

VPHi Young Scientists Committee

What is it?

The VPHi Young Scientists Committee is a group of active VPHi student/PostDoc members, whose aim is to:

- promote the VPHi as a community and the career development of the young scientists of this community
- highlight excellence within the VPHi and provide student members with a label of quality through different types of recognition and awards
- favour scientific interactions between junior and senior community members and across the VPHi disciplines
- foster collaborations and mentoring activities among VPHi student members
- increase the mobility of the student members within the VPHi community

Composition

The Young Scientists Committee is composed by a maximum of **4 VPHi young scientists** (PhD students and early PostDocs up to 2 years after their PhD) and **1 senior chair**.

Currently the senior chair is Prof Jerome Noailly – Universitat Pompeu Fabra, supported by Roberta De Michele from VPHi.

Rules for participation

The members of the Young Scientists Committee are selected for a **2-year mandate** through a public call among the members in good standing of the VPH Institute. The mandate can be renewed for an additional term.

The role of Young Scientists Committee members is open to **PhD students** and **early PostDocs up to 2 years after completion of their PhD**.

Each member of the Young Scientists Committee shall take the responsibility of organising at least 1 webinar per year plus taking care of at least 1 of the activities proposed by the committee (see list below). A calendar of the activities shall be identified at the beginning of each year. In case of inactivity, the committee member will be asked to resign.

Meetings

The committee meets electronically every quarter. Additional communications will be managed by email.

Activities

- **VPHi Keynote webinar series:**

A series of online seminars that features high profile members of the VPH community. This quarterly event provides a forum for access to senior community members and their expert competence. Young scientists are the primary audience targeted, but the VPHi keynote webinars are open to the VPH community as a whole. Each webinar is organised by a member of the student committee, who will identify and establish contacts with the speaker, moderate the webinar and collaborate with the dissemination activities.

- **VPHi Summer School:**

A yearly event that takes place in Barcelona in collaboration with Universitat Pompeu Fabra. The Summer School provides a thorough overview and hands-on experience in state-of-the-art in silico research. The key concepts of this methodological and technological framework are presented using illustrative cases and enriched with hands-on analysis under supervision of the experts. The aim is to develop skills inside and outside academia that respond to public and private needs.

This event is organised in collaboration with Prof Jerome Noailly, the current senior chair of the committee, and foresees the contribution of the VPHi student members for what concerns the definition of the list of speakers, the activities to organize, and the dissemination. At least one member of the committee shall be responsible to collaborate with the local organising committee on the organisation of the event.

- **Events:**

Two bi-annual events are normally organised by the VPHi Young Scientists Committee, together with the local Organisers of the VPH Conference:

- **Mentoring events:** These events are designed to enhance the learning experience for PhD students. They are a special opportunity for trainees to meet and network with senior members of the community and receive career advice and insights. They are normally organised in connection to the VPH Conference, which takes place every two years.
- **Student events:** These events are organised by the committee directly with the goal of creating stronger links between the VPHi student members.

Further events might be proposed by the VPHi Young Scientists Committee and shall take place at any convenient time. These initiatives shall be discussed during the quarterly meetings of the Committee.

- **Dissemination**

The Young Scientists Committee takes care of producing and circulating a flow of information of interest for the student membership of the Institute, such as job and exchange opportunities, awards and competitions, internship programmes and similar.

This information is disseminated through:

- the VPHi newsletter: a dedicated student section is included in the VPHi monthly newsletter. The student committee is responsible of providing up to 5 news items per month.
- the VPHi social media (Twitter and LinkedIn)

Budget

The senior chair of the committee shall identify the yearly budget needed for the committee activities and propose the budget contribution to the VPHi Board.