

PRESS RELEASE

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European Organ-On-Chip Society launched

During the third International Organ-on-Chip Symposium, held on 8 and 9 November 2018 in Eindhoven, the European Organ-on-Chip Society (EUROoCS) was officially launched. The Society aims to encourage and develop Organ-on-Chip research towards a better health for everyone. Membership is open from 2019 to all researchers in the field, and gives access to the upcoming digital Organ-on-Chip platform and the future Journal of the Society.

In the presence of 180 scientists from twelve different countries Christine Mummery, chair of the newborn Society, started the launch ceremony of the European Organ-on-Chip Society (EUROoCS) which subtly referred to the upcoming annual light festival in Eindhoven and the classical lightbulb. "It is a European Society but everyone worldwide is welcome to join. We are just at the early start, and a lot of work still has to be done before we are operational and everybody can sign in. But we are here to stay," Janny van den Eijnden-van Raaij of hDMT says, now Board member of EUROoCS. "



Accelerating Organ-on-Chip research

The purpose of the Society is to encourage and develop Organ-on-Chip research, and to provide opportunities to share and advance the knowledge and expertise in this field towards a better health for everyone. EUROoCS is one of the first outcomes of the Horizon 2020 project ORCHID (Organ-on-Chip In Development), that aims to create a roadmap for Organ-on-Chip technology and to build a network of all parties involved.

Open for all researchers

Membership is open from 2019 to all researchers worldwide in the Organ-on-Chip field. Every year the European Organ-on-Chip conference will be organized in another country somewhere in Europe. The next conference will be held in Graz, in Austria, on 2 and 3 July 2019. It will be in the same format with a lot of possibilities for interaction, and with many young scientists and top experts in the field.

Easy connection via platform and journal

The membership will have many advantages for scientists, in particular to find collaborators via the upcoming digital Organ-on-Chip platform, and to disseminate results via the future Journal on Organ-on-Chip of the Society.

Annual Conferences

The annual conference is one of the events where leading scientist and many young talents from academia and industry meet to exchange the newest developments in the Organ-on-Chip field. This year the International Organ-on-Chip Symposium was organized by hDMT (the Dutch Organ-on-Chip Consortium), Eindhoven University of Technology and NOCI (Netherlands Organ-on-Chip Initiative). From now on EUROoCS will join forces in Europe and organize the annual international Organ-on-Chip conference in Europe.

The first Board members

The first Board of EUROoCS consists of the follow members:

- Christine Mummery (chair; Leiden University Medical Center, the Netherlands)
- Peter Loskill (vice-chair; Fraunhofer IGB Stuttgart/University of Tübingen, Germany)
- Janny van den Eijnden-van Raaij (secretary/treasurer; hDMT, the Netherlands)
- Albert van den Berg (member; UTwente, the Netherlands)



First Board of EUROoCS: (from left to right) Albert van den Berg, Christine Mummery, Janny van den Eijnden-van Raaij and Peter Loskill.

Organs-on-Chips

Organs-on-chips are devices with one or more biocompatible microfluidic chambers (known as 'chips'), containing multiple cell types in 3D culture; the living cells interact much as they might do in tissue as either miniature organs or miniature tumors. The chip design allows the cell cultures they contain to be continuously perfused and mechanically or electrically manipulated. This mimics normal organ physiology or can be used to induce disease pathology at the organ and tissue level. Organ-on-chip models are expected to result in a paradigm shift for healthcare leading to new ways to elucidate disease mechanisms, identify effective drugs and improve health by prevention and personalized cure of many diseases.

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About ORCHID

The ORCHID project (Organ-on-Chip development) is an EU initiative, coordinated by Leiden University Medical Center and the Dutch Organ-on-Chip consortium hDMT in The Netherlands. The main goal of ORCHID is to create a roadmap for organ-on-chip technology and to build a network of all relevant stakeholders in this promising innovative field. In the ORCHID project that started on 1 October 2017 in total seven leading European research institutions are involved.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 766884.

H2020-ORCHID.eu

About hDMT

hDMT is a pre-competitive, non-profit, technological research institute, where renowned scientists from 16 Dutch organizations (academic research centers, research institutes, University Medical Centers, and biotech companies) work together. In this consortium hDMT researchers share and integrate their knowledge, expertise and research facilities in technology, biology, physics, chemistry, pharmacology and medicine to develop Organs-on-Chips using human stem cells. hDMT aims to disseminate Organ-on-Chip models and research data via open access publication and valorization.

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