

Marie Curie Fellows Association



Letter to Members

February-March 2011

Dear MCFA Member,

Welcome to a new issue of the Letter to Members with news concerning our Association!

The MCFA Board

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Life of the Association

MCFA Science Policy Mailing List

If you are interested in listening what we are doing or participate in our working groups, we have created a mailing list. All MCFA members can subscribe to this mailing list, which is accessible from: http://mariecurie.org/mailman/listinfo/mcfa-science-policy_mariecurie.org

MCFA Board

Using your MC fellowship grant to participate in soft skills trainings

Dear Members,

The education of young researchers involves hard academic skills as well as softer skills, such as career and funding

management. It can be very helpful to join a workshop or training seminar to obtain these skills in a clear and concise way. Unfortunately, we have heard from some of you that it can be difficult to convince your supervisors about the value of such seminars. We strongly feel that soft skills are just as essential for your careers and encourage you to make use of them when you feel a need. We also believe that this is an aspect which is mandated by the Fellowship grant. One way of facilitating this is by use of the Career exploratory grant; although we also believe that it could come from other grant components. If you have problems convincing your supervisor, you could get in touch with the NCP or with the EURAXESS help desk.

Sincerely,

The MCFA

Careers, funding, and networking opportunities

Marie Curie Fellowships (IEF, IOF, IIF)

The 2011 call for Marie Curie Fellowships is now open:

- Intra-European Fellowship ([IEF](#))
- International Outgoing Fellowship ([IOF](#))
- International Incoming Fellowship ([IIF](#))

Researchers with a PhD or at least four years research experience are eligible to apply for 1-2 years in any area of research.

Deadline for applications: 11 August 2011



COFUND Fellowship Programmes

The European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (*KOWI – Kooperationsstelle EU der Wissenschaftsorganisationen*) has published an overview of the Marie Curie co-funded fellowship programmes:

<http://www.kowi.de/Portaldata/2/Resourcen/fp7/marie-curie/FP7-MC-COFUND-projects.pdf>

ESOF 2012: Call for scientific session proposals



ESOF2012 will take place in Dublin from the 11th to the 15th of July. The event will bring together over 5,000 scientists, business leaders, government officials, policy-makers and international scientific media representatives to discuss the best of European science and to address all of the current major global scientific challenges, including Energy, Climate Change, Food and Health.

The call for scientific session proposals is now open. Go to www.esof2012.org to find the call with instructions on how to make a submission. The deadline is the 30th of June 2011.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the ESOF Hub on esof@euroscience.org.

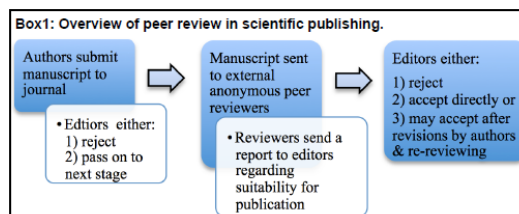
Science Policy Group Output

Peer review practice in scholarly publishing

With over a million articles published annually in scientific journals and many discoveries making the headlines or engaging public debate, scientific publications have a clear societal relevance [1]. Importantly, **the research claims need to be reliable**.

In academic publishing, there is a crucial step of quality control assessing the accuracy, importance and originality of the research submitted for publication, called 'Peer Review' (see procedure in [Box1](#)) [2-4]. It is a voluntary evaluation of submitted manuscripts, performed by independent experts (peers, also called reviewers)

within a scientific field, mostly as a sense of duty to the community [5]. **Peer review is a central process in scholarly publishing, providing credibility and authority to the scientific articles.** Furthermore, in surveys of scholars' opinions about academic publishing, the peer review process is regarded as a top-priority requirement [6-10].



While peer review is useful to the scientific community [11], it attracts two main criticisms: the process is **slow and lacks transparency** [10, 12]. Research in life sciences expanded dramatically over the last decades, leading to a tremendous increase in the number of published articles and to the rapid emergence of new scientific journals. This increases considerably the reviewers' workload, and consequently creates extensive **delays in publishing** (up to five months per submission). Notably, reviewers' work is not concretely rewarded in a researcher's career, which could benefit from an incentive to perform effective peer review. Many factors prompt the lack of transparency issue: (i) in most journals reviewers remain anonymous; (ii) guidelines for reviewers are often unclear or inadequate [10] and (iii) different reviewers often have **different standards regarding the quality** and the originality of the research to be published. This results in articles being submitted multiple times, receiving numerous reviews, before finding an appropriate venue [12]. Publishers are aware of these issues, and have implemented various strategies to aid the publication process such as pre- & post-publication commenting, co-submission to multiple

journals and transfer of referees' reports [13, 14]. However, academic research in **peer review remains dramatically under-investigated** [1].

