Annual Report 2012
Research & Valorisation

Working Together for Arts and Sciences

Opens new avenues to
Valorisation & Commercialisation of scientific output
Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Research Funding Opportunities
Introduction

Value creation in a changing environment

I am proud to present this report detailing the activities and results of the Research & Valorisation department (R&V) in 2012. The world around us is changing rapidly, and we had to adapt to new settings. The Transfer & Liaison Group has been transformed into R&V. In the autumn of 2012 the fields of Funding, Valorisation and Policy were combined to form the new R&V Department within the Central Office of the University. The International Cooperation Department joined us in January 2012, followed by the Department of Academic Affairs on 1 October 2012.

R&V is the first port of call for researchers seeking advice on research policy and support in finding research funding. R&V brings together research and business in partnerships that lead to innovation, new fields of research and valorisation. R&V also sets up or links to national, regional or international research projects, supports personal research grant applications, sets up strategic research partnerships with businesses and social organizations and enters bilateral partnerships with businesses. R&V manages the whole patent process for the University and the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), is the first entry point for Assessment of Research Quality and Talent Funding, and also supports the University’s Graduate Schools.

Working Together For Science
In October 2012 R&V was structured into four strategic teams: the Cooperation Funding Team (coordinated by Geert Jan Arends), the Talent Funding Team (coordinated by Merlijne Jaspers), the Valorisation Team (coordinated by Greetje Vos-Scheperkeuter) and the Strategy & Quality Assurance Team (coordinated by Ineke Ganzeveld). The teams cover a broad spectrum of expertise in supporting academics as well as the Board of the University. Many external stakeholders, such as businesses, other knowledge institutes and policymakers, form part of our network.
R&V was involved in several new initiatives on behalf of the University over the last year. The highlights are:

The Consortium for Value Creation and Entrepreneurship (CVO) // On 1 November 2012, the University of Groningen and the CVO honoured George Robillard, founder of Biomade Technology Foundation and Professor Emeritus of Enzymology and Biochemistry, with the symposium ‘Innovation in a Changing Landscape’. The symposium focused on innovation challenges in a changing environment, building on lessons learned from innovation models employed in the past.

Income // 2012 was another excellent year for European funding. In 2012 the total income from Brussels increased significantly from EUR 20.1 to 25.8 million, an increase of 28%. The University of Groningen was again very successful in securing European Research Council (ERC) Grants, and was awarded Marie Curie Initial Training Networks funding for six new projects.

Grants Week Groningen // Due to the success of Grants Week 2011, Research & Valorisation, together with academic partners, continued to organize the Grants Week Groningen. The 2012 edition gave researchers from the University of Groningen and the UMCG the opportunity to learn about Career Development Grants (from NWO and EU), Project Research Grants (EU) and the upcoming European programme ‘Horizon 2020’, which starts in 2014. A new theme in 2012 was European funding opportunities relating to the University’s key themes of Healthy Ageing, Energy and Sustainable Society.

Public-private partnerships // From its inception, R&V has been heavily involved in the overall development of public-private partnerships, such as SPRINT (Smart Prevention, Rehabilitation & INtervention Technologies at home for improved mobility), BioBRUG, Trovato and the Carbohydrate Competence Center (CCC). It continued to support these in 2012.
Dutch government’s Top Sector policy // The University of Groningen is working to secure a solid position within the Dutch government’s Top Sector policy. This policy encourages collaboration between industry and governmental and knowledge institutions with the purpose of finding innovative solutions to problems relating to the individual and society. R&V coordinates the policy on behalf of the University.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) // R&V has devoted a great deal of effort to structuring the internal patenting procedures, obtaining a good overview of all IPR of the University of Groningen and the UMCG and monitoring licence contracts. R&V worked in close cooperation with the Business Generator Groningen (SBGG) in the field of technology transfer. R&V, SBGG and the legal departments held intellectual property workshops in 2012 in order to increase awareness of IPR and patent policy.

University of Groningen/UMCG strategy // At the request of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the University and the UMCG defined the institutions’ national profiles, which they completed in late 2012. R&V helped realize the University’s commitments to these two Ministries.

International Cooperation // The University’s Department of International Cooperation joined R&V at Zernikelaan 6 on 1 January 2012. The team offers opportunities to encourage research across disciplinary boundaries. The variety of disciplines at the University provides an excellent opportunity for innovative collaboration between academic and non-academic partners. Interdisciplinary collaboration is a key feature of the University of Groningen.

R&V is happy to show the way - and to help get things going!

June 2013,
Dr. Annemieke Galema, Director Research & Valorisation.
Chapter 1. Value Creation: from Innovation to Entrepreneurship

‘R&V provides a link between the academic world and the world outside’

Universities are increasingly being judged on their performance in the field of knowledge transfer, which is also known as valorisation or value creation. R&V provides a link between the academic world and the world outside. R&V can take researchers to where they need to be, and help them set up collaborative applied-research and entrepreneurship projects of all sizes.

