

Secretary KNCV Division Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology

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From: The board of the KNCV Division [i.de.esch@vu.nl]
To: Board members
Bcc: all registered members of the division

Amsterdam, May 3rd, 2021

Dear colleague,

As board of the KNCV Division Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology we send you our best wishes and hope you are doing fine in these remarkable times. We all miss our regular gatherings and hope that it will be possible to meet again soon. We want to update and consult all members of the division about several issues, like we would normally do during a formal general meeting. Please contact us if you have questions or remarks, we will be happy to provide answers or initiate broader discussions and actions, if needed.

1) 50-years anniversary of the KNCV Medicinal Chemistry division

Our KNCV division was founded in 1970 and our 50-years anniversary was last year. Around the same time, the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC) was founded. Alas, we have not been able to celebrate but we hope to catch up soon. Fortunately, prof. Henk Timmerman has marked the occasion by publishing a manuscript in ChemMedChem entitled "Memoirs of the First 50 years of the European Federations for Medicinal Chemistry" (PMID: 33063943).

2) Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology (MCCB)

In line with international developments, our KNCV division has adopted a new name: Medicinal Chemistry & Chemical Biology. As KNCV division, we intend to support researchers working in both fields. Also on a European level, the natural synergy between the fields of medicinal chemistry and chemical biology is taking shape in more pronounced and formal collaborations. For example, the EFMC has installed a Chemical Biology workgroup and invited prominent Chemical Biology experts in the advisory board (including Hermen Overkleeft, LU). Realizing that both fields already are multidisciplinary, it will be important to coordinate our activities with related organizations, for example with the KNCV Division of Synthetic Organic Chemistry and the Netherlands Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NVBMB).

3) The 50-years anniversary symposium

Originally planned for March 2020, postponed to October 2020 and subsequently to May 2021, we unfortunately had to cancel our medCHEMbio2021 symposium due to the continued Corona restrictions. As board, we want to thank all that have helped to plan the symposium, e.g., by organizing sessions, inviting speakers, preparing lectures or by sponsoring the event. We will carefully look for opportunities to organize smaller national events as soon as possible. Instead of a full symposium in Eindhoven, we are happy that **prof. Luc Brunsveld (TUE) has agreed to give a webinar on 27th May 2021 between 15:00-16:00 hours**. Prof. Brunsveld acted as local organizer for the cancelled medCHEMbio symposium and his webinar is a perfect example how chemical biology and medicinal chemistry can blend. Please register for this event here: <https://mccb.kncv.nl/webinar>

4) The KNCV-MCCB PhD Thesis award 2019-2020

The winner of the 2019-2020 KNCV-MCCB prize for the best PhD thesis is Dr. Natalia Ortiz Zacarías, with the thesis entitled: "*The road to insurmountability – Novel avenues to better target CC Chemokine Receptors*". The research was performed at the Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research of Leiden University under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Laura Heitman and Prof. Dr. Ad IJzerman. In our webinar of **on 27th May 2021** there will be a short ceremony, and subsequently Natalia and the prize will get attention in the KNCV and EFMC e-Newsletters, LinkedIn, etc.

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5) The Board of the KNCV MCCB Division

As in a general meeting, we want to propose changes to the board of the division. The division wants to represent medicinal chemistry and chemical biology, and this will require special attention and additional activities. At the same time, we see that many activities and discussions are being delayed and there will be a lot of catching up to do once the corona restrictions have been removed. For this reason, we would like to install two new board members while prolonging the participation of some existing board members.

Iwan de Esch (VU Amsterdam)	Chair	
Peter Molenveld (Symeres)	Secretary – will stop	
Bauke Albada (Wageningen)	Treasurer	
Laura Heitman (LACDR Leiden)		
Ingrid Dijkgraaf (Maastricht)		
Stan van der Beelen (Maastricht)	Student member – will stop	
Rutger Folmer (Symeres)	New secretary	
Mario van der Stelt (Leiden)	New	
Luc Brunsveld (Eindhoven)	New	
Henk Timmerman	Advisor	

In short, two board members (Iwan de Esch, Bauke Albada) are available for a second term, two members are willing to stay on after their second term (Laura Heitman, Ingrid Dijkgraaf) and two members will be honorably discharged (Peter Molenveld, Stan van der Beelen). We are very grateful for the work that Peter (as secretary) and Stan (as student member) have done in the last years. The role of secretary will be taken over by Rutger Folmer (from Symeres, also ensuring a smooth transition from his colleague Peter Molenveld). At present, we have a vacancy for a student member (please contact secretary).

We also want to introduce two new board members that can help strengthen the interface of chemical biology and medicinal chemistry. **Luc Brunsveld (TUE)** and **Mario van der Stelt (LU)** will strengthen the board in the next few years. Prof. Henk Timmerman remains a valuable advisor.

It is important that board members are supported by the members of the division. If there are remarks and suggestions we would appreciate if you contact us. Whenever needed, we will initiate more formal and open discussions. If no comments reach us within 14 days (May 18th, 2021), we will formally accept and implement the changes (e.g., updating websites etc.).

6) Social media activities: help wanted!

The KNCV as well as our division are making an effort to be present on social media (LinkedIn, twitter, etc). We do realize that gathering content and maintaining an active and interesting presence takes time and skills. If you are interested in helping or if you have colleagues or students that can help with social media activities, please contact the board.

We hope to see you soon. Best wishes,
The board of the KNCV MCCB division