Clearly, given the pivotal role of peer review in academic research and the current issues encountered in its implementation, there is an urgent need to identify editorial best practice and revise the peer review system. Moreover, good reviewing practices are not formally taught and conferences for discussions about the progress in the field are scarce. Finally, despite its extensive use as a quality control in the scientific community, this procedure remains **largely unknown to the outside world**, while it could help the public to weigh the validity of different research claims. Europe's leading role in research will be highlighted in this new direction for the next framework programme FP8.

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Erwan Lejeune

MCFA Vice-Secretary General

Call for participation of IEF Marie Curie fellows living in The Netherlands

Dear reader,

My name is Maria Recca and I am a Master student at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Currently, I am working on my master thesis which stresses the intrinsic and extrinsic motivations of Marie Curie Fellows (only the Intra-European Fellowship) of why they conduct their research in a certain country or university.

In order to conduct my research properly I would like to interview MC fellows who live in The Netherlands at the moment and who participate in the Intra-European Fellowship. Gender, age or field of research are not relevant.

So, are you an Intra-European Fellow currently living in The Netherlands and would you like to help me with my research?

If so, please contact me at mariarecca@hotmail.com and then we

can schedule an appointment for the interview.

Thank you very much and I hope we can meet each other soon!

Kind regards,

Maria Recca

Towards a more innovative Europe: public consultation on the future strategy for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology

The European Commission has launched an open public consultation on the future strategy for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). The consultation will remain open until 30 June 2011.



Following the success of the EIT's initial phase, the results of this consultation will feed into the 'Strategic Innovation Agenda' (SIA) for the EIT which the Commission is due to propose by the end of this year. The agenda will outline the Institute's main priorities until 2020, focusing on the EIT's mission and objectives, governance, funding and future priority themes for its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).

The questionnaire can be consulted via the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/index_en.html

Interested stakeholders can also send position papers to the following email address:

eac-sia-consultation@ec.europa.eu

Please note that to accompany the online consultation, the Commission will organise:

- a question and answer session about the public consultation for interested stakeholders on 5 May 2011, half-day in Brussels, DG Education and Culture premises at Madou Tower
- an information session on the first outcomes of the consultation on 6 July 2011, half-day, Brussels, DG Education and Culture premises at Madou Tower

The results will also be analysed and summarised in a report that will be published in the second semester of 2011.

All information, including on registration for the Q&A and information sessions, will be published on the website of DG Education and Culture:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/index_en.html

Past meetings with MCFA participation

Is the Lisbon Treaty delivering for citizens?

Seminar organized by the European Ombudsman, 18 March 2011, European Parliament, Brussels

Speakers: Herman Van Rompuy (President of the European Council), Nikiforos

Diamandouros (European Ombudsman), Viviane Reding (Vice-President of the European Commission), Diana Wallis (Vice-President of the European Parliament), Hans Martens (Head of the European Policy Centre)

The Lisbon Treaty has been in force since December 2009. It has been praised as

“The citizens’ Treaty” because it provides for more citizen participation, an enhanced dialogue between the EU and civil society organizations, and increased rights, such as the new right to good administration. The EU Ombudsman, Mr. Nikoforos Diamandouros raised some questions about the outcomes of the Treaty over the last year in his introductory talk: has the Lisbon Treaty really delivered on its promises? What concrete improvements has the Lisbon Treaty brought for citizens? What mistakes, if any, have been made? And what remains to be done?

The Ombudsman stressed the influence that the current economic crisis is having on the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. He mentioned concrete improvements, but also admitted some mistakes such as a lack of transparency from the EU administration. He showed his concern about the lack of awareness of many EU citizens regarding their rights under the Treaty (Charter of Fundamental Rights) and the difficulties experienced by EU institutions to engage dialogue with them. Among others, the Charter recognizes the right of EU citizens, companies, and NGOs to benefit from a “good administration” and to complain to the EU (3000 complaints and 100000 enquiries received in 2010). The Lisbon Treaty also promotes an improved dialogue between citizens and EU parliament to bring new legislative propositions (European Citizens’ Initiative).

