January 2012

Hopefully you all had nice Christmas holidays and WIAS wishes you a happy new year!

Another exciting year has just started and therefore time for an update from WIAS.

www.wias.nl

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News from the WIAS office

Updated newsletter
The newsletter has been upgraded a bit. By clicking on a content item you go directly to that item, so no more scrolling! Every course contains a hyperlink, so by clicking on the course you go directly to the course page. The WIAS News will be issued every 2 months.

WIAS end of the year dinner
A group of more than 100 members of the WIAS community enjoyed an Italian buffet December 14th at the traditional end-of-the-year dinner. There was a word of goodbye and a gift for Bas Kemp from the director of the Animal Sciences Group, Martin Scholten. In turn Bas Kemp said some nice words about Patricia Huijbers and handed her a gift from WIAS. This successful dinner was a nice way to end this WIAS year.

Research fellowships
This round of WIAS research fellowships has yielded quite some applications, but there is room for more. WIAS Staff members are therefore still more than welcome to apply for junior or senior fellowships. Please look at the e-mail that was sent to all staff member for the terms of condition. Deadline is January 18th, 2012.

Best Poster Vasco Mota
Last October Vasco C. Mota, AFI PhD student, presented part of his PhD work at Aquaculture Europe 2011 conference, Rhodes, Greece (18-21 October). His presented poster won the award for best poster. Congratulations! The poster and a post about this can be found at www.eassg.org.

Talents and Topics: Round 4
After a successful Talents & Topics programme in 2011 another round of the T&T programme will start this February. There are 2 participants from IMARES, 1 from CVI, 1 from Wageningen Livestock Research and 2 from the department of Animal Sciences.

NWO Graduate Programme
Last year WIAS participated in the call for proposals for Graduate Programmes. Unfortunately WIAS was not one of the graduate schools that were awarded with a grant to appoint PhD positions to the most promising students from the Research Master. This year WIAS will participate again in the call.

New WIAS Members
Last 2 months we have welcomed the following PhD candidates: Kasper Dieho (ANU), Sabrina Podesta (ANU), Bayissa Hatew Chuko (ANU), Elsa Quicazan Rubio (EZO), Yvonne Wientjes (ANU), Patricia Huijbers (QVE), Bastiaan Vroegindeweij (FTE), Milena Mechkarska (HMI)

Recent PhD graduations
2 December Antoon Jacobs ‘Nutritional regulation of stearoyl-CoA desaturase in the bovine mammary gland’
16 December Irene Walstra ‘Adaptive capacity of rearing hens. Effects of early life conditions’
20 December Robert Demeter ‘Innovations in the Dairy Chain: Bio-Economic Analysis of Novel Breeding Opportunities’

Izaac Korteweg en Anna Ida Overwater Fonds
This fund is awarded to stimulate promising young scientists and is especially focused on the innovative character and the societal relevance of the research. In 2012 a maximum of 4 prizes of €5,000 each will be awarded and two will be for ‘agriculture’.

The application of possible candidates must be done before June 1st 2012. More information (Dutch only) can be found here.

Project “Meer Academici voor de Klas” (More Academics in the Classroom)
The goal of this project is to give PhD students, Postdoc's or Master students the opportunity to learn about teaching in secondary schools from the perspective of scientific research.
Your employment as PhD student can be extended with 180 hours if the promotor and supervisor approve. Because it concerns teaching on Dutch school you must be fluent in Dutch. For more information click here.

News from the WAPS council
WIAS Science Day
The preparations of the WIAS Science Day 2012 are going very well. This year the theme is WIAS – We Integrate Animal Sciences The event will take place in Hotel de Nieuwe Wereld on Thursday February 2nd, 2012. Registration is open on the WIAS website until January 26th.

WAPS Board Change
In February the WAPS board will change and Harma Berends (current chair), Ioannis Sitaras, Mariëlle Brujinis, Myrthe Maurice - Van Eijndhoven and Anne Wientjes will leave the board and make place for Kasper Dieho, Sandrine Duchemin, Patricia Huijbers (secretary), Sabrina Podesta, and Yvonne Wientjes. Sonja de Vries will be the new chair.

Courses and seminars
WIAS Courses
WIAS Introduction Course
When: 20-23 March 2012
Teacher: Frank Little
Location: Hof van Wageningen
Register before: 21st February (max. 15 participants)

Wageningen Graduate Schools Courses
Open for registration
* Competence Assessment (next course: 24 January, 20 March 2012)
* Information Literacy including EndNote Introduction (next course: 28 and 29 February 2012)
* Competence Assessment (next course: 24 January, 20 March 2012)
* Career Assessment (each month)

Fully booked
### Seminar

**WIAS seminar at the occasion of the thesis defense of Lieke van der Aa**

**Title:** ‘Infection and Inflammation: Tracking the evolution of the immune system’

**Time and Place:** 9.30 hrs in the Zodiac Building (122), De Elst 1 Wageningen, room A0107

### Activities

#### January 17th

**PhD Graduation Sean Tibbits MSc**

**Title:** ‘Protein and energy nutrition of marine gadoids, Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua L.) and haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus L.)’

**Chiar group:** Aquaculture and Fisheries

**Promotors:** Prof. dr. JAJ Verreth, Prof. dr. S. Lall

**Time and Place:** 16.00 hrs in the Aula, General Foulkesweg 1 Wageningen

#### January 20th

**PhD Graduation Wan Syafwan MSc**

**Title:** ‘Effects of dietary changes on heat stress in broiler and Kampung chickens’

**Chiar group:** Animal Nutrition Group

**Promotors:** Prof. dr. MWA Verstegen, Prof. Dr. WH Hendriks

**Time and Place:** 11.00 hrs in the Aula, General Foulkesweg 1 Wageningen

**PhD Graduation Lieke van der Aa MSc**

**Title:** ‘TRIM proteins and CXC chemokines. Evolutionary dynamics and functional characterization of two large protein families in teleost fish’

**Chiar group:** Cell Biology and Immunology

**Promotors:** Prof. dr. HFJ Savelkoul

**Time and Place:** 16.00 hrs in the Aula, General Foulkesweg 1 Wageningen

#### January 30th

**PhD Graduation Asad Asaduzzaman MSc**

**Title:** ‘C/N-controlled periphyton-based freshwater prawn farming system: a sustainable approach to increase pond productivity’

**Chiar group:** Aquaculture and Fisheries

**Promotors:** Prof. dr. JAJ Verreth

**Time and Place:** 16.00 hrs in the Aula, General Foulkesweg 1 Wageningen

#### February 2nd

**WIAS Science Day ‘We Integrate Animal Sciences’**

**Location:** Hotel de Nieuwe Wereld

#### February 24th

**PhD Graduation Arun Kommadath MSc**

**Title:** ‘Genomic regulation of oestrous behaviour in dairy cows’

**Chiar group:** Animal Breeding and Genetics

**Promotors:** Dr. MA Smits, Prof. dr. MAM Groenen
Time and Place: 13.30 hrs in the Aula, General Foulkesweg 1 Wageningen

If you have any questions about this WAS News please contact Denise Magendans (executive secretary) at denise.magendans@wur.nl.