



We welcome Maarten Reith, PhD to the Board of the Irene & Eric Simon (IES) Brain Research Foundation, to serve as Secretary.

Maarten Reith, PhD was a research professor in the Department of Psychiatry at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and a close colleague and friend of Dr. Eric Simon. Maarten was active at NYU from 2003 until he retired his lab at New York University School of Medicine in 2018. Sadly, Maarten lost his beloved wife of 40 ½ years in 2021. Maarten's recruitment to NYU was initiated and strongly supported by Dr. Eric Simon. In the early years after recruitment, his lab was adjacent to Eric's in NYU Tisch hospital. Over the years, research techniques in the two labs were strongly related and applied to the interrelated topics of the mechanism of action of opioid drugs (Simon) and psychostimulants (Reith). Maarten and Eric worked together on opioid receptors and ibogaine, a potential treatment for opioid addiction. They published a paper together in 2013 about the effect of ibogaine (a potential opioid treatment drug) on opioid receptors.

Maarten, now an unsalaried Research Professor, is still faculty and listed as a member of the Department of Psychiatry. Since his retirement, Maarten has devoted his continuing scientific interest to the scientific journal *Neurochemical Research* for which he handles manuscripts in the review category as Associate Editor.

Maarten's interest in the inner workings of the brain in relation to psychiatric disorders started during the years in The Netherlands, where he grew up, before he started College. The first husband of his sister, at that time developed schizophrenic symptoms that put a heavy burden on him and the immediate family, including their very young daughter, his niece. At home his father had an extensive encyclopedia of perhaps 25 volumes from A to Z, and he spent quite some time looking up psychiatry-related topics. It influenced his final choice of chemistry as major study direction, but then decided more specifically on biochemistry of brain processes. The development of his research career, and now the opportunity to serve on the board of the IES Brain Research Foundation, is a logical extension of these early events in his early adolescence.

Since retiring from heading his lab at NYU, besides working on manuscripts for *Neurochemical Research*, Maarten currently enjoys what New York City has to offer in music and art. He loves traveling with his daughter, and more recently, with his new beloved girlfriend, who just retired from CUNY.

Dr. Reith has been on the IESBRF Scientific Committee, helping to select the outstanding student fellows. Maarten is enthusiastic about serving on the Board, as well as the Scientific Committee, has attended almost every Foundation dinner, and is a generous supporter of the Foundation.