



DUTCH ASSOCIATION OF FEMALE MATHEMATICIANS

# EWM The Netherlands

Newsletter

August -  
September 2017

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## EWM-NL on Tour

by EWM The Netherlands

EWM The Netherlands ([EWM-NL](#)) is visiting all Dutch universities and institutions with a department / group on mathematics.

Among the goals of EWM-NL are to support female mathematicians in their careers, to forge connections between female mathematicians in The Netherlands, and to provide a meeting place for like-minded people. To achieve these goals, EWM-NL goes on Tour.

The confirmed dates so far are as follows:

RUG: 17 October  
TU Delft: 27 October  
CWI: 7 November  
TU/e: 20 November  
UU: 21 November  
UvA: 29 November  
RU: 5 December

During the Tour, we wish to make the mission and goals of EWM-NL known to the wider mathematics community, present our work so far and gather information about the priorities and issues of the mathematics community right now.

We hope to be able to convey your concerns and wishes to the appropriate decision-making organs.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

## Help the board

by EWM The Netherlands

EWM-NL has undertaken quite few activities in 2017 and has more plans for 2018. To bring our mission to fruition, we need the help of volunteers.

We are very happy to announce that [Olfa Jaibi](#) and [Theressia van Essen](#) have taken the lead with the initiative [Women in the Spotlight](#). This is a monthly column that will be initially published at our [website](#), with the goal of giving a brief overview on the work of a female mathematician in The Netherlands.

### Affiliated board members

Due to plan leave of board members, we need reinforcements.

For 2018, the board is looking for two affiliated board members to help with establishing contacts with other associations of female professionals in science, with writing up our house rules, and with proposing gender-unbiased policy to Dutch institutions.

If you are interested in joining the board, but prefer a different portfolio, do not hesitate to [contact](#) us. We will be happy to discuss the possibilities.

You can join EWM-NL by signing up for the newsletter [here](#).



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### Award Gunther Cornelissen

Prof. Gunther Cornelissen won the first Westerdijk Award from Utrecht University.

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# Mentor network

by EWM The Netherlands

How do women experience a career in academia? What are my opportunities for professional development? How do I create a good work-life balance? What career options are there after completing a PhD in mathematics? How do I find an academic job?

The mentor network of EWM The Netherlands is aimed at all female scientists who need advice on topics related to their mathematical career, such as balancing family and a career in science, networking with other scientists, getting further in your career.

## Register as a mentee

Are you a female mathematician working in The Netherlands and in search of some good advice? You can sign up to the network and based on your stated preferences and common interests, you will be matched to a more senior mathematician whom you can direct your questions to, via email or in person. The frequency and contents of the meetings are determined

by the participants.

## EWM-NL is looking for mentors

If you are interested in supporting another mathematician in their career by giving advice and sharing your experiences, you can become a mentor.

We encourage mathematicians of all levels *and genders* to become mentors.



### REGISTER TO THE MENTOR NETWORK

Please email [info@ewmnl.nl](mailto:info@ewmnl.nl) for further information on how to register as a mentor or mentee

#### WEBSITE

<http://www.platformwiskunde.nl/mentor-network-onder-ewm/>

# Career support grants

by EWM The Netherlands

The board of EWM The Netherlands has voted to make three small grants of up to 500 € available to support the career development of its members. Should funds permit, more grants may be made available.

For 2017, the grants form a pilot program, which will continue only if sufficient interest exists. The applications are considered on a continuous basis and upon the order received.

The purpose of the grants is to facilitate the participation of grantees to events significant to their career by covering expenses not otherwise covered by existing means.

Examples of potential events can be training courses, conference attendance, collaboration visits or membership.

Examples of costs that can be covered by the grants are expenses for accompanying

children at events such as transportation or extra accommodation costs, expenses for additional care for children remaining behind, training fees, membership registrations, conference registrations etc.

It is required that the applicant justifies why no other funds could be found for the proposed expense. Expenses must be documented by receipts.

Members at any stage of their career may apply. The judging criteria are relevant to the applicant's career.

Applicants are required to write a short paragraph explaining the impact of the proposed event to their career development. The budget should mention why other resources could not be secured for this expense.

### APPLY FOR A GRANT

Please email your applications to [info@ewmnl.nl](mailto:info@ewmnl.nl).

