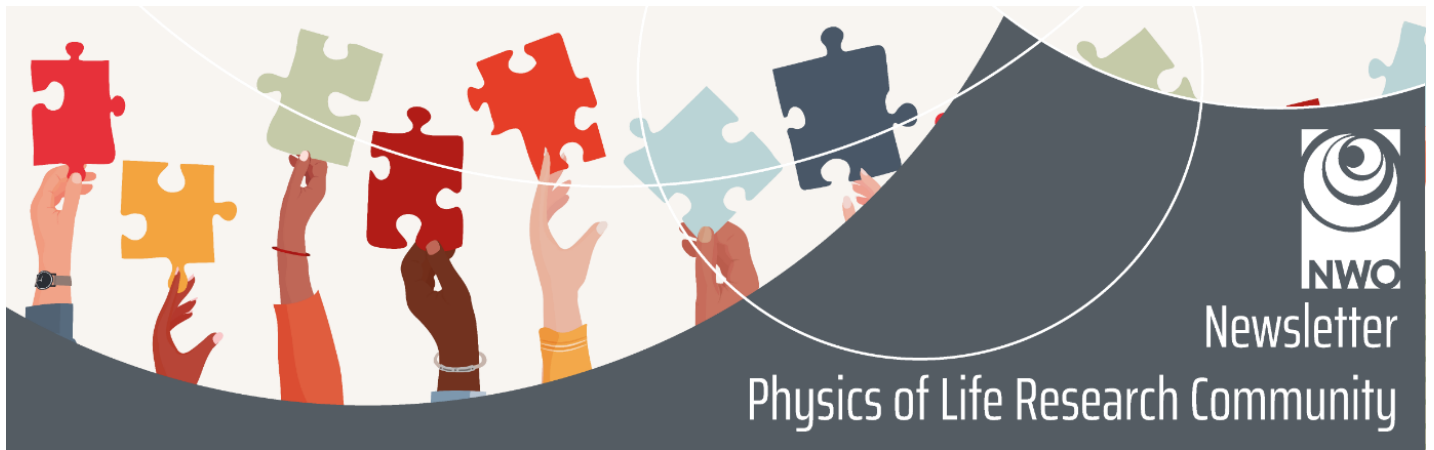




Newsletter Physics of Life Research Community

26 August 2024

Dear registered members of the research community physics of life,

Please find below our Q3 newsletter of 2024. It contains information on the upcoming events and includes some relevant updates on research policy. We are eager to hear about any suggestions you may have, and we look forward to meeting you at our assemblies.

Please spread the word about our community with all your POL colleagues! They will receive future newsletters and event invitations by registering, without any obligations, following this link:

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/register-for-research-community-for-physics>

Content of this newsletter:

- News from the research community committee POL and the Round Table Physics
- Community meetings
- Physics of life calendar
- Projects granted by NWO
- Bio sketches by Pepijn Moerman (TU/e)

Best regards,

on behalf of the research community committee POL,

Kristina Ganzinger (AMOLF) Naomi Chrispijn and Marjolein Bulk (NWO, Dutch Research Council)



NWO research community committee Physics of Life:

Chair: Dr. Kristina Ganzinger (AMOLF)

Vice-chair: Dr. Greg Stephens (VU)

Prof. Alessandra Cambi (RUMC)

Dr. Johannes Hohlbein (WUR)

Dr. Kristin Größmayer (TUD)

Prof. Lukas Kapitein (UU)

Dr. Mattijs de Groot (LUMICKS)

Dr. Nicholas Kurniawan (TU/e)

Prof. Remus Dame (LEI)

Dr. Rifka Vlijm (RUG)

Secretary: Dr. Marjolein Bulk and Dr. Naomi Chrispijn (NWO)

