, one of the best in their field of expertise, and have great potential. Maximum grant amount: €2,500,000

[More information](#)

Candidates who are seriously considering applying can register for a course organised by Yellow Research. During this 1-day training course in Wageningen, the ins and outs of writing a good ERC proposal will be covered. You can register by e-mailing henrieke.deruiter@wur.nl
Course date: 5 March 2020

University Fund Wageningen (UFW) Research Award 2020

The nomination period for the University Fund Wageningen (UFW) Research Award 2020 has opened! The deadline for nominations is 19 February 2020. The guidelines and nomination form can be found [here](#).

Prizes

Prize 'Digital for Development – D4D'

After two successful editions (2016 and 2018) of the **Prize 'Digital for Development – D4D'**, the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA) and the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) are pleased to announce the third edition of the Prize D4D.

Prize D4D rewards outstanding initiatives that use digitisation and (new) technologies as a lever for development towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations.

Call for proposals:

Deadline: February 28, 2020 (5 pm) to submit their project.

For more information click [here](#).

News from WUR

First Diversity Day WUR. A varied program will be offered on campus throughout the day on Thursday, February 6, 2020. The topics of inclusion, our culture and customs, as well as our differences and similarities receive attention on this day. There will be a theater performance called [#metooacademia: the learning curve](#). This is a 40-minute play about sexual harassment and abuse of power in the University context. A panel discussion will take place after these 40 minutes. The performance with subsequent discussion will take place from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM (location to be announced).

News from NWO

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](#)