

Fame Lab

TALKING SCIENCE

National Final
TivoliVredenburg
9 May 2018

 #FameLabNL



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ABOUT FAMELAB

FameLab aims to discover charismatic, up-and-coming scientists who inspire people to see the world from a new perspective... in just three minutes! Since its birth at the Cheltenham Science Festival in 2005, FameLab has grown into arguably the world's leading science communication competition. Through a partnership with the British Council (since 2007) FameLab has now been held in over 34 different countries. With more than 9000 young scientists and engineers participating so far.

Communicating science accessibly and attractively is an ever-growing priority for researchers worldwide. FameLab helps young scientists acquire valuable skills to communicate their work to non-scientific audiences. By doing so, researchers not only challenge common stereotypes of scientists, but also help to justify public funding for their research.

FameLab Netherlands 2018

The ten Finalists in FameLab Netherlands were selected at five heats organised in partnership with the AMC/University of Amsterdam, Delft University of Technology, University of Groningen/Science LinX, University of Twente and Wageningen University & Research.

All Finalists participated in a *Masterclass in Media and Science Communication* hosted by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, our national FameLab partner. The Masterclass was given by FameLab UK trainer Quentin Cooper and Maureen Voestermans. The ten Finalists will compete against one another at TivoliVredenburg in Utrecht to see who will be crowned the winner of FameLab Netherlands 2018!

FameLab Netherlands Prize

The overall winner will not just travel to the UK to attend the Cheltenham Science Festival. He or she will also represent

the Netherlands in the FameLab International (semi) Final and compete against 27 other national FameLab Finalists from all around the world. The FameLab International Final is co-produced by Cheltenham Festivals and the British Council and held at the Cheltenham Science Festival each June.

Audience Award

TEDx Alkmaar will present the Audience Award to the FameLab Finalist who receives the greatest number of votes from the audience. Everyone in the audience will be able to vote for their favourite presentation during the jury deliberations. The winner will receive a Masterclass in storytelling and a speaking slot during the TEDx Alkmaar experience.

'South African-born British biologist and great communicator Lewis Wolpert stated: 'Science can be quite uncomfortable to live with. It offers no hope for an afterlife, it tolerates no magic and it doesn't tell us how to live.'

Thus, one of the biggest challenges for science will always be its acceptance by society at large. We will have to explain over and over how science works and what it can –and cannot– accomplish. The importance of helping young scientists to learn how to communicate their research effectively can never be overestimated.'

Professor Dr Hans Clevers

Director Research
Princess Maxima Center for Paediatric Oncology



SPEAKER



Peter Wilson

The Honourable Peter Wilson CMG was appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands in August 2017. Prior to this, Peter Wilson was the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the UK Mission to the UN, New York. He has served as Asia Pacific Director at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London where he covered North and South East Asia, and Australasia from November 2010 and has also served as Director of Strategy for the FCO in 2010.

MODERATOR



Yanti Danoekoesoemo

Host, science editor and flamenco dancer. Yanti combines anything and everything. Educated in both media (Hogeschool Haarlem, Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona) and business (University of Amsterdam) she attempts to make all matter come to life, regardless how complex or grand.

Having worked with public broadcaster NTR, Utrecht University and the University of Amsterdam, she currently portrays worldwide research of Wageningen University and Research. Through mini-documentaries we get to see a glimpse of the researchers' daily life. In an African bush or in a Dutch greenhouse. Yanti is driven by curiosity and determined to broaden the horizon of her audience with great enthusiasm.

JURY MEMBERS



Celia Berkers

Professor Dr Celia Berkers did research at the Harvard Medical School in Boston and the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam before obtaining her PhD in 2010. In 2013, she joined the Department of Chemistry at Utrecht University (UU) as an independent group leader. In 2018 she was appointed Professor of Metabolomics at the faculties of Veterinary Medicine and Science at UU. She is also a member of the Young Academy of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Berkers group studies the metabolism of cancer cells and immune cells with the ultimate goal of finding novel targets for precision medicine.