Website: www.nwobiophysics.nl/pol

New appointments, grants, prizes, and other news

- Nominate your PhD student for the Ehrenfest-Afanassjewa thesis award, which is annually awarded by the Dutch Physics Council. The award recognizes an outstanding PhD thesis in the field of physics, defended at a Dutch university in the previous year. Nominations are also open for the Minerva Prize, which is awarded annually by the DPC and NNV to an outstanding young female or non-binary physicist in the Netherlands with an overall performance that scientifically excels in any subfield of physics. Both prizes include a sum of 5k€ and an invitation to present the work at a national conference. Deadline 1 October 2024. [Read more >](#)
 - A new form of international collaboration is possible in the next round for the Open Competition Domain Science-M (2024-2025). Dutch researchers will soon be able to submit proposals with German or Flemish researchers in the form of a bilateral Weave application. [Read more >](#)
 - The nine NWO institutes were evaluated at the end of 2023 and rated as excellent by committees of international independent experts. The scientific research they conduct is of absolute top quality. [Read more >](#)
 - NWO has opened the call 'Demand-driven research by consortia 2024- S' for applications. In this call for proposals, public-private consortia can apply for funding for impact-driven collaborative research. Topics must be associated with the Dutch government's innovation policy. [Read more >](#)
 - Researchers must reflect on the possible consequences of their research, both desired and undesired, when submitting their research proposal in the near future. [Read more >](#)
 - NWO launches pilot Vidi grants to increase opportunities for talented female researchers. If the evaluation committee assigns a similar level of quality to several research proposals, preference will be given to the female candidate (only for proposals around the funding limit). [Read more >](#)
 - Veni round 2024 now open for pre-proposals. The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is 3 September 2024, by 14:00:00 CEST. [Read more >](#)
 - Evaluation Gravitation Programme: valuable recommendations for top research in the Netherlands. The recently completed evaluation of the Gravitation Programme provides insight into the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the programme. The evaluation highlights the unique character and added value of the programme by funding large-scale, fundamental, curiosity-driven research in consortia over a longer period of time. [Read more >](#)
 - Agathe Chaigne received funding to organise the EU Stem Cell Network Meeting on 19 November [Read more >](#) If you're also organising a scientific meeting or consultation, check out the NWO funding instrument. [Read more >](#)
 - The ERC has awarded proof of concept awards to researchers to turn their science into practice. Researchers based in the Netherlands who received this PoC-grant include Tom de Greef (TU/e), project: DNACryp DNA Encryption of Compartmentalized DNA Files, David Fernandez Rivas (UT), project: Lab-In-Skin Overcoming limits for pre-clinical small volume liquid delivery into skin and inflammation quantification. [Read more >](#)
-

NWO Biophysics 2024 and Annual PoL group leader meeting



Last change to register and submit your poster abstract for NWO Biophysics 2024!

NWO Biophysics 2024 will take place at NH Koningshof Veldhoven on 7 & 8 October. Expect an exciting programme filled with various renowned speakers, interactive sessions and plenty of networking opportunities with other biophysicists. Please visit the website for information on the keynote and plenary speakers. <https://www.nwobiophysics.nl/>

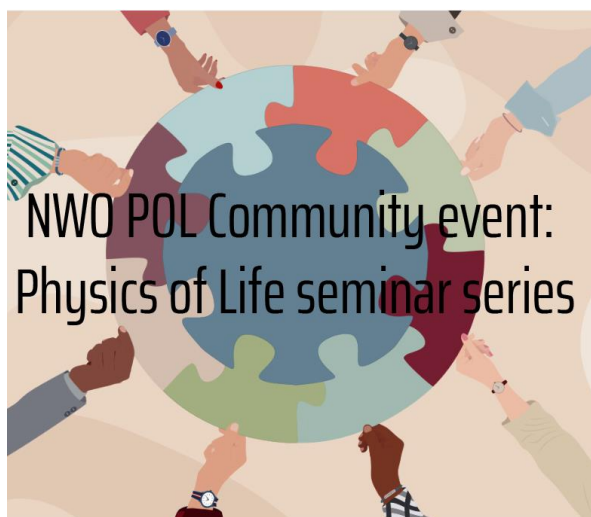
Would you also like to contribute to NWO Biophysics? The deadline for poster abstract submissions is **5 September**. More details: <https://www.nwobiophysics.nl/abstracts>.

