



December 2024

From the Council

Dear fellow postdoc,

The **FSE postdoc prize 2024** will be awarded for the sixth time. The prize is an incentive, which is awarded to a successful postdoctoral researcher of the Faculty of Science and Engineering. It recognizes outstanding postdocs, who have demonstrated excellence in their research and who are showing the potential of becoming a scientific leader. The prize is awarded yearly and includes EUR 2,500 for an international scientific visit.

The winner will be revealed during the New Year's Reception on January 6th, a ceremony to which you are all invited.

This year, seven postdocs were nominated by their institutes. After careful consideration, the four **final competitors** are (in alphabetical order): Laura Heinen - GBB, Lars Longwitz - Stratingh Institute, Martin Lüdtke and Lara Vicino - Bernoulli Institute. [Check them out!](#)

The Postdoc Council is always **recruiting postdocs to help** work towards a better postdoc experience at our Faculty. If you are interested in this, please send us an email! Don't forget our ongoing [Buddy system](#), which you are more than welcome to join.

We hope to see you at the **Holiday Party on December 9th, it is already next Monday** 🎉🌲👶 - check out the Events section below. But if not, **Happy holidays and the best wishes for 2025!**

Best wishes,
PostDoc Council

FSE PostDoc Council Members 2024

Ana Rita Oliveira
Stratingh Institute
a.r.pereira.oliveira@rug.nl

Kübra Kalayci
ZIAM
k.kalayci@rug.nl

Natalia Orti Casañ
GELIFES
n.orti.casan@rug.nl

Peiyi Peng
ESRIG
peiyi.peng@rug.nl

Pablo Corcho Caballero
Kapteyn Institute
p.corcho.caballero@rug.nl

Paul Morandi
ZIAM
p.h.m.morandi@rug.nl

Ambassadors

Julian Koellermeier
Bernoulli Institute
j.koellermeier@rug.nl

Sonja Billerbeck
GBB
s.k.billerbeck@rug.nl

News from the Institutes

Engineering and Technology
Institute Groningen (ENTEG)

- The SUNSOLR project, in which ENTEG researchers Dulce Morales and Paolo Pescarmona are actively involved, has been awarded a 2MEuro TKI subsidy by the Topsector Energie. €400,000 will go to the Engineering and Technology institute to fund the research of a doctoral fellow (or PhD student).

Groningen Institute for
Evolutionary Life Sciences
(GELIFES)

- A research consortium led by UG Professor of Ecology Han Olf has been awarded a €7 million grant by the Dutch Research Council (NWO). In the coming years, the transdisciplinary consortium named CurveBend seeks to develop a new approach to biodiversity restoration in areas where livestock farming is a major form of land use in the coming years.
- The University of Groningen Library (UB) and the Open Science Community Groningen (OSCG) announced the winning case studies for the 5th annual [Open Research Award](#) to celebrate openness in research and teaching. Among the three selected winners (by lottery) out of 17 eligible submissions, two are from GELIFES!
- Prof. Hannah Dugdale of the Faculty of Science and Engineering (UG) is one of two winners of the NWO Athena Award. The EUR 50,000 prize is awarded to female researchers in the sciences who stand out and are therefore role models for others. The jury concludes that Dugdale has a truly unique profile: 'She is a distinguished scientist, a leader and a role model, especially for young scientists.'

Groningen Research Institute of
Pharmacy (GRIP)

- Prof. Amalia Dolga (GRIP) has been awarded an Alzheimer Nederland grant (250k). Amalia, together with Dr. Marina Trombetta-Lima (GRIP) and Prof. Wilfred den Dunnen (UMCG), aims to restore microglial function in Alzheimer's disease (AD) models, and to propose new therapeutical avenues for AD pathology, by targeting metabolic reprogramming through pharmacological intervention.

<p>Kapteyn Astronomical Institute</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Researcher Else Starckenburg has been awarded an ERC Consolidator Grant, with the project ARLYMW - A detailed reconstruction of the early Milky Way from its most metal-poor stars. The EARLYMV project aims to understand the early history of our Galaxy, focusing on its first few billion years after the Big Bang. ▪ An interdisciplinary research consortium consisting of 16 universities and research institutes in the Netherlands, including the Kapteyn Institute, has been awarded a €6.7 million NWO grant for the PRELIFE project. The consortium is led by Inge Loes ten Kate (UU, UvA). From the Kapteyn Institute, Tim Lichtenberg, Inga Kamp, Floris van der Tak, and Veronica Allen are involved in the project. The consortium will investigate the origin of life on Earth and in the universe.
<p>Stratingh Institute for Chemistry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nathalie Katsonis and Sijbren Otto are also part of the PRELIFE consortium. PRELIFE - Pathways, Reactions, and Environments leading to LIFE - the consortium is built on an interdisciplinary approach in which astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, earth and planetary sciences, education science, mathematics and physics work together on the question 'How and under what conditions did life arise on earth, and how common are these conditions in the universe?'
<p>Van Swinderen Institute for Particle Physics and Gravity (VSI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ema Dimastrogiovanni, Daan Meerburg and Diederik Roest receive 500,000 euros for researching emergence in cosmology. They are partners in the consortium 'Emergence at all scales' (EAAS), which has been awarded an NWA-ORC grant. The aim of their research is to understand how space, time, gravity, and the universe seem to emerge from almost nothing, and how this 'emergent' nature of matter influences the evolution of large-scale cosmological structures.
<p>Zernike Institute for Advanced Materials (ZIAM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Researcher Jagoda Slawinska has been awarded an ERC Consolidator Grant, with the project FERRERO - Computational design of sliding ferroelectrics and multiferroics from Van der Waals materials. The FERRERO project addresses the growing need for ultra-fast, energy-efficient electronics by developing advanced materials and device concepts.

In this issue, news was not available from the following institutes: Bernoulli, CLT, ESRIG and GBB.

Events

Holiday Party is on!! 🎉🌲👶

The holidays are just around the corner, and this is just the perfect excuse for us to meet and have fun together.

We would like to invite you for the FSE Postdoc Holiday party (with 2 free drinks and snacks)! This will be on December 9th (Monday) at 19h00. We would like to count on you so please join us and [RSVP](#) (as you should have done already 😊). The party will be at Brouwerij Martinus, which is very close to the city center.

As it is already tradition, we will be having a White Elephant Gift Exchange (link: <https://secretsanta.com/white-elephant-gift-exchange-rules/>). The rules are to bring a wrapped gift (worth about €10) and it starts by the first person (ordered pre-determined) opening a gift (as usual), the second person then can steal this gift or choose to unwrap one of the other gifts. If the second person steals from the first, the first person can then unwrap another gift. This continues until all participants have unwrapped/stolen the gifts. You don't have to participate in this game, but we would love it if you did!

Looking forward to seeing you on December 9th!

About the Newsletter

If you would like to contribute news or information, email it to us at fse.postdoc.network@rug.nl. To unsubscribe, send an email to fse.postdoc.network@rug.nl with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line; the body of the email can be left blank.