To the PhD-students of the Graduate School Neurosciences Amsterdam Rotterdam (ONWAR) and Clinical and Experimental Neuroscience (CEN-Utrecht)

Annual PhD-Student Meeting – October 30th and 31st, 2025

We would like to welcome you to the 31st edition of the Annual PhD-student meeting, which will be held in the same location as always.

Some of you already know about it, but for those who do not, the meeting offers the unique opportunity to present your work in a more informal and relaxed setting than at a conventional scientific conference. Moreover, you will have the opportunity to broaden your knowledge of neuroscience, to learn more about new and exciting neuroscience topics and techniques, and to socialize with other PhD students from Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht. A perfect way to extend your social and professional network!

We are asking all attendees to indicate the main topic, technique and model (organism) they are working with. This will be used to form poster groups and select topics for the oral presentation sessions. We hope it would be useful to have a more focused attendance and to improve interaction between people working on similar topics. Therefore, we encourage all PhD students to register as soon as possible. *Please note, that if you register past the deadline, your poster, room assignment and metascience workshop would be assigned randomly.*

The meeting will take place at Woudschoten Conference Centre in Zeist on October 30th and 31st (Thursday and Friday), 2025. Participation in this meeting is **obligatory** for all ONWAR PhD-students. In order to get the certificate of the school at the PhD ceremony, full attendance at the meeting will be checked by a presence list that you have to sign at the start and at the end of the meeting. For PhD-students at CEN the meeting is not obligatory, but complete attendance will be rewarded with 1 ECTS in case of attendance of the complete meeting.

Scientific sessions

The scientific sessions comprise oral presentations, blitz presentations and poster sessions. You should register yourself according to the **year of PhD** you are now in, regardless of the number of annual meetings you have already attended.

The type of presentation will be allotted according to the following rules:

- PhD students in the FIRST year of their appointment must join in the evaluation of the poster presentations, and may choose to present a poster when they have any results to present.
- PhD students in the SECOND year of their appointment are obliged to present a poster.
- PhD students in the THIRD year of their appointment are obliged to give a blitz presentation followed by a poster presentation.
- PhD students in the FOURTH year of their appointment are obliged to give an oral presentation.

PhD-students with a 3-years contract will have to present a poster in their 1st year, a blitz/poster presentation in their 2nd year, and an oral presentation in their 3rd year.

This year again, special attention will be paid to participation in the questions after each oral presentation. The purpose of this is to stimulate feedback on the scientific content and to improve your skills to defend your scientific work and criticize that of others, a key factor in scientific progress.

Awards will be presented to the best poster, blitz presentation and oral presentation.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The official language of the meeting is **English**.
- All poster and oral presenters have to submit an abstract in advance.
- Each “data blitz” presenter will get 90 seconds to introduce and promote the research presented in their poster and to invite the audience to visit the poster. During the subsequent poster session there will be ample time for in-depth scientific discussion with fellow PhD-students and staff members of the graduate schools.

Registration and abstract

For registration and abstract submission, please use the following link:
https://forms.gle/qiB6C4itE9C5w2MD6

Deadline for registration and abstract submission is ***August 11th , 2025.***
Instructions for abstract are attached in this email.

Program

Based on the abstracts the organizing committee will prepare a program for the meeting. There will be parallel scientific sessions in which several topics will be covered in a bed-to-bench approach. The selection of topics to be covered depends on the registration of PhD-students and on their research topics. Thus, if you want your topic to be included in the program, make sure to register on time. *In case you submit your abstract after the submission deadline, your research would be assigned to a group randomly.*

Groups for the poster sessions will be formed on the basis of the selected topic, technique and/or model (organism). These themes and topics can be found down below. Please choose one topic, one technique and one animal model, which are related most to your research. In case none of the topics are related to your research, please use two key words in the registration form.

An evening event will take place on November 23rd. So join other participating PhD students, make new friends and enjoy this year’s event!

The final program of the meeting in Woudschoten will be available from mid-October and you will receive it via an e-mail .

Social media:

Network with us on LinkedIn: ONWAR
Follow us on Twitter: ONWARMeeting

If you have any queries, please send an e-mail to Kim Hubregtse (k.hubregtse@vu.nl)

See you at Woudschoten,
the organizing committee,

Blom Kraakman
Natia Shamugia
Lukas Lutje
Scott Conrad
Kim Hubregtse
Noémie Zerrouki
Zahra Hemmat
Lisa Bouwman
Bastiaan Meth
Amélie Fréal
Dimitrios Samouil
Tjerk Swinkels
Emmy Hoeksema
Max Koppers
Kelsey Ax

The fixed themes and topics designed to group your research with that of others on the same field are:

A. Development
01. Brain Patterning
02. Neurogenesis and Gliogenesis
03. Stem Cells, transplantation and regeneration
04. Axon and Dendrite Development and synaptogenesis
05. Development of Motor, Sensory and Limbic Systems

B. Neural Excitability, Synapses, and Glia: Cellular Mechanisms
01. Neurotransmitters and Signaling Molecules
02. G-Protein Linked Receptors
03. Ion Channels
04. Transporters
05. Synaptic Transmission & plasticity
06. Intrinsic Membrane Properties
07. Glia-Neuron Interactions

C. Disorders of the Nervous System
01. Translational Mechanisms (animal models)
02. Neurodegenerative Disorders and Movement Disorders
03. Aging;
04. Developmental Disorders (e.g., autism, fragile X syndrome)
05. Epilepsy
06. Ischemia & Stroke recovery
07. Demyelinating Disorders
08. Trauma, Neurotoxicity, Inflammation, and Neuroprotection
09. Neuro-Oncology
10. Sensory Disorders
11. Schizophrenia and Bi-polar Disorder
12. Cognitive, Emotional, and Behavioral State Disorders
13. Drugs of Abuse and Addiction

D. Sensory and Motor Systems
01. Vision and Visual processing
02. Other sensory systems
03. Pain
04. Motor systems

E. Integrative Systems: Neuroendocrinology, Neuroimmunology and Homeostatic Challenge
01. Neuroimmunology
02. Neuroendocrinology
03. Autonomic Regulation
04. Stress and the Brain
05. Water & Energy balance
06. Biological Rhythms and Sleep

F. Cognition and Behavior
01. Human Cognition and Behavior
02. Animal Cognition and Behavior
03. Motivation and Emotion
04. Learning

G. Novel Methods and Technology Development
01. Molecular, Biochemical, and Genetic Techniques
02. Genomics, Proteomics, and Systems Biology
03. Staining, Tracing, and Imaging Techniques
04. Physiological Methods

05. Bioinformatics
06. Computation, Modeling, and Simulation
07. Data Analysis and Statistics

Techniques
Behavior and behavioral interventions
Bioinformatics
Brain stimulation (tDSC, TMS, DBS)
EEG/MEG/Electrophysiology
Genomics, proteomics, and transcriptomics
Imaging: Live cells/neurons (e.g. calcium and voltage imaging)
Imaging: Structural/functional (e.g. MRI, CT, PET, SPECT)
Imaging: *ex vivo* microscopy
Pharmacology and neuromodulatory measurements
Stem cells/iPSCs

Model organism
Computer models
Cell cultures
Simple organisms (C. elegans, Drosophila, Zebrafish)
Rodent
Non-human primate
Human