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## Research on Rolfing®

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### The Second International Fascia Research Congress

[Vrije Universiteit](#)  
October 27-30, 2009 in Amsterdam, Netherlands

The second conference at [Vrije Universiteit](#) continued the high level of scientific presentations set in the first conference. The Amsterdam Congress was a four day schedule followed by an additional day of post-conference clinical workshops. This added new dimensions – presentation of the clinical practices, both in lecture/demonstrations and in small group sessions, and integration with academic faculty conducting rehabilitation research. Vrije University has a main auditorium seating 900 and numerous smaller rooms for concurrent sessions. For complete details and registration go to [www.fasciacongress.org/2009](http://www.fasciacongress.org/2009)

### SCIENCE Magazine Article Features the 2007 First International Fascia Research Congress

Science Magazine, "the world's leading journal of original scientific research, global news, and commentary," has an excellent write up about the recent First International Fascia Research Congress in its November 23, 2007 issue (vol. 318, pp. 1234-5).

"Biomedical Research; "Cell Biology Meets Rolfing" and "From Rolfer to Researcher".

The article by David Grimm is titled "Cell Biology Meets Rolfing: A diverse group of researchers wants to create a new discipline from scratch by bringing together experts in fascia and deep- tissue massage."

A few points from the article...

"The meeting, held here [in Boston] last month, would be the first dedicated to the soft part of the body's connective tissue system — an important but medically neglected organ. It would bring together top scientists from fields as diverse as cell biology and biophysics, but it would also include alternative medicine practitioners..."

This conference was a first venture within the field of the human fasciae to bring together scientists and clinicians and it was not at all certain that getting these two diverse groups together would satisfy everyone or produce constructive collaboration. Quoting Thomas Findley, MD PhD, the Executive Director of the conference, "Practitioners want to know the science behind what they're doing...and scientists want to see clinical applications of their work." Partap Khalsa, DC PhD, program officer with the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) stated, "You need people who can do good basic science and clinicians who can inform them about their experiences...It's the only way to advance the field."

By the end of the second day, it was obvious there was a meeting of minds. So much so that a leading researcher in biomechanics, Peter Huijing, PhD, of Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam has agreed to help organize the next conference in Amsterdam in 2009. "Huijing says he also learned new things from the alternative therapists — and he found that he had something to teach them as well."

It should be noted that Dr. Huijing, himself, was originally skeptical of the feasibility and value of such collaboration. "Huijing plans to give a larger spotlight to practitioners and to explore even more of the basic science. He's adding days, and he's reserved an auditorium for 1000 people — twice the size of the room at this year's event. 'I have a feeling it could be very big,' he said."

### SPECIAL REMINDER...

The proceedings book "Fascia Research" can be ordered online at:  
<http://www.fascia2007.com/proceedings-book-order.htm>

A Fascia Congress DVD recording is also now available at  
<http://www.fascia2007.com/dvd-recording-order.htm>

### RISI Research Committee

The RISI Research Committee supports and guides Rolfing Structural Integration research. Many of its members are actively involved in research projects on Rolfing, its effects, and underlying mechanisms.

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Robert Schleip, PhD, Advanced Rolfer  
[www.somatics.de](http://www.somatics.de)

[Resources for Practitioners & Scientists](#)

- Robert Schleip, PhD and Rolf Institute faculty, offers the latest research on fascia and its implications for Rolfing at

[www.fasciaresearch.com](http://www.fasciaresearch.com) and [www.somatics.de](http://www.somatics.de)

- Gil Hedley has reference materials that explore the human form through anatomy education and in the laboratory at [www.integralanatomy.com](http://www.integralanatomy.com) and [www.somanautics.com](http://www.somanautics.com)
- Tom Myers, Certified Rolfer, offers reference tools for structural integrators and bodywork practitioners in his "Anatomy Trains" program. Learn about the role of connective tissues and the fascial network in the human body at [www.anatomytrains.net](http://www.anatomytrains.net)

#### Contact Us for:

- Join Roling Research Email List ... Receive notices of the latest research news, information, and activities.
- More Research Information on Roling Structural Integration
- Make a Financial Contribution to Research

*For the purpose of conducting basic and applied research, the RISI has set up the IPR Research Foundation. Money donated to the RISI for these purposes will be passed on to the Foundation. The RISI focuses on research literacy of its graduates by including research in its curriculum. Contributions to support this are appreciated.*

- Resources for MS and PhD Candidates Interested in Research
- Journalist Inquiries about Research

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