



February 2022

From the Council

Dear postdocs,

Some of you may have heard of – and/or know about – the PostDoc Council. We are a group of post-doctoral researchers – like yourselves – from the various institutes from the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE). Since September 2017, our mission has been to support FSE postdocs throughout their RUG tenure by providing professional development resources and opportunities (e.g., networking, after the postdoc pathways) and addressing postdoc concerns and issues to policy makers on the FSE Faculty Board.

Our main intention for this newsletter was to provide a way for the postdoc community to learn about events and opportunities of possible interest to us and any university level decisions that affect us, our work, and our livelihoods. In this newsletter, we share postdoc related news from the different FSE institutes, spotlights of two people from our postdoc community, and information about upcoming/previous events. If there is information you would like to include in an upcoming newsletter, please send it to us at fse.postdoc.network@rug.nl by the last Friday of each month. If you prefer to not receive this newsletter anymore, information for unsubscribing is provided at the end of this (and every) newsletter.

Sincerely,

PostDoc Council

FSE PostDoc Council Members (2021-2022)

Meagan Beatty
Stratingh Institute
m.a.beatty@rug.nl

Xiangcheng Chen
VSI
xiangcheng.chen@rug.nl

Stephen Jones
Bernoulli Institute
s.m.jones@rug.nl

Lyes Khacef
ZIAM
l.khacef@rug.nl

May Lee
ISEC
m.h.lee@rug.nl

Georgian Nedelcu
ZIAM
g.nedelcu@rug.nl

Giorgio Orlando
VSI
g.orlando@rug.nl

Joana Sabino-Pinto
GELIFES
j.i.sabino.pinto@rug.nl

Ambassadors

Marcos Guimarães
ZIAM
m.h.guimaraes@rug.nl

Anna Salvati
GRIP
a.salvati@rug.nl

Liaison

Yvonne Folkers
y.folkers@rug.nl

News from the Institutes	
Engineering and Technology Institute Groningen (ENTEG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Paolo Pescarmona, Dr. Vasilis Kyriakou, and Dr. Francesco Maresca organized the Symposium on Hydrogen & Energy Transition @ The University of Groningen on Feb 3
Groningen Institute for Evolutionary Life Sciences (GELIFES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nancy Clemencia-Lokaj is now the first point of contact for HR-related questions.
Institute for Science Education and Communication (ISEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISEC welcomed a new postdoc to the group, Dr. Nathália Helena Azevedo. She works with Prof. Dr. Lucy Avraamidou on a EU-2020 project (OTTER), which focuses on outdoor science education for a sustainable future.
Kapteyn Astronomical Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Brian Hare and Dr. Harish Vedantham received an ERC Starting Grant for research projects using the LOFAR radio telescope.
Stratingh Institute for Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Dr. Gerard Roelfes is the new director of the Stratingh Institute. We recently organized the Stratingh Sustainability Committee, composed of PhDs and postdocs motivated in finding new ways to conduct research in the lab in a greener way.
Van Swinderen Institute for Particle Physics and Gravity (VSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colleagues from VSI participated in the virtual Physics@Veldhoven 2022 conference on Jan 25-26. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Ir. Gerco Onderwater gave an overview talk on “Anomalies from low-energy experiments” in a focus session. Dr. Xiangcheng Chen, postdoc, and a PhD student, Mina Morshed Behbahani, presented their work in parallel sessions with titles “Formation of compact ion bunches for the NEXT project” and “Dynamic of levitated nanosphere in a modulated potential,” respectively. Dr. Giorgio Orlando, postdoc, gave an online seminar on “Probing inflation with cross-correlations” during a Dutch theoretical cosmology meeting on Jan 14.
Zernike Institute for Advanced Materials (ZIAM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colleagues from ZIAM participated in the virtual Physics@Veldhoven 2022 conference on Jan 25-26. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Loredana Protesescu was part of the Programme Committee 2022 Prof. Dr. Ir. Bart J. Kooij (with Dr. Ir. Marijn van Huis, Utrecht University) chaired the focus session FT06 “In-situ transmission electron microscopy opening new avenues” and Prof. Dr. Beatriz Noheda presented “Understanding polarization switching in ultra-thin hafnia by operando experiments” Prof. Dr. Ir. Bart J. Kooij also participated on Feb 3 in “Hydrogen & Energy Transition @Groningen, presenting “The power of transmission electron microscopy in hydrogen research” Dr. Loredana Protesescu is the RUG representative in the Programme Committee of NWO CHAINS 2022