The goal of the Lisbon Treaty is to improve EU efficiency, strengthening EU capacity to act and bringing more coherence in action between EU member states. President of the European council, Mr. Herman Van Rompuy pointed out the difficulty of measuring efficiency in politics and that “any institutional

structure can only prove its value in action over time”. He highlighted that enhancing the legitimacy of the Union’s words and actions is the other overarching objective of the Lisbon Treaty. To him, this means increasing the sense of trust for the EU institutions. He pointed out some salient aspects of EU institutions legitimacy. For instance, approval of EU legislation is required by both the EU Council ministers and the EU parliament’s members (MEP) who are elected directly by EU citizens. National parliaments can also check (“principle of subsidiarity”) and add suggestions to the EU draft legislation. In addition, the Charter of Rights guarantees that no decision can violate citizens’ fundamental rights. He finally mentioned the European citizens’ initiative (ECI), which intends to maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue between EU citizens and representatives.

Vice-President of the European Commission, Viviane Reding and the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Diana Wallis praised the efficiency to implement new legislation and reforms achieved thanks to the Treaty. For instance, Mrs Reding mentioned that in 2010 several reforms regarding cross-border actions and mobility of citizens were written and passed in only 9 months. Also, she stressed that this process currently includes a new fundamental rights checklist, in addition to social and economical impact assessments, which is a specificity of EU legislation.

Hans Martens, head of the European Policy Centre, pointed out that Brussels should not only emphasize the inputs, but also focus on the outputs which are the actual interest of citizens. He also mentioned the danger that the EU could become the easy target to blame by national governments and politicians, in

the current context of shrinking public budgets due to the economic crisis: “Not everything will be possible. People don’t like things being taken away from them”. As a result, we are experiencing nowadays a vanishing interest about the EU project and an increasing sense of nationalism in many states. He also warned about the increasing top-down approaches applied by some countries like France or Germany at EU politics level.

Cross-border actions and mobility of citizens (researchers!), charter of rights (and also, the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers!), legitimacy, transparency, efficiency, principle of subsidiarity, top-down approaches, etc. are relevant issues for us, EU researchers. Many of these topics are going to be discussed (directly or indirectly) in the Public Consultation

about the EC Green Paper "From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding". The Science Policy Group of the MCFA will use this opportunity of dialogue, promoted by the Lisbon Treaty, to submit a position paper for this public consultation!

More info can be found in:

- Official seminar presentation, videos and documents: <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu>
- “Your guide to the Lisbon Treaty”: EU bookstore (free delivery!): www.bookshop.europa.eu

Diana García-Alonso
MCFA Science Policy Group Coordinator

Publications

The importance of publishing negative results

Everybody likes positive results. But the fact is that they are the less, especially when you talk about Science.

Many scientific journals skew towards only publishing “positive” data; that is, data that successfully proves a hypothesis. Others, like The All Results Journals (<http://www.arjournals.com>) are the home for negative or “secondary” data: experimental documentation of hypotheses that turn out not to be true, or other experiments that do not lead to an advance of a specific hypothesis but are, nevertheless, a true rendering of that experiment. For example, if a researcher set up a cell-based experiment and the

experiment did not work in a particular set of conditions, it would be very useful for other researchers to know this (to avoid time and money wasting and better planning).



THE ALL RESULTS JOURNALS

There is a huge untapped resource of experimental data locked up in laboratory notebooks that could be of great service to the scientific community at large. Many experiments fail to produce results or expected discoveries. This high percentage of “failed” research can still generate high quality knowledge. The main objective of The All Results Journals is to recover and publish these valuable pieces of scientific information.

As they (The All Results Journals) continue publishing negative results, the newer generation of researchers will not waste their time and money repeating the same studies and finding the same results (negative in this case). Negative results are high-level pieces of knowledge that deserves to be published. Some authors have pointed out elsewhere the problem of publication bias, a well-known phenomenon in clinical literature, in which positive results have a better chance of being published, are published earlier, and are published in journals with higher impact factors. So this is a real problem.

As scientists we strive for remarkable observations within biological systems that will further expand our understanding of the human condition, aging, cancer, autoimmunity, etc. Sometimes the pieces just don't add up. These negative results in Biology (<http://www.arjournals.com/ojs/index.php?journal=Biol>) drive our next step at the bench but are rarely published. Bringing to light these types of observations under peer review will improve our society for the greater good. If you make accessible a manuscript about what didn't work you can build on the mistakes of others rather than simply repeat them. Instead of three steps forward and two steps back, Science could just move forward.

