**Transcript**

***Dr Bert De Groef – Hormonal basis of growth and development***

I’m interested in the physiological basis of processes like growth and development and stress. And these processes are all controlled by the brain which sends signals to a very little gland about this size that is sitting right underneath the brain and this controls all processes like reproduction, growth, development, stress and all of that and, and that’s what I like to find out how that works exactly.

What we hope to get from this research is that we can get down to the nuts and bolts of processes like growth and development, find out which genes, which molecules, which interactions are involved and that will give us a nice clear picture of how these processes work in the human body and in animal bodies.

Well this is very basic research and we hope that this builds a foundation for other researchers to build on. With the knowledge that we’ve gained from this research we might be able to find applications in agriculture as well as in medical fields, for instance, growth retardation, selecting bigger cows and that sort of thing. I think these are practical applications of what we are doing.