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van België
voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten

The Royal Academies for Science
and the Arts of Belgium

Belgian National Scientific Committees

Belgian Federal Science
Policy Office

BELGIAN NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

ANNUAL REPORTS 2012

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INTRODUCTION

The National Scientific Committees' missions are the promotion and coordination of various scientific disciplines in Belgium, mainly seen in an international context. The creation of a national committee is subject to the existence of an international scientific union affiliated to ICSU or a scientific body of ICSU (scientific committees, special committees, etc.) concerning the same scientific discipline.

The National Scientific Committees work under the patronage of the Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres¹ et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique and the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten², which are gathered in RASAB.

The committees are subject to regulations adopted by the Belgian Academies of Sciences and Arts.

The list of the members of the Belgian Scientific Committees can be found on the RASAB's website: www.rasab.be.

¹ www.academieroyale.be

² www.kvab.be

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

1. Introduction, mission, goals

According to its Terms of Reference, the goals of BNCAR are defined as follows:

[a] General Terms of Reference:

- Forum to bring members together to share information, identify common problems and to seek collective vision and endeavours for Belgian Antarctic (and Arctic) research.
- Strategy to identify scientific and operational issues of strategic importance with respect to Belgian Antarctic (and Arctic) research and activities.
- Voice to express a collective vision for the future Belgian Antarctic (and Arctic) research and activities in relation to developments in Belgium, Europe and the World.

[b] Specific National Terms of Reference:

- Participate in the Belgian coordination bodies concerning Antarctic research.
- Establish by means of invited speakers or surveys an overview (State of the Art) of Belgian Antarctic (and Arctic) research and activities.
- Organize - whenever appropriate – manifestations, symposia, etc. – to promote Antarctic (and Arctic) research.
- Voice – whenever appropriate or necessary – our concerns about the state of the environment in Antarctica (and Arctic) within the framework of sustainable development.
- Promote Polar science in general within the Belgian context.

[c] Specific International Terms of Reference:

- BNCAR is the official representing body of Belgium within SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, ICSU). This implies that BNCAR members can participate in SCAR meetings, contribute to establish the Belgian annual report to SCAR and respond to particular information requests from SCAR.
- Give advice or respond on matters raised within international bodies such as the ATCM (Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting) and its CEP (Committee for Environmental Protection), CCAMLR (Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Resources), CCAS (Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals), EPB (European Polar Board).
- Promote (Belgian) Polar science at an international level.

2. Meetings of the Committee

[a] Plenary meeting of 28 March 2012

Before the official BNCAR meeting, Anton Van de Putte has presented the projects ANTABIF and SCAR-MARBIN³ with a view of maximizing the interactions between these projects and the other Belgian researchers' work.

Main conclusions:

- Designation of the BNCAR delegates to XXXII SCAR Standing Scientific Groups (13-20 July 2012) and Delegate Meeting (23-25 July 2012) in Portland, USA: Frank Pattyn for the SSG Geosciences, Claude De Broyer and Annick Wilmotte for the SSG Life Sciences and no participant to the SSG Physical Sciences this time. It was decided that both Frank Pattyn (delegate) and Annick Wilmotte (alternate delegate) would participate to the SCAR delegate meeting.
- Letter of Frank Pattyn to the Minister Paul Magnette to underline the importance of BELSPO's experience to review research proposals (a.o. at the Princess Elisabeth station) and ask an 'observer' status at the Polar Secretariat.

[b] Plenary meeting of 19 October 2012

Frank Pattyn reported on the SCAR delegate meeting. The main news is the start in 2013 of 5 new Scientific Research Programmes (ANT-ECO, ANT-ERA, Ant CLIM, PAIS, SERCE)⁴ and the election of a new President, J.Lopez-Martinez (Spain).

Frank Pattyn reported on the discussion in the SSG Physical Sciences. Annick Wilmotte reported on the discussion in the SSG Life Sciences. Note that the SCAR Biology meeting in July in Barcelona will be the conclusion of the SCAR-EBA programme that comes to an end. It is noted that Bruno Danis, a Belgian scientist, is now in SCADM

Main conclusions:

- The Belgian participation to the 5 new SRP is encouraged.
- The lack of participation of the BNCAR members to our plenary meetings indicates the need to contact current members and ask if they still want to be involved. The entry of new active Belgian researchers will be organised.

³ <http://www.biodiversity.aq/BIODIVERSITY.AQ/about.html>

⁴ <http://www.scar.org/researchgroups/progplanning/>

- The research projects at the PE station are running well. At the same time, some initiatives raise questions concerning the collaborations between Belgian researchers and newcomers from abroad.
- The question of including Arctic research in the scope of BNCAR is discussed.
- The BNCAR committee is supporting the outreach activities that will happen at the occasion of the organisation of the Antarctic Treaty Meeting in Brussels in May 2013.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The SCAR XXXII statutory biennial meeting has been held in Portland (Oregon, USA) in July 2012. It comprised an Open Science Conference (*Antarctic Science and Policy Advice in a Changing World*) and a Delegates Meeting. Both the Belgian delegate (F. Pattyn) and alternate delegate (A. Wilmotte) were present on that meeting to officially represent Belgium in the SCAR Meeting⁵.

Prior to the SCAR Open Science meeting an ISMASS Workshop on ice sheets and sea level was co-organized by F. Pattyn, as a representative of SCAR.

4. Other activities

[a] Belgian SCAR representation and secretariat

As usual, BNCAR has pursued its role of SCAR representative in Belgium. The National Committee prepared the annual report to SCAR covering all Antarctic-related research done in Belgium. The report is distributed to the Antarctic researchers of SCAR country members through their SCAR National Committees.

BNCAR also forwarded to Belgian researchers all useful information from SCAR.

[b] Documentation and information

BNCAR has continued to represent the Belgian Antarctic research by answering to information requests at Belgian or international level. The distribution of books related to Antarctica and Belgium has been pursued.

On the other hand, the National Committee has continued to manage its Antarctic documentation as well as the archives of the *Belgica* expedition held at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and part of the archives of the Belgian and Belgian-Dutch Antarctic Expeditions.

⁵ The SCAR annual report can be downloaded from <http://www.scar.org/publications/bulletins/>.

5. Future perspectives

- The XI SCAR Biology Symposium will take place on 15 - 19 July 2013, in Barcelona, Spain. The title is *Life in Antarctica: Boundaries and Gradients in a Changing Environment*.
- The XXXVI Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting will take place from 20-29 May 2013 in Brussels. Annick Wilmotte is member of the Belgian delegation to the Committee on Environmental Protection of the ATCM and will attend this meeting. It is probable that other Belgian scientists will be present, as experts at the CEP.
- At the occasion of the ATCM, a Science Fair on Polar research will be organised by APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists), and supported by BNCAR.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ASTRONOMY

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The formal basic goal of the committee is to coordinate the participation of Belgian astronomers in the activities of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), and in the triennial IAU General Assembly in particular. The committee also serves a role in the dissemination within the Belgian community of developments within other international organisations to which our country participates, such as ESA, ESO, and the journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics*. Finally, the meetings also offer opportunities to reflect together on matters affecting astronomical activities in Belgium.

2. Meetings of the Committee

The Committee gathered three times in 2012: on 31 January, 15 May, and 16 October. All meetings took place at the Palace of the Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium in Brussels.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The IAU XXVII General Assembly took place in August 2012 in Beijing (China)⁶. C. Waelkens was the Belgian delegate. He reported on the decisions taken at this General Assembly in Beijing, China. After support from the BNCA, thirteen Belgian candidates have been admitted as individual IAU members: O. Absil, M. De Becker, G. Gentile, M. Gillon, C. Jacobs, A. Libert, A. Lobel, J. Montalbán, T. Morel, Y. Nazé, B. Noyelles, S. Parenti, and T. Van Doorselaere.

4. Other activities

[a] Astronomy and Astrophysics (A & A)

C. Sterken is the Belgian delegate in and the Vice-President of the A&A editorial board and represents the BNCA. He reported that he resigned as Vice-President in October 2012 but accepts to remain Belgian delegate at the request of both BELSPO and the BNCA. The distribution of A&A will be taken over by Cambridge University Press from EDP.

[b] ESO matters

J. Surdej (President of the Belgian National ESO Committee, BNEC) presented a summary of the

⁶ http://www.iau.org/science/meetings/past/general_assemblies/812/

BNEC meeting of 31 May 2012. Comments are regularly added by C. Waelkens, Belgian representative at the ESO Council, and S. Pireaux, BELSPO representative in charge of ESO matters. A particular cause of concern in recent years was the critical financial situation of the E-ELT requiring increased contributions from the ESO member states. At the last ESO Council on 4 and 5 December 2012, the E-ELT finally received full approval. Belgium confirmed its vote in favor in October.

[c] ESA matters

W. Verschueren, in charge of ESA matters at BELSPO, reported about ESA matters (such as budget, missions and their evolution, delays or problems, the Belgian participations, the main political issues...) at each BNCA meeting. S. Pireaux provided additional comments.

[d] ARIES telescopes

In relation with the ARIES telescopes, two Indian scientists were invited to apply for a BELSPO postdoctoral position. Both were accepted and will work at UGent and ULiège.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE BELQUA (QUATERNARY RESEARCH)

1. Introduction, missions, goals

The purpose of BELQUA is to encourage the Belgian research on various aspects of the Quaternary period, either research conducted in Belgium or by Belgian scientists abroad. It aims to encourage young researchers and to promote scientific communication. All fields related to Quaternary research are welcome, e.g. geology, climate, archaeology, etc.

2. Meetings of the Committee

Dates: 15 March 2012 and 23 November 2012, both in Brussels.

Main conclusions:

[1] Evaluation of Workshop 2012 and fieldtrip 2012

[2] Discussion concerning:

- The forthcoming BELQUA activities – workshop and fieldtrip planning;
- Financial support to PhD students to attend the Geologica Belgica meeting;
- The annual report.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] BELQUA annual workshop

Description: The 2012 BELQUA Workshop of 1 March 2012 was a one-day workshop in Brussels with 12 oral presentations. N. Fagel and A. Hubert-Ferrari (ULg) convened the workshop. Since the meeting of the INQUA Executive Committee was scheduled in Brussels at the same time, we took the opportunity to invite the INQUA representatives to take part at the workshop (3 oral communications). The keynote presentation was given by Prof. Bas van Geel (Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics – IBED –, Research Group Paleoecology and Landscape Ecology Faculty of Science, Universiteit van Amsterdam, The Netherlands). His lecture *Paleo-*

evidence for solar forcing of climate change was programmed after the lunch break as an attraction point to stimulate the participants to remain present all day. The remaining oral presentations covered a wide range of topics and disciplines. Like previous years we noticed the attendance of new groups of research.

Goal: The workshop is an opportunity to meet colleagues working in Quaternary Sciences in Belgium and Belgians working abroad. It is also an opportunity for students to present their PhD research.

Attendance: The attendance remains stable with 40 participants including INQUA representatives.

[b] Annual BELQUA fieldtrip

Description: 1-day fieldtrip (25 October 2012) at the Han-sur-Lesse cave, guided by Yves Quinif (U-Mons), Vincent Hallet (U-Namur), Isabelle Bonniver (U-Namur) and S. Verheyden (GSB-RBINS). The topic of the field trip was *Geology, hydrogeology and paleoclimatology of the Han-sur-Lesse cave system; the link with karstification and cave evolution in a regional context*.

Goal: The morning was devoted to a presentation of the general context, i.e. the geological setting, the sedimentological and hydrological framework and the surroundings of the cave. The visit of the cave with presentations of the specific study sites focussing on the paleoclimatic studies took place in the afternoon.

Attendance: 30 participants

[c] Hosting of the annual meeting of the INQUA executive committee

BELQUA hosted the annual meeting of the INQUA executive committee with the support of RASAB. Several discussions percolated from INQUA to BELQUA such as the definition of the stratigraphic boundaries within the Quaternary.

[d] Participation in international meetings and conference

BELQUA members took part and convened sessions in several international meetings:

- Marie-France Loutre and Nathalie Fagel convened a session in the climate symposium at the EGU2012 meeting⁷.

⁷ European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2012, Vienna (Austria), 22 – 27 April 2012

- Patrick Degryse (Centre for Archaeological Sciences, Geology, KU Leuven) organized the 39th International Symposium on Archaeometry from 28 May to 1 June 2012, 400 participants⁸.