Entrepreneurship means that researchers may start a company – often in collaboration with industry. The University of Groningen Holding Company (RUG Houdstermaatschappij) is a holding company set up by the University in 1996 that supports young companies, for instance by introducing them to investors and networks. The RHM’s work begins where R&V’s ends: once R&V has assisted scientists in patenting their inventions they may choose to set up their own company.

This is where RHM steps in. CVO and SPRINT are examples of new bodies that focus on innovation, valorisation and entrepreneurship, in which R&V participates on behalf of the University.

CVO
The commercialisation of scientific knowledge is the core business of the Consortium for Value Creation and Entrepreneurship. Knowledge has a fundamental and economic value. In certain cases it can be ‘sold’, which means that commercial parties pay for applied knowledge or ‘products’ in a broad sense. In most cases this applies to patented knowledge and licences. The commercialisation of knowledge also means that knowledge can be used in the community, often in collaboration with the government, civil organizations or charities. The CVO is a collaborative project between the University of Groningen, the UMCG, Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen, commercial partner Rabobank and national and local government. Its aims are multiple:

- funding and contract research
- collaboration with different, non-academic partners
- collaboration with other research centres
- public-private partnerships
- stimulating University spin-offs and start-ups
- contacts with industry
- patenting and licensing.

The CVO’s mission is to increase interest in entrepreneurship in higher education, to expand public-private partnerships, and to encourage the screening and scouting of innovative ideas. CVO consequently advocates courses in entrepreneurship and the development of individual competences.
Research & Valorisation

in higher education. It also aims to place more attention on public-private partnerships, because working with companies increases market incentive for research and leads to more socially relevant research. This is also in line with governmental and European policy, thus making it easier to attract grants for scientific research. The best way to find research suitable for prototype development or intellectual property is to actively screen and scout for partners, such as researchers, entrepreneurs or institutions with a comparable scientific focus. R&V is a coordinating partner in CVO.

SPRINT

SPRINT is one of the eight Centres of Research Excellence selected by an international review panel for the national Innovative Medical Device Initiative (imdi.nl). It is a joint initiative of the University of Groningen, the UMCG, the University of Twente, Hanze University of Applied Sciences, several public and private rehabilitation centres and care providers, and 37 companies from various sectors with different fields of expertise (gaming, e-health, prostheses and orthotics, sensors, data mining and data management). From the start, R&V has been heavily involved in the overall development of SPRINT. Ruud van de Bilt from R&V is on the Board of Directors together with SPRINT initiators Prof. Bart Verkerke and Prof. Klaas Postema.

SPRINT’s main objective is to ensure independent living for the elderly by realizing Smart Personalized Rehabilitation and Intervention Technologies. Loss of mobility is one of the most important constraints to independent living for the elderly. SPRINT’s focus areas are prevention, rehabilitation and prosthetics. Within this context, falls prevention is a major contributor to preserving mobility and hence to independent living.

2012 was SPRINT’s first fully operational year, and the original business plan was still the focus of development. Two major public/private research consortia, SPRINT Tender and To the Next Level, were set up, as was Exergaming, which is financed by the Northern Development Fund. The NWO awarded SPRINT a Responsible Innovation grant for its TeleBalancing initiative, and it became an Associate Member of the ProFouND (Prevention of Falls Network for Dissemination) EU IT consortium on fall prevention.

Active & Healthy Ageing

SPRINT submitted a successful Call for Commitment within the context of the European Innovation Partnership on Active & Healthy Ageing and consequently has become an active member of Action Plan A2 ‘Personalized health management, starting with a Falls Prevention Initiative’. The European Commission formally presented this Action Plan, along with five others in the area of Active and Healthy Ageing, in November. By way of the Healthy Ageing Network Northern Netherlands, the Northern Netherlands has opted to become a Reference Site on Active & Healthy Ageing and formally presented itself on this occasion. As an active member of the Action Plan A2, SPRINT provides a member of the overall coordination team, which again means heavy involvement for R&V.

SPRINT also applied for funding from the Life Sciences & Health Top Sector programme and was awarded a first grant. The ensuing SPRINT consortium will become operational in 2013.

www.imdi-sprint.nl

Annemieke Galema, Director R&V and Jan Sikkema, Director Business Generator
Chapter 2. Strategy and Quality Assurance of R&V

‘Key components of academic performance’

A strong research performance is vital for a university. High-quality research is essential for a university’s reputation and success in raising funds and attracting talented staff and students. The research strategy of the University of Groningen is therefore firmly rooted in a thorough quality assurance system. R&V’s Strategy and Quality Assurance (SQA) group advises the University boards and its nine faculties on research strategy and policy issues on the one hand, and on the implementation and maintenance of a good quality assurance system on the other.