Include a justification and an estimated budget.

#### WEBSITE

<http://www.ewmnl.nl>

# Work-Life Balance workshop

by EWM The Netherlands

Are you also struggling to find time to do sports, or to go grocery shopping? Or do you regularly catch yourself working in the evening or weekend? Time to think some more about your work-life balance! Join EWM-NL's next workshop on work-life balance, specially tailored for female mathematicians!

The workshop will be given by [Career & Live](#), specialist in the field of workload, stress and work-life balance. For this occasion, they will set up a humorous, energetic and inspirational workshop, aimed at female scientists. With the group, we will first define work-life balance, since it is different for everyone, and discuss how

this balance can be improved and managed. We will also discuss how work influences our personal life, and how personal matters can influence work. We will be informed about positive and negative stress, and on how to decide when the stress level is too high. At the end, we hope to achieve 'smart working': less work pressure, less work stress and a better work-life balance.

The workshop will take place on **Monday November 6** from **14:00 – 17:00** at the **VU Amsterdam**. There will be drinks and some snacks, where we can have a chat with other female mathematicians and get to know each other better.

The workshop and the drinks are free of charge. If you want to participate in the workshop, please fill in the [registration form](#) before **Monday October 23**. We highly recommend you to register as soon as possible. We only have assured places for the first 15 registrations, but we can expand the workshop in case of more registrations.

## REGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP

Deadline: Monday, 23 October 2017

The [registration form](#)

## Award Lisanne Rens

by [CWI](#)

Former EWM-NL board member [Lisanne Rens](#) has been awarded the 2017 H. D. Landahl Mathematical Biophysics Award.

Every two years, the Society for Mathematical Biology gives out this reward in recognition of a scientist who is making outstanding scientific contributions to the advancement of mathematical biology during their doctoral studies.

With the award, the Society for Mathematical Biology Awards Committee honours Rens for her outstanding contributions modelling cell migration and shape changes in developmental systems. Rens will receive a certificate and a cash prize.

She will also receive an invitation to attend the 2017 annual Meeting of the Society, where she will give present her work.

In February 2017, Rens and her colleagues showed with a mathematical model that active cell contractions can accelerate and facilitate the reorientation of cells; see the announcement "[Cells' own contractions stimulate growth orientation](#)", which includes a link to the scientific article.

## Gunther Cornelissen wins Westerdijk Award

by [UU](#)

The Faculty of Science at Utrecht University presented the first Westerdijk Award to employees in recognition of their efforts to create a more diverse organisation.

[Prof. Dr. Gunther Cornelissen](#), head of the Mathematics department, received by far the largest number of nominations. The letters of motivation submitted clearly showed that he has raised the issue of diversity within and outside the department in a wide variety of ways, and that his work in this area is appreciated by all of his colleagues.

*'The award is a great honour, and is very useful, but it also presents a risk, just like announcing a diversity policy and the activities that go along with it. People tend to think: Ah, we've got a policy and someone is working on it. Box checked. Done. Then they go on with their day-to-day work, without it changing anything in their behaviour.'*

According to Prof. Cornelissen, implicit bias is the most difficult thing to defeat. *'Only once you've raised enough awareness can you begin a diversity transition.'* Prof. Cornelissen has contributed to a significant increase in the number of female staff members within the department of Mathematics: from 5% to 15% over the past two years.

## Housekeeping

by EWM The Netherlands

### Webpage

We are in the process of redesigning our webpage and changing its domain and host. Bookmark our new webpage [www.ewmnetherlands.nl](http://www.ewmnetherlands.nl), which goes live in October.

### Membership

At this point, membership of EWM-NL is loosely defined and is understood to include all female mathematicians working at a Dutch university or institute and all individuals registered for our newsletter. The situation is rather unfortunate, as e.g. media departments or other associations are now included.

In 2018, we will be writing the EWM-NL bylaws, which will separate membership from the newsletter. You will be kindly asked to choose how you wish to associate with EWM-NL. Please keep in mind that EWM The Netherlands strives to be a gender-unbiased association and welcomes warmly any person wishing to become a member.

### Volunteers

We are always in need of volunteers. Other than our own agenda points, we welcome volunteers who have their own agenda points. Email us with suggestions at [info@ewmnetherlands.nl](mailto:info@ewmnetherlands.nl).