This year BELQUA has also sponsored 4 PhD students to attend the International conference organized by Geologica Belgica last September (11-14 September 2012, IRSNB, Brussels).

[e] INQUA relationships

This year Prof. Dr. David Van Rooij (Ghent University) received INQUA financial support for his project titled: *The Quaternary Contourite Log-book: a deep-water record(er) of variability in palaeoclimate, palaeoceanography and deep-water ecosystems*.

BELQUA is the Belgian contact for INQUA. Cecile Baetman is the Belgian representative at the International Council. Marie-France Loutre is the treasurer of INQUA. Information from INQUA is distributed amongst the Belgian Quaternary Community through the Belgian representative and BELQUA. It is for example the case for the newsletter that the INQUA Executive Committee edited, for the calls for INQUA projects and medals, and for the table of content of the INQUA journal.

5. Future perspectives

[a] BELQUA annual workshop:

Marie France Loutre (UCL) and Thierry Camelbeeck (OMA) will convene the 2013 BELQUA Workshop. Prof. Gupta (Imperial College, London) is invited as a keynote speaker to deliver a talk on the mega-flood in the Strait of Dover and associated researches.

[b] BELQUA annual Fieldtrip:

Not determined yet.

[c] EGU 2013:

BELQUA members will propose several sessions.

⁸ Full programme on <http://ees.kuleuven.be/isa2012/>

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The goal of the National Committee is to promote research in the field of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, by organizing meetings and inviting outstanding internationally renowned scientists. Because of the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of the biological sciences, often symposia are organized together with other societies and National Committees.

Because of the common goals, the members of the National Committee on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology are also member of the board of the Belgian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and as such are involved in the preparation and organization of all the activities of this Society.

2. Meetings of the committee

The National Committee meets together with the board of the Belgian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. In 2012 a board meeting took place on 21 January at the FUNDP in Namur, which was organized by Dr. Thierry Arnould. In this meeting the planning for the coming year(s) was decided. Further organization and exchange of information and ideas was done by email. The actual organization of symposia was left to the local organizers.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

The Society/National Committee has organized in 2012 the following two scientific meetings:

[a] 206th meeting of the Society⁹

Prof. Christophe Ampe organized the spring meeting of the Society in Ghent in 't Pand on 25 May 2012. The meeting with as title *Proteomics and Interactomics in Signaling Networks* had the regular format with 3 invited international speakers; two invited national speakers and several

⁹ See program on page 82.

short communications as well as a poster session during the lunch break. The meeting was co-sponsored by the FWO contact group on Protein structure, Folding and Dynamics and the VIB (see annex 2 for the program). The 61th General Assembly of the Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology took place on this occasion.

[b] 207th meeting of the Society

Dr. Thierry Arnould organized a scientific meeting on *Metabolomics...to do what?* at the FUNDP in Namur on 9 November 2012. Four international speakers, 3 national speakers and 6 short communications were on the program. The meeting included also a poster.

[c] International Biometals meeting

Prof. Pierre Cornelis organized the international Biometals meeting in Brussels from 15-19 July 2012. This meeting was supported and promoted by the Belgian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology¹⁰.

[d] Prof Stalmans (KUL) stepped down as publications officer of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Prof. Jason Perret resigned as member of the education committee of FEBS (Federation of European Biochemical Societies).

[e] Most members of the National committee have participated in many international scientific events. However it would be impossible to provide an extensive list of all these activities.

5. Future perspectives

[a] Prof. François Chaumont will organize, jointly with Prof Patrick Dumont of the Society of Cell Biology, the spring meeting of 2013 on 26 April at the UCL in Louvain-la-Neuve. The topic will be *Membrane Transport Proteins*.

[b] Prof. Ruddy Wattiez is planning a meeting in the fall of 2013. If possible this meeting could take place in the Academy building. Suggestions for future topics for meetings for 2014 are: *the full collection of omics, systems biology, regulation of gene expression by epigenetics and signaling mechanisms and biochemistry involved in stem cells*.

¹⁰ For further details see the meetings website: <http://www.biometals2012.be>.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The national Committee of Biological Sciences is representing the Royal Academies (RASAB) towards the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and brings representatives of the Belgian biological research and research groups together. The Committee organizes contact fora and develops in collaboration with other organizations research projects towards the larger public.

2. Meetings of the Committee

Three general meetings of the National Committee took place in 2012. A first general meeting was held on Wednesday 06 June 2012 and discussed the possibility to organise a national lichen survey and to organise a symposium in 2013 on *Nutrition and Food production in the Congo Basin*, organised together with the Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences. A second and third general meeting was organised together with the Commission environment and development of the Royal Academy dealing with the preparation of the contact-forum. The second meeting was held on Wednesday 19 September 2012, the third on Wednesday 07 November 2012.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The general assembly of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) took place in China in 2012, but no representative of the Belgian National committee attended. Contacts and discussions took place via e-mail.

4. Future perspectives

[a] Symposium: *Nutrition and food production in the Congo basin*

The Committee has been preparing a contact-forum to take place in 2013. The theme is *Nutrition and food production in the Congo basin*. This contact-forum is organised together with the Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences¹¹.

In order to prepare the contact-forum meetings have been organised, mostly together with the Committee for environment and development of the Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences.

¹¹ <http://www.kaowarsom.be>

Besides these meetings the president has had five encounters with the perpetual secretary of the Academy and with the RASAB-administration in order to prepare the contact-forum. These preparations dealt both with the scientific as the organisational matters.

The scientific programme is largely finalised and most of the proposed keynote speakers have accepted to contribute. Besides the keynote speakers a poster session will be organised and authors of posters will get the possibility to present their research during the plenary meeting in a three minutes time slot. The call for posters has been launched and widely distributed.

The original programme was scheduled on three days, but has been reduced to two days because of the inaccessibility of the meeting rooms in the Academy Palace during three consecutive days. The contact-forum will take place on 30 September and 1st October 01 2013.

[b] In 2013, the Committee will continue to work on the preparation of a national Lichen survey of a limited number of selected species, together with associations of amateur biologist

[c] Finally the rejuvenation the National Committee will be prepared, realising in the meanwhile a better representation of the different research disciplines as biological research has strongly evolved the last decennies.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

1. Introduction, missions, goals

Biomedical Engineering is the multidisciplinary field concerning engineering research, developments and applications in (bio)medicine.

The Belgian National Committee on Biomedical Engineering aims to bring together the Belgian academics, students, researchers and professionals, active in the broad field of biomedical engineering.

The aims of the National Committee are:

- Stimulating scientific and educational interactions;
- Linking with international organizations and societies in the field of biomedical engineering;
- Representation of the Belgian academic point of view;
- Setting up a research and valorisation forum for interested students and professionals.

2. Meetings of the committee

Dates: The Committee met on: 3 May, 12 July, 20 October, and 7 November.

Main conclusions:

- Continuing efforts for a yearly Contact Forum.
- Involving young scientists and professionals, alumni of our master programs.
- Streamlining communications (updated informative website).
- Contacts with industry: mostly via the association UNAMEC but also directly with involved companies in the sector.
- Continuing liaison efforts with European, worldwide associations.
- Need for continuing efforts in promoting research and development and an awareness of the community.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The International Union IUPESM held its General Assembly in May 2012 during the World Congress on Biomedical Engineering and Medical Physics in Beijing (25 May – 2nd June 2012).

Main conclusions:

Major effort to increase the impact factor of the international journal foster expansion of the World Federation increase links with and impact on WHO.

4. Other activities[a] Belgian Day on Biomedical Engineering (7 December 2012)

Description: Contact Forum with 4 invited speakers, a poster session presenting new research results and prizes for 3 posters by young researchers.

Goals:

- Bring Belgian researchers in contact with internationally recognized speakers (this year's theme: "Medical devices: from bench to bed") and allow them to present their work in a short presentation and poster (Belgian Day).
- Evaluate the future activities of BSMBEC (the Belgian Society).

Attendance: 175 participants, from the academic, public and private sectors attended the meeting.

5. Future perspectives

[a] The committee aims at expanding the involvement of students and of captains of industry in the Committee's future activities.

[b] As there are now 5 "master in biomedical engineering" programs (UGent/VUB, KUL, ULB, UCL, ULg) the Committee wants to become the meeting place for communication in between these programs (also for PhD's linked to the masters), in order to strive to a full recognition of the title "Master in biomedical engineering".

[C] Keeping in contact with the alumni and stimulating activities that bridge the gap between R&D and products.

[d] Contacts with the professional field, amongst others through UNAMEC will be further consolidated.

[e] A "Youngsters Board" was set up successfully in 2010 and was fully operational in 2012.

[f] The preparations for the next Contactforum have already started.

6. Clarification of abbreviations

- IFMBE: International Federation for Biomedical Engineering: the “World Federation”
- IUPESM “International Union for Physics and Engineering Sciences in Medicine”, the UNION of which the IFMBE is 1 of the 2 components.
- EAMBES: European umbrella association, regrouping societies and teaching/research departments.
- ESEM: European Society for Biomedical Engineering.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BIOPHYSICS

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The goal of the National Committee is to promote research in the field of Biophysics, by organizing meetings and inviting outstanding internationally renowned scientists. Because of the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of the biological sciences, often symposia are organized together with other societies and National Committees. Because of the common goals, the members of the National Committee on Biophysics are also member of the board of the Belgian Biophysical Society and as such are involved in the preparation and organization of all the activities of this Society.

2. Meetings of the Committee

Non-specified

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] Biophysics school: Bioimaging¹²

30 May - 1st June, at the KULeuven. *Attendance*: 30 participants.

[b] 10th one-day symposium on Protein Folding and Stability¹³

31 August, at the University of Liège. *Attendance*: 75 participants.

[c] Contactforum on Molecular crowding, in vitro and in the living cell¹⁴

17 December, in the Academies. *Attendance*: 70 participants.

5. Future perspectives

- Spring: a one-day workshop on *The determination of protein oligomer formation* at the KULeuven, organized by Prof. Yves Engelborghs.

¹² See program on page 83.

¹³ See program on page 84.

¹⁴ See program on page 85.

- 11th one-day symposium on *Protein Folding and Stability*, end of September 2013, University of Liège.
- Winter meeting: a one-day workshop on *Advanced Microscopy techniques*, organized at the University of Ghent by Prof. Bart Devreeze.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR CHEMISTRY

1. Introduction, mission, goals

- Federate the messages of chemistry (Universities, Technical Colleges, Essenscia, CEFIC, SRC, KVCV, JSC, etc.).
- Stimulate the public and improve the image of chemistry in Belgium in all the aspects.
- Make the bridgehead on IUPAC in Belgium (input and output).
- Make the promotion of chemistry and sciences to the young generations at the early age, high schools.

2. Meetings of the committee

In 2012, the National Committee for Chemistry held five meetings: 26 January, 24 February, 27 April, 15 June and 28 September.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] Members of the National Committee

In the course of the year 2012, as announced in the 2011 committee report, the composition of the National Committee Chemistry Belgium as been revisited with the full agreement of the active members and updated to respond better to the goals of the committee and representing better than before, all the aspects of chemistry in Belgium. The composition of the new committee is now open to a broader representation of Chemists from different horizons and institutions being in contact with the young generations, the public and the industries. A balance of the representatives from the regions in Belgium is also given.

Our members are originated from:

- Universities and Technical Colleges;
- Industry;
- Industry Federation (Essenscia);
- Young Science Association (Les Jeunesses Scientifiques) and Memoscience;

- Chemical Societies (SRC and KVCV).

[b] Committee responsibility

In the course of our meetings we have together refocused our targets as a National committee. They were summarized in a letter addressed to the Permanent Secretaries of the Academies. A short extract is given hereafter:

“The world of chemistry has changed dramatically in the last 30 years and our committee must be well prepared and must redefine its missions.”

“Chemistry is the core science of the matter and overlaps with lifesciences, biology, physics, cosmology, geology and environmental sciences and also medical sciences. Chemistry is also vital for our country as a major player in the economy and with a strong impact on employment. Belgium has the highest “density” of chemists in the world and the quality of Belgian sciences education and our research is recognized worldwide.”