SQA’s main areas of expertise comprise:
- Research Mission & Strategy
- Quality Assurance of Research
- Institutional Research (i.e. decision support)

SQA plays an active role in all three; first by providing professional support to the boards, the University Committee for Academic Practice (UCW), the deans of the Graduate Schools and the Dean of Talent Development; second by stimulating communication among and with research directors, faculty boards and the University Board; and third by participating in relevant local, national and international bodies, networks and meetings.

Research Mission & Strategy
The University’s research mission is to perform both fundamental, curiosity-driven research and socially relevant, demand-driven research. Its strategy is twofold:

1) To attract, train and retain excellent individuals, and
2) To create focus and critical mass by stimulating both monodisciplinary and interdisciplinary cooperation in research programmes, institutes and faculty priority areas.

The SQA team supports this strategy by:

a) Formulating policies and procedures in response to relevant internal and external developments (e.g. academic integrity, PhD programmes, Graduate Schools, publication policy, national and international research funds).

b) Coordinating applications for large national research programmes (e.g. NWO Large or Gravity), which involves developing internal selection and advice procedures, ensuring deadlines are met and taking responsibility for the final submission of the proposals.

c) Coordinating applications for local, national and international personal research grants (e.g. Veni, Vidi, Vici, ERC, AXA, RFF), which entails giving advice, developing training procedures, providing information to researchers or faculties and ensuring the necessary commitment of the Board of the University.

d) Being acting secretary for advisory committees of the Board of the University.

e) Providing information to internal and external parties concerning University strategy and policies.
Quality Assurance of Research

A major goal of our research strategy is to improve quality where needed, in order to maintain our position as one of the top 25 universities in Europe. Quality assessment by means of peer review is an essential tool to realise this ambition. It provides us with external assessments that are respected by both scientists and policymakers. It is essential that the evaluations are as objective as possible and performed by independent researchers with first-class expertise in the disciplines of the institute in question. The peer assessments form an important basis for the Board’s decisions on the allocation of funds. The procedures for our quality assurance system are described in detail in the national ‘Standard Evaluation Protocol 2009-2015’ (SEP) and our own ‘Protocol for Quality Assurance at the University of Groningen’ (University of Groningen Protocol).

The role of the SQA team in the Quality Assurance procedures comprises:

a) Planning and monitoring of the research-evaluation cycle.
b) Advising on self-evaluation reports.
c) Performing or commissioning bibliometric analyses if requested.
d) Acting as secretary to local peer-review committees.
e) Analysing research evaluation outcomes and monitoring the follow up.

Institutional Research (IR)

Defined as the empirical underpinning of institutional policy in higher education, IR can both contribute to and supplement the quality assurance system. It is aimed at fact-based decision support and requires expertise in both policy and IT domains. The SQA group focuses on the R&V domains and closely collaborates with the Education and Students, Human Resources, Financial and Administrative Information Provision departments as well as the Library. The main IR tasks of the SQA group are the coordination of the University’s contribution to and use of national (VSNU) and international research (KUOZ, Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar), students (1cHO), personnel (WOPI) and competitive funding sources (NWO, EC-FP7) databases. Last but not least, SQA also coordinates the data provision for and analysis of international rankings (ARWU, THE-WUR, QS, CHE, U-Multirank), thus contributing to the University’s international visibility and reputation.

Dr. Ellen Nollen, UMCG
Chapter 3. Funding Opportunities & Top Sector Policy

‘The University of Groningen was awarded EUR 19 million for new European projects’

European Funding

The Seventh Framework Programme
In 2012 the University’s total income from Brussels increased significantly: from EUR 20.1 to 25.8 million, an increase of 28%. This is the income from all running projects that generated income in 2012. The University was awarded EUR 19 million for new European projects in 2012, more than half came from ERC projects (see below). The University was also very successful in the Marie Curie Initial Training Networks programme with six new projects.

ERC Grants and Income // 2012 was again an excellent year for ERC funding. No fewer than nine researchers were awarded a prestigious ERC Starting or Advanced Grant.

The Starting Grant laureates each receive a budget of some EUR 1.5 million from the ERC for pioneering, independent research that will take about five years. The grant will enable them to assemble a new team or add to an existing one to conduct this research. The winners of an Advanced Grant each receive about EUR 2.5 million. The ERC programme is intended to support the most creative and driven researchers in all fields of study and encourages groundbreaking research in Europe. There is only one selection criterion: outstanding quality. The University of Groningen is ranked at the top of the ERC funding list in the Netherlands and is among the most rewarded universities in Europe.