Abi Daruvalla

Abi Daruvalla is an international media/communication trainer who has designed and delivered workshops around the world for a wide range of clients including the European Space Agency, Free Press Unlimited, the Dutch World Service and Unicef. A former journalist, she was co-founder of Dutchnews.nl and has been a guest lecturer at Amsterdam University for Applied Science and the School for Journalism in Utrecht. She is a board member of the Dutch Fund for Special Journalism Projects.



Dirk van Delft

Dirk van Delft studied physics at Leiden University. From 1992-2006 he was senior science editor at NRC Handelsblad newspaper. His PhD-work involved a biography of Heike Kamerlingh Onnes (Freezing Physics, 2005). From 2006-2018 he was Director of Rijksmuseum Boerhaave, the Dutch national museum for the history of science and medicine. In 2008 he was appointed special professor in the Heritage of the Sciences at Leiden University. At the moment he is Professor Emeritus at the Instituut-Lorentz for theoretical physics, preparing a biography of Nobel Prize winner H.A. Lorentz. Communicating science by means of articles, lectures and books is what makes him tick.



Roberto Narcisi

After receiving his PhD in Medical Biotechnology at the University of Genova (Italy), Roberto moved to Erasmus MC, where he became passionate about the use of stem cells for regenerative medicine, especially for the treatment of cartilage defects. After a sabbatical at the Stanford School of Medicine, Roberto is now senior scientist at the Orthopaedic department at Erasmus MC. Roberto is a regular speaker at science communication events, associate editor for Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology and board member of the Dutch society for matrix biology. Beyond his work, he divides his time between his two kids, his wife and running marathons.