Group leader session at NWO Biophysics (Monday 7 October 16:50 in the Baroniezaal)

The NWO research community committee physics of life will inform you about their role of our committee within NWO and what we have recently achieved. The committee's mission is to represent the scientists in our field, such that our opinions and experiences are optimally incorporated into NWO's policies and funding schemes. The scientific landscape is continuously evolving and we aim to keep PoL an active, innovating, and well-funded community. Apart from looking back at the events of the previous year, we will also use this session to look ahead to the upcoming year: what (policy-related) requests for input do we, as PoL committee, expect from NWO, and conversely, what do YOU as a community member need us to voice to them? We invite you to think with us how we can best serve the PoL community! As usually, there will be plenty of room to get to know your fellow group leaders active in the PoL field, with a special emphasis on introducing new members of the community. More info: www.nwobiophysics.nl/pol

Register yourself for the NWO Physics of Life seminar series and the PI lunch with Patricia Bassereau

On 28 November the POL community will gather again for their seminar series. This time we will meet at **the KNAW Trippenhuis, Amsterdam**. Make sure you register in time, as the capacity of the venue is limited. **For PIs there is the opportunity to join a lunch right before the seminar.**



28 June 2024

Talks by:

- [Patricia Bassereau](#) (CNRS, France)
- [Felix Hol](#) (RUMC)

More info and registration:

<https://www.nwobiophysics.nl/nwo-pol-community-event>

Organisation:

Marianne Bauer (TUD), Siddharth Deshpande (WUR), and Florian Berger (UU).

Recap of the NWO Physics of Life seminar series and the PI lunch with Erik van Nimwegen

On 26 June we held our 2nd edition of the NWO POL seminar series in Utrecht.

Before the seminar PIs had the opportunity to attend the lunch. 50 researchers gathered to get inspired and to network with each other. We had talks by Erik van Nimwegen (University of Basel), Maike Hansen (RU) and by PhD students/PDs from the Tsingos/Ten Tusscher lab, Ten Wolde lab, and Joo lab.

Erik's keynote lecture presented a new picture that is emerging from recent joint experimental and theoretical studies of gene regulation at the single-cell level in bacteria.

Maike's talk focused on cellular noise control: How molecular fluctuations can drive cell-state transitions.

Suggestions for future events can be shared with the organization and with the research community committee. If you're having a guest speaker or a collaborator coming over that would be willing to give a talk for a broader audience, please let us know, so we can explore the options to combine it. Do you have a PhD/PD who is working on a project that the rest of the community should definitely hear about it in this setting, feel free to contact the organisers and they will see whether they see a fit with the rest of the programme or one of the future editions.





Help your fellow biophysicists to be aware of the interesting conferences available.

Submit information on conferences, symposia, colloquiums etc. via <https://nwobiophysics.nl/calendar>

The picture is a screenshot of the longlist of calendar items listed on our website.

