EpiTRAITS events

Final EpiTRATS Meeting, September 27, 2016
The Final meeting was organized by the UvA and took place in the Hortus Botanicus in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. During this meeting the ESR fellows gave a presentation on their progress or finalization of their research project. The presentations were followed by an extensive general discussion.

Venue: Hortus Botanicus
www.dehortus.nl

This international conference was organized by Maike Stam (as coordinator of the MC-ITN-EpiTRAITS project; www.epitraits.eu) and Mieke Van Lijsebetens (as coordinator of MC-ITN-CHIP-ET; www.chip-et.eu). The two-day conference, attended by 114 participants from all over Europe, the USA, South Korea, Brazil, and Taiwan, was a great success. The excellent science, as well as the interactions between the participants and cordial atmosphere were greatly appreciated by the attendees.

The Conference aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of, and provoke ample discussions on several aspects of genome regulation by chromatin-mediated and epigenetic mechanisms, with an emphasis on the response to environmental and developmental cues. Different levels of regulation were highlighted from an experimental and mathematical modeling point of view: from the DNA/RNA/protein molecular level to the chromosomal interaction and nuclear organisational level.

The invited speakers covered topics ranging from the regulation of plant traits to the generic nature of chromatin regulation, also in non-plant kingdoms, providing an overview of the current achievements and future perspectives in the field.
3rd Annual Meeting EpiTRAITS, January 12-13, 2016
Organized by the University of Amsterdam UvA, the event took place in Strasbourg, France

All fellows gave a final presentation about their project on this meeting. The individual PCDPs and progress of the fellows are discussed with their supervisors. Also a Supervisory Board meeting took place.

Workshop: Setting up a Business, April 1, 2015
Organized by Phytowelt GreenTechnologies GmbH, the course was hosted by Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Germany.
All fellows gave a presentation about their project on this meeting. The individual PCDPs and progress of the fellows are discussed with their supervisors. Also a Supervisory Board meeting took place.

Course: **Scientific writing II: Writing Grant Applications, March 26-27, 2015**

Organized and hosted by the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany.

The success of a career in science relies heavily writing successful grant proposals. To train the fellows in this skill, a 2-day course was provided. The course was a mixture of theoretical and practical sessions and provided information on writing a concise, appealing proposal.

Course: **Scientific writing I: Writing Papers and Theses in the Life Sciences, March 24-25, 2015**

Organized by the International Max Planck Research School - Molecular Biomedicine Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine, Münster, Germany. The workshop was hosted by the University of Düsseldorf, Germany.

A 2-day workshop was organized where various aspects of the written reports and of scientific writing in general were discussed by expert trainers of the Max Planck Research School in Cologne.
Organized by the Technology Transfer Office of the UvA and Business In Perspective. The workshop was hosted by the University of Düsseldorf, Germany

Course: Personal branding via social media, September 24, 2014
Organized by Floyd & Hamilton. The course took place at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

This half-day course aimed at improving the knowledge of fellows on the use of social media when establishing contacts with relevant groups and networks, and when looking for a job. The course provided a practical guide on how to use social media to i) present your assets to potential employers or clients, ii) disseminate (scientific) knowledge to the general public, iii) establish contacts with (scientific) groups and networks.

Course: Dissemination skills, September 22-24, 2014
Organized by the Centrum voor Nascholing Amsterdam (CNA). The workshop took place at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
During this course the fellows made small movies for outreach under the supervision of a professional movie maker, Sietse Bruggeling, and a teacher in presentation skills, Karin Herrebout.
Workshop: Entrepreneurship and business skills II: Business plan, September 18-19, 2014
Organized by the Technology Transfer Office (Willem Fokkema) of the UvA & RedMerito (Frits Oukes).