In Cancer research or chemotherapeutic development, for example, the trend is to publish data showing efficacy. We'd offer that inefficacy could also be of great importance to the scientific community. What agents failed, in what types of cancer and why; the latter question albeit difficult to answer. One could imagine the

same trends emerging from this type of work in terms of gene expression profiling, proteomics and biomarkers. Agent X will not be effective in cancer Y because of overexpression of biomarker Z. A manuscript focused on the inefficacy of a particular chemotherapeutic agent could assist in moving the cancer biology field forward by offering a forum to share with the greater cancer research community the same negative findings that may have contributed to the development of a highly effective agent.

Just the tip of the iceberg are being published in Science; only positive results. Projects like The All Results Journals:Chem (<http://www.arjournals.com/ojs/index.php?journal=Chem>) target to publish rigorously performed chemical studies producing negative results. These type of journals are trying to get out the water the complete iceberg (the whole study, showing "All Results" of the author, the complete picture of his research topic, the real job done, not only the positive outcomes). Scientists have the responsibility to study Nature and report everything, and this includes reporting the negative findings. Even more: the research projects might have been funded by public agencies, and that means public money. In part, funding agencies have some responsibility; they should also incentivize the publishing of all results (especially negative results) not only positive.

David Alcantara, Ph.D
Managing Editor
alcantara@arjournals.com

The Speaker's Corner



We would like you to share with us your experience as a Fellow, good or bad: has your funding been taken away by someone else in the lab? Were the conditions of the contracts different than promised? Did you feel a lack of support from your lab or the EC management? Or

on the contrary everything went fine and the MC fellowship helped you start a successful career. More generally, we also welcome articles about your views on European Science policy. Please send an email to office@mariecurie.org (Subject line: "Speaker's corner") to be published in this section in the next Letter to Members.

Upcoming events

Free flow turbines and their efficiency – One day workshop

06 May 2011, Leicester, UK

Most of hydraulic turbines that are presently used for hydropower generation have been developed for installation in water dams across streams. However, dams damage the environment and interfere with fish migration. They also cannot be used for power systems extracting energy from such huge potential sources as ocean currents or lowgrade rivers. Thus, new hydraulic turbines are needed that can operate efficiently in free flow without dams. The principal difference between exploiting high-head and free flow turbines is that the latter need large flow openings to capture as much water masses as possible with low velocities and pressure. It was demonstrated that the efficiency of a free flow turbine is maximal when the resistance is of a free flow turbine rather small and a large part of the flow (~61 percent) goes through.

During this workshop we plan to discuss recent development of free flow turbines theory and practice, to compare various

constructions of turbines and to analyze possible efficiency of them. The talks about related topics from gas and fluid dynamics, energy systems engineering and mathematical modeling are also welcome.

Keynote speakers and talks: http://www.math.le.ac.uk/people/ag153/homepage/Free_flow_turbines_and_their_efficiency.htm

The organisers plan to collate the talks in a dedicated issue of Springer Lecture Notes for further dissemination.

Where: Room MA119, Michael Atiyah Building, University of Leicester, LE1 7RH

When: 09:30 – 17:30, Friday 06 May 2011

Admission: Free

Organisers: Departments of Engineering and Mathematics, University of Leicester.

Green Week "Resource Efficiency"

24-27 May 2011, Brussels

The 11th edition of Green Week, the biggest annual conference on European

environment policy, will take place from 24 to 27 May 2011. This year's theme is "Resource Efficiency - Using less, living better". The Research & Innovation DG will be present with sessions and a stand to showcase how research and innovation help tackle the challenge of resource depletion and scarcity.

Green Week is open to the public and participation is free of charge.

Browse the Green Week Website for more information on the conference programme and the exhibition:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/>



Week of Innovative Regions in Europe 2011 (WIRE2011)

7-9 June 2011, Debrecen, Hungary

The conference – considering the document of 'EUROPE 2020, a strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive development strategy' and the 'Innovation Union Flagship Initiative' - focuses on questions related to knowledge, innovation and competitiveness in economy with respect to research infrastructure investments, clusters and their effects on how they can support smart growth in the regions.



