

- NEWSLETTER -

NIOK PhD-Platform

Dear NIOK PhD student,

The Questionnaire handed over to all NIOK PhD students during the 10th NCCC resulted in many surprising answers and interesting suggestions. One of the suggestions that had been made abundantly was the introduction of a newsletter. Therefore the NIOK PhD platform proudly presents its first newsletter! As a start, two newsletters will be written on a yearly base. Depending on the necessity, additional newsletters can be introduced. **We kindly ask all PhD students that have news, comments, suggestions or any other contribution for the NIOK PhD Newsletter to contact the NIOK PhD platform.**

In this newsletter:

- **NIOK PhD Platform: What and Why**
- **NIOK Soccer Tournament: talent, fun and**
- **Evaluation of the NIOK PhD Platform Questionnaire**
- **NEWS From the NPP board**

NIOK PhD Platform: What and Why

The NIOK PhD Platform (NPP) was officially established during the NCCC in March 2008. The request for the platform came from the board of NIOK itself. According to them and the evaluation of the ECOS committee of the KNAW (Royal Dutch Scientific Academy), the overall participation of PhD students to the NIOK research school needed some improvement. The NPP has therefore the objective to improve the communication between the NIOK board and the NIOK PhD students, and between the NIOK PhD students themselves.

The board of NIOK is headed by:

Dirk Renckens	(Chairman)	TUD:	T.J.A.Renckens@tudelft.nl
Sergio Pacheco	(Treasurer)	TUT:	S.Pacheco@tnw.utwente.nl
Davide Mores	(Secretary)	UU:	d.mores@uu.nl

Additional contact persons are:

Michèle Janssen	TU/e:	m.c.c.janssen@tue.nl
Stefan Warsink	UvA:	s.warsink@uva.nl

In order to smooth the organizational process, we aim at having a contact person in each research group that is within NIOK. For now, we do not have a contact person for each university that is involved in NIOK. So please apply for this relative easy task by contacting the NPP!

NIOK Soccer Tournament: the talent, the fun and...

This year, the NIOK Soccer Tournament was organized at the Twente University. Five teams took the challenge: Twente (Catalytic Processes & Materials group), Delft (Catalyst Engineering group), Delft (Bioorganic Chemistry Group), Utrecht (Inorganic Chemistry & Catalysis Group) and Utrecht (Chemical Biology & Organic Chemistry Group). As expected, beside the sportive efforts, a barbecue held at the end of the day catalyzed the communication between the participants.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**CHEMICAL BIOLOGY & ORGANIC CHEMISTRY GROUP
FROM UTRECHT UNIVERSITY**

WINNER OF THE NIOK SOCCER CUP 2009

...and organizers of the NIOK soccer tournament 2010

Questionnaire NPP

A total of 46 PhD students took the effort to answer the NPP questionnaire handed over at the 10th NCCC. Of this group, 29 (63%) was male and 17 (37%) was female.

The results of the questionnaire will soon be on the NPP page of the NIOK Website.

Many suggestions have been made and we thank all of you for that. We summarize the questionnaire as follows:

From the questionnaire it was clear that PhD students do not really know what courses NIOK provides, what they are about and when they are given. The NPP will try to improve this situation by informing the board of NIOK of the current situation and to see together what possible solutions can be found.

Also, almost everybody agrees that it is obligatory to follow the CAIA course and that it gives an additional value to the PhD track. However, it remains unclear if passing the course is a requirement for obtaining the NIOK certificate. It is also unclear what the requirements are for obtaining the certificate and what advantages such a certificate has.

Also this issue will be discussed with NIOK and improvements will be suggested.

We are also working on some of the suggestions made to the NPP itself. The suggestions for the NPP are summarized as follows:

- a) To arrange more interactive meetings with NIOK PhD students from other universities in order to improve the communication between the PhD's.
(Examples given: bonding activities, non scientific meetings like borrels etc)
- b) Organize lectures from foreign scientists / NIOK PhD invited lecturer at selected events
- c) To organize company visits
- d) To create a News Letter that keeps you up to date with NIOK
- e) Organize 'events' during CAIA and NCCC in order to learn knowing each other
- f) To organize post CAIA reunion
- g) To create a database containing NIOK exams and answers

This newsletter is a result of the suggestions of the questionnaire. The NPP aims at writing two newsletters a year as a start. The organization of the NIOK Soccer Tournament with barbeque was a social event organized by the NPP that had the objective to improve the interaction between NIOK PhD students. We are planning to organize a company visit in the coming months. Additionally we want to organize a small borrel at the end of the CAIA examination so that all examiners can cool down while catching up with the latest NIOK gossip. We will keep you up-to-date on that...



JORGE CHAM ©THE STANFORD DAILY