Three business partners PhytoWelt, (Johannes Öhrlein), Rijk Zwaan Breeding BV (Jack de Wit) & KeyGene (Michiel de Both) were involved in this course and gave a short introduction their company from a client perspective. Focusing on how customer requirements translate into their innovation programs. The workshop took place at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Course: Standardisation of biological data, September 16-17, 2014
Organized by the Institute of Plant Genetics, Polish Academy of Sciences (IPG-PAS). The course took place at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Mid-Term Review Meeting, July 8-9, 2014
Organized and hosted by the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The coordinator of the EpiTRAITS project organized a Mid-Term Review (MTR) meeting on July 8-9, 2014. The MTR assessed the fulfilment of all aspects (scientific, research training, management, etc.) described in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. Particular attention was paid to the training activities, individual research projects of the E(S)Rs and networking aspects. It has been a constructive dialogue between the network participants and the REA project officer and has shown to be a valuable source of feedback to both the consortium and the REA.
Course: Bioinformatics II, April 2-3, 2014
Organized by the Institute of Plant Genetics, Polish Academy of Sciences (IPG-PAS) The course took place at the University of Amsterdam (UvA), The Netherlands.

Course: Bioinformatics I, The Netherlands, March 31-April 1, 2014
Organized by BIOMOL. The course took place at the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

This course, organized and presented by BIOMOL (Bioinformatics I) and IPG-PAS (Bioinformatics II), trained the fellows on bioinformatics and statistical skills required for the analysis of NGS data. Knowledge on the principles of the main computational tools used for the analysis of NGS data is essential to transform such data into knowledge, both in the public and private sector. The course gave an overview of existing software, and provided practical sessions in which the tools that could be used to analyse NGS data obtained within EpiTRAITS were presented in detail. Fellows presented their experiments and data, and the group chose the proper tools through discussions.

Next-Generation Sequencing, March 27-28, 2014
Organized and hosted by KeyGene, Wageningen, The Netherlands

High throughput sequencing is a rapidly evolving technology that is essential for genomic and epigenetic research. In the EpiTRAITS ITN, KeyGene, a company that provides sequencing applications to the breeding industry, offered a 2-day course on Next-Generation sequencing (NGS) and Bioinformatics in Wageningen. The course included theoretical and practical knowledge in NGS sequencing, management of the data produced and bioinformatics analysis.

1st Annual Meeting EpiTRAITS, March 25-26, 2014
Organized by Wageningen University/UvA, Wageningen, The Netherlands

The EpiTRAITS 1st annual meeting took place in Wageningen on March 25-26, 2014. Our 3rd SB meeting was held at this meeting. Two of our EAB members and an employee of our Associate Partner RijkZwaan gave a presentation. Furthermore, all E(S)Rs presented the progress on their project, followed by a general discussion on various aspects of the project. Ample time was scheduled for meetings at which E(S)Rs discussed their progress with their daily supervisor, mentor and MC/EAB members. Fellows who had performed a secondment gave a poster presentation at this meeting.
Course: Ethics in Practice, March 24, 2014
Organized by Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands

A 1-day mini course in which students consider the ethical challenges that arise during daily practice in (academic) research when they are confronted with moral dilemmas. Ethical issues and the possible means to solve them were discussed, helping the students to make the steps in their thinking more explicit and improve their decision making. Topics that were tackled included i) decisions on authorship, ii) how to deal with secrecy, iii) integrity regarding research results, and iv) impact of scientific data on society, science or business.

Workshop: Presentation and communication skills, March 20-21, 2014
Organized by the Centrum voor Nascholing Amsterdam (CNA). The workshop took place at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
1st workshop Entrepreneurship and business skills: September 13, 2013.
Organized by Technology Transfer Office, University of Amsterdam, hosted by University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

Course: Modeling and Computational sciences, September 9-12, 2013
Organized and hosted by University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

This course introduced mathematical modeling and quantitative approaches to biological research, and enabled life scientists to comprehend the principles of a mathematical model. A number of modeling systems were presented, including dynamic models and (single and multi-) variable models. By the end of the course, the fellows understood the key concepts of how to build models of biological systems, and investigate and interpret the behavior of those models, and how close interaction between modelers and biologists leads to predictive models that provide novel insights and intellectual property.
A 2-day workshop organized by the European scientific community working on plant chromatin. INIA and INRA organize the 3rd workshop, scheduled for the second half of 2013 in Madrid (Spain). EpiTRAITS fellows were encouraged to present and discuss their results at this meeting. The interactions with European scientists from different areas of chromatin research were broaden their scientific knowledge and expand their network with scientists external to the EpiTRAITS consortium.

Progress Meeting EpiTRAITS, INIA, Madrid, Spain, August 28, 2013
Organized and hosted by Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agrarias (INIA), Madrid, Spain.

August 28, 2013 the first progress meeting took place in Spain at INIA in Madrid. During this meeting all E(S)Rs gave a presentation on their progress during the first 6 months of their research project. The presentations were followed by an extensive general discussion. Furthermore, all E(S)Rs discussed their progress with their mentor and a MC / EAB member. The concluding remarks were noted in their PCDP. Our 2nd SB meeting was held at this meeting as well.

Course: Image analysis and spatial modeling, July 8-11, 2013
The course was organized and hosted by Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), Paris, France.

Images are a major data type generated in modern biology. Specific skills are required to fully exploit the large amounts of imaging data produced in academic and industrial projects. This 4-day course, organized by INRA, was for specialists and non-specialists (biologists), and included lectures, practical’s, and discussions of image analysis issues in the fellow’s research projects. The course provided an introductory overview to fundamental concepts, methods, and tools in biological image analysis. The topics included image types, file formats, image enhancement, filtering, segmentation, mathematical morphology and quantification.

Course: Confocal microscopy course, May 13-16, 2013
Organized and hosted by Centre for Advanced Microscopy (LCAM), University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

This 4-day course provides detailed knowledge of the working principles of confocal imaging, with special emphasis on experiment-related issues such as optical aberrations, bleaching, specimen preparation and digitization. The course integrates theoretical lectures with hands-on experiments and provides an overview of cutting-edge imaging techniques. The participants get insight into techniques to prepare biological specimen for microscopic analysis, obtain experience in operating the laser scanning confocal microscope, and get a qualitative and quantitative perception of the physical principles of image formation in high-resolution three-dimensional microscopy.
Organized by Vitae. The course took place at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

A 2-days project management training, provided by Vitae, focused on how to organize research projects and included various issues such as effective planning of activities, managing one's own time, effective communication, and dealing with setbacks. The training was based on the well-established Vitae suite of programmes ‘How to be an effective researcher’ for doctoral researchers and research staff. During the ITN programme, fellows have supported use of the Vitae Researcher Development Framework and Personal Development Planner to review their personal and professional development.
Workshop: Plant Breeding, IP and Marketing, March 19, 2013

This course, provided by Rijk Zwaan, described the fascinating journey of a vegetable variety through the research, breeding and marketing pipeline, before it reaches the market. It highlighted the efforts of i) researchers who develop new techniques to make the process of plant breeding more efficient, cost-effective and fast, ii) plant breeders who search for new marketable, attractive traits and use them to create new varieties, and iii) the commercial teams who develop successful marketing strategies. Furthermore, participants were introduced to the patent system, which is becoming increasingly important in strategic biological research. Thus they are provided with a comprehensive and contemporary overview of modern plant breeding.

Workshop on 3D gene regulation, March 18, 20, 22 and 23, 2013
All EpiTRAITS partners, UvA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

To provide all fellows with the conceptual framework needed to comprehend the tasks and goals of the project, an intensive, 4-day introductory workshop on transcriptional regulation in a 3D nucleus, was organized by the PIs of the consortium. The focus of the workshop was the scientific background of the EpiTRAITS research area and the technologies that are used in the training network. Importantly, shared social activities will allow fellows to develop as a peer group, facilitating their future interactions and collaborations.

Start-up meeting EpiTRAITS, March 21, 2013
Organized and hosted by the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

On March 21, 2013 the EpiTRAITS start-up meeting was organized with introductory presentations by the coordinator, fellows, one partner, and two members of the External Advisory Board (EAB) and a full professor of the UvA. Also our first Supervisory Board (SB) meeting took place during this event. The SB, EAB and Monitoring Committee (MC) were established, and the roles of the committees and boards were determined. To minimize travel time and costs courses for the fellows were scheduled around the start-up meeting.
Recruitment, UvA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, November 5-7, 2012
Organized and hosted by the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The joint interview process was held in Amsterdam on November 6-7, 2012, The Netherlands. The programme of this two-day event included presentations of the candidates, an information briefing by the coordinator, an informal get together with drinks and a buffet, interviews, informal conversations and a tour around the laboratory facilities.

The evening before the recruitment event, the EpiTRAITS management organized a management meeting to inform all beneficiaries about the project management of a M.C.- ITN, the administration and financial issues.