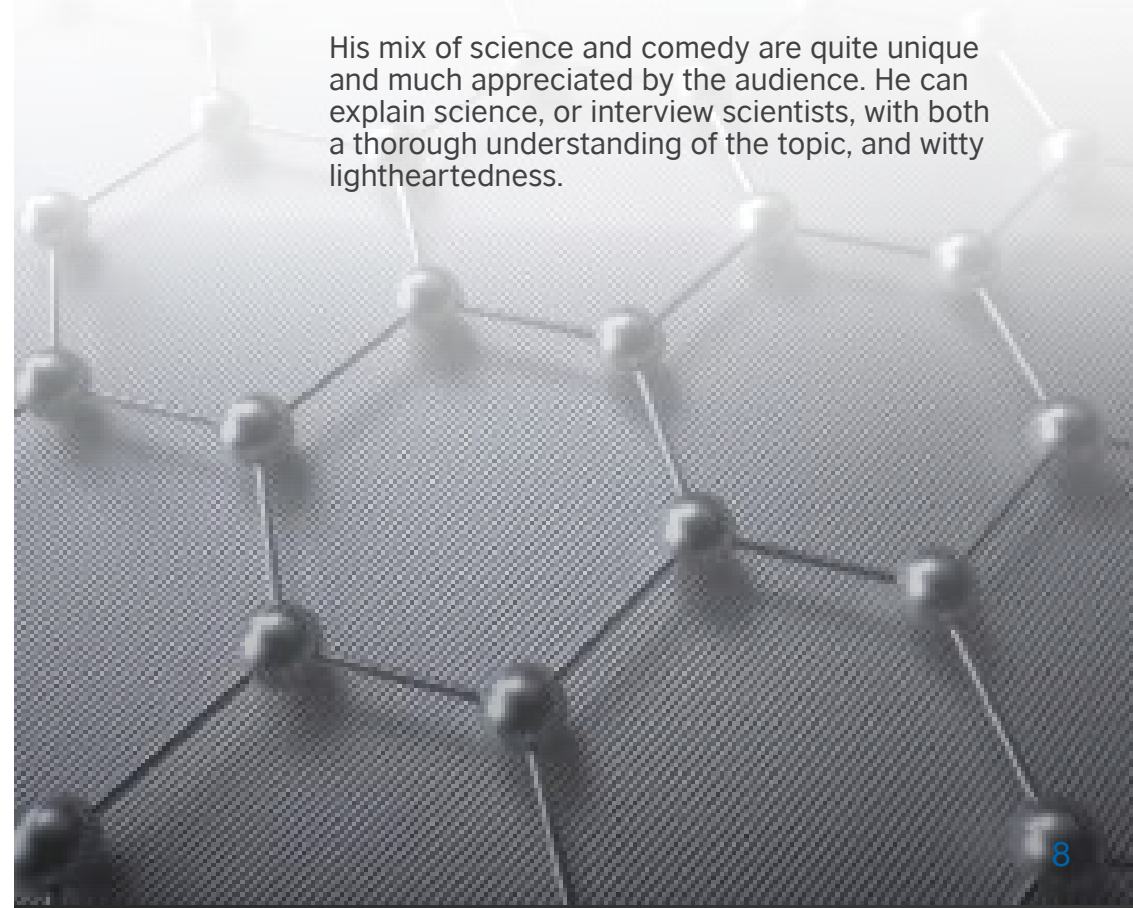
ENTERTAINMENT



Lieven Scheire

Lieven Scheire is a comedian, physicist and science communicator on stage and on TV, in Dutch and in English. He develops and hosts TV shows, tours on stage with an English spoken scientific comedy set, and hosts events for universities and scientific or technological companies.

His mix of science and comedy are quite unique and much appreciated by the audience. He can explain science, or interview scientists, with both a thorough understanding of the topic, and witty lightheartedness.





PROGRAMME - FAMELAB NATIONAL FINAL

- 19:00 Arrival at TivoliVredenburg (Cloud Nine)
- 19:30 Opening by Moderator, **Yanti Danoekoesoemo**
Video message by **Minister van Engelshoven**, Minister of Education, Culture and Science
- 19:45 3-minute presentations by the FameLab Finalists
- 1 **Marco Carlotti**
University of Groningen
[Science works! Whether you understand it or not](#)
 - 2 **Emmanuel Nyadzi**
Wageningen University & Research
[Rethinking the science and art of indigenous people's weather and climate forecast](#)
 - 3 **Sebastien Callens**
Delft University of Technology
[Advanced gift wrapping with Carl Friedrich Gauss](#)
 - 4 **Geert Folkertsma**
University of Twente
[Decoding the flight of \(robotic\) birds](#)
 - 5 **Natalie LeCouffe**
Academic Medical Center/University of Amsterdam
[How a corkscrew could save your brain](#)
 - 6 **Wen Wu**
Wageningen University & Research
[CRISPR, from evolution to revolution](#)
 - 7 **Marcel Eleveld**
University of Groningen
[Why is information transfer so difficult and how does it play a role in the origin of life?](#)
 - 8 **Jair Santanna**
University of Twente
[How to solve DDoS attacks?](#)
 - 9 **Esmá Islamaj**
Delft University of Technology
[What do football and glaucoma have in common?](#)
 - 10 **Alba Torrents de la Pena**
Academic Medical Center/University of Amsterdam
[Bacteria and humans - working together to build a better world](#)
- 21:00 Jury deliberations and performance by Lieven Scheire
- 21:20 Voting Audience Award
- 21:30 Prize ceremony by **Peter Wilson**, British Ambassador to the Netherlands
- 21:45 Drinks reception
- 22:30 End



FAMELAB FINALISTS



Sebastien Callens

Sebastien is a Belgian PhD candidate at TU Delft, working in the Biomaterials and Tissue Biomechanics section. He obtained a master's degree on Aerospace Structures and Materials, and then made the switch from studying the materials used in airplanes to those used in human bodies. He now works on origami-based meta-materials that could lead to future bone implants. Apart from studying paper folding, he enjoys running, woodworking, classical music, and occasionally binge-watching Netflix series.



Marco Carlotti

Marco was born in Italy, roughly 28 years ago, or so they told him. Always fascinated by dinosaurs and things that can burn, he studied Chemistry at the University of Pisa where he eventually got a MSc degree in Inorganic Chemistry. Tired of good food and nice weather, he decided to move to the Netherlands to start a PhD in Molecular Electronics at the University of Groningen. Next to his love for science, Marco deeply enjoys writing short bios for the different events he participates in.



