

“Joint research day”: ULB and VUB take on research projects together

On Wednesday, May 31, the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) will hold the second “Joint Research Day” highlighting their collaboration in the area of scientific research. Their projects will unite Brussels talent, enable economies of scale, and develop research synergies.

This coming Wednesday, May 31, the second “Joint Research Day” will be held by the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), highlighting their collaboration in the area of scientific research.

During the event, both universities will showcase their joint research projects: these can gather research talent and drive the fight against competition and resource fragmentation in the Brussels region. The main goal of the projects involved is to pool resources and expertise from both universities, through joint PhD supervision, joint research groups, and joint research projects and technological platforms. Significant economies of scale are made possible by this strategy, and productive synergies can be developed in order to launch projects on a larger scale.

Measurable positive results for both universities include:

- an increase in the number of joint publications and PhD theses;
- an increase in the number of research contracts awarded;
- higher research quality and international recognition.

The concrete form of the collaboration between both universities is Joint Research Groups. One example of such a group is BURN, the research group on comBUstion and Robust optimisation: it comprises the Brussels School of Engineering's aero-thermo-mechanics department (ATM) and VUB's department of mechanical engineering (MECH). The BURN group's research topics are related to new energy carriers and new energy conversion technologies; its purpose is to contribute to developing flexible, efficient and green technologies for energy conversion in order to adapt to a constantly evolving energetic landscape that requires safe, green and cost-effective solutions. For more information, see <http://burn-research.be>

Another example is the human genetics research project, which gathers several teams from both universities. Research activities are built around three joint structures: IB², a bioinformatics research institute; BRIGHTcore, a platform for genomics, epigenomics and proteomics analysis; and the computing centre. The project's goal is to identify new causes of disease, correlate genetic anomalies with the clinical expression of illnesses, and develop new bioinformatics analysis tools in order to process the massive amounts of data collected by high-throughput sequencing of DNA or RNA in patients with hereditary disease or cancer.

Other testimonials on the Joint Research Groups, as well as on other forms of collaboration between ULB and VUB research teams, will be presented during the "Joint Research Day". In addition, six new joint research projects in various areas will also be presented:

- **Pathways of work-family reconciliation**
C. Vanroelen & C. Schnor (VUB) - P. Desmarez, M. De Spiegelare, I. Godin & C. Mahieu (ULB);
- **The creation of a Belgian Interdisciplinary School on EU Internal Security and Migration**
A. Weyembergh (ULB) - F. Trauner, P. De Hert, I. Adam & C. Kaunert (VUB);
- **BIOlogical CONText and quantitative Assessments of tumor budding in ColorecTal cancer**
C. Decaestecker (ULB) - M. De Ridder (VUB);
- **SUSPECT: Subtypes in Pancreatic cancer/ Etiology, Classifier and Therapy**
I. Rooman (VUB) - J.L. Van Laethem (ULB);
- **Exploring the most powerful cosmic phenomena**
N. Van Eijndhoven (VUB) - J.A. Aguilar Sanchez & I. Maris (ULB);
- **Crystallization in flows**
A. De Wit (ULB) - D. Maes & W. De Malsche (VUB)

The event will be held starting at 9.30 am at the U-Residence on the VUB campus in Etterbeek, Boulevard General Jacques 271, 1050 Brussels. For more information, please visit <http://www.vub.ac.be/events/2017/ulb-vub-joint-research-day>.

If you wish to meet researchers involved in joint ULB-VUB research projects, contact us at:

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