Participation in the Conference is free of charge, but pre-registration is required:

<http://wire2011.eu/>

36th FEBS Congress Biochemistry for Tomorrow's Medicine

25-30 June, Torino, Italy

The main theme of the conference is "Biochemistry for tomorrow's medicine", as a global view on the important contribution of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to the advancement of biomedical research.

The Congress will bring together a forum of experts in the most advanced sectors of biochemistry and molecular biology, particularly those aimed at human medicine. The rich and multidisciplinary scientific programme of the congress will focus on today's perspectives for the improvement of health conditions, prevention and treatment of human diseases, in particular those representing the major causes of morbidity and mortality.

The FEBS Congress represents a platform for the networking of scientists from Europe and the whole world, giving the possibility for scientific exchange based on the newest developments of biochemistry and molecular biology presented. Another important issue of FEBS Congress is the young scientists community integration and formation given by the satellite Young Scientist Forum, that will take place from 23 to 25 of June. This event, together with the main FEBS Congress, will encourage young scientists interaction with peers in the field and with the whole scientific community.

FEBS Congresses provide opportunities for the presentation of original communications, demonstrations and symposia. Featuring around 2000 attendees and a showcase of the newest advances in biochemistry the annual

FEBS Congress is one of the larger bio-congresses in Europe

More information and registration at <http://www.febs2011.it/>

Training, Career and Mobility of Researchers in the Innovation Union

28-29 June 2011, Budapest, Hungary

The main objective of the conference is to provide a suitable forum for discussing the training, career and mobility of researchers from different perspectives while highlighting challenges and best practices. As the Hungarian Presidency gives special attention to the involvement of young people as a horizontal priority, this conference will aim to promote the researchers' lifepaths and to encourage young people to embark on scientific careers. The conference will also provide an opportunity to present the achievements of the EURAXESS programme.

The conference will focus on the following 4 issues:

- Contribution of the research profession to the Innovation Union
- Inter-sectoral mobility
- Preparing the Future Generation of Researchers
- Career Paths and Mobility of Women Researches

Gianna Avellis, the coordinator of the Mobile Women in Science and Technology (m-WiSET) Working Group in MCFA will be a speaker in the "Career Paths and Mobility of Women Researches" session.

Register online until 21 June 2011 at: <http://www.tetalap.hu/eumobility/>

International BioBusiness Summer School for Researchers

4-12 July, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Are you interested in pursuing your career in one of the many biomedical companies and you want to know more about the business field and your specific career opportunities? Then register now for the BioBusiness summer school in July!

Check out the concept program and recommendations from previous attendees on

www.biobusinesssummerschool.nl

Renowned speakers are attracted for the lectures covering all important topics like product development, patents & licences, from start-up to IPO, biopharma business models, new market opportunities, pharmacopolicy, and entrepreneurship. Scheduled site visits to companies and match making will give a good impression of the different companies and the career possibilities for Masters, PhD's and post-docs.

New in 2011:

This year we also offer a short 2-day Biobusiness course for recently hired employees in biopharmaceutical companies, who do not need company site visits and matchmaking. This short program provides new employees in only two work days with the background knowledge on BioBusiness principles which will enable them to excel more quickly in their new job.

When and where?

The BioBusiness summer school 2011 will be held from July 4-12 (short course 4-5).

The main location is the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam.

More information and registration:

www.biobusinesssummerschool.nl

T: +31-(0)20-5661614

E: bbss@amc.nl

**Workshop on "Strongly
Correlated Systems,
Cooperativity and Valence-Bond
Theory"**

23-24 July 2011, A Coruna, Spain

We invite you to participate in this international workshop (Satellite of 2011 World Congress of WATOC - World Association of Theoretical and Computational Chemists, <http://watoc2011.com/>). The maximum number of participants will be limited to approximately 120. The aim is to bring together researchers in a pleasant location to address difficult problems concerning electronic structure: molecules, nano-structures, and beyond.

<http://watoc2011satelliteconferencecoruna.webs.com/>

BioMicroWorld2011

**IV International Conference on
Environmental, Industrial and
Applied Microbiology**

**14-16 September 2011, Torremolinos-
Malaga, Spain**

The BioMicroWorld conference series is a reference in the microbiology field where active researchers involved in environmental, industrial and applied microbiology communicate current research priorities and progress in the

field, and identify new approaches and research opportunities.

