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Ghent University (UGent)

Academic developments:

1. New research projects:

- Stefaan Van Damme was granted an Interdisciplinary Research Project by the Ghent University Special Research Fund, which started in January 2015: "Unraveling the puzzle of back pain chronicity: An integrative perspective on disturbed sensorimotor control and maladaptive cognitive processes" (4 years; principal investigators: Stefaan Van Damme & Lieven Danneels; PhD student applied on the project: Amanda Clauwaert);
- Liesbet Goubert was granted a research project by the Ghent University Special Research Fund, which will start in October 2015: "Children's (mal)adaptive pain behaviours in context: A functional-cognitive perspective" (4 years; principal investigators: Liesbet Goubert & Sean Hughes);
- Geert Crombez participates in the European funded Horizon 2020 project "DOLORISK: Understanding risk factors and determinants for neuropathic pain". Geert Crombez supervises the work package "The impact of psychosocial factors on risk for neuropathic pain". The project will start in October 2015;
- Tine Vervoort was granted a Collaborative Research Grant by the International Association for the study of pain (IASP) supporting international interdisciplinary research collaboration with Prof. Elaine Fox (Oxford University, UK), Prof. Christine Chambers (IWK Health Centre, Halifax, Canada), Prof. Joanna McParland (Caledonian University, Glasgow, UK) and Prof. Zina Trost (University of Birmingham, Alabama, US) for the research project "It's not fair: emotion dynamics of parental appraisals of injustice in the context of pediatric pain".

2. New positions/staff:

- Tine Vervoort was granted a research professorship (tenure track) at Ghent University starting from October 2015 onwards. She has been based at Ghent Health Psychology Lab since 2003 and will continue working in this lab;
- Tine Vervoort was granted the Chair of the Flemish League against Cancer 2015-2016 for the dissemination (across the five Flemish Universities) of innovative research findings from Ghent Health Psychology Lab on psychosocial aspects of pain in the context of pediatric cancer;
- Cynthia Van Gampelaere was granted a PhD fellowship by Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). From October 2015 she will start working on her project "Parental fears and

(over)protective parenting in the context of their child's diabetes: a mixed-method approach" (4 years; supervisors: Liesbet Goubert & Koen Luyckx)

- Elke Van Lierde was granted a PhD fellowship by Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). Since October 2014 she started working on her project "The familial transmission of pain: the role of observational learning in the parent-child dyad" (4 years; supervisors: Liesbet Goubert & Eva Vandenbussche).

3. Defended PhD's:

- Sophie Vandenbroucke obtained her doctoral degree in May 2015. She executed an experimental analysis of vicarious somatosensory experiences while observing someone else in pain.

Vandenbroucke, S. (2010-2015; 26/05/2015). Vicarious somatosensory experiences while observing someone else in pain: An experimental analysis. PhD in Psychology, Ghent University.

Conferences:

In February 2015, the Ghent Health Psychology Group hosted the *4th Annual Conference of the Association for Researchers in Psychology & Health (ARPH)*. ARPH is a non-profit organization that was founded in April 2011, with the aim to advance scientific research on health psychology in The Netherlands and in Belgium, but also at the international level. It is the only health psychology congress in the Dutch-Belgian area, and as such offers an excellent opportunity for both junior and senior researchers to meet, present their work, and exchange new ideas. The 2015 congress in Ghent was the first to take place in Belgium. The content of the congress was deliberately kept broad and aimed to span the entire area of scientific research on the relationship between psychology and physical health/illness. General topics included health-related quality of life, self-regulation, coping and adjustment to chronic illness, symptom perception/interpretation, stress, health promotion, intervention research, patient-provider interaction, and interpersonal processes. The full scientific program can be consulted at <http://www.arphconference.nl/resources/ARPH2015-Full-Program.pdf>. There were 3 keynote speakers (Lance McCracken, James Coyne, Ilse De Bourdeaudhuij), all internationally well-known experts spanning a variety of research areas within the broad field of health psychology. Daniela Schulz (Maastricht University) received the annual award for best PhD thesis from an ARPH member. The award for best oral presentation was for Hester Trompetter (University of Twente), and Nathalie Claes (Ghent University and University of Leuven) won the award for best poster presentation.

Misc:

During the past congress of the Belgian Pain Society (BPS; <http://www.belgianpainsociety.org/>), Lies De Ruddere was elected as a member of the new BPS board.

University of Liège (Ulg)

Academic developments:

New research project :

Marie Vander Haegen was granted a thesis project in the University of Liège, which started in October 2014 on « Uncertainty and cognitive bias: Follow-up of parents of a child with cancer remission». Supervisor : Prof. A-M. Etienne; support committee : Prof. O. Luminet (UCL) et Prof. Nady VanBroeck (KULeuven)

Defended PhD's :

Bénédicte Jonius obtained her doctoral degree in September 2014 (2009-2014) with a thesis on "The cognitive functioning in people aged 65 and over, living with a blood cancer: normal cognitive aging or premises of a pathological cognitive aging?". Promotor : A.-M. Etienne

Conferences :

In December, 2014, the University of Liege in collaboration with UCL, ULB and UMONS and in partnership with the AFPSA organized the 8th Congress of the Francophone Association of Health Psychology in Liege.