Marcel Eleveld

Marcel obtained his bachelor's degrees in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in Groningen. He is currently finishing his Nanoscience master's by studying the role of "RNA polymerization using external energy sources" in the origin of life. After that? Continue with his research as a PhD student. Is it only about research? No, explaining and talking about science to anyone who wants to listen are things that really define Marcel. Most likely this is why he is also a substitute chemistry-teacher.



Geert Folkertsma

Geert is a robotics scientist and engineer, employed as assistant professor at the University of Twente and Lead R&D Engineer at Clear Flight Solutions, known for their robotic falcon that keeps airports safe. His research topic is best described as "energy-efficient biomimetic robots". Geert also likes teaching and sharing his experience, knowledge and fascination regarding robotics. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife and two children, making music, and sailing.



Esma Islamaj

Esma is composed of 2 parts geek, 1 part obstacle runner, 1 part enthusiasm and 2 parts curiosity. She is eager to explore the world, which is probably due to her multicultural (Albanian and Belgian) background. During her childhood she developed a passion for mathematics and medicine, which led her to obtain a master in civil engineering-architecture and a second master in biomedical engineering. Currently, she is working as a PhD student at the Rotterdam Ophthalmic Institute, where she is investigating the side effects of the Baerveldt glaucoma implant.



Natalie LeCouffe

Natalie received her medical degree in 2015. After working as a neurology resident, she started her PhD at the Department of Neurology at the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam. Her research focuses on new treatments in acute stroke. For this, she is currently involved in setting up a large clinical trial across the Netherlands and Europe. In her spare time, Natalie is a classical violinist and enjoys travelling and spending time with friends. She lives with her boyfriend, Rutger, in Amsterdam.



Emmanuel Nyadzi

Emmanuel is a Ghanaian PhD candidate in the Water Systems and Global Change Group at Wageningen University & Research. Being from a country where people's livelihood are threatened by climate variability/change, he developed an interest in improving the predictability of the weather and climate. His PhD research harnesses and integrates scientific and indigenous forecasts for improving early warnings that enable adaptive decision-making. Besides science, he loves playing soccer and reading books on history, politics and religion.



Jair Santanna

Jair is a very enthusiastic person, a passionate teacher, and an ambitious cyber security professional. He loves spreading his knowledge and he does it in a very engaging way. He has big dreams, for example the one about 'solving' DDoS attacks worldwide. Hopefully, one of his main strengths is to fight hard for his dreams and convince others, like you and me, that his dreams matter for society and humanity in general.



Alba Torrents de la Pena

Alba wants to be everything. Explorer, musician, painter, philosopher, artist, climber, doctor... She ended up being a researcher. She still wants to learn everything from everybody. She is a PhD student at the AMC in Amsterdam, working on the design of a vaccine against the HIV virus. She is originally from a small village near Barcelona, where she studied piano and biotechnology. After finishing her bachelors degree she moved to Amsterdam to study a master in biomedical science. And here she is, six years later, finishing her PhD and playing piano as much as she can.



Wen Wu

Wen is of Chinese descent but she was born and raised on sunny Aruba. In 2010, she came to the Netherlands to pursue higher education. She obtained a BSc and MSc in Biotechnology at Wageningen University and Research. She is a PhD candidate in the laboratory of microbiology at Wageningen University & Research working on CRISPR. In her free time she loves to do CrossFit, bouldering and playing board games with friends. When she is back home, she tries to surf and dive as much as possible!

“FameLab made me see the bigger picture of my research more clearly. It’s great to meet a bunch of young, like-minded scientists, all passionate about sharing their science with the world.”

Lieneke Janssen, Finalist FameLab 2016

“FameLab is fantastic, it opens a direct dialogue between scientists and the public, and I’m so glad to have been a part of it”

Pádraic Flood, winner Benelux 2014 & International winner Cheltenham 2014





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