Conference website:

<http://www.formatex.org/biomicroworld2011/index.html>

**Academia Europaea 23rd Annual
Conference**

**Chemistry, Sciences, Culture and
Society in the making of Europe**

20-22 September 2011, Paris, France

The 23rd Annual Conference of Academia Europaea will be held in 2011, the International Year of Chemistry which also corresponds to the 100th Anniversary of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry awarded in 1911 to Marie Curie, for her discovery of radium and polonium.



The International Year of Chemistry 2011 was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2008, with UNESCO and the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) to lead the organisation of the Year. The slogan for the Year is «Chemistry – our life, our future» and the objectives are to:

- Increase the public appreciation and understanding of chemistry in meeting world needs.
- Encourage the interest of young people in chemistry.
- Generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry.
- Celebrate the role of women in chemistry or major historical events in chemistry, including the centenaries of Mrs Curie's Nobel Prize and the founding

of the International Association of Chemical Societies.

The conference programme highlights, the structuring role of chemistry in our practical and theoretical way to relate to nature, stressing its broader impact on our way of thinking and on the history of civilisation. The programme covers aspects of the “hard sciences”; discussing how and what these sciences have brought to chemistry and, in turn, what chemistry has brought to them. Other sessions cover the contributions of chemistry to a number of important topics such as agriculture, biomass conversion, pollution control (water, air, soil), transportation, energy saving, communication, materials science (top down/bottom up approach), pharmaceuticals, nanotechnology, to name but a few. It is hoped to include live experiments in the lecture rooms will be arranged to illustrate such contributions.

A ‘bridge-section’, will be devoted to how applied chemistry influenced and changed the destiny of entire generations during peaceful periods dramatically interrupted by world wars, the programme will visit the Humanities and Social sciences to tell a wider story of chemistry expanding into a philosophical, literary, aesthetic and social culture, from the Age of Goethe to the contemporary frontiers of chemistry such as molecular gastronomy.

Please note that registration is essential as the meeting is at UNESCO HQ. No entry to the venue will be possible without advance registration

For more information, please visit the Conference Website:

<http://www.acadeuro.org/index.php?id=304>

Life Sciences Talent Program 2011

Top Talent for the Dutch Life Sciences Sector

26-30 September 2011, Netherlands

Are you a top talent in Life Sciences? Are you interested in a career in the Netherlands? Then apply here for the Life Sciences Talent Program (LSTP), held the 26th till the 30th of September 2011 in The Netherlands. More information on: www.lifesciencetalent.nl

Through LSTP 2011 you will get the unique opportunity to explore your career possibilities in the Dutch Life Sciences sector from 26-30 September 2011. During the program you will visit several renowned research institutes and companies. Also you will attend a speed date session with divers Dutch top employers. This will give you the opportunity to present yourself to interested employers. Through the program you will get a feel for the current career opportunities in The Netherlands.

We will select up to 30 (inter)national talents to participate in this program. There is no participation fee and we will reimburse travel expenses up to € 225 for EU residents and € 550 for residents outside the EU. Also, applicants of LSTP are offered a free entrance ticket to the career fair BCF Career Event on May 26th 2011. Registration for the LSTP 2011 is open to MSc and PhD level students and graduates with a background in Life Sciences, who are seriously interested in a career in The Netherlands.

Interested? Visit the LSTP website on www.lifesciencetalent.nl for more information about this unique program.

Deadline for application is: 1st of June 2011.

Planning Research for the Future? – International Conference

13-15 October 2011, Berlin

The conference invites university researchers and representatives of private research institutions to discuss the planning, advancement and regulation of research, its implications, consequences and structural needs.

Organized by the Center for Cluster Development (CCD) of the Freie Universität Berlin in cooperation with Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft, the conference will provide a perfect opportunity to present and disseminate information about methods and practices of planning research as well as the possibilities and consequences. Representatives of BMBF and the best known German and international foundations and research organizations have been invited.

Registration needed. Contact for registration: CCD@fu-berlin.de

For more information visit:

<http://www.fu-berlin.de/sites/inu/en/ccd/events/conference2011/conference2011.html>

ESF Research Conferences

Find a list of the upcoming conferences and Schools of the European Science Foundation:

<http://www.esf.org/activities/esf-conferences/upcoming-events.html>

Travel grants can be applied for to cover the travel to/from the conference. In order to apply for a grant, you must tick the grant boxes in the online application form. The scientific chair will distribute grants based on financial need and scientific merit.