ERC Laureates 2012, from left to right, back row: Prof. Dr. André Aleman, Dr. Meike Stöhr, Drs. Neeltje Miedema ERC consultant University of Groningen, Dr. Eugene Berezikov, Anjo van Apeldoorn Staff Advisor UMCG, Dr. Frank Dekker, Prof. Dr. Cisca Wijmenga. Front row, from left to right: Dr. Sander van Doorn, Rector Magnificus Prof. Elmer Sterken, Prof. Dr. Maria Antonietta Loi, Prof. Dr. Raffaella Morganti. Not pictured: Dr. Ming Cao.
The University of Groningen set up the prestigious Rosalind Franklin Fellowship programme to promote the advancement of talented international female researchers at the highest levels of the institution. This ambitious programme has been running since 2007 and has thus far financed over sixty fellowships. R&V successfully submitted a proposal to the Marie Curie COFUND programme, and the money awarded (EUR 6.7 million) will be used to increase the number of fellowships in the coming 2014 round from 20 to 28.

**Support**

In 2012 we also supported many individual scientists in the preparation of their FP7 proposals. Among them were Prof. Erik Heeres (Chemical Technology), Prof. Jaap Koolhaas (Behavioural Neuroscience), Dr Ryan Chiechi (Organic Materials) and Mr Jan Apotheker (Chemistry lecturer).

**Grants Week**

The Grants Week is a one-week programme of events about European funds for projects and NWO funds for personal career development. The second edition of the Grants Week was held in May 2012, and was an even bigger success than the first. More than 600 people registered for one or more events. Most participants were from the University of Groningen and the UMCG, but we also welcomed people from Hanze University of Applied Sciences, the Province of Groningen and other organizations. The major attractions were lectures by Nature editor Dr Mera Swami, and Lambert van Nistelrooij, a Member of the European Parliament, about Horizon 2020. R&V organized the Grants Week together with the UMCG Research Office and the Departments of International Relations and Human Resources.

**Communication: Post Europe**

The digital newsletter Post Europe provides researchers, policymakers and administrators with news on Calls and European funding facts. It is published monthly by R&V and the UMCG and distributed to some 4000 recipients.

**European and regional funding: Interreg Memento Mori**

The Eems-Dollard Region (EDR) provides regional funding from the European Interreg Programme. Funds are available for projects in the border regions of the Northern Netherlands and Germany. A current project of the University of Groningen and its partners (Ostfriesische Landschaft, Aurich; Museumhuis Groningen; Fryske Akademy, Leeuwarden; Stichting Oude Groninger Kerken; Johannes à Lasco Bibliothek and Landesmuseum, Emden; Staatsarchiv, Aurich; Schlossmuseum, Jever; and Drents Plateau, Assen) is focusing on the study of local customs surrounding death, mourning and funerals. The project is appropriately named ‘Memento Mori’, and workshops on several themes have been held. A central focus of the project is to make an inventory of cemeteries, churchyards, funerary poetry and epitaphs and iconography, and to create a database accessible to all kinds of users – scholars, local historians and undertakers. An important aim is to increase awareness of the need to conserve our cultural heritage, in both citizens and governmental bodies. R&V is responsible for the project management of Memento Mori.
European and regional funding: Interreg Hanze Energy Corridor (HEC)
The University of Groningen is coordinator of the HEC project, which is funded by Interreg. HEC brings together partners in the Northern Netherlands and Northern Germany in the field of Energy. In a series of workshops the partners have identified common interests and possible cooperation projects. R&V is responsible for the project management, communication and reporting issues. HEC has led to a series of new cooperation initiatives across the border. This project will come to an end in 2013.

National funding / Top Sector policy

R&V has supported the University in various aspects of the Dutch Top Sector policy. It formed a steering group with representatives from most faculties, which was chaired by University President Sibrand Poppema, and helped individual researchers develop proposals for Top Sector calls.

Carbohydrate Competence Center (CCC)
CCC is a public-private partnership in carbohydrate research comprising nineteen companies and six universities. The University of Groningen is the project coordinator, and R&V has an active role in this. R&V bears responsibility for much of the project as well as the financial management of the sub-projects. It also provides support for securing funding for future activities.

BioBrug
R&V initiated the BioBrug project, the aim of which is to develop new contacts between academic research groups at the University and regional companies in the bio-based economy. The project will entail about 150 relatively small research projects (1-6 months) carried out by Master’s students. The students’ supervision will come from three different angles: professor/lecturer, company employee and BioBrug staff. The BioBrug staff will ensure that the company and the academic researcher are on the same wavelength, and will manage the expectations of the individuals involved. R&V is on the BioBrug staff. BioBrug has a budget of about EUR 2.5 million and will run until the summer of 2015. Dr. G.J.W. Euverink from the University of Groningen has been appointed Professor-Director of BioBrug. R&V is responsible for the BioBrug project management.

WBSO (Research and Development Tax Credit)
R&V administers WBSO credits for the University of Groningen. WBSO is a national programme offering tax benefits for innovative research projects commissioned by Dutch industry. In 2012, some 90 projects at the University of Groningen and the UMCG together qualified for the tax credit, which means a tax saving of about EUR 1 million.