In this issue, news was not available from the following institutes: Bernoulli Institute for Mathematics, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence; Energy and Sustainability Research Institute Groningen (ESRIG); Groningen Biomolecular Sciences and Biotechnology (GBB); and Groningen Research Institute of Pharmacy (GRIP).

PDC February Spotlight

Anna Salvati

Groningen Research Institute of Pharmacy

What does your research focus on?

Our group is focused on nanomedicine. We use nano-sized materials (liposomes, polymers, and other types of materials) as drug carriers to deliver better drugs to their target. In particular, we want to understand how cells interact with, and process, these nano-sized materials so we can improve their design to make more efficient nanomedicines.

What do you do in your spare time?

I have two young children—busy days—whom I love to spend time with! I am also hoping to be able to travel a bit more around the Netherlands...there is so much I still need to see!

What is one thing you wished you knew before starting a postdoc?

Mmm...hard to say...Perhaps that it is good to apply for personal grants early—even when you already have a contract from your supervisor. It is good to think properly at what you would like to do next so that you use your postdoc time to get ready for that and to get there.



PDC February Spotlight

Marcos H. D. Guimarães

Zernike Institute for Advanced Materials

What does your research focus on?

My research focuses on the interplay between light, electronics, and magnetism, with the goal of developing new (quantum) nano-devices for data storage and processing. For this, we use materials which are just a few atoms thick and provide a strong coupling between these three elements.

What do you do in your spare time?

Spare time? Those are words I didn't hear in a long time! Jokes aside, when I'm not writing grant proposals, teaching, supervising or being a postdoc ambassador, I like reading sci-fi books (currently the Foundation series by Asimov) with a glass of a good single malt whiskey. I also try to get some fresh air by hiking (as much as this word can be used in the NL) around Drenthe, Groningen, and Friesland. I also tend to pet and play with my cat quite a bit.

What is one thing you wished you knew before starting a postdoc?

That's a tough one. I think if I could go back and tell myself something it would be that the uncertainty of the next job can take its toll, but in the end, it works out if you plan it in advance. Also that a stronger focus is necessary since the postdoc period goes by so fast!



Upcoming Events

<p>Career Chat March (link will be provided in invitation email)</p>	<p>The next installment of Career Chat will focus on 2-3 panelists from different corners of industry: a small start-up, and from medium to large companies. We plan to make this a hybrid event and also hope to offer an optional “Continue the Chat” coffee session to facilitate networking after the main discussion (as long as the current measures allow – fingers crossed).</p>
---	--

Previous Events

<p>Career Chat Jan. 27, 2022 16:30 – 17:30</p>	<p>This new series, Career Chat, focuses on diverse careers of individuals after their post-doc in different fields of STEM. We heard about the career journey of a former postdoc, Dr. Stefania Costache, who is currently a scientific coordinator for the Bernoulli Institute and Centre for Data Science and Systems Complexity at the University of Groningen. During the event, we learned about Stehania’s rationales for making certain career and life choices, especially with respect to some of the steps she took when she moved forward from the postdoc, and how to familiarize yourself with (possibly unknown) scientific careers.</p>
---	---

About the Newsletter

If you would like to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line and send the email to fse.postdoc.network@rug.nl; the body of the email can be left blank.