During these three days, we welcomed more than 270 delegates. We had three plenary sessions: Professor Marie Preau (Lyon), Professor Philippe DeTimary (UCLouvain) and Professor Stan Maes (Leiden University).

We had over 120 presentations ranging from psycho-oncology to health research community.

An activity called Speed Networking was also implemented for the PhD students.

Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve (UCLouvain)

Academic developments:

1. New research projects :

(1) Diabetes Literacy:

The project is funded by the EU within the FP7 programme, has entered into its third and last year. The project, coordinated by a team of health psychologists at the Université catholique de Louvain led by Stephan van den Broucke, aims to provide evidence on policies and practices regarding diabetes self-management education in the EU, and to assess the impact of factors that influence the effectiveness of diabetes self-management education. Partners from seven EU Member States, Israel, the US and Taiwan have performed a content analysis of national diabetes strategies across the EU, and collected data on different forms of self-management education in order to compare their effectiveness, taking into account the mediating influence of implementation fidelity and the moderating role of health literacy and organisation characteristics. In addition, diabetes self-education materials suitable

for persons with low health literacy have been developed and tested. The results of the project will be presented in Brussels on November 17th (Further information can be found on <http://www.diabetesliteracy.eu/>). Louise Schinckus has been awarded a 14 month scholarship of the Fond Spécial de Recherche (FSR) to complete her research on diabetes self-management. The FSR-scholarship will enable her to study the impact of diabetes-related distress, depression, attribution styles and health beliefs on the outcomes of self-management training of diabetic patients.

(2) Food4Gut:

Interdisciplinary project « FOOD4GUT Innovative nutrition research on obesity based on colic nutriments. Biological, behavioral and societal aspects. » 5,387,280 €. Excellence research project funded by the Walloon region (Belgium) involving the Université catholique de Louvain, Université libre de Bruxelles and Université de Liège. The PI is Nathalie Delzenne from the Louvain Drug Research Institute (LDRI). Olivier Luminet is the coordinator for the behavioral aspects. The project started in September 2014.

The project involves 4 work packages. The psychological work package will look at the cognitive and affective factors, both explicit and implicit, that can affect the consumption of vegetables rich in colic nutriments. Supervisors' backgrounds cover cognitive, social and health psychology.

PhD students at UCL on the Food4Gut project:

- Valérie Broers is preparing a behavioural epidemiological study of the consumption of vegetables rich in colic nutrients within the Wallon region of Belgium. In a second part of the study, she will evaluate the effect of nudging on the choice for vegetables rich in colic nutrients in a series of field studies. Promotors of this research project are Stephan Van den Broucke and Olivier Luminet.
- Giorgia Zamariola is examining emotional and cognitive issues in obesity and the moderating impact of interoceptive awareness, emotional eating and alexithymia. Promotors are Olivier Luminet and Olivier Corneille.

(3) BEST project

This is an interdisciplinary project looking at well-being, employment, health and social tourism. The psychological component of the project examines the effects of vacations on emotional, cognitive, social and physical aspects of health among elderly people. This is funded by the research program for social innovation of the Walloon region (Germaine Tillion funds).

(4) Emotional Competence and Health

This is a nationally Representative Study of Emotional Competence and Health. Moira Mikolajczak initiated a collaboration with the largest Belgian Mutual Benefit Society (Mutualité Chrétienne - Christelijke mutualiteit) in order to study the influence of emotional competencies on health care use (drug use, doctor consultations, hospitalizations). The results of the first two studies (N > 10.000) were published in *Emotion*.

New positions/staff:

- Stefan Agrigoraie was appointed in September 2014 as assistant professor in health psychology in elderly.
- Valérie Broers, Marlène Melon and Giorgia Zamariola were appointed in September 2014 as PhD students on projects funded by the Walloon region (see above).

PhD theses defended :

- Véronique Neuvens (Déc. 2014). Developing a prevention program against bite's dogs in children. Promotors : Olivier Luminet and Claire Diedrich (U of Namur).
- Fanny Weytens (Sept. 2014) : Developing integrative theory-driven positive emotion regulation interventions. Promotors : Moïra Mikolajczak and Olivier Luminet

Free University of Brussels (ULB)

New positions/staff:

Sept. 2014. Elise Batselé was granted an ULB special grant and FNRS fellowship to conduct a research on the interactions between immunity, physiopathology, depression and emotional competences to understand the prognosis and the severe cardiac events onset following a first acute cardiac event.

Jan. 2015: Laura Gheert was granted a grant from the French NGO « Alliance Maladie Rare » to explore the consequences of genetic testing. She focuses her works on qualitative and quantitative methodologies in order to explore the subjective experience of patients suffering from a genetic rare disease (Holt-Oram, Nail-patela and Rendu-Osler syndromes) as well as on people genetically predisposed to breast-ovarian cancers (BRCA).