

Annual Review 2006



Universiteit Utrecht



Dr Martijn Gebbink,
Director of Crossbeta Biosciences:

'We discovered a process for the removal of misfolded proteins, which can cause great damage in the body and lead to protein metabolic disorders, such as arthritis and diabetes. Based on this process, which isolates and identifies misfolded proteins, we have developed a technology to track misfolded proteins. In time, this will lead to better vaccines and drugs.'

Crossbeta Biosciences wins Utrecht Star

The Utrecht Star is a new innovation prize set up by Stichting Vrienden van Sonnenborgh together with Utrecht University, the Utrecht Chamber of Commerce and the Innovation Task Force. The first Utrecht Star was awarded to the young company Crossbeta Biosciences. It developed a technology to prevent protein malformation and, based on this knowledge, to create safer drugs to treat diseases such as arthritis and amyloidosis. The Jury considered Crossbeta Biosciences furthest along in developing its discovery into a commercial product. The Star was presented to the company by State Secretary of Economic Affairs Karien van Gennip.



1 State Secretary of Economic Affairs Karien van Gennip presented the Utrecht Star
2 Casimir grants winner Peter Simons

Five Casimir grants

Peter Simons of biotechnology company Bioceros, based on the Uithof campus, received one of the Casimir grants awarded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). These subsidies of up to € 100,000 per person aim to give the business community the chance to temporarily work at a university, and vice versa. Peter Simons was granted a place at UMC Utrecht's Department of Haematology, where he will study the role played by misfolded proteins (known as cross beta structures) in the activation of the immune system. This research has the potential to lead to the development of a new generation of vaccines. In total, Utrecht University was awarded five grants: three for University employees to work in business and two for business employees to work at the University.



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Patents

At the end of 2006, Utrecht University Holding BV and UMC Utrecht Participaties managed a total of 56 patents and patent applications. Of these 56, 13 new applications were submitted in 2006 while 6 existing applications were terminated. Licences were issued or transferred to third parties for 27 applications, an increase on previous years. The accurately and dynamic submitting of new patent applications as well as a more active valorisation and transfer of licenses are key objectives of the University's policy.

UniPartners Utrecht

UniPartners Utrecht got off to a flying start in 2006. Run by students, UniPartners Utrecht carries out advisory assignments for companies, institutions and government bodies. It has two objectives: to enable knowledge to be transferred from the University to the business community, government bodies and other non-profit organisations, and to offer students the chance to gain experience by putting theoretical knowledge into practice.

UCEME opens

In May 2006, the Utrecht Centre for Education in Management and Entrepreneurship (UCEME) officially opened. The Centre was set up to bring together teaching activities in the field of entrepreneurship, management and business economics. Its primary task is to provide courses for non-economics programmes. State Secretary of Economic Affairs Karien van Gennip officially opened the Centre.



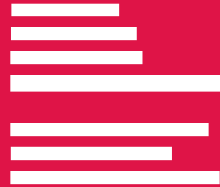
3 State Secretary of Economic Affairs Karien van Gennip opened the UCEME
4 The four founders of UniPartners Utrecht



Knowledge transfer

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Utrecht University



Located in the heart of the Netherlands, Utrecht University is one of Europe's leading research universities, recognised internationally for its high-quality, innovative approach to both research and teaching. Founded in 1636, Utrecht University has always focused strongly on research. Thanks to its solid basis in discipline-based scholarship, it is at the forefront of developments in interdisciplinary knowledge in fields ranging from biochemistry and biophysics to human rights and culture.



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