Technology Foundation STW
R&V helped apply to the Technology Foundation STW for research funding for several projects in 2012; these included STW Perspective applications.

TCNN (Northern Netherlands Technology Centre)
TCNN facilitates collaboration between the University of Groningen and SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises). TCNN strengthens the northern economy by initiating innovative cooperation projects, especially with participation of SMEs. The University of Groningen is represented by R&V within the TCNN.

ITM (Research Institute of Technology and Management)
In 2012 R&V provided the scientific coordination within this institute of the Faculty of Mathematics and Science.
One way to create greater value from research is to protect inventions by filing patent applications. The corresponding rights, known as IPR, can be sold or licensed-out to other parties, usually companies. It is important to appreciate that there is no such thing as a ‘world patent’. Patents are granted, usually no earlier than three to seven years after the patent application has been filed, at the various national levels. All national patents and patent applications originating from one invention are jointly called a ‘patent family’.

In 2008, the University of Groningen and the UMCG decided to join forces and agreed to apply the same patent policy, including offsetting up a joint Patent Fund for financing the related costs. R&V is responsible for this patent policy in close cooperation with the SBGG. Both organizations advise and facilitate the University of Groningen/UMCG research community on IPR and valorisation issues, but they each have their own specific tasks and expertise, as described below.
In order to improve knowledge on IPR and patent policy, R&V, SBGG and the legal departments held an IP workshop in May 2012. Some 40 University of Groningen/UMCG employees who are involved in drafting or assessing research contracts, such as research coordinators, project managers and legal people, participated. They learnt about general aspects of patenting and current University of Groningen/UMCG patent policy, and how this can be translated into acceptable, preferably favourable, IPR conditions in research contracts. The workshop was interactive, with lots of discussion, and considered successful by those who took part. It will be repeated in 2013, provided there are enough participants. R&V has also given presentations on patent policy to the Valorisation Committee of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and staff of the Groningen Biomolecular Sciences and Biotechnology Institute (GBB), and intends to continue doing so in 2013. An update of the brochure ‘The Value of Knowledge’, originally published in 2008, is in preparation and will soon be available.

R&V has invested a lot of effort in structuring the internal patent procedures, generating a good overview of all IPR of the University of Groningen and the UMCG, and monitoring license contracts. In 2011, the University of Groningen and the UMCG further specified the details of the joint patent policy and agreed always to aim for joint IP ownership of IPR created fully or in part by University of Groningen/UMCG inventors, including public exposure as applicants. They also agreed that IPR should be sold or licensed-out at a reasonable price, preferably reflecting market value. The University of Groningen/UMCG conditions for IPR transfer are consistent with the guidelines for public-private partnerships proposed by the national organizations of universities and medical centres, VSNU and NFU.

**Market potential**

Although there is no strict division between R&V and SBGG, the focus of these two organizations is different. R&V primarily focuses on patent management and searching, SBGG focuses more on commercialisation. If a new invention is reported by a University of Groningen/UMCG researcher, R&V first performs a ‘prior art’ search in order to assess whether the invention could be patentable.

SBGG then performs a market study in order to assess whether there is a market potential. If the outcome of the study is positive, the Board of the University is asked to finance the corresponding patent application from the University of Groningen/UMCG patent fund. The patent application is filed in the name of the University of Groningen, AZG (Academisch Ziekenhuis Groningen, the former name of the UMCG), or – in the case of a UMCG invention – in the joint names of the University of Groningen and AZG.

R&V supports University of Groningen/UMCG researchers throughout the patent filing and subsequent procedure. All correspondence is centrally archived and the current status of each patent family is closely monitored in a digital system, the Patent Management System (PMS). R&V is also responsible for the financial management of all University of Groningen/UMCG IPR and is sometimes involved in licensing negotiations. SBGG analyses the commercial potential of an invention and tries to find parties who might be interested in buying the IPR or a license. SBGG concluded a number of licensing contracts in 2012, from which revenue is expected to result in the coming decade. SBGG also helps researchers who wish to start a spin-off company to exploit their inventions.

Once a deal has been closed, R&V monitors the contracts to ensure that licensing revenue is actually collected. The joint activities of R&V and SBGG resulted in an income of roughly EUR 900,000 in 2012. This net patent income is shared equally between the inventors, their research groups, their faculties and the central University of Groningen/UMCG patent fund.

**Knowledge with value**

Over 70 projects, largely inventions, were submitted to R&V and SBGG in 2012. After a first screening, this resulted in 26 Invention Disclosures. Half of these inventions proved not to be patentable or to have insufficient market value. As a result, the total number of patent applications filed in 2012 in the name of the University of Groningen and/or AZG was 13 (Figure category A). Eight of these were from the University of Groningen and five from the UMCG (University of Groningen+AZG).