News in Brief

[OpenAIRE opens access to EU scientific results](#)

EU researchers, businesses and citizens can have free and open access to EU-funded research papers thanks to OpenAIRE (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe), launched by the European Commission at the University of Ghent in Belgium. OpenAIRE will provide a network of open repositories providing free online access to knowledge produced by scientists receiving grants from the Seventh Framework programme (FP7)



and European Research Council (ERC), especially in the fields of health, energy, environment, parts of Information & Communication Technology and research infrastructures, social sciences, humanities and science in society. This is an important step towards full and open access to scientific papers that could, for example, allow patients with rare illnesses to have access to the latest medical research results, or provide scientists with real-time updates about developments in their field.

<http://www.openaire.eu/>

Power of Research

A new online game to inspire the scientists of the future

A new strategy browser game - the 'Power of research' - is officially launched. Supported by the European Commission, 'Power of Research' has been developed to inspire young Europeans to pursue scientific careers and disseminate interesting up-to-date scientific information. Players assume the role of scientists working in a virtual research environment that replicates the situations that scientists have to deal with in the real world.

The game, which can be played for free under www.powerofresearch.eu, is expected to create a large community of more than 100,000 players who will be able to communicate in real time via a state of the art interface. "Power of Research" has already received the support of several international scientists, including 5 Nobel Prize winners, and attracted the interest of well-known European research institutes.

EuroNews launches 'Innovation' - a brand new TV and internet magazine on European research and innovation

To mark the launch of the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative, EuroNews has just launched its new magazine 'Innovation' that puts the spotlight on exciting success stories in European Research and Innovation. 'Innovation' will be in a short, fast-paced, highly visual, 3-

minute format, produced in HD, with dynamic interviews of scientists and innovators.

In addition to television distribution by Euronews, "Innovation" magazines will be available in web streaming on a number of sites, including

Europa:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/videos/>

Euronews:

<http://www.euronews.net/sci-tech/innovation>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/video/?id=130524243634087>

You name it!

A new name for the next EU Research and Innovation Programme

Create a catchy name for the next EU research and innovation programme! The new programme will support researchers and innovators in Europe, boost excellence and ensure that good ideas reach the market and generate real economic growth and new jobs. This needs to be reflected in a name. Make your proposal before 10 May using the form in the following website:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index_en.cfm?pg=younameit

FROM SCIENCE CAREERS

[In Person: Falling Off the Ladder: How Not to Succeed in Academia](#)

Kathy Weston reflects on how she went from being an idealistic young scientist to jumping out of academia before she was pushed.

[Moving Up The Academic Ladder](#)

Academic research careers consist of a succession of ranks within a fairly predictable time frame. There are some



steps researchers can take to make sure that this progression goes as planned.

[A Zigzagging Path Points Straight to Success](#)

Patricia Beckmann's career is one long lesson in how to succeed in science.

[Q&A: Reentering Academia - A Success Story](#)

University of Oxford chemist Carol Robinson returned to academia after an 8-year break and went on to win the FEBS/EMBO Women in Science Award.

[Recovering From Postdoc Mistakes](#)

There are clever means and methods to remedy even the most serious of postdoc slip-ups

National Groups and Mailing Lists

Call for coordinators of MCFA National Groups

We are looking for MCFA members who are willing to become MCFA National Group coordinators in their country, or to participate in organizing the activities in their own country. National Group coordinators can be current or past MC fellows who are currently resident in the given country.

The National Groups can help the current Fellows meet each other to exchange experiences. This is very simple: a Coordinator announces that s/he would like to organize a meeting, then we

announce it on the website, and help you write to all the current members in your country. The meeting can be in a cafe, at a university or wherever you think it is practical. If you organize a meeting, we can help you also with some funds. We would also like your help in maintaining the Welcome Packs for your country. These can be found in mcfa.eu homepage. If you go there and find the Welcome Pack for your country is out of date, please help us improve it. Help us organize your NG, so we can build a strong and supportive effort for younger researchers. With your efforts, we can help researchers everywhere.

For more information please get in office@mariecurie.org, with the text contact with us by email: [National groups] in the subject.

Please feel free to forward this Letter to Members to your colleagues and friends, even if they are not Marie Curie Fellows!

We also remind you that you are encouraged to use the MCFA flyers, available from the Internal Documents: <http://mcfa.eu/site/memberArea/internalDocuments.php>.

This Letter is edited by the Association des Boursiers Marie Curie a.i.s.b.l. (Marie Curie Fellows Association), <http://mcfa.eu/>. Editors: Anett Kiss, Maria Bostