



# Dondrite news

Nº 2.

Nijmegen, Monday, February 25, 2019

**W**elcome back dedicated readers! The shortest month of the year was packed with tons of exciting Dondrite events. And get this, we're not done! This last week of February is equally busy with Dondrite and Donders events. Don't worry, we've got all the details so you don't have to miss

a thing.

In this edition of the DondriteNews, you'll also find Gala Highlights, the Yearbook sign up, our beloved crossword puzzle, and the return of an old favourite: the Internview!

## Interview

It's time to hear about one of our second years and the wonders they experience in their internship. This time we'll be talking with Anna Dewenter, a second-year student in the Language and Communication track.

### What is your internship about?

We are investigating the semantic control network and its structural decline in mild cognitive impairment and mild dementia. I work with pre-dementia patients, who sometimes show language impairments. We want to know whether problems with semantic control could contribute to these impairments. At the same time, we are assessing potential contributions of the medial temporal lobe in semantic control. We are also acquiring diffusion-weighted data to investigate the role of

two ventral pathways in the semantic control network.

### In what lab are you working?

I work in Vitória Piai's language function and dysfunction lab at the DCC, but sometimes I'm also at the medical centre. And we are using the facilities at the DCCN for participant testing. My supervisors are Vitória and Joanna Sierpowska, who is a postdoc and an expert in diffusion-based tractography.

### How did you find your internship?

I contacted Vitória only 3 months after I started my Master studies, since I was fascinated by her research. Since then, I attended every lab meeting. We stayed in touch and worked

together on a research idea for my master's project. I would recommend everyone to get in touch early with potential supervisors, since some processes are out of your hands and might take time. I was lucky to be involved in the full research cycle.

### **What did you have to do for that?**

We started with a novel research question. Then, I adapted a behavioral task to assess semantic control and I acquired pilot data. Since we are working with patients, we had to get approval from the local ethical committee. To get this approval, we teamed up with another researcher from the Geriatrics department to collect data. We also share some of the neuropsychological tests to make the testing as easy as possible for our patients. In the meantime, I presented our study at the DCCN's PPM, pre-registered our study and set up the study protocol together with a Bachelor of honor's student from our lab and other students from the RadboudUMC.

### **How do you combine other courses and your internship?**

I took most of my courses in my first year to be maximally flexible for patient testing. This makes it a lot easier to find spots at the scanners, which still remains a challenge.

### **How is your relationship with your supervisor?**

My supervisor is amazing: brilliant, supportive, but at the same time lets room for my own ideas and development. We met very frequently in the beginning of the project, but for now schedule meetings when we need to discuss the next steps. I can always knock on her and other lab member's doors to seek help. I really like the team work in our lab!

### **And finally, what do you want to do when you're done with CNS?**

I would like to pursue a PhD, and ideally I will work with patients again.

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## **Recent Dondrite Activities**

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### **Meet-the-Committees:**

On Wednesday February 20, the Meet-the-Committees event was held to entice Dondrite general members, both new and old, to get involved in the range of committees Dondrite has to offer. Each Committee arranged both a stellar brief intro and group photo to give a short explanation of who we are that make Dondrite tick behind the scenes (here's to Education and their Power Rangers!). The lunch time meet consisted of yummy cookies and a snappy pitch from each Committee Chair on the fun and exciting things Committee Members do.

If you'd like to organise fun socializing activities, help and educate your fellow students, plan trips to fantastic places, bring all Dondrites the latest news and updates, or help make our own student symposium happen - remember to sign up here before March 1st.

<https://dondrite.ruhosting.nl/calendar-and-sign-up-sheets/>

The Board is also looking for new members! They are also putting together an Application Committee for the process. If either of these

interest you, get in touch!  
[boarddondrite@gmail.com](mailto:boarddondrite@gmail.com)



which we found ourselves back in time in a glamourous Vintage Hollywood, with pearl necklaces, long cigarette holders, and everyone in their most beautiful outfit. When organizing a gala with such a theme, you obviously need a magnificent location, and the Activity Committee sure found one! Huize Heyendaal was perfect for the classy and elegant Hollywood vibe.

The evening started with beautiful live music from Ella with her guitar, and the party went on with nice beats and lots of dancing. The dancing even included the famous Spin Dance with David Norris. To take a break from all the dancing, there was of course also the opportunity to get your inner movie star out and get your Hollywood-style photos taken, which we can't wait for to see!

Thank you Activity Committee for organizing this amazing evening!

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## Upcoming Dondrite & Donders Activities

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### RAGweek - Pubtalks:

During the RAGWeek the uniqueness of the human brain will be touched upon, in a TEDtalks-like style. Wednesday the 27th 17:00-19:00, a number of speakers will tell you about different aspects of our brains, from visual illusions to gut bacteria (Yes, they are apparently related!).

The entrance to the talks in the Cultuurcafé is free, but you can help charity by buying your drinks at the special RAGbar and vote by donating at your favourite speaker!

**Info:** February 27 17:00-19:00, Cultuurcafe  
**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/324241421>

[551481/](#)

### Career Event:

Dondrite is organising the annual Career Event of the Research Masters together with the study associations Maizena (Behavioural Science) and Mosaic (Social & Cultural Science). This will take place on Monday, March 18th 2019 from 18:30 – 21:00 in the Spinoza building, with complimentary drinks in Cultuur Café afterwards. There will be a particular focus on careers outside of academia. So, come along to hear insights from ex-CNS students who have followed a variety of career paths, find out about skills that are sought-after on the job market, and use this opportunity to ask your burning

questions.

