



## **SoFoKles sponsors the postdoc retreat, get your money back now!**

PCDI - Postdoc Career Development Initiative - is a small organisation that aims to improve awareness of career planning and opportunities among postdocs, PhD candidates, and their employers. We bring together scientists, universities, and key players in the life sciences industry.

### **In this newsletter:**

- 'Postdocs have nowhere to turn to', says the Volkskrant - PCDI helps.
- Government recognises the importance of career development.
- Early registrants: get your money back.
- 9th of June deadline for registration.

### **'Postdocs have nowhere to turn to', says the Volkskrant - PCDI helps**

On the 12th of May Volkskrant Banen - the job-searcher's supplement of the Volkskrant, one of the major Dutch broadsheets - published [a feature-length article about career prospects for postdocs](#). It's conclusion? Support and career development offered by employers leaves much to be desired.

"There's still a long way to go in allocating money for career development," says Sijbolt Noorda, chair of the VSNU, the Vereniging voor Samenwerkende Nederlandse Universiteiten, in the Volkskrant.

PCDI offers training and support to postdocs in the life sciences. Several life sciences professionals, some of them retreat alumni, told the Volkskrant about the ways in which the postdoc retreat has helped them in their career development.

According to Lilian Menu, project manager at PCDI, "Postdocs need to learn how to sell themselves." At the retreat, postdocs and final year PhD students receive tuition in transferable skills, skills you can take with you from academia to a professional career in industry.

There are still places available at [this year's postdoc retreat](#), Crossing boundaries to open new doors. More information, the retreat [programme](#), and [on-line registration](#) forms can all be accessed from our website.



"The most refreshing thing about the postdoc retreat is the fact that you are forced to think about your career; where are you at the moment and where do you want to go?"

-- Jeroen van Heijst



"The retreat provides a great opportunity to meet and talk to other postdocs, it's a great networking event. Personally I loved the feedback we got at the workshop, it opened up my eyes."

-- Bertie de Leeuw

### **Government recognises the importance of career development**

SoFoKleS and the Ministry of Economic Affairs recognise the importance of career development for postdocs. SoFoKleS has promised to pay €200 toward the cost of registration per registrant. The Ministry of Economic Affairs has allocated another €100 for every participant.

We can therefore bring down the price of registration by €300. Sadly this reduction in price only applies to applicants in Dutch academia. [Prerequisites for this €300 cash incentive can be found on our website.](#)

Registration for the 3-day postdoc retreat now sets you back just €950. This includes accommodation and meals. All other payments towards the cost of registration, such as money you receive directly from your employer or departmental head, still apply. [Please see our website for all the details.](#)

### **Early registrants: get your money back**

The €300 cash-back applies even when you've already registered for this year's postdoc retreat. [Instructions on how to get your money back can be found on-line.](#) Please note that this only applies to registrants working in the Netherlands.

### **9th of June deadline for registration**

Tuesday the 9th of June is the deadline for registration for the 2009 postdoc retreat at Kapellerput, Heeze. The retreat takes place between 26-28 June. There are still some places available so [register now](#) to be guaranteed a place.

For more information please visit our website [www.pcdi.nl](http://www.pcdi.nl) or contact us on [info@pcdi.nl](mailto:info@pcdi.nl).