“Chemists are everywhere: in High Schools, Technical Colleges, Universities, Chemical Companies, SME’s, start ups, administrations, regions, European community administrations. They are present and represented by their Scientific Societies (SRC, KVCV). Chemistry is promoted by “les Jeunesses Scientifiques” of both communities, and Belgium is also active at the Chemistry Olympiads” and Memosciences. Chemical professions and interests are defended by Essenscia and CEFIC”.

The global changes in our societies, the communications networks have deeply modified the methods of knowledge acquisition and exchange of the information between the researchers. Each of us is concerned by the major and global trends to which chemistry must respond: food and raw materials resources, energy needs, environmental impact and climate change, health in a world with a global population growth with growing needs.

In this challenging context, chemistry as a whole is facing specific issues:

- The bad image of chemistry;
- The limited interest of the young generation in chemistry with a perception of too much effort, for too long and lack of brilliance;
- A lack of trust in science.

In this context, what is the role of the National Committee, what is our contribution and how can we avoid redundancies with other players.

[c] Committee strategy

Our main theme for the Committee action must be:

- Accepted and supported by the players of Belgian Chemistry and in line with their objectives;
- Within the National Committee competency and capability;
- In consultation with the chemistry actors.

The National Committee has decided to concentrate all their actions around: *Towards a New Contract between Chemistry and Society*. This will be the focus for the 2012-2015 period.

5. Future Perspectives

[a] Participation and attendance to the General Assembly of IUPAC in August 2013 in Istanbul (three representatives).

[b] The IYC 2011 success is not an end but a leverage to continue the action of promotion of chemistry. As first actions for the year:

- Invitation of eminent scientists and industry representatives together with young students. A one-day meeting during second-half of the year, in collaboration with Les Jeunesses Scientifiques de Belgique and the Chemistry Olympiads in Belgium.
- Active role of each member of the Nation Committee to communicate this message in their spheres and deliver to the committee their actions and programs.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

1. Introduction, mission, goals

Crystallography is the study of the atomic and molecular structure of diverse substances using microscopy and diffraction techniques in order to understand the relationship between atomic structure and properties of these materials.

The objectives of the National Committee of Crystallography are to promote cooperation in crystallography, to contribute to all aspects of crystallographic research, to catalyze the relations of crystallography to other sciences, to promote crystallography for the general public, and to represent Belgian crystallographers in international associations.

The committee has its own web site¹⁵, which is administered by Johan Wouters, and organizes a yearly crystal growing competition for pupils at secondary schools.

2. Meetings of the Committee

[a] The first meeting took place on 28 March 2012. During this meeting the Seventh Belgian Crystallography Symposium BCS-7 (Brussels, 10 October 2012) was prepared (invited speakers, sponsoring, guidelines for abstracts and posters). Furthermore an overview of the inscriptions and preparations of the Belgian Crystal Growing Competition was given and the date of the prize awarding ceremony was fixed at 16 May 2012. An update of approval by the UN of the International Year of Crystallography in 2014 was given. The Belgian representation for the Council Meeting of the European Crystallographic Association (ECA) in Bergen has been discussed. Finally, new committee members have been elected and a new board has been approved.

[b] During the second meeting on 9 October 2012 the Belgian representative reported on the Council Meeting of the European Crystallographic Association held in Bergen. The preparations for the thirteenth edition of the Belgian Crystal Growing Competition 2013 were initiated, and the initiatives of the National Committee of Crystallography related to the International Year of Crystallography have been refined further (emission stamp, exhibition, etc.).

¹⁵ www.sites.google.com/site/xallobe

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] Crystal Growing Competition

The National Committee of Crystallography has organized in 2012 with support of both academies and sponsor Chem-Lab a successful twelfth edition of the Crystal Growing Competition for pupils of the secondary schools¹⁶. For this edition ammonium magnesium sulphate has been chosen as crystallizing compound. The *judging* of the submitted crystals took place on 21 April 2012 in Namur. During the proclamation on 16 May 2012 in Leuven Dr. Bert Willems (Hoge Raad voor Diamant) has given a lecture on diamonds.

[b] International relations

Joke Hadermann has represented the Committee at the Council Meetings of the European Crystallographic Association (ECA). Luc Van Meervelt has also participated as member of the Executive Committee of the European Crystallographic Association to these meetings. Joke Hadermann has been elected member of the ECA Executive Committee. Frederique Hatert and Joke Hadermann are active members of respectively the IUCr Commission Inorganic and Mineral Structures and the IUCr Commissions Aperiodic crystals and Electron Crystallography. L. Van Meervelt has participated as General Secretary and Treasurer to the meetings of the IUCr Finance Committee in Leuven and IUCr Executive Committee in Boston and Adelaide. As councillor D. Maes has participated to the meetings of the International Organization for Crystal Growth.

5. Future perspectives

[a] Organisation of the 13th Belgian Crystal Growing Competition in 2013.

[b] Participation in the International Year of Crystallography (IYCr) in 2014.

¹⁶ See website: <http://www.chem.kuleuven.be/bcc/>

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The BNCGG serves as a link between IUGG and the Belgian scientists working in the fields of Geodesy and Geophysics. This activity reaches a climax every four years at the IUGG general assembly. The BNCGG is then charged to propose to the Academy the national delegates to IUGG and to its eight Associations:

- International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS);
- International Association of Geodesy (IAG);
- International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA);
- International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS);
- International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS);
- International Association of the Physical Sciences of the Ocean (IAPSO);
- International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth Interior (IASPEI);
- International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth Interior (IAVCEI).

In the mean time the BNCGG organises regularly conferences by known Belgian or foreign scientists.

The BNCGG tries also to encourage the participation of young scientists to the IUGG General Assemblies by attributing grants.

Belgium was among the 9 countries that established the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) on July 28, 1919 in Brussels. The Belgian National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics (BNCGG) was created shortly after in 1921. The running expenses were covered until 1950 by the National Cartographic Institute and later on by Royal Academy of Belgium, now split into the "Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten" and the "Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique".

In parallel with the BNCGG, exists since 1955 an "Association sans buts lucratifs de droit belge" called "Comité National Belge de Géodésie et de Géophysique, Bruxelles". It is charged to administrate the finances of the Committee.

2. Meetings of the Committee

[a] Dates: In 2012, the CNBGG had one General Assembly on 26 January and one other meeting on 18 September.

[b] The following talks were given to the Committee:

On Filamentation and Anti-Filamentation of Auroral Arcs

By Dr. Björn Gustavsson, School of Physics and Astronomy University of Southampton, UK, on January 26, 2012 at ROB.

Observations of the development of small-scale structures in aurorae are not uncommon. However, their appearance and cause are not well understood. One suggestion is that arc splitting is caused by inertial Alfvén waves. This presentation introduced a novel method to use multi-monochromatic optical observations to estimate the characteristics of the precipitating electrons in aurora with small-scale structures. This method was applied to data from the Auroral Structure and Kinetics (ASK) instrument from 2 events to test the predictions of spatio-temporal variations of electron energies and fluxes that can be derived from the inertial Alfvén-wave hypothesis.

The Peculiar Mathematical Properties of the Force Free Field Equation and the Solar X-Ray Corona

By Prof. Eugene Parker, University of Chicago, on September 18, 2012 at ROB.

The force free field equation $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \alpha \mathbf{B}$ has two families of complex characteristics and one family of real characteristics, namely the field lines, as may be seen from the divergence of the field equation, $\mathbf{B} \times \nabla \alpha = 0$. Consider a magnetic field extending generally in the z -direction through an infinitely conducting fluid from a rigid endplate at $z = 0$ to another rigid endplate at $z = L$. The magnetic flux that makes up the magnetic field is interlaced in some arbitrary manner as it extends from $z = 0$ to $z = L$. The question is the mathematical form of the equilibrium interlaced field. Note, then, that the field equation can be reduced to the mathematical form of the 2D vorticity equation. The problem is that only an interlacing topological set of measure zero is accommodated by the vorticity equation. But with all field lines connecting between fixed footpoints at $z = 0$ and $z = L$, it is obvious that all interlacing topologies have an equilibrium, regardless of whether the topology conforms to the vorticity equation. This brings us to the so called weak solutions, contain in surfaces of tangential discontinuity (TD's) lying along the real characteristics. They accommodate the remaining interlacing topologies, i.e. almost all interlacing topologies. That is to say, the equilibria of

almost all interlacing topologies are interspersed with TD's. The field in the writhing columns between TD's satisfy the vorticity equation. It is suggested that this tendency to form TD's dissipates the free magnetic energy of the coronal X-ray filaments to provide the heat source for the X-ray corona. It is pointed out that energy requirements rule out wave heating of the X-ray corona, with only the quasi-static interlacing of the field lines by the solar granules providing enough magnetic free energy and the means to convert that free energy into heat.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

5. Future perspectives

[a] Several IUGG associations plan a scientific assembly in 2013:

- IACS-IAMAS Scientific Assembly, Davos, Switzerland, 8-12 July 2013;
- IAVCEI General Assembly *Forecasting Volcanic Activity: reading and translating the messages of nature for society*, Kagoshima, Japan, July 20-24, 2013;
- IAHS-IAPSO-IASPEI Joint Assembly: Knowledge for the Future, Göteborg, Sweden, July 22-26, 2013;
- IAGA Scientific Assembly, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, August 26-31, 2013;
- IAG Scientific Assembly, Potsdam, Germany, September 1-6, 2013;

[b] The next IUGG General Assembly will be held in Prague, Czech Republic in 2015.

[c] The next BNCGG General Assembly is planned on Thursday January 24, 2013.

[d] The mandates of our effective and associated members have to be renewed every 4 years. The last time was in 2012, so it will be the case again in 2016. Letters for renewal will be sent in November 2015.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR GEOGRAPHY

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The National Committee for Geography represents Belgian scientists working in the field of Geography in the work of IGU. This Committee is a forum for exchanging views on the landscape of Geography in Belgium.

2. Meetings of the committee

The National Committee for Geography met four times in 2012: 4 February, 26 May, 10 October and 8 December.

Themes discussed at the meetings:

[a] Organization of the *Belgian Geography Days*

The organization of the Belgian Geography Days 2012 had to be postponed to 2013, due to logistical problems. The formula will remain unchanged with the first day devoted to research, the second to education. This event is an initiative of the CNG, but is organized in turn by the different universities. In 2013, the activity will be co-organized by the UCL, with Fégépro and VLA (the organizations of teachers of geography in secondary schools). An urban excursion is scheduled for the second day.

[b] Teaching of geography in secondary schools

An exceptional meeting of the CNG was held on 10 October, where were invited some professors teaching didactics of geography in universities, inspectors of geography in secondary schools and representatives of the different schools networks who are responsible for teaching didactics of geography. A discussion took place about the recruitment problems of professors of geography in secondary schools, the lack of geographers as teachers of geography, the problems in the quality of teaching resulting of that, and the decreased motivation among students to start studying geography. The identified problems are comparables in Dutch and French education.

[c] The lack of visibility of geography in the list of research disciplines used by the FNRS, the FWO and universities.

Geography doesn't appear anywhere as a science in itself in the current nomenclature of research disciplines used by the FNRS, the FWO and universities. Some broad aspects of the discipline don't even appear at all and others appear under the heading of other disciplines ; some aspects of geography can be identified, but only as sub-divisions other disciplines. It is the case of human/social geography which are cataloged in sociology.

We asked to the President to send a letter to raise this issue with authorities of the universities, the FNRS and the FWO.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The International Geographical Union Conference was held in Cologne on 26-30 August 2012. The national representative for Belgium was Prof. Vandermotten.

The CNG didn't choose to present a classic report to the General Assembly, but to present a summary of the Belgian atlas, titled *A Concise Geography of Belgium*, to the delegates. This work was highly appreciated by the participants of the conference. The preparation of the content of this atlas was the result of discussions of the meetings of the CNG in 2011 and 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] Subcommittee National Atlas

The third Atlas of Belgium has been now achieved with the help of the 'ATLAS' program of the Belgian Science Policy. The volumes on 'Economic Geography' and 'Population', will appear later (in 2013) because of difficulties between the authors and the publisher. The last book which has to be published, dealing with urban geography, will be available at the fall 2013.

In the same time, the Federal Science Policy Office has assigned a separate project to Professor Donnay for the development of the digital atlas. The project will end in February 2013.

The CNG has published with a budget from BELSPO a small atlas titled *Concise Geography of Belgium*, presented to the IGU Conference in Cologne in August 2012. This atlas has been realized by the mapping service of the department of Geography of the University of Ghent (Prof. Dr. De Maeyer) in collaboration with Professor Etienne Van Hecke, who coordinated the project. Most of the cards come from the Third Atlas of Belgium, others are new or come from other sources. 2300 copies have been distributed during the IGU Conference. The members of the associations of

teachers of geography also received a copy. Some copies will also be distributed to embassies of Belgium through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The editor of this atlas is Academia Press (Ghent).

[b] Subcommittee for Cartography and SIG

Belgium had participated in 2011 to the International Cartographic Conference (ICC2011) organized by the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and was represented at the general meeting of the ICA in Paris. The next congress will be held in Dresden in 2013. Preparations have been made to appeal schools (from primary school to children up to 16 years) to participate in the Barbara Petchenik Contest 2013. The appeal was launched at the end of the year 2012. Early 2013, the sub-committee will have to collect contributions for the international exhibition of mapping (maps and atlases produced in Belgium in 2011-2013).

[c] Subcommittee for Geomorphology

For the activities of this committee, please consult the report of the Belgian Association of Geomorphologists.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The National Committee of Geological Sciences forms part of the "Classe des Sciences de l'Académie Royale de Belgique" and the "Klasse der Wetenschappen van de Koninklijke Academie van België". The mission of the committee is to promote geology and to co-ordinate at a national and international level, the activities of the geological departments that are present in the different Belgian academic and scientific institutions. Members of the committee also act as representatives of Belgium in the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). At present, the national committee co-ordinates the activity of a number of commissions and working groups such as the National Commission on Stratigraphy (sub-divided in specific sub commissions) and the Working group on Structural Geology. The National Committee of Geological Sciences of Belgium has close relationships with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), which is also a member of ICSU. The IUGS is a non-governmental organization that promotes and encourages the study of geological problems, especially those of worldwide significance.

2. Meetings of the committee

The committee held three meetings respectively on 9 February and 31 May and 22 November.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] A symposium has been organized on 15 November 2012, sponsored by the Royal Academies of Belgium for Science and the Arts, focused on Geoheritage, Geoconservation and Geotourism in Belgium. It was attended by about 70 participants, included invited speakers from France (P. De Wever, CNRS) and Germany (M.-L. Frey, Messel). It was concluded with an open discussion that clearly elucidated the dramatic situation our geological heritage is confronted with at present and the urgent need to do something about it on a governmental level.

[b] The National Commission on Stratigraphy has assembled on 25 June to discuss recent advances in stratigraphic research and new propositions with respect to the Belgian stratigraphic scale. The Commission also expressed an initiative to organize a workshop in 2013 on the use of

Time Scale Creator with J. Ogg (Purdue University, Indiana) as an invited lecturer. A second meeting of this commission is planned on 5 December.

[c] The webpage of NCGW/CNGS¹⁷ has been updated and linked to the IUGS webpage. It contains more detailed information on the NCGS activities, including the program of the symposium mentioned above and a PDF of the proceedings (freely downloadable till the end of 2012)¹⁸.

¹⁷ <http://www.ncgw-cnsg.ugent.be>

¹⁸ The present status of the Belgian stratigraphy and progress of the activities of the NCS can be followed on <http://www2.ulg.ac.be/geolsed/GB/NCS.htm>

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LOGIC, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCES

1. Introduction, mission, goals

According to the mission of the National Committees, as stipulated in the Royal Decree of 2 April 1979, the National Committee aims to promote and coordinate research activities on Logic, History and Philosophy of Science in Belgium, primarily with regard to the international representation of Belgian scholarship in the International Council of Scientific Unions.

The National Committee is the Belgian member of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS), both of its Division for History of Science and Technology (DHST) and its Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (DLMPS).

In practice the National Committee acts along three axes:

1. To represent Belgian scholarship on the international level by being present as a member or spokesperson with international organizations (IUHPS, European Society of History of Science).
2. To coordinate Belgian scholarship by setting up collaborations and joint projects with other institutions (National Centre for the History of Science [KBR], Gewina [Belgian Dutch Society for the History of Universities and Science], BSLPS [Belgian Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science]).
3. To promote the integration of historical and philosophical studies of science.

2. Meetings of the Committee

During 2012, the Committee held two general meetings, on 16 May and on 12 December. Apart from deliberations on administrative matters and correspondence, several scientific papers were presented. The Committee has agreed to invite to its general meetings also the staff and members of the National Centre for History of Science (KBR). The Committee appoints Brigitte Van Tiggelen and Sven Dupré as its delegates at the IUHPS/DHST General Assembly to be held in Manchester in June 2013. The Committee has accepted an official logo. It will be used in all official correspondence and documents of the Committee.

[a] On 16 May, presentations were held by:

- Vincent Van Roy (UA), *Circulatiemechanismen van medische kennis in de Spaanse en Oostenrijkse Nederlanden (16de - 18de eeuw): een verhaal van toenemendeformalisering?*
- Hendrik Deelstra (UA), *Over de internationale professionalisering van de Farmacie door de oprichting van de Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique (F.I.P.) in 1912, nu een eeuw geleden.*

[b] On 12 December, two scientific papers were read:

- Lyvia Diser (KVAB-KU Leuven), *Tussen brievenboek en bunsenbrander: laboratoriumwetenschap als beleidsinstrument (1870-1940).*
- Denis Diagre (Jardin Botanique National de Belgique-ULB), *Une institution où bat lepouls de la jeune Belgique: le Jardin botanique de Bruxelles (1826-1912).*

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] Bestor:

Bestor is an online database on Belgian science and technology developed both for consultation by the general public and as a research instrument for the specialist scholar. It contains several hundreds of records on Belgian scientists (since 1800), scientific institutions and scientific societies, both in French and in Dutch. The different items are interconnected through links, which enable the visitor to follow up on the network of relations between people and institutions. In many cases, historical information is supported by direct links to online available sources. The items also provide references to secondary sources and recent publications.

The information presented in Bestor is supplied and assessed by a small team of collaborators, under the direction of the National Committee of Logic, History and Philosophy of Science. Administrative support and housing facilities are provided by RASAB. The Bestor database is physically located on the server of the Faculty of Arts of KU Leuven, where all matters of technical maintenance are taken care of. Funding has been generously awarded by BELSPO since the beginning of the project in 2008.

Staff

During 2012 there have been several changes in staff, although overall about one full time position was filled throughout the years (actually 13 work months). Until 29 February, Wendy Van Camp continued her work on the twentieth century academicians, which was completed by that date. Van Camp's contract was not continued due to labor regulations. From 1 February, Mrs. Alix Badot, who was the first collaborator of the project in 2008, was rehired. She worked on the database of the personnel of the Royal Observatory. This project was completed by the end of the summer. Mrs. Badot then left Bestor on 30 September to take up a vacant PhD position at the university of Namur. On 1 October Mrs. Lyvia Diser was hired, at first to work on Dutch translations of French lemmas, but her task was modified after Mrs. Badot announced her departure, to include the management of the whole project. Mrs. Diser continued the maintenance of the database and made translations of records.

As a result of the departure of Mrs. Badot, there was again a vacant position for a collaborator. In December, Mr. Walter Leclercq was hired, beginning on 15 January 2013. Mr. Leclercq holds a PhD in prehistoric archaeology. As with Mrs. Diser, it was agreed that his special expertise in this domain would be preferably used for the writing of new records related to Belgian archaeology.

The National Centre for the History of Science at the Royal Library also contributed to Bestor by producing records on scientific societies. Apart from this, members of the National Committee have volunteered to read and correct some records of Bestor.

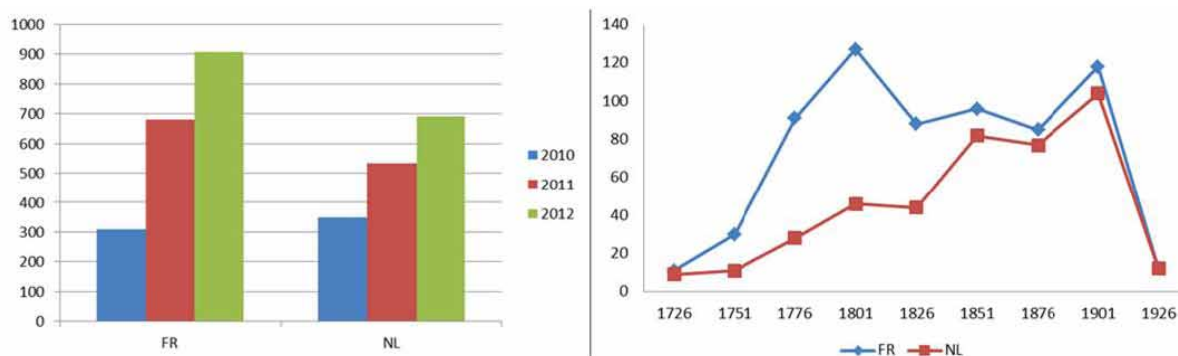
Prof. Geert Vanpaemel, secretary of the National Committee, does supervision of the project. A steering committee consisting of representatives of the National Committee, Belspo, and the university archives, meets annually to discuss the progress and policies of Bestor. The Steering Committee met on 14 May 2012.

Achievements 2012

As of January 2013, Bestor contains 907 French and 691 Dutch records. There is no strict equality between French and Dutch records. Obviously, where translations were made, both texts are equivalent, but as a reflection of the staff activities in previous years, there are relatively more French records for the nineteenth century, whereas Dutch records are predominant in the twentieth century. Also, the records produced by the National Centre are written in French, and have not been systematically translated. It remains the ambition of Bestor to have two equivalent sets of records in both languages, but this is not a short-term priority, as it would take away too much volume of the workload of the collaborators.

Most of the records are biographical: Bestor includes 569 French and 446 Dutch biographies (in each case an increase of about 30%). These biographies show a large amount of nineteenth

century records in French (see graph). Furthermore, there are 97 records French on scientific societies and 31 in Dutch. Importantly, there have been added some thematic records, e.g. on agricultural laboratories. As these thematic records are important to present Belgian science to a general public, it is to be hoped that more of these records can be produced in the following years.



During 2012 Bestor was expanded with many (short) records on astronomers and personnel of the Royal Observatory, Royal Meteorological Institute and Planetarium. Bestor now lists 94 astronomers and 22 meteorologists linked to these institutions, probably a nearly complete list of professional scientists in these disciplines in Belgium. This was the first institutional addition after the pilot project limited to the Academy. It was carried out in close collaboration with the Royal Observatory, of which even the employment files could be consulted (although the information was not always suitable for Bestor).

Mrs. Diser composed 56 new (Dutch) records concerning government laboratories. Several new categories “Beleidsexperten-Ambtenaren”, “Wetenschap en beleid”, “Beleidsdomeinen” and “Wetenschappelijke overheidsinstellingen” have been introduced to capture the activities of scientists in or related to government service.

Near the end of 2012 it was noted that there was much spam activity on the site of Bestor. The origin of these activities is difficult to trace, and as yet the intrusion has not been completely overcome. A solution is being worked out by the IT service at Leuven.

Work plan for 2013

The activities of Bestor will concern translations, writing new records, dissemination and promotion.

- Translations

Translations will be executed by the scientific collaborators but not as an absolute priority. For that reason, every collaborator has made a list of records to be translated

based on objective criteria (see annexes I and II). For every collaborator, some 70 pages are listed, representing a workload of about 2 days a week.

- New records

Mrs. Diser will continue her work on government scientists. Also she will start a new project on Belgian botanists, in collaboration with Mr. Denis Diagre of the National Botanic Garden. The corpus of botanists will be based on the people mentioned by Mr. Diagre in his doctoral thesis. Bestor will be able to use the collections of the National Botanic Garden, also concerning the publication of documentary sources. The workload is estimated at about 50 new records.

Mr. Walter Leclercq will concentrate on Belgian archaeologists, in particular in relation to the Royal Museums for Art and History. Mr. Leclercq will collaborate with the conservators of the different relevant sections of this museum and can apply his own expertise from his PhD thesis. The workload is estimated at about 72 new records.

The National Centre for History of Science will continue its work on scientific societies, in particular for societies founded in the twentieth century.

- Dissemination and Promotion

In 2013 the IUHPS/DHST will hold its General Assembly at Manchester. At this occasion, the National Committee wants to launch Bestor on the international level, by distributing a leaflet on the project. The same leaflet can be used for other events. Apart from that, information about Bestor will be distributed among the Belgian scientific institutions (universities, libraries, research institutes, scientific societies, researchers, student, etc.) as well as among other audiences (journalists, teachers, public libraries, etc.).

