



# CS&D Newsletter

Cancer,  
Stem cells &  
Developmental  
biology

## Introduction

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Dear CS&D students,

It is already the end of the academic year and so it's time for our 4<sup>th</sup> and last newsletter of this year. We would like to give you all an overview of the previous activities and we will also look forwards to next year.

Since the last newsletter we organized the CS&D scavenger hunt, the end of the year BBQ and the annual CS&D retreat to Heidelberg. We were also able to meet Bruce Alberts during a special seminar arranged by Sanne Boersma and Lars van Dee. Altogether, this year we had several seminars with drinks, an annual retreat and two non-science related activities. We all really enjoyed organizing and participating in these activities and we hope you all liked them as much as we did. Next year some Stucum members will leave the committee. As we will invite new students to join the team, we also want to invite 'old' students. Maybe you will be responsible for all the great activities next year. For questions you can contact us personally or reach us by e-mail, [stucumcsd@gmail.com](mailto:stucumcsd@gmail.com). To be informed about activities or to stay in touch with your fellow students and CS&D alumni, please join the LinkedIn and Facebook page

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=8190467>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/658827320829393/>

We wish you all a great summer or all the best with your internship.

All members of the Stucum

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## Previous CS&D activities

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### Retreat Heidelberg

It is now time to remember about our glorious retreat in the cold land of the Germans.

Early in the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, the StuCom gathered for a secret expedition in the basement of the Stratenum, trying to carry the poster boards to the bus with a fancy and SILENT cart. Then, when all of you arrived, we could finally leave for, yes, it is not secret anymore: Heidelberg!!

We travelled for 6 hours, had a cool unexpected stop at Michael Jackson's Memorial and, guided by the smell of the animals of the zoo, we arrived to the youth hostel. After being slightly panicked about the size of the conference room, we found the right door. We had the pleasure of listening to three inspiring talks of our fellow students: Sebastiaan Broekema presented his work titled "Studying the mechanism that anchors dynein to the cortex", Marlies Ludikhuizen explained "The role of FOXO on (cancer) metabolism" and Elisavet Tika gave a talk about "Applications of a 3D culture system of murine mammary tumours to characterize tumour cell behaviour".

After filling our stomachs with good food, we did an inspiring poster session where we had the opportunity to get familiar with the projects of our friends and ask questions about their experimental design and the results. Everybody enjoyed it, and the time was not enough to satisfy our curiosity. Although we were tired for the day, we took the bus to the centre to discover the beautiful Heidelberg a bit. It also happened that we received a Hello Kitty ball as a "present": we used it to play while walking through the main street... poor ball as it was almost smashed under the wheels of a bus. Besides that, it was really a nice evening.

The morning of the second day we had some interesting lectures from Dr. Thomas Barends and other collaborators from the Department of Biomolecular Mechanisms of the Max Planck Institute, who showed us the zebrafish facility and crystallography department as well. After lunch at the University park, we managed to find the Cancer Regulatory Genomics group of Dr. Carl Herrmann (no, that building was not abandoned!), where we learnt about the role of lincRNA in acute myeloid leukemia and we had time to discuss. Finally, we had a seminar from Dr. Frauke Melchior about "Posttranslational modification with Ubiquitin related modifiers of the SUMO family".

After such an intense and inspiring day, the BBQ was well welcomed by the students: while eating we were taking advantage of the last sun of the day. And then again, we walked to the city centre to enjoy Heidelberg by night! We stayed in a park talking and playing in circle "Chinese whispers" in five different languages, Dutch, English, Spanish, Italian and Greek; with the predictable result of a big mess ;) When it finally ended, we went in a crappy place where we danced all together all night, and we had looooooot of fun!

The third day it was free time and we visited the city by our own, some of us went to the castle, others to the zoo and others went shopping before entering the bus for the return trip. The return trip was really quiet... are you wondering why? Just because most of us fell asleep like babies, waking up only for the smell of the McDonald's.

Those three days literally flew: we got inspired by advanced research projects and we had the opportunity to discuss with the group leaders, we learnt about our fellow students' work and we had

lot of fun together, bonding between us! We hope you enjoyed as much as we did: it was hard work, but it was definitely worth it! If you have any suggestion or if you want to complement us on the organisation, please let us know.

We are looking forward to the next retreat!



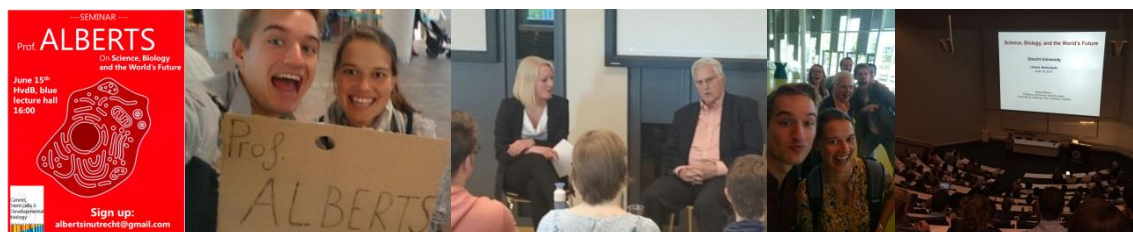
### **Scavenger hunt**

On a late sunny afternoon we all gathered at Vredenburg for an exciting scavenger hunt through the city center. In the days leading up towards the big event the weather gave us quite a scare, but that afternoon the sun broke through the clouds and the temperature was perfect. After dividing into four very eager groups and a few minutes to prepare the challenges, we were on our ways! Everyone had to switch clothes, make a human DNA strand, crawl through a hole between the wall and a party tent and do a lot more while at the same time searching for the six secret pictures. Sadly, no one was able to find the painting of café Weber, but we promise it really exists! At two points along the route StuCom members were present to subject unsuspecting students to science-related versions of 30 seconds and a quiz. Highlights of the evening were of course the performances of Let it go! and the who has the biggest object challenge. Some participants were so caught up in the moment that they went as far as to steal the big box from another group. However, in the end even the shopping cart was not enough to beat the six meter long flag. After the scavenger hunt, we were all hungry and we enjoyed a great dinner at Dimitri.

### **Special seminar by prof. Alberts**

Many Master students attended the special and inspiring CSnD seminar by prof. Alberts, that was organized by Lars van Dee and Sanne Boersma. Prof. Alberts is internationally famous as first author of 'the Molecular Biology of the Cell'. Currently in its sixth edition, this book is the bible of molecular biology and it is intensively used at many universities. Besides that, prof. Alberts is a prominent biochemist well-known for his work on the molecular details of DNA replication. For five years, he was Editor in Chief of Science. Prof. Alberts was one of the first US science Envoys. And for 12 years,

he served as the president of the US National Academy of Science. In Amsterdam, he was the co-chair of the interacademy council, governed by presidents of national academies of sciences; established to provide scientific advice to the world. Currently, he is the Chancellor's Leadership Chair in Biochemistry and Biophysics for Science and Education at the University of California, San Francisco. During this impressive carrier, prof. Alberts received numerous awards and prizes, including The US National medal of Science awarded in 2014 by president Obama.



## Barbeque

To conclude the year and say goodbye to everyone for the summer we had an end-of-the-year barbecue at the Cambridgelaan. The weather was perfect as always and it was a little bit busy. Luckily the first years of SUMMA were willing to share their barbecue with us, so there was no problem. It was a nice way to say goodbye (for now) to all of you!

## Upcoming CS&D activities

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With the start of next year we are also happy to welcome more than 30 new CS&D students, including 8 foreigners from all parts of the world! For this we will traditionally have dinner with the new students Monday the 31<sup>th</sup>. After this we hope to stay for a couple of drinks to get to know each other. This is the part where also experienced students are more than welcome to join so we can give the new students a great WELCOME!

- What?** Welcome drinks with new students
- Where?** Irish pub Mick O'Connells
- Time?** All established students are welcome from 8.30 pm and onwards
- Important** Drinks at your own expenses

## Other News & Activities

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### Recruitment of new members

Some of the StuCom members will go abroad for their minor research projects. We hence would like to invite all interested students, either new September students, February starters, or even more experienced students, to join the StuCom. As part of the StuCom you will help organising all our scientific and fun activities. Additionally, you can decide the destination and the programme of next year's retreat!