If we look at the annual number of new patent filings in the past 10 years, it is clear that the patent policy adopted in 2008 has resulted in an increased number of patent filings, with a total of 13 in 2012. The slight decrease in 2010/2011 is due to (i) more inventions being rejected due to an increasingly professional and critical assessment procedure, and (ii) relatively more effort being invested in licensing compared with screening new inventions. The target of R&V and SBGG is to file at least 10, preferably 15, new patent applications each year, which of course can only be realized if researchers actually report their inventions and do so promptly.
The inventions of University of Groningen/UMCG employees are sometimes protected by patents filed in the name of a third party (a company or another organization) in order to comply with an underlying research agreement. In such cases, the employees are mentioned as inventors on the patent application but the University of Groningen/UMCG itself is not visible as the organization behind them. This happened frequently in the past but is in principle unwanted under the present patent policy. However, it cannot be avoided in some situations, due to aberrant but valid IPR conditions, such as in some Top Consortia for Knowledge and Innovation. IPR that are based on University of Groningen/UMCG knowledge but do not mention University of Groningen/AZG as an applicant tend to be invisible and do not provide much public exposure for the University. R&V has created a preliminary overview of such IPR (Figure Category BCD but without BCD specified).
Successful patents
Success stories thus far are that of the Genuair, Pressair and the Novolizer. The Novolizer is a user-friendly inhaler for asthma and COPD patients, developed by Dr Anne de Boer, Paul Hagedoorn, Doetie Gjaltema and Professor Erik Frijlink of the Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmacy research group. The patent application was filed in 2001 in the name of Sofotec GmbH, which later transferred its rights to the Swedish company MEDA, which in turn transferred some of the rights to the Spanish company Almirall. The equipment has been introduced to the global market, and hundreds of thousands of patients are now using it. The University of Groningen receives royalties from the company’s turnover from the inhaler system, which accounted for the large majority of the University of Groningen/UMCG patent revenues in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The researchers have continued to develop the inhaler technology, which has resulted in a new and disposable inhaler, known as the Twincer. The corresponding patent application was filed in 2003, in the name of the University of Groningen, and the patent family currently encompasses patents and patent applications in Europe, the US, Canada, China, India and Japan. A number of companies have shown an interest in the Twincer technology, which is expected to generate a substantial additional income flow.
Chapter 5. Non-Western cooperation programmes

‘R&V is managing the majority of these external scholarships’

The University of Groningen has participated in development programmes funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for over 20 years. These programmes focus on strengthening educational institutions in African, Asian and Latin-American countries. Four of the University’s faculties participate in these projects: the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The IT and Teacher Training Departments are also important participants in these projects.

Current Programmes
Two programmes were running in 2012: the Netherlands Programme for the Institutional Strengthening of Post-Secondary Education and Training Capacity (NPT) and the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity development in Higher Education (NICHE) programme. The NPT programme was phased out in 2012, having run for six years. The University of Groningen was very successful with this programme and was the leading partner in eleven four-year projects with a total budget of more than EUR 25 million. It was also a consortium partner in seven four-year projects with a total budget of about EUR 10 million. The NICHE programme began in 2010 as the successor of the NPT programme. The University of Groningen submitted seven proposals for this, four of which were successful, securing a total budget of over EUR 6.8 million. The University of Groningen is also a consortium partner in five NICHE projects with a budget of EUR 6.5 million. The University of Groningen collaborates on most of these projects with consortium partners such as Radboud University Nijmegen, VU University Amsterdam, Erasmus University Rotterdam, VNG International, MDF Consultancy and Hanze University of Applied Sciences.

In 2012 the focal areas of the projects were good governance, quality assurance, language training, e-learning, clinical pharmacy, financial decentralization and IT. A project team was set up for each project consisting of faculty (including the academic supervisor of the project) and R&V staff. The R&V staff were responsible for the general management of the project. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also runs the individual Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP), which awards scholarships to students from all over the world for Master’s or PhD degree programmes. The University’s network in Africa and Asia increased with the number of institutional projects, as did individual scholarship applications. Fourteen NFP candidates were doing research in Groningen in 2012 and another four were granted a scholarship in January 2013. R&V manages the majority of these scholarships.

