

## **8<sup>th</sup> ULLA Summer School in Leiden highly successful!**

This year the LACDR was granted the honor of organizing the bi-annual ULLA Summer School for PhD-Students. The Summer School was held in Leiden at the Gorlaeus Laboratories from June 29<sup>th</sup> until July 7<sup>th</sup>, and accommodated 123 PhD-students from all 7 partners in the European University Consortium for Advanced Pharmaceutical Education and Research ULLA.

These nine intensive days started off with a rainy registration day at Hotel Leiden (Haagsche Schouw), where each participant received a bicycle and a rain-poncho for personal use. The atmosphere within the group was very good from the start. A symposium day followed bearing the theme “Individualization: towards personalized medicines”. Four speakers from the international pharmaceutical industry and academia filled the morning program, and six pre-selected PhD-students, one from each participating country, were invited to present their research in the afternoon. All participants were able to present a poster, which led to new contacts and related discussions of several research projects. The day ended with drinks and a delightful dinner buffet. On Sunday the weather was in our favor, and we were able to enjoy a lovely social day in the countryside of Warmond. In mixed groups, the students were encouraged to mingle and relax. Alternating, we played Boerengolf, enjoyed a boat trip with “coffee”, and had beer and a barbecue in the stable afterwards.

Six tough days followed, with a plenary lecture each morning, and 6-hour interactive courses afterwards. Each PhD-Student had chosen his own personal program out of the 38 offered 1- and 2-day courses in all fields of pharmacological sciences. “Subjects varied from “Drug Discovery”, “Drug Delivery Systems”, “Systems Biology”, “PK-PD Modelling”, and “Novel concepts in disease treatment”, to basic skills like “Presentation and Teaching Skills”, and “Scientific Writing”. A total of 66 teachers from the whole of Europe had been found willing to teach these courses, and their contribution provided the Summer School with a professional and an even more international aspect. We would like to extend our credit to our Dutch PhD-students, who took it on their selves to provide a full social program for each evening during the course week. This varied from a small-scale soccer tournament, and a pub crawl, to the highly successful Rotterdam outing to the Baja Beach Club, where approximately 90% of the participants joined them for a party.

It was a delight to host the event for this enthusiastic group of people, who obviously enjoyed both the scientific as well as the social aspects of the gathering.