In relation to a wider dissemination of Bestor a special effort will be made to present the database in an accessible and easily readable form, in particular by providing thematic pages on key events in the history of Belgian science. Bestor already scores very well in Google searches for particular Belgian scientists. This can be extended by introducing pages with many 'popular' search terms.

The Bestor database can be consulted on <http://www.bestor.be>.

Bestor is supported by an annual subsidy of Belspo, which has been generously accorded to the Committee since 2008. The subsidy for 2012 has again been accorded.

[b] Young Researchers Days III:

On 3-4 September, the National Committee in collaboration with the Belgian Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science (BSLPS), and with the financial support of VUB Doctoral School of Human

Sciences and Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique, has organized the Third Young Researchers Days at the Academies. For this edition a special theme was proposed: the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* by Thomas Kuhn.

In 1962, Thomas Kuhn published *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, in which he developed an epoch making theory on scientific methodology and organization. Kuhn's concept of paradigm became a hallmark of modern philosophy of science, identifying the philosophical architecture of the paradigm and analyzing scientists' internal strategies to strengthen and defend the core research program of the paradigm. At the same time, the social embeddedness of the paradigm opened new vistas in historical research, leading to an externalist view of science, to the 'strong program' of the Edinburgh School, and to social constructivism. Whereas philosophers of science studied the foundations of the paradigm and its stability over time, historians tended to regard the paradigm as permeable to social influences, and as a product of negotiating the boundaries of the scientific endeavor. These divergent developments caused philosophy and history of science to lose sight of each other, each of them even considering the other field as irrelevant or misguided. Fifty years after Kuhn's work, a new interest in overlapping themes between history and philosophy of science has emerged. The development of the Science and Technology Studies has incited historians of science to formulate abstract and 'ahistorical' theories about e.g. scientific innovation and circulation of knowledge, which have invited comments from philosophers. New debates have taken shape, focusing less on methodology but raising questions on scientific authority, expertise and public space. This meeting will seek to explore the many ways in which history, philosophy and logic can find fruitful ways to collaborate towards a better understanding of modern science, without however excluding any other relevant contributions.

Young Researchers were invited to submit 30 minutes papers for presentation during YRD. Thirteen papers were selected, mostly on philosophy of science. Four international speakers were invited to give their views on the Kuhnian legacy: Karine Chemla (CNRS, Equipe REHSEIS, Paris), Jouni-Matti Kuukkanen (University of Leiden), Thomas Nickles (University of Nevada), Josep Simon (Université Paris Ouest)¹⁹. As this edition was not a Contactforum, the papers will not be published in a separate volume, although the possibility to publish them online will be investigated. The printed volume of YRDII has become available in 2012.

¹⁹ The full programme and the book of abstracts can be downloaded from <http://www.bsllps.be/YRD3.html>

5. Future perspectives

- BESTOR remains the top priority of the National Committee. In 2013 special attention will be paid to the promotion of the database among researchers and the general public.
- The National Committee will organize in 2013 two general meetings with scientific presentations.
- In June 2013 the General Assembly of IUHPS/DHST will take place in Manchester. The Committee will be present to represent Belgium.
- In 2013 the centenary of *Isis*, the leading journal in the history of science, founded by George Sarton in Ghent, will be celebrated. The National Committee will use this opportunity to bring public attention to the long tradition of history and philosophy of science in Belgium.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MATHEMATICS

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The National Committee aims at stimulating and coordinating in Belgium research in mathematics, both in pure mathematics and applied mathematics, including education in mathematics. In fact the distinction in pure and applied mathematics is not always easy to make. In pure mathematics we think of algebra, geometry and analysis, but also these areas overlap and do not cover the whole domain. One can think of logic, combinatorics, topology, set theory, etc. Applied mathematics, consisting among others of numerical analysis, statistics, mathematics related to physics, is currently expanding and covers areas such as econometry and finance, informatics, biomathematics, etc.

One of the main goals of the committee is to form a bridge between the International Mathematical Union (IMU) and the Belgian scientists who work in the area of Mathematics. As such we choose the delegates that could represent Belgium at the General Assemblies of the IMU and propose their names to both Academies. Together with the Belgian Mathematical Society we take care of informing the Belgian mathematical community by means of the “Newsletter of the Belgian Mathematical Society and the National Committee for Mathematics”.

We aim at having 16 members, respecting linguistic parity, taking care of a good gender representation and having a well balanced participation of the different universities and important mathematical domains.

2. Meetings of the Committee

During 2012 the National Committee for Mathematics had a number of electronic meetings, besides a meeting on 24 October, held at the Palace of the Academies. Detailed minutes of this meeting have been made by the Secretary; they are not attached to this report, seen the confidentiality of certain discussions. A survey of the main decisions can be found below. The members of the Committee have regularly been informed, by e-mail, about initiatives of the IMU or about the proposals of the IMU for which the opinion of the NCM was requested. All members and honorary members of the NCM received the Electronic IMU-Newsletter, the IMU-Bulletin and all the available documentation concerning the forthcoming General Assembly of the IMU in 2014 as well as of ICM2014. They also received the petition concerning the EU-budget, and the report of the ICMI-Belgium group for the period 2008-2012.

Main decisions:

- Approval of the application of Madagascar and Malaysia for an associate membership of the IMU.
- A new board of the NCM has been elected for the period 2013-2016. Respecting the alternation rules, the board consists of a president (FR), vice-president (NL), secretary (FR) and vice-secretary (NL).
- The proposition is: President: Catherine Finet (current vice-president); Vice-President: Hendrik Van Maldeghem (current secretary); Secretary: Françoise Bastin (current vice-secretary); Vice-Secretary: Stefan Caenepeel. The new board starts on January 1, 2013 and will stay in business until December 31, 2016.
- It is decided to propose a Belgian candidate for a Field medal in 2014. The president has sent a well-motivated text to the Field Prize Committee.
- Jean-Pierre Gossez (ULB) and Jean Schmets (ULg) become honorary members from 1st January 2013 on. Two new members from the French Community will be proposed by the new board.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] The Newsletter appeared five times in 2012 and was distributed both electronically and in a paper version. F. Bastin (vice-secretary of the NCM) is in charge of the Newsletter.

[b] Prior to the meeting of the NCM on 24 October, Jean Mawhin has given a talk, entitled *Self-oscillations and limit cycles: well known and less known contributions of Poincaré*. The talk was meant to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Poincaré's death.

5. Future perspectives

[a] PhD day will be organized at the Academy on 9 September 2013. It will be organized in collaboration with the Belgian Mathematical Society.

[b] The NCM (possibly together with the BMS) will stimulate organizing activities within the program "Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013". It could bring visibility for the mathematical community.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MICROBIOLOGY

1. Introduction, mission goals

The Committee for Microbiology represents Belgian scientists conducting research in the field of biological sciences in the work of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS).

2. Meetings of the Committee

The meetings of the NCM were joint meetings with the board of the Belgian Society for Microbiology (BSM), of which some members are also member of NCM and all members of NCM are involved in the advisory board of BSM. Three administrative meetings were organised in 2012 on: 11 January, 23 October and 13 December.

Main discussions:

1. Evaluation of the Symposium 2011;
2. Organization of the Symposium 2012;
3. Organization of a mini-symposium: *Functional analysis of microbial communities and consortia without cultivation*;
4. Initiative for Belgian Society for Virology;

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] Symposium: *Posttranscriptional regulation and epigenetics in microorganism*²⁰

Date: 20 November 2012; *Attendance:* 81 persons.

[b] Mini-symposium on molecular techniques²¹

Date: 25 September 2012.

Goal: Update the interested microbiologist with the newest development in sequencing and other DNA related methods.

²⁰ See program on page 86.

²¹ See program on page 87.

Attendance: 38 persons.

5. Future perspectives

[a] Organization of a symposium in 2013.

[b] Organization of a mini-symposium in 2013.

[c] Discussion with Virologists about their position in BSM and NCM.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR OCEANOLOGY

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The Committee deals with all topics related to research and education in the field of Oceanography. It is an interdisciplinary community involving hydrodynamicists, chemists, geologists, and biologists working in estuarine and coastal systems as well as in open oceans in cold, temperate and tropical environments.

2. Meetings of the Committee

Non-specified.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] The international workshop "Ocean School 0103 "Education at sea - Education for the sea" jointly organized by the Committee of Oceanology of the Royal Belgian Academies and VLIZ in Ostend had a lasting impact. Its outcome had been presented at the IOC50 - International Conference 50 Years of Education and Awareness Raising for Shaping the Future of the Oceans and Coasts, IOC-UNESCO, St. Petersburg 27-30 April 2010 and in an invited keynote at the EurOcean 2010 "Grand Challenges for Marine Research in the Next Decade", Ostend, Belgium, 12-13 October 2010. In 2011, Prof. J.P. Henriët, Secretary, was invited to prepare a contribution on Ocean education for the "Navigating the Future IV" (NFIV) document of the Marine Board: "Forging marine and maritime careers". In September 2012, he was appointed as Lead Author of the NFIV Chapter 5.2 "Training and skill needs, Research careers" (Chapter 5 - Cross-cutting Issues). The publication of the NFIV is scheduled June 2013. In October 2012, the Secretary presented an invited talk on the future of marine education in Europe at the First Conference on European Ocean Literacy in Bruges.

[b] The ocean science community in Belgium was strongly involved in the networks created by Belspo (Marine Science Research Programme). Unfortunately in 2011 the on-going projects came to their end and the Marine Science Research Programme was stopped. This is very bad news for

the Belgian marine science community, especially because in all our surrounding countries marine research stations and marine research programmes exist.

5. Future perspectives

Since national funding for marine research is no more available, Belgian marine scientists have to shift their focus. For strengthening its involvement in ocean research and education, the Belgian community of researchers in oceanology needs to keep abreast of major developments in European Ocean Governance and Science Policy, and of opportunities offered by Horizon 2020. Two major and not unrelated developments may heavily impact on research and education in the forthcoming decade: (1) at the level of ocean governance, the implementation of the Integrated maritime policy for the EU and of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, which should lead to the achievement of good environmental status, and (2) the implementation of Horizon 2020 and the Joint Programming Initiative "Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans" (JPI Oceans). A study day in 2012 had been considered to imply stakeholders and allow the Committee of Oceanology to contribute to communication and information about these initiatives in the Belgian research community, involved in ocean science and education. At the 2012 "VLIZ Young Scientists Day" in Ostend, several science officers committed to contribute. Information about the implementation of Horizon 2020, of relevance to scientists (e.g. tools for implementation) however remained unclear. EC Officers openly addressed about this question in a session of the DSF3 Conferences in Sitges 2012 (Deep Sea Frontier) confirmed these were still open issues. The Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the Specific Programme *implementing* Horizon 2020 (yet still in terms of "Partial general approach") got but issued 12 December 2012. In 2012, J.P. Henriët was invited by ESF (LESC) to take the editorial lead of a collective vision book "*Science on Rough Seas - Ocean and Polar Life and Environmental Sciences on a Warming Planet*". The Outlook chapter of this publication "Ocean and Polar Life and Environmental Sciences at Horizon 2020 and beyond" – to be publicized as a bottom-up scientists' vision complementing the NFIV document in June 2013 – can feed information and topics of debate to the planned meeting of the Committee of Oceanology. To maximally benefit of such developments, the considered meeting of the Committee of Oceanology is planned June 2013.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PHYSICS

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The Belgian National Committee on Pure and Applied Physics has been created by the Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium (RASAB). It contributes to the promotion and coordination of Belgian activities concerning Pure and Applied Physics. At the international level it ensures Belgium's representation in IUPAP, the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics. Its activities can be followed on its website²².