13th Single Molecule Localization Microscopy Symposium  (Lisbon & Oeiras, PT)	28 - 30 August 2024	Bringing together leading scientists and researchers in the field of single-molecule localization microscopy and advanced super-resolution imaging technologies.
BBS Biennial Meeting 2024  (Swansea, UK)	11-13 September 2024	The British Biophysical Society meeting covers a range of biophysical methods.
The 18th "Physics of Living Matter" Symposium  (Marseille, FR)	16 - 17 September 2024	This annual international symposium aims to bring together the life and physical sciences to discuss important biological questions.
NWO Biophysics (Veldhoven)	7-8 October 2024	The annual Dutch conference on physics of life.
Course on active hydrodynamics  (Wageningen)	7-11 October 2024	Week-long course on the role of hydrodynamics in biological and synthetic active systems.
Workshop on Structural Biophysics  (Bordeaux, FR)	14-18 October 2024	This workshop proposes to make an inventory of the latest technological advances and provides a theoretical and practical training on the main techniques of structural biophysics.
Conference: Towards data FAIRness in Molecular Biophysics  (Prague, CZ)	7 - 8 November 2024	The focus will be on online data deposition, databases, and analyse, with an emphasis on interoperability.
DNA replication at the heart of cell fate decisions and cancer development meeting  (Amsterdam)	20-21 November 2024	Showcasing the work within the 'The Replifate EU network', complemented with local speakers.
NWO Physics of Life seminar series (Amsterdam)	28 November 2024	3rd edition of the NWO POL Community event: Physics of Life seminar series.
Cell Bio 2024  (San Diego, US)	14 - 18 December 2024	The unique meeting focuses on cell biology as the fundamental basis of biology as well as sessions on emerging interdisciplinary topics.

Projects granted by NWO



The projects listed are the projects granted by NWO that have a connection with Physics of Life. Please follow the links for full granting information.

VENI 2023

[Read more >](#)

Understanding how confinement affects the formation of droplets of protein

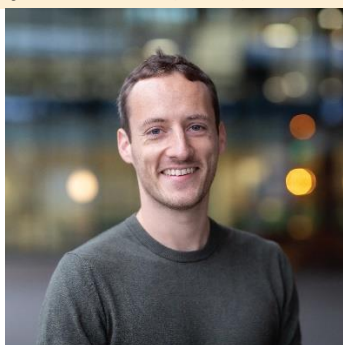
Dr. I.A.A. Muntz (M), Leiden University

Protein condensates are liquid-like droplets which form in the crowded interior of cells, driving many important processes such as transcription and signalling. Often, cell-free studies of these condensates observe their formation and behaviour in non-confining solutions; however, in these solutions condensate size and distribution generally differs from what is observed in cells. I will for the first time engineer confined environments, such as biopolymer networks, to mimic dense cellular environments, which will allow me to identify how these condensates form in these environments, providing crucial insight into how they behave in living cells.

Bio sketches

This publication is a combined publication with the mini-profiles of the Tych lab blog: <https://www.ktsinglemolecule.com/blog>. Do you want to introduce yourself? Contact us via [email](#). We aim to put every newsletter two PIs in the spotlight, of which one is (relatively) new and one more established in NL.

Pepijn Moerman (TU/e)



Job title: Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering

Subject area: Soft matter, active matter, colloidal self-assembly

How did you get into science? The first spark came from a high school program where I could tag along with a research group in Leiden for a couple of weeks and got to learn about stress hormones in plants.

Where else have you worked/studied? Studied & PhD in Utrecht, postdoc at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, internships at New York University and Brandeis.

What are your hobbies/what do you do for fun?

Bouldering, running, hanging out with my one-year old, and trying my hand at fermentation..

Could you share some tips and tricks for someone thinking about pursuing a career in science in academia?

Not sure my tips and tricks are any good. Maybe not to worry too much about prestige and career goals; those worries can make this job a lot less fun than it could be and its energy that could much better be spent on things that actually matter like teaching and research.

Who are your scientific role models?

Not one person in particular; I'm inspired by a great many people I've worked with and whose papers I read.

What does your working area (desk, office) look like and what does it say about you? It's covered in memes that the groups' PhDs made for/about me. It doesn't say much about me, but shows that the people I work with are great fun.



Contact

Dr. Marjolein Bulk & Naomi Chrispijn-Steenbeek, secretaries of the research community (committee) Physics of Life
NWO Utrecht, Winthontlaan 2, 3526 KV Utrecht

Do you have a news flash or research highlight interesting for the Dutch PoL community that you would like to add to the PoL newsletter? Send us an email.

Email: ResearchCommunity-PoL@nwo.nl

Website: nwobiophysics.nl/pol

T: +31 (0)70 349 4063

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Subscribe](#)