New project in Mozambique
In 2012 the University of Groningen successfully tendered for a four-year NICHE project at the Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM). The aim of this project is to build capacity in Quality Assurance, to improve teaching and research and to improve the English language proficiency of UCM staff and students. The project started in October 2012 with an inception phase in which the proposal was discussed with the UCM project management.
Impressive number of PhD candidates
The number of PhD candidates who have participated in the NPT, NFP and NICHE programmes is impressive, namely 40. They are distributed across several faculties. For an overview, which includes the numbers of PhD candidates with individual scholarships, see the table nearby:

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<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>NPT</th>
<th>NICHE</th>
<th>NFP (managed by R&amp;V)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economics and Business</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics and Natural Sciences</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6 (5)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioural and Social Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Spatial Sciences</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>14 (12)</strong></td>
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In 2012:
The University’s partners abroad in ongoing projects in 2012 included Makerere University (Uganda), Tshwane University of Technology (South Africa), Walter Sisulu University (South Africa), Mzumbe University (Tanzania), Institute of Finance Management (Tanzania), Zambia Research and Education Network (Zambia), Hanoi University of Pharmacy (Vietnam), Ho Chi Minh City University of Medicine and Pharmacy (Vietnam) and the Catholic University of Mozambique. Two projects are highlighted below, both of which are within the NICHE programme.

Non-Western Collaboration: Africa

Zambia
The University of Groningen is leading a consortium with the Radboud University at Nijmegen, the Free University Amsterdam, which collaborates with Institutes for Higher Education in Zambia. The project aims to establish a national network to support Research and Education in Zambia (ZAMREN) which offers a variety of services for the member organizations. The first priority was to secure high speed Internet connectivity by connecting ZAMREN to the backbone of the Internet. This will allow Zambian lecturers, scientists and students to participate in advanced regional and global collaborations. The three public Universities in Zambia are already connected to the network. In 2013 another 40 Institutions will be connected to ZAMREN. From the University of Groningen, the Donald Smits Center for Information Technology (CIT) is involved. The project supervisor is Drs. Robert Janz from CIT. Management and support are provided by a project management team from R&V. The project has a total budget of around € 2.25 million for four years.

Tanzania
Within the NICHE programme, RUG, viz. the Faculty of Law, is running a project with the School of Public Administration of Mzumbe University (SoPAM) in Tanzania. The title of the project is ‘Capacity Building for the Enhancement of Decentralization by Devolution in Local Government Authorities in Tanzania’.

The academic supervisor from the Faculty of Law is Prof. Ko de Riddet; and the consortium partners in the project, are the Free University of Amsterdam and MDF Consultants Ede. As projects of this type are always demand-driven, the objectives of the project are formulated by Mzumbe University in Tanzania. It was decided to select 24 staff members who will be trained in aspects as curriculum development, research and teaching methods. The groups will do research on topics related to decentralisation, publish their results and use the information for the short courses to be developed.

Non-Western Collaboration: Africa: Saudi Arabia

Groningen Medical Curriculum Adoption 2012 (GMCA 2012)
Since September 2012, medical students of King Faisal University (KFU) in Saudi Arabia have been taught according to the Groningen medical teaching model. Before that, an extensive training programme was undertaken to prepare KFU staff for the transition from a traditional to a problem-based curriculum.

To this end, Prof. Sibrand Poppema, President of the University of Groningen, and Prof. Yusuf Al Jindan, President of King Faisal University, signed a contract in Riyadh in April 2011. The academic supervisor of this project is Prof. Jan Borleffs and the project coordination team consists of Dr René Tio (UMCG), Jan Tjeerd Groenewoud (Department of
Educational Support and Innovation, University of Groningen) and Renzo Tuinsma (R&V). The final workshops for teaching and support staff with different roles and responsibilities were held in Groningen in the first half of 2012, and in March a team of University of Groningen experts visited KFU to assess the progress and achievements of the project progress and provide on-site advice on remaining points of concern.

Cooperating in Computing Science – King Khalid University (KKU)
In April 2012 Prof. Sibrand Poppema and his KKU colleague Prof. Abdullah Al Rashed signed a service contract concerning collaboration in the field of Computing Science, on the occasion of the International Exhibit & Conference on Higher Education (IECHE) in Riyadh. In November a delegation from the University of Groningen – Prof. Marco Aiello, Prof. Nicolai Petkov, Dr Doina Bucur (all from the Groningen Department of Computer Science), supported by Renzo Tuinsma (R&V) – travelled to Abha to draw up an agreement relating to the schedule and activities in the first year of the project. This was based on an assessment report from a mission undertaken in December 2011. Within this framework, Ms Fatima Al Saif started her PhD in October 2012; she is the first Saudi PhD student at the University of Groningen.

Non-Western Collaboration: Asia

External research funding through recruitment of Asian PhD bursaries has gained significance through the China Scholarship Council, and R&V is addressing similar options elsewhere. The spearhead for 2012 was Indonesia, where a flourishing economy and growing middle class have resulted in increased interest in training abroad. The University of Groningen is the leading Dutch university in terms of incoming Indonesian students, and is a trusted partner of Indonesian universities and public bodies. Present possibilities are in the Indonesian fellowship programs DIKTI Overseas Scholarships and the World-Bank financed SPIRIT Overseas Scholarships for Bureaucratic Reform.