2. Meetings of the Committee

Meetings were held on 7 March and 11 October. The main interest points of these meetings were:

- Updating of the composition of the NCPAP. Two new members were nominated to and approved by RASAB: Prof. Dr. X. Gonze of UClouvain and Prof. Dr. Th. Metens of ULBruxelles.
- Report on the 27th General Assembly of IUPAP (1-4 November 2011). The NCPAP chair attended the conference, receiving a subsidy from RASAB.
- Preparation of the Colloquium 2013.
- Updating of the publication *Research in Physics in Belgium*.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

Main conclusions of the General Assembly 2011:

- IUPAP will propose to UNESCO to declare 2015 the «International Year of Light».
- IUPAP selected the following Belgian physicists as Commission members for the period 2012-2014:

▪ C4: Cosmic Rays:	D. Bertrand (ULB)
▪ C8: Semiconductors:	G. Borghs (IMEC)
▪ C10: Condensed Matter:	Ph. Lambin (FUNDP)
▪ C12: Nuclear Physics:	P. Van Duppen (KULeuven)

²² www.bncphys.be

- C16: Plasma Physics: D. Carati (ULB)
- C17: Quantum Electronics: N. Cerf (ULB)
- C19: Astrophysics: C. Waelkens (KULeuven)

To put this outcome in perspective: Belgium is in principle entitled to 4 Commission members, as corresponds to its share in the IUPAP financing. The higher number reflects the image of excellence of Belgian Physics in the eyes of our peers.

4. Other activities

[a] Update of Research in Physics in Belgium:

The NCPAP initiated for the first time in 2005 the compilation of short reports on the main physical research topics in Belgium, both theoretical and experimental. Fifteen of these were written by prominent Belgian researchers, actively involved in the IUPAP Commissions, and were published in 2006 in Physicalia Magazine and posted on the websites of the NCPAP and of the Belgian Physical Society²³.

The NCPAP considered that the time was ripe for an update as in the meantime new research topics have emerged, people have retired and new talents have joined the various fields. Presently 11 updated reports were published on-line in BPhy Magazine, the successor of Physicalia Magazine, and were incorporated with the remaining reports²⁴.

5. Future perspectives

[a] An important preoccupation in 2012 will be the replacements as ordinary members of Prof. H-P. Garnir and Prof. Ch. Willain.

[b] colloquium 2013 of the NCPAP

The NCPAP will organise, with the help of RASAB, its bi-annual colloquium on 20 April 2013 in the Palace of the Academies. The title will be “Physics and the Energy Challenge”, and the program is as follows:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 10h00 | Introduction by Yvan Buynseraede, President of the Colloquium |
| 10h10 | Start morning session (chair: G.J. Schaeffer) |
| | Prof. Em. J. HERMANS, Universiteit Leiden: <i>The energy challenge: status and</i> |

²³ <http://sites.google.com/site/belgianphysicssociety/>

²⁴ <https://sites.google.com/site/physbel/Physics-in-Belgium>

	<i>outlook.</i>
11h20	Prof. J. POORTMANS, IMEC, Leuven: <i>New developments in Photovoltaics</i>
12h05	Prof. H.J. SEIFERT, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT): <i>Energy storage techniques.</i>
12h50	Lunch
	Postersession with contributions from the Belgian research teams working on energy
14h00	Start afternoon session (chair: F. Deconinck)
	Dr. J. SCOYER, Umicore: <i>Physics of recycling materials in a renewable context.</i>
14h45	Prof. em. E. MUND, Université Libre de Bruxelles, <i>Physics of next generation nuclear reactors.</i>
15h30	Prof. H. AÏT ABDERRAHIM, SCK-CEN: <i>MYRRHA, a new flexible Belgian research reactor.</i>
16h30	Closing and Reception

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PHYSIOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGY

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The goal of the Committee is to organize national and international scientific meetings in which Belgian Physiologists and Pharmacologists (and eventually their guests) can present and bring up for discussion the results of their recent research in the fields of Physiology and Pharmacology.

Because of the common goals, the members of the National Committee for Physiology and Pharmacology are also member of Physiology and Pharmacology and as such are involved in the preparation and organization of all the activities of this Society.

2. Meetings of the Committee

26 October 2012, General Assembly held in Brussels (Palace of the Academies).

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The General Assembly 2012 of the was held on 18 July 2012, at the occasion of the 6th EPHAR Congress (European Pharmacological Societies), Prof. Johan Van de Voorde represented the Committee.

4. Other Activities

[a] Council Meeting of the Federation of European Physiological Societies (FEPS), 10 September 2012. Prof. Johan Van de Voorde represented the Belgian Society of Physiology and Pharmacology. *Main conclusions:* discussion about the function of the Federation of the European Pharmacological and Physiological Societies in Europe and their relation to the National Societies.

[b] Organisation of the National Spring meeting of the Belgian Society of Physiology and Pharmacology, 16 March, in Brussels aiming to bring together the physiologists and pharmacologists form Belgian laboratories. *Attendance:* 100 scientists.

[c] Organisation of the National Autumn meeting of the Belgian Society of Physiology and Pharmacology, 26 October, in Brussels aiming to bring together the physiologists and pharmacologists form Belgian laboratories. *Attendance:* 100 scientists.

5. Future perspectives

- As usual two national meetings a year will be organized; the Spring and Autumn meeting.
- On September 13 2013 the “2nd Symposium on Acute Toxicology” will be organised in Gent under the auspices of the Belgian Society of Physiology and Pharmacology.
- The Dutch and the Belgian Societies of Physiology and Pharmacology will organize the 2nd Benelux Congress on Physiology and Pharmacology (Maastricht, Spring 2014)
- Participation at the General Assembly of the International Union of Physiological Sciences at the occasion of the IUPS World Congress (21-26 July 2013 in Birmingham – UK)

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The goal of the Committee being to undertake, promote and coordinate psychological scientific research, focusing in particular on long term, intercollegiate or interdisciplinary projects and to serve psychological scientific interests in Belgium from a national as well as an international point of view.

2. Meetings of the Committee

The Committee held two meetings in 2012: 5 May & 8 December.

Main points:

- BAPS Best Thesis Award.
- IUPsyS Delegate.
- Organization of the Symposium 2013.
- Initiative to establish closer links between Psychology Faculties.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The Scientific Union has met in 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa. Pr. Bernard Rimé acted as representative of the National Committee on this occasion²⁵.

4. Future Perspectives

[a] The committee organizes bi-annual symposia. The next symposium will be organized in November or December 2013. The chosen theme, proposed by S. Brédart, who will also act as the main organizer for the event, is *Person perception from face and voice*.

[b] The Committee is additionally considering launching further initiatives to establish closer links between Faculties of Psychology and Educational Sciences in Belgium.

[c] Finally, it continues to collaborate with the International Union for Psychological Science.

²⁵ See report on page 88.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR RADIO-ELECTRICITY (URSI)

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The activities of the Belgian URSI Committee are related to the domain of radio-electricity. The main goal of the committee is to promote and in some extend to coordinate for Belgium the scientific activities of its members in this field of interest. The committee meets regularly at the Academy and organizes yearly, in collaboration with the URSI committee of Netherlands a 'URSI Forum' where young doctorandi have the opportunity to present their researches and to exchange their scientific and technical experience. Effective members of the committee are representing Belgium in the different scientific commissions of URSI.

2. Meetings of the Committee

The Belgian URSI Committee has met four times in the facility of the Academy: on 22 March, 28 June, 27 August and 26 November.

[a] 22 March 2012

Dr. VOLSKI from the KU Leuven gave a presentation entitled *Antenna arrays with baseband electronic beam steering for telecommunication applications*. After his presentation the administrative part of the meeting went on with the organization of the BENELUX URSI forum 2012.

[b] 28 June 2012

This meeting was exceptionally held in Leuven. Dr. Jodogne from IRM-KMI gave two presentations entitled *The New Ionospheric Sounder in Dourbes* and *Cosmic Rays and Clouds*. After his presentation, Prof. Van Lil informed us about the positive feedback on his presentation at the academies on February 2, 2012. Some communications were done by the board about the URSI *Electromagnetic Metrology Symposium* to be held in Torino in 2013. Then the administrative part of the meeting went on with the organization of the BENELUX URSI forum 2012.

[c] 27 September 2012

Exceptionally, there was no scientific part during this meeting, by lack of time needed to review the papers submitted to the BENELUX URSI forum 2012. After the papers review, the administrative part of the meeting went on with the organization of the BENELUX URSI forum

2012. Then the election of a new associate member took place. Dr. Stan Stankov was elected unanimously as an associate member.

[d] 26 November 2012

The scientific part was given by Prof. Meessen. He gave a presentation entitled *Pulsed EM Propulsion of Unconventional Flying Objects*. It was so interesting that this part took till 16.00. A minute of silence was observed in memory of one of our honorary members, Prof. ir. Gewillig who passed away. The debriefing of the BENELUX URSI forum was postponed to the next meeting because of the absence of Prof. Peter Van Daele.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] The sixth edition of the Benelux URSI forum was organized by the team of the Universiteit Gent chaired by Peter Van Daele on 14 September at Brussels. It is worthwhile to note that the laureates of the best paper contest were Zhanna Khaimedina (KU Leuven), Jonathan Pisane (ULG) and Olga Tereshchenko (U of Twente)²⁶.

²⁶ Too save money, the proceedings were not published on paper but can be found at <http://www.ursi.org/extranet/login.asp> (URSIBenelux).

NATIONAL COMMITTEE SCOPE-IGBP

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The committee represents Belgium in SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment) and IGBP (International Geosphere/Biosphere Program of ICSU). General information on these international programs is annexed. The national committee stimulates the participation of Belgian scientists in SCOPE and IGBP projects. It also organizes activities (workshops, conferences, preparation of research plans, etc.) in Belgium in the domains covered by these programs.

2. Meetings of the Committee

Unspecified.

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2012.

4. Other activities

[a] Participation to meetings of BEES (Belgian Ecosystem Services), a BELSPO research program, which originated from workshops organized by the committee in previous years. The final conference for the BEES program took place on 27 April 2012. Its aim was to bring together the results of the seven work packages, drawing conclusions and identifying future research priorities for the evaluation of services rendered to society by nature, biodiversity and ecosystems, as an input to policy making in the context of sustainable development. A book summarizing the results is under preparation.

A permanent secretariat has been established for the BEES community at the Belgian Biodiversity Platform²⁷.

[b] Preparation and publication of the proceedings of the meeting on the future of the Soignes/Zonien Forest of November 2011, as a special issue of the Bulletin des Amis de la Forêt de Soignes (published in autumn 2012).

²⁷ <http://BEEScommunity.be>

[c] Contacts with the ISCU secretariat regarding the new “Future Earth” program, which is intended to absorb the IGBP.

5. Future perspectives

[a] A decision will have to be made on a possible Belgian participation to “Future Earth”.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOIL SCIENCES

1. Introduction, mission, goals

The NCSS was set up in 2002, following long lasting activities of the Soil Science Society of Belgium (started in 1924) and with the purpose to bring soil science to the attention of the broader public with particular focus on the young people. This original mission of SSSB/NCSS is more relevant now than it has even been - soil and soil suitability comes daily in the media and in the public debate: trade-offs between food production versus agro-fuels, the preservation of our pristine soils, the conservation of our soil heritage, the rehabilitation of marginal lands and the remediation of polluted soils. The NCSS is the representative organization for all soil scientists active in Belgium and is the official Belgian representative into the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) .

2. Meetings of the committee

Dates: 22 February, 21 November.

Main conclusions: the NCSS organizes 5 activities per year:

- *Day of the Young Scientists* in February;
- A field excursion in May or September;
- A Thematic Day in December
- Two boards (one in February, together with the Day of the Young Scientists, one in November, together with the Thematic Day).

3. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

IUSS mid-term meeting, Jeju, Korea, 3 – 8 June 2012.

Main conclusions: J. Deckers is member of the IUSS standing committee, and in the Executive Committee of the IUSS Working Group WRB on international soil classification. He is also chairing the Ad-Hoc Selection Committee of the bi-annual IUSS-Guy Smith Prize; J. Chapelle is member of the IUSS structure and statutes standing committee.

4. Other activities

[a] *Day of the Young Soil Scientists* at the Palace of the Academies, 22 February.

[b] BAG excursion to the loambelt (Gembloux, Sint Truiden and Dyle valley; organization: Bas van Wesemael and Kristof Van Oost), 15 June.

[c] Excursion to Luxembourg (organization: Simone Marx, Christophe Hissler, Jérôme Juilleret, Jan Nyssen, Sebastian Doetterl), 12 October.

[d] Thematic Day: *Soil memory and cultural heritage*, Chair: Karen Vancampenhout, at the Palace of the Academies, 21 November.

[e] Participation to the Eurosoil 2012 at Bari, Italy, 1-6 July.