**Info:** March 18 18:30-21:00, Spinozagebouw

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/558367731326392/>

### **Synapsium 2019:**

Can't wait to know when the Synapsium will take place and who the keynote speakers will be? In case you haven't solved the riddles, your waiting has finally come to an end!

The Synapsium committee is very happy to announce that the 6th Synapsium will take place on 25th of May! The senior keynote speaker this year will be Kartik Sreenivasan (NYU Abu Dhabi), who investigates the neuronal mechanisms and networks of working memory/short term memory representations. The student keynote talk on the role of predictions in visual search will be given by Floortje Bouwkamp (Predictive Brain Lab, DCCN).

Registration will start today via [www.synapsium.nl](http://www.synapsium.nl). There, you can also immediately sign up to be part of our buddy programme if you would like to get to know fellow neuroscience students from other universities and offer them a place to sleep for a night! Applications for student speakers and poster presenters will also open soon. So, stay tuned and follow Synapsium on social media for more updates (Facebook: Synapsium, Twitter: @SynapsiumDONDRT)!

Last but not least, congratulations to the winners of the riddle competition, Anne Leenders and Marta Blasco Oliver! They will receive free entrance and another small surprise on the day of the event.

See y'all there!

**Info:**

May

25

**Registration:** [www.synapsium.nl](http://www.synapsium.nl)

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### **Upcoming Donders Events:**

**Date:**

**DCCN Colloquium Sebastian Musslick  
(Princeton University)**

[\[url\]](#)

Monday, March 11,  
13:45-14:45

**Formal DCC Lecture Oliver Collignon**[\[url\]](#)

Tuesday, March 12

12:30-13:30

**DCCN Colloquium Philip Shaw (NIH)**[\[url\]](#)

Thursday, March 14,

13:45-14:45

**Special Donders session: "Methods Market"**[\[url\]](#)

Thursday, March 21,

10:00-12:00

**Formal DCC Lecture Alessandra Sciutti (ITT, Genova)**[\[url\]](#)

Tuesday, March 26,

12:30-13:30

**DCCN Colloquium Marc Guitart-Masip (Karolinska Institute)**[\[url\]](#)

Thursday, March 28,

13:45-14:45

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For more information see: <http://www.ru.nl/donders/agenda-news/agenda/>

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## Shout-outs!

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First off we'd like to give a shout-out to the new February starters! You've had your first few weeks, magnificent lectures and a gala! What a life you guys lead. Enjoy your time here, it's great to have you!

February of course included Valentine's Day

and what celebration of love is complete without the release of beautiful, white love pigeons (formerly known as doves)?! No wedding in a romantic comedy would be the same without these fluttering lovebirds and for that, we thank you, doves. Great work!

## Fun Fact

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The morning after our amazing Gala, the Netherlands woke up to a warm, and sunny weekend! The spring is finally here!

But just how warm was it?

It was the warmest February 16th ever in Dutch history! The KNMI weather station in De Bilt reported a record 13.3 degrees Celsius. The Sunday that followed was even warmer, with temperatures going up to 18 degrees in the

south of the country.

All this, a little less than a year after February

28th, 2018 set the new record of being the coldest in the Netherlands, breaking the one previously set in 1904.

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## Yearbook Questionnaire

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It's that time of the year again when we, the Scribe committee, want to know all your little secrets and share it with the world (...the CNS course). Fill out the questionnaire here to be a part of the 2019 CNS Yearbook!

There will be a small fee for the yearbook, with

a discount for Dondrite members. You are not obligated to buy a yearbook if you fill in this questionnaire.

If you have any suggestions for further questions or comments, shoot us a message!

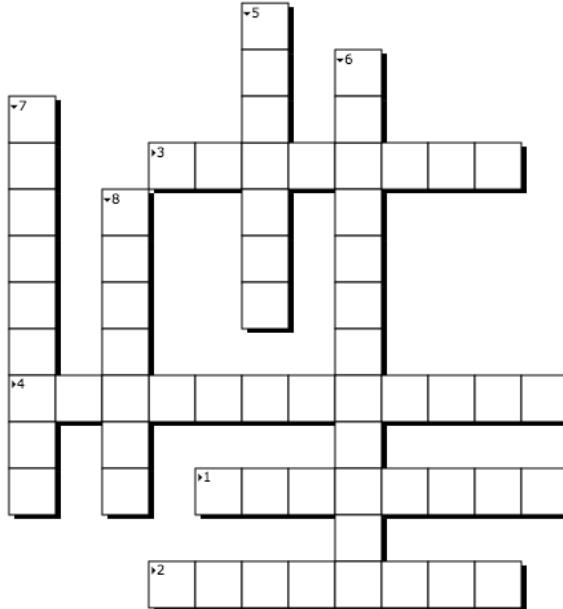
[Yearbook Questionnaire](#)

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## Crossword

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This month's crossword is a little reminder of a fun piece that you can sign up to be a part of (hint: scroll up for the link).



1. Another name for a till.
2. Gregorian, Hebrew, Lunar, etc...
3. The one Scribe makes is awesome and you should be in it.
4. The draft
5. A collection of facts and details published annually.
6. An arrangement to receive something
7. The \_\_\_\_s of Narnia.
8. Nature, Science, Cognition, etc...

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## Solution

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Here is last month's solution. Enjoy!