RUG President Prof. Sibrand Poppema and Mr. Tim Zwaagstra, M.A. of R&V traveled to Indonesia late 2011 to secure agreements with the Ministry of Education and Culture and the National Coordinating Body for Economic Planning (BAPPENAS). By now, a more or less steady population of around 30 DIKTI scholarship holders has settled in Groningen. For SPIRIT, a designated program has been set up by Dr. Ronald Holzhacker of the Faculty of Arts, supported by Mr. Zwaagstra and endorsed by Prof. Poppema: SINGA, Indonesian for “Lion”, and loosely standing for ‘SPIRIT Indonesia Groningen’. The Vice Minister of BAPPENAS, Dr. Lukita Dinarsyah, during a visit to Groningen in 2012, declared SINGA to be the only such approach to SPIRIT anywhere. By early 2013, 5 SINGA PhD fellows have registered at the Graduate Schools of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Spatial Sciences, and 5 more are expected to join for Humanities, Law, and Economics. Several SPIRIT Master’s students have enrolled in Law and Spatial Sciences.

For 2013, R&V will expand initiatives to Korea, for the new RUG East Asia Institute; to Brunei, as follow-up of the Groningen ARC3 conference, and to Vietnam, for scholarship opportunities similar to the ones in Indonesia. R&V and RUG International Relations work together to include Latin America and East Asia as well.
Chapter 6. Communication

We continued to distribute the monthly e-magazine *Post Europe* and the *Innovatieflits*, the University newsletter about innovation, to all researchers at our University.

**Innovatieflits e-Newsletter**

*Innovatieflits* is a three-weekly newsletter sent to University researchers and policymakers about all kinds of opportunities for innovation, valorisation and funding.

**Post Europe e-Newsletter**

In the monthly newsletter *Post Europe*, the Research & Valorisation and UMCG research advisers publish information about all kinds of European funding. Researchers are broadly informed about calls, news and facts of European funding.

www.rug.nl/rv
TEAM RESEARCH & VALORISATION December 2012

Annemieke Galema Director
Ellen Hoekstra Executive secretary
Elisabeth Oosterling Editor

STRATEGY & QUALITY ASSURANCE TEAM

Ineke Ganzeveld Policy advisor; project manager Graduate Schools (Coordinator Strategy & Quality Assurance Team)
Merlijne Jaspers Advisor Research Policy and Institutional Research
Jules van Rooij Advisor Research Policy and Institutional Research

COOPERATION FUNDING TEAM

European funding
Geert Jan Arends Project manager European Funding (Coordinator Cooperation Funding Team)
Jos Winkelkem Govert Buirs EU Liaison Officer University of Groningen and UMCG

Regional, National funding
Ruud van de Bilt Project manager; SPRINT
René Finkers Project Manager, CCC, BioBrug, WBSO
Robert Otten Projectmanager

International Research Funding
Erk Haarbrink Project Manager development collaboration
Gonny Lakerveld Project assistant development collaboration
Robert Otten Projectmanager
Renzo Tuinsma Project Manager international collaboration
Wiebe Zijlstra Project Manager development collaboration, policy advisor on Africa

TALENT FUNDING TEAM

Merlijne Jaspers Advisor Research Policy and Institutional Research (Coordinator Talent Funding Team)
Erk Haarbrink Project Manager, development collaboration
Neeltje Miedema ERC consultant
Tim Zwaagstra Project Manager international research funding

VALORISATION TEAM

Geertje Holtrop Project management
Ton Linssen Patents Information Officer
Marnix Pool Business Development
Greetje Vos-Scheperkeuter Patents Manager/ IPR Consultant (Coordinator Valorisation Team)

FINANCE

Wiebe Lise Financial manager

List of Abbreviations

AZG Academisch Ziekenhuis Groningen, the former name of the UMCG
CCC Carbohydrate Competence Center
CIT Donald Smits Center for Information Technology, University of Groningen
CVO Consortium for Valorisation and Entrepreneurship
EC European Commission
EDR Eems-Dollard Region
ERC European Research Council
FP7/KP7 Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development
HANNH Healthy Ageing Network North Netherlands
HEO Hanze Energy Corridor
IMDI Innovative Medical Device Initiative
IPR Intellectual Property Rights
ITM Institute of Technology and Management, University of Groningen
KFU King Faisal University
Netherlands Institute for the Federal University Medische Centra
NPT The Netherlands Programme for the Institutional Strengthening of Post-secondary Education and Training Capacity (NUFFIC)
NUFFIC Netherlands Universities Foundation for International Cooperation
NWO The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
PM5 Patent Management System
POL R&D Research & Valorisation
RHM University of Groningen Holding Company
SNN Northern Netherlands Assembly
SPRINT Smart Prevention, Rehabilitation & Intervention Technologies
TLG Transfer & Liaison Group
SPB Business Generator Groningen
SoHAM School of Public Administration of Maastricht University
UMCG University Medical Center Groningen
VSNU Association of Universities in the Netherlands