[f] Participation in the General Assembly of the European Confederation of Soil Science Societies (ECSSS) at Bari on 5 July 2012.

5. Future perspectives

As each year, NCSS will organize 5 core activities:

- 2 board meetings (February & December) .
- Day of the Young Scientists (20 February 2013).
- Field excursion to the Anthrosols in the Kempen (5 June 2013).
- Thematic Day on 5 December: theme to be determined at the board in February.

In addition, other activities will be under the NCSS umbrella:

- Global Soil Partnership: initiative by FAO to harmonize global soil data: E. Van Ranst will be the official contact point.
- EGU conference, Vienna, April 2012: will be attended by many SSSB/NCSS members.

INTERNATIONAL UNIONS

The existence of a national committee is subject to the existence of an International Scientific Union or scientific body affiliated to International Council for Science — ICSU²⁸ (scientific committees, special committees, etc.) concerning the same scientific subject.

- Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) www.cosparhq.cnes.fr
- International Astronomical Union (IAU) www.iau.org
- International Geographical Union (IGU) www.igu-net.org
- International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) www.igbp.net
- International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE) www.ifmbe.org
- International Mathematical Union (IMU) www.mathunion.org
- International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM) www.iupesm.org
- International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) www.inqua.org
- International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) www.iubmb.org
- International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) www.iubs.org
- International Union of Crystallography (IUCr): www.iucr.org
- International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) www.iugg.org
- International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) www.iugs.org
- International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS),
 - Division of History of Science and Technology (IUHPS-DHST)
 - Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS-DLMPS) www.dlmeps.org
- International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) www.iums.org
- International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR) www.iuphar.org
- International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) www.iups.org
- International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) www.iupsys.net
- International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB) www.iupab.org
- International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) www.iupac.org
- International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) www.iupap.org

²⁸ www.icsu.org

- International Union of Radio Science (URSI) www.ursi.org
- International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) www.iuss.org
- International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM) www.iutam.net
- Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) www.scor-int.org
- Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) www.scopenvironment.org
- Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics www.yorku.ca/scostep
- World Climate Research Programme www.wcrp-climate.org

LISTS OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES²⁹

ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

Berger, André	Member FR
Beyens, Louis	Member NL
Dauby, Patrick	Associate Member
De Batist, Marc	Associate Member
De Broyer, Claude	Member FR
Decleir, Hugo	Member NL
Dehairs, Franck	Member NL
Dellile, Bruno	Associate Member
Doyen, Paulette	Honorary Member
Feller, Georges	Member FR
Fichefet, Thierry	Member FR
Fonteyn, Dominique	Associate Member
Goosse Hugues	Associate Member
Hamoir, Gabriel	Honorary Member
Hecq Jean-Henri	Member FR
Herman, Rudy	Member NL
Huybrechts, Philippe	Member NL
Lancelot, Christiane	Member FR
Mangold, Alexander	Associate Member
Pattyn, Franck	President
Paulissen, Etienne	Honorary Member
Rasson, Jean L.	Associate Member
Simon, Paul	Honorary Member
Souchez, Roland	Member FR
Tison, jean-Louis	Associate Member
Tonnard, Victor	Honorary Member
Van Autenboer, Tony	Vice-President
Van De Vijver, Bart	Associate Member
van Lipzig, Nicole	Associate Member
Van Roozendaal, Michel	Associate Member
van Ypersele, Jean-Pascal	Associate Member
Vanreusel, Ann	Assistant Secretary
Wilmotte, Annick	Secretary

²⁹ Last update : 4 June 2013. See also the lists on www.rasab.be.

ASTRONOMY

Aerts, Conny	Member NL
Alvarez, Rodrigo	Member FR
Arnould, Marcel	Honorary Member
Base, Maarten	Member NL
David, M.	Associate Member
De Grève, Jean-Pierre	Honorary Member
Dehant, Véronique	Member FR
Dejonghe, Herwig	Member NL
Dommangeat, Jean	Honorary Member
Frémat, Yves	Assistant Secretary
Goossens, Marcel	Member NL
Gosset, Éric	Member FR
Houziaux, Léo	Honorary Member
Jorissen, Alain	Member FR
Lemaître, Anne	Member FR
Noels-Grötsch, Arlette	Honorary Member
Pâquet, paul	Honorary Member
Pireaux, S.	Associate Member
Sauval, Jacques	Honorary Member
Smeyers, Paul	Honorary Member
Sterken, Chris	Member NL
Surdej, Jean	Vice-President
Swings, Jean-Pierre	Honorary Member
Van der Linden, Ronald	Member NL
Van Dessel, Edwin	Honorary Member
Van Eck, Sophie	Member FR
Van Hoolst, Tim	Secretary
Verheest, Franck	Honorary Member
Verschueren, W.	Associate Member
Waelkans, Christoffel	President

BELQUA

André, Luc	Member FR
Baeteman, Cécile	Vice-President
Camelbeeck, Thierry	Member FR
Claeys, Philippe	Member NL

De Batist, Marc	Assistant Secretary
Degryse, Patrick	Member NL
Fagel, Nathalie	Secretary
Groenen, Marc	Member FR
Haesaerts, Paul	Member FR
Heyvaerts, Vanessa	Member NL
Loutre, Marie-France	President
Mattielli, Nadine	Member FR
Verleyen, Elie	Member NL
Vermeersch, Pierre	Honorary Member
Verstraeten, Gert	Member NL

BIOCHEMISTRY AND BIOMOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Ampe, Christophe	Member NL
Arnould, Thierry	Member FR
Engelborghs, Yves	President
Lambeir, Anne-Marie	Member NL
Michiels, Carine	Member FR
Opperdoes, Fred	Secretary
Perret, Jacques	Member FR
Piette, Jacques	Member FR
Robben, Johan	Member NL
Somers, Veerle	Member NL
Wattiez, Rudy	Member FR

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Baguet, F.	Member FR
Bouharmont, Jules	Member FR
Bouquegneau, J.-M.	Associate Member
De Vree, F.	Associate Member
Francis, F.	Associate Member
Godderis, Boudewijn	Member NL
Haubruge, Éric	Member FR
Lambinon, Jacques	Member FR
Leclercq, Jean	Honorary Member
Maton, Jacques	Honorary Member
Meerts, Pierre	Member FR

Micha, Jean-Claude	Member FR
Pasteels, J.	Associate Member
Rammeloo, Jan	President
Thys van den Audenaerde, Dirk	Member NL
Van Cotthem, Willem	Member NL
Van De Vijver, Bart	Secretary
Van Goethem, Jackie	Member NL
Vandenborght, Oscar	Member NL
Verheyen, R. F.	Associate Member
Verraes, Walter	Honorary Member
Vincx, M.	Associate Member
Wouters, Karel	Honorary Member

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Bourgain, Renaat	Honorary Member
Brimioulle, Serge	Member FR
Cornelis, Jan	Member NL
Delbeke, Jean	Vice-President
Delchambre, Alain	Member FR
Francis, Laurent	Member FR
Kolh, Philippe	Member FR
Lefèvre, Philippe	Member FR
Lemahieu, Ignace	Member NL
Nyssen, Marc	Vice-President
Paiva, Manuel	Honorary Member
Van der Perre, Georges	Honorary Member
Van Huffel, Sabine	Member NL
Vander Sloten, Jos	Member NL
Veraart, Claude	Honorary Member
Verdonck, Pascal	President
Wuyts, Floris	Member NL

BIOPHYSICS

Ameloot, Thomas	Member NL
Charlier, Paulette	Member FR
De Maeyer, Marc	Member NL
Devreese, Bart	Vice-President

Dumoulin, Mireille	Member FR
Engelborghs, Yves	Secretary
Errera, Maurice	Honorary Member
Goldbeter, Albert	Member FR
Goormaghtigh, Éric	Member FR
Lambeir, Annemie	Member NL
Martins, Jose	Member NL
Matagne, André	President
Raussens, Vincent	Assistant Secretary
Soumillion, Patrice	Member FR
Voets, Thomas	Member NL

CHEMISTRY

Baekelmans, Paul	President
Beljonne, David	Member FR
Braekman, Jean-Claude	Member FR
Brandt, Ludo	Honorary Member
Cornelis, Paul	Vice-President
de Bièvre, Paul	Honorary Member
Dysseleer, Patrick	Member FR
Engelmann, Jacques	Member NL
Herman, Michel	Member FR
Martens, Guy	Honorary Member
Peeters, Daniel	Member FR
Petry, Corinne	Member NL
Schoonheydt, Robert	Member NL
Van Meervelt, Luc	Member NL
Van Tiggelen, Brigitte	Member FR
Vandercammen, Christian	Member FR
Vanderzande, Dirk	Member NL

CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

Blochuys, Franck	Member NL
Charlier, P.	Honorary Member
Danguy, L.	Honorary Member
Dideberg, O.	Honorary Member
Dupont, L.	Honorary Member

Durant, F.	Honorary Member
Elsen, Jan	Member NL
Fiermans, L.	Honorary Member
Filichuk, Yaroslav	Member FR
Gilles, J.-M.	Honorary Member
Hadermann, Joke	Member NL
Hatert, Frédéric	Member FR
Henrard, Luc	Member FR
Jacobs, G.	Honorary Member
Lambot, H.	Honorary Member
Lamoën, Dirk	Member NL
Lefebvre, S.	Honorary Member
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APPENDIXES



Proteomics and Interactomics in Signaling Networks.

Friday May 25, 2012, Venue: Het Pand, zaal Vermeylen, Gent.

9h00 registration and poster mounting

9h20 welcome

9h30 **Erich Brunner**, Institute of Molecular Life Sciences, University of Zurich

- Spatio-temporal interaction proteomics in *Drosophila*

10h15 **Gianni Cesareni**, Tor Vergata, University of Rome

- Functional mapping of the phosphatase family onto growth pathways

11h00 coffee break

11h30 **Antoine Hubert** (KUL)

- Use of fluorescent tagging for rapid validation of interactors identified by mass spectrometry

11h50 **Katrien Van Impe** (UGent/VIB)

- Simultaneous control of cancer cell invasion & cell cycle regulation

12h10 **Mosammat Salma Aktar** (VUB)

- Profiling sulfenylated cysteine residues in *Arabidopsis thaliana* under oxidative stress

12h30 poster lunch

13h00 General assembly of the Belgian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

14h00 **Sven Eyckerman**, (UGent/VIB)

- Virotrap and iMixPro, two novel approaches in the arsenal of protein interaction technologies

14h45 **Frederic Rousseau**, Switch Laboratory, Leuven

Aggregation of mutant p53 as a mechanism of oncogenic gain-of-function

15h30 **Yannick Waumans** (UA)

- Prolyl oligopeptidase: lost in traffic?

15h50 **Celine Derooyer** (Ulg)

- Identification of new emerlin partners in the ceramide signaling pathway

16h10 coffee break

16h40 **Erich Wanker**, Max Delbruck Center, Berlin

Interactomics in neurodegenerative diseases

17h25 concluding remarks

17h30 end

www.biochemistry.be.

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F.W.O. Contact group on
Protein Structure, Folding and Dynamics





Biophysics School:

Bioimaging: from single molecules to whole animals & plants

**KU Leuven, Auditorium D, Celestijnenlaan 200 C, Heverlee,
30 May, 31 May, 1 June 2012**

Wednesday the 30th of May: Molecular & cellular Imaging

09:30-10:30 Scanning probe microscopy of molecules

Steven De Feyter (KU Leuven)

11:00-12:00 Smart labels for advanced fluorescence imaging

Peter Dedecker (KU Leuven)

14:00-15:00: Diffusion of proteins in membranes by fluorimetric techniques

Marcel Ameloot (U.Hasselt)

15:30-16:30 Electron Microscopy- from images to molecular structure

Irina Gutsche (EMBL Grenoble)

Thursday the 31st of May: Molecular, cellular & tissue imaging

09:30-10:30 Application of fluorescent-proteins – from single molecule detection to functional imaging in intact animals

Hideaki Mizuno (KU Leuven)

11:00-12:00: Atomic Force Microscopy of microbial cells

David Alsteens (UC Louvain)

14:00-15:00: Imaging of activity and transport processes in living neurons

Pieter Vanden Berghe (KU Leuven)

15:30-16:30: In vivo stem cell imaging

Uwe Himmelreich (KU Leuven)

Friday the 1st of June: Imaging of animal and plant tissues

09:30-10:30: FTIR imaging of tissues for diagnostic purposes in cancer

Erik Goormaghtigh (U.Bruxelles)

11:00-12:00: X-ray micro and nano computed tomography for imaging of plant tissues

Bart Nicolai (KU Leuven)

14:00-15:00 Imaging using MALDI techniques

Luth Arckens (KU Leuven)

15:30-16:30 PET imaging in small animals

Cindy Casteels (KU Leuven)

Registration is obligatory at the website see www.biophysics.be

Participation in the cost is 25 Eur for members and 35 Eur (including membership fee) to be prepaid to the account 000-0146336-60 of the Belg. Ver. Biofys. c/o Prof. Y. Engelborghs, Celestijnenlaan 200G box 2403, 3001 Leuven.

