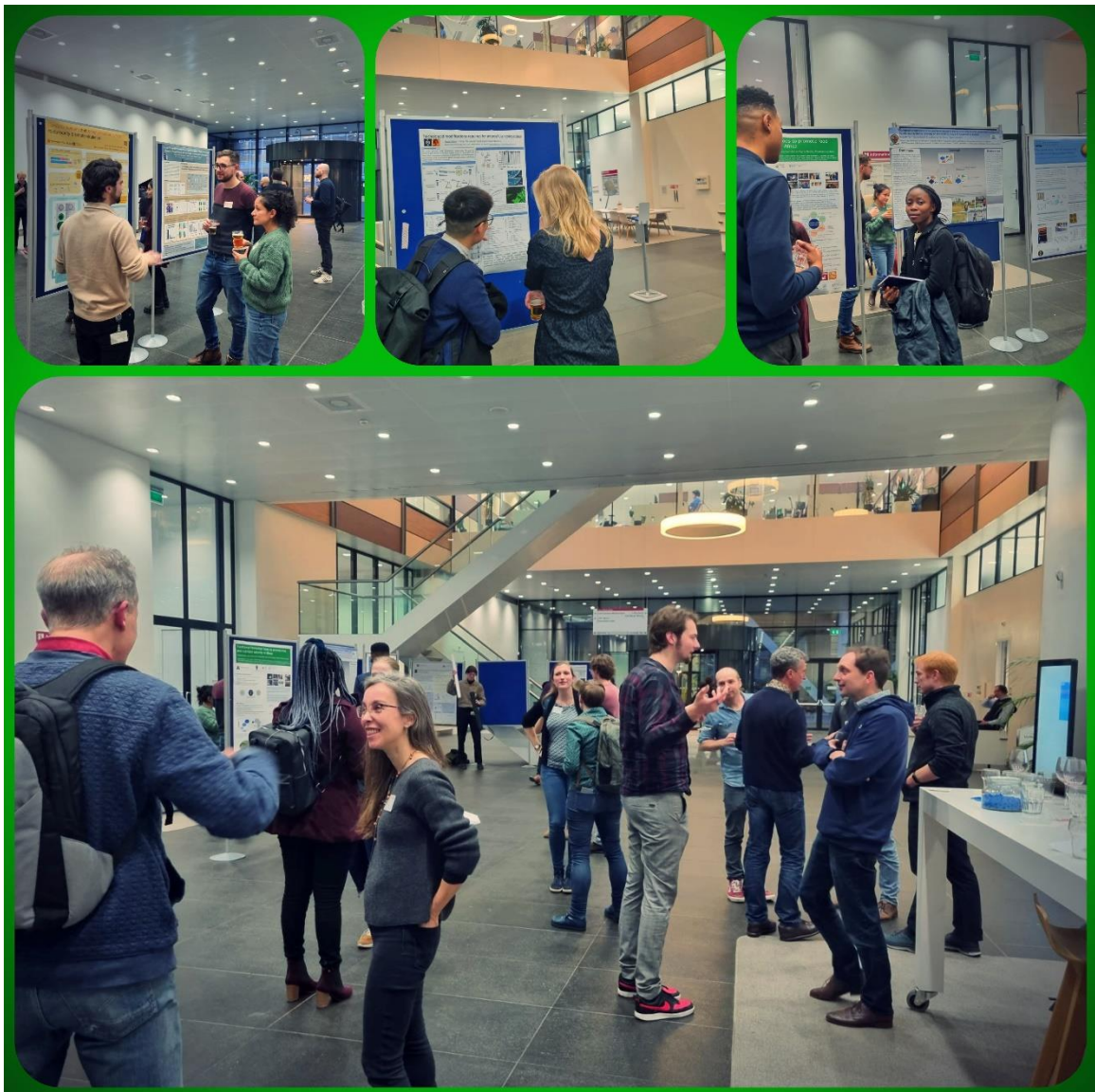




➤ **Joint NLSEB/BioSB symposium on Evolution in and of cell communities**

On February 15th 2023, NLSEB together with the Netherlands Bioinformatics and Systems Biology research school (BioSB) organized a full-day symposium on a topic of joint interest among evolutionary and systems biologists: evolution in and of cell communities at the O2-building (VU Amsterdam).



About **65 people** joined the symposium, which featured nine stimulating talks by microbial and cancer researchers: Paul Rainey (MPI for Evolutionary Biology, Ploen, Germany), Sijmen Schoustra (Wageningen UR), Rinke van Tatenhove-Pel (TU Delft), Djordje Bajic (TU Delft), Frank Bruggeman (VU Amsterdam), Marjon de Vos (RU Groningen), Enrico Sandro Colizzi (U Cambridge), Daniel Miedema (Amsterdam UMC) and Saskia Suijkerbuijk (Utrecht U). These were organized in three sessions, (i) evolution of communities, (ii) evolution within communities, and (iii) evolution within multicellular organisms – each followed by a lively plenary discussion on specific topics arising, such as conditions promoting community-level evolution, evolutionary constraints from community context and remarkable parallels between ecological and genetic causes of microbial and cancer evolution.

The day ended with poster presentations and drinks, where discussions continued. The organizers of the symposium (Meike Wortel, Evert Bosdriez, Sijmen Schoustra and Arjan de Visser) received lots of positive feedback, which may motivate the organization of a similar symposium on a topic of joint interest for members from NLSEB and BioSB!

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