



## Information from the Committee Meeting

The advisory committee for the Nano, Quantum and Materials Physics research community wants to be in close contact with its research community. To this end, the committee finds it pivotal to update the research community on topics discussed during the last committee meeting (15 May). Therefore the committee circulates this first NQMP news update. Please feel free to ask for more details via your local committee member or contact Merijn Blaakmeer, secretary of the NQMP advisory committee.

### **Alix McCollam joins the committee** ([link](#))

The NQMP committee is very pleased that Alix McCollam (RU, HFML) has joined the committee. She is the successor of Nigel Hussey. The committee is very pleased to again have a representative of a large facility amongst its members. Furthermore, Alix represents her local and national colleagues within the field of strongly correlated electron systems. So welcome Alix!

### **New Prizes NWO Domain Science** ([link](#))

NWO Domain Science has reorganized their prizes. In 2020, NWO Domain Science is awarding five special prizes in the areas of societal impact/economic contribution, teamwork in science, diversity and communication. The aim of the prizes is to reward scientists who make an outstanding contribution in these areas and inspire others to do the same. All disciplines within the physical and natural sciences are eligible. The committee encourages their physics community to submit nominations. Nominations can be submitted until 30 June 2020 at 12:00 CE(S)T.

These new prizes also mark the end of former physics-specific prizes. The committee expresses their regret that in particular the Physics Thesis Prize has been discontinued and has contacted the Dutch Physics Council to see if there are opportunities to continue this prize outside NWO.

### **Evaluation NWO domain Science Open Competition and effectiveness NWO instruments for the physics community**

The Round Table Physics would like to hear the opinion of the research communities about the adequacy of the available funding calls and evaluation procedures for the physics research needs. The members of the NQMP committee have reached out to their local connections and gathered a lot of input that will serve for further discussions within the Table.

### **Incentive grant for women in STEM** ([link](#))

NWO has launched a new call for women in science or applied and engineering sciences. With this call NWO aims to retain women who are qualified in science or the engineering sciences, and to provide them with a stable launchpad for an academic career. To this end, this grant will support women who are temporarily without funding but who, nevertheless, have good prospects of obtaining a permanent or more senior research position (from Tenure Track) in science or the engineering sciences. Women with a doctorate from the Netherlands or elsewhere can apply, whether or not they have permanent employment. The committee encourages their physics community to submit applications. Those wishing to submit a proposal can do so at any time up to and including 31 December 2020.

### **NWO measures COVID-19 ([link](#))**

The committee shared some concerns they received from the field with regards to COVID-19 measures NWO has taken, in particular related to the Talent line and potential effects this has on female applicants. If you have further questions about this, please see this [link](#) or contact NWO.

### **Overview initiatives NWA, KIC**

The committee discussed whether it could act as a mediator in obtaining an overview of different grant proposals that are submitted by the physics community, especially for large scale initiatives such as KIC or NWA proposals. Such overview can in particular be used to get insight into which (sub)communities fail to secure funding or are above average successful as such information cannot be provided by NWO due to privacy reasons. The committee support the concept of such overview and would see it as a very valuable tool to monitor the research funding for physics, but struggles to see a voluntary process working in practice. If you have suggestions, please share them by email via [ResearchCommunity-NQMP@nwo.nl](mailto:ResearchCommunity-NQMP@nwo.nl).

On behalf of the advisory committee for the Nano, Quantum and Materials Physics research community,

With kind regards,  
Beatriz Noheda

### ***Committee members***

Beatriz Noheda, chair (RUG)  
Sanli Faez (UU)  
Irene Groot (LEI)  
Elizabeth von Hauff (VU)  
Emilie Kernén (Photonis)  
Femius Koenderink (AMOLF, UvA)  
Servaas Kokkelmans (TU/e)  
Alix McCollam (RU, HFML)  
Bas van de Meerakker (RU)  
Gary Steele (TUD)  
Jasper van Wezel (UvA)  
Harold Zandvliet (UT)

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### **For questions, ideas and news items, please contact:**

Dr. Merijn Blaakmeer, secretary of the advisory committee for the Nano, Quantum and Materials Physics research community  
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