- An organization of the Belgian Biophysical Society -



Université de Liège

THE BELGIAN BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY
Further supported by the Doctoral School “Structure and Function
of Biological Macromolecules, Bioinformatics and Modelling”
organizes **THE TENTH ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM** on

PROTEIN FOLDING AND STABILITY

ON FRIDAY THE 31ST OF AUGUST 2012

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIEGE
AMPHITHEATRE 204, “Amphithéâtres de l’Europe”
DOMAINE UNIVERSITAIRE DU SART TILMAN
BATIMENT B4

09:45-10:00 Welcome

Chair : Roger H. Pain (Jozef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

10:00-10:50 **Christopher M. Dobson** (Chemistry Dept., Univ. Cambridge, U.K.)

“New Approaches to Understanding and Preventing Neurodegenerative Diseases”

10:50-11:20 COFFEE BREAK

11:20-12:10 **Francisco Conejero-Lara** (Química Física, Univ. Granada, Spain)

“Understanding the Earliest Events in Amyloid Fibrillation by Experimental Kinetic Analysis”

12:10-13:00 **Vincent Forge** (CEA Grenoble, France)

“Amyloid Fibrils Formed by the Programmed Cell Death Regulator Bcl-xL”

13:00-14:00 LUNCH

14:00 –14:50 **Jochen Balbach** (Martin-Luther Univ. Halle-Wittenberg, Germany)

“Exploring Protein Energy Landscapes by NMR Spectroscopy”

14:50-15:40 **Nico van Nuland** (Structural Biology Brussels, VUB, Belgium)

“Communication within and Between Proteins”

15:45 General assembly of the BBSc and RECEPTION

Contact: Prof André Matagne (amatagne@ulg.ac.be). **Registration is required.** Admission is free for members. Non-members of the Biophysical Society should register at <http://www.biophysics.be> and pay their membership of **10 EUR** to the account BE73 0000 1463 3660 of the Belgian Biophysical Society.



The National Committee for Biophysics, as part of the Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium, further supported by the Belgian Biophysical Society, the F.W.O. contact group on Protein Structure, Folding and Dynamics, the F.R.S.-FNRS contact group on Structural Biology and the Direction Générale Opérationnelle de la Recherche en Wallonie, invite you to participate to the Contactforum on:

Molecular Crowding in vitro and in the living cell

On Monday the 17th of December 2012 in the “Paleis der Academiën/Palais des Academies”,
Hertogstraat 1, 1000 Brussels

09.00 Arrival and coffee

09.45-10.00 *Introduction* André Matagne (Univ. Liège, Belgium)

10.00-10.45 *What we know and do not know about macromolecular crowding*
Alan P. Minton (N.I.H., Bethesda, USA)

10.45-11.30 *In vitro effects of macromolecular crowding on protein stability, structure and folding*
Pernilla Wittung-Stafshede (Umeå University, Sweden)

11.30-12.15 *Dynamics of folding and heat shock response in living cells*
Martin Gruebele (University of Illinois, USA)

12.15-13.15 Sandwich lunch

13.15-14.00 *Anomalous diffusion in crowded media and crowded membranes*
Matthias Weiss (Univ. Bayreuth, Germany)

14.00-14.45 *Modulation of functionally significant conformational equilibria in Adenylate Kinase by high concentrations of TMAO attributed to volume exclusion*
Elisha Haas (Univ. Israel)

14.45-15.15 Coffee break

15.15 -16.00 *The effect of crowding on the dynamics of biochemical networks*
Pieter ten Wolde (AMOLF, Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

16.00 – 16.45 *Transforming binding affinities from 3D to 2D with application to Cadherin Clustering* Barry Honig (Columbia Univ., New York)

16.45 Concluding remarks and reception

Registration is obligatory at www.biophysics.be preferably by the 1st of December 2012.

Cost of participation is 25 Eur for members of the Bel. Biophys. Soc. and 35 Eur for non-members (including the 2012 membership fee), to be paid to the account BE73 0000 1463 3660 (BIC BPOTBEB1) of Bel. Biophys. Soc, Celestijnenlaan 200 G box 2403, 3001 Leuven



Contact forum supported by the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and the Arts organized by the National Committee for Microbiology and the Belgian Society for Microbiology



Posttranscriptional regulation and epigenetics in microorganisms

Friday November 30th 2012

Academy Palace, Hertogsstraat/Rue Ducale 1, – 1000 Brussels

- 08:30** Registration desk open – Poster mounting
- 09:00** Welcome address
- 09:10** **Jörg Vogel**, Institute Molecular Infection Biology, University of Würzburg, DE
"New mechanisms of gene activation by small RNAs"
- 09:55** **Ben Berkhout**, Lab. of Experimental Virology, University of Amsterdam, NL
"HIV-1 and RNA"
- 10:40** Coffee break
- 11:20** **Susan Gottesman**, National Cancer Institute-Bethesda, USA
"Bacterial small RNAs as connectors for regulatory cascades"
- 12:05** **Martin J. Allday**, Virology, Div. Infectious Diseases, Imperial College London, UK
"Epigenetic reprogramming of host genes in viral and microbial pathogenesis"
- 13:00** Lunch – Poster viewing & poster discussion groups
- | | Parallel session 1 – Bacteriology | Parallel session 2 – Virology |
|--------------|--|--|
| 14:30 | Stan Brouns ,
Lab. Microbiology, Wageningen University,
Wageningen, NL
<i>"RNA in defense: CRISPRs protect prokaryotes against mobile genetic elements and bacteriophages"</i> | Carine Van Lint ,
Lab. Mol. Virology, ULB, Gosselies, BE
<i>"Epigenetic control of Human Immunodeficiency Virus type 1 (HIV-1) postintegration latency: implications for therapeutic interventions"</i> |
| 15:10 | Short lectures (5) of selected abstracts | Short lectures (5) of selected abstracts |
| 16:30 | General conclusions and presentation of best poster awards | |



Registration: <http://www.belsocmicrobio.be/>

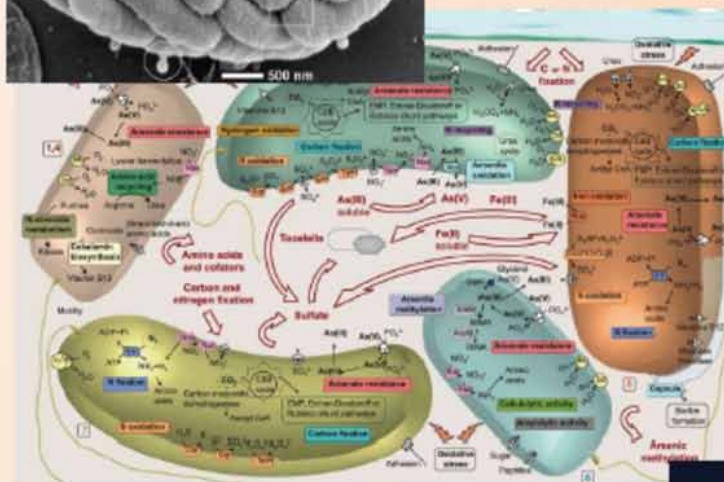
The National Committee for Microbiology and the Belgian Society for Microbiology organizes BSM's Minisymposium on Metaproteogenomics

Functional analysis of microbial communities and consortia without cultivation

Tuesday 25th September 2012, 13.00 h

Academy Palace, Hertogsstraat/Rue Ducale 1,- 1000 Brussels

- **Jörg Overmann** (Leibniz-Institut DSMZ)
- **Nicole Dubilier** (Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology)
- **Philippe Bertin** (Strasbourg University)
- **Rolph Daniel** (Georg-August Universität)



*** Free entrance for BSM members !**

Registration :
www.belsocmicrobio.be/BSM/

*** Free access to the next BSM symposium on November 30th – 2012 !**



Contact / Info :
david.gillan@umons.ac.be

<http://www.belsocmicrobio.be/BSM/>



Report of on the ICP 2012 meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa July 22-27

Bernard Rimé

It should first and foremost be mentioned that Archbishop Desmond Tutu in person talked at the opening ceremony on July 22.

IUPsyS General Assembly held on July 23, 2012

The IUPsyS Assembly elected not only nine new National Members and two Affiliate organizations, but also new Officers and Executive Committee members. Vassilis Saroglou and Bernard Rimé (both at UCL) voted for Belgium.

Three people were nominated for president: Saths Cooper South Africa South African National Committee for Psychology; Paul Martin Australia Australian Psychological Society; and Kan Zhang China Chinese Psychological Society. Cooper was elected by a large margin as IUPsyS president for 2012-2016. Saths Cooper obtained his PhD in Clinical/Community Psychology from Boston University as a Fulbright scholar in 1989. He has played a key role in the anti-Apartheid struggle and in the advent of democracy in South Africa. He was banned and house-arrested in 1973 and jailed for nine years (spending over five years in Robben Island in the same cell-block as former President Mandela).

Rainer K. Silbereisen, Germany, thus accessed the status of Past-President. As to new Officers, Tor Levin Hofgaard (Norway) was elected Vice-President, Ann Watts South Africa) Secretary General, Michel Sabourin (Canada) Treasurer and Jean-Pierre Blondin (Canada) Treasurer Designate.

Nine new regular members of the executive committee were elected: Oscar A. Barbarin (USA), Laura Hernández-Guzmán (Mexico), Pascal Huguet (France), Pam Maras (UK), Janak Pandey (India), Alicia Salvador (Spain), Gonca Soygüt (Turkey), Kazuo Shigemasa (Japan), Ava Thompson (Bahamas), Jianxin Zhang (China). Nick Hammond (UK) was elected Executive Officer.

The reintegration of Brazil as a regular member of the Union was voted on and approved unanimously. Finally, this Assembly also chose Prague to host the 32nd ICP in 2020. The 31st ICP will take place in 2016 in Yokohama, Japan.

Symposium representing Belgium

The symposium was held under "invited presentations" on Monday July 23. The attendance was comparatively important, with some 120 participants all along the session.

16:30-18:00	Symposium Convenor: Rimé Bernard (Belgium) Discussant: Paez Dario (France)	Collective emotions and collective expression
	Paez Dario (France) Rimé Bernard (Belgium) Basabe Nekane (Spain) Kanyangara Patrick (Rwanda)	Effects of collective emotional expression on emotional climate in Rwanda and Spain
	Mahjoub Abdelwahab (Tunisia) Rimé Bernard (Belgium) Paez Dario (France)	Emotional climate in times of social change: The case of the Tunisian revolution
	Rimé Bernard (Belgium) Paez Dario (France) Bosco Serena (Spain) Jaminet Marie-Lyne (Belgium)	Christmas season, music and choir, and folk marching: Psychosocial effects of collective emotional celebrations

Concluding comments

On my side, there were serious apprehensions with regard to the organization of ICP 2012. In the months preceding the Congress, it was a real nightmare to communicate with the registration system proposed on the conference website. It took several months and an unbelievable number of emails exchanges (including a number written by Leni) and accesses and re-accesses to the website to finally get the symposium correctly registered, with authors and coauthors affected to the right presentation, and with the various presentations appearing on one and the same slot in the program. I really thought that it would never happen. Fortunately, on site, the Congress turned out to be very well organized with a good number of interesting and stimulating invited lectures. It was also much successful in terms of number of participants. This was probably stimulated by the fact that there were innumerable Pre and Post-Congress conferences in the immediate surroundings, something we did not have at the time we organized ICP 1992 in Brussels. It should be added that taking part to the IUPsys Assembly votes requires real patience. It takes a full afternoon up to the night to go through all the procedural details and it is extremely boring. Still, it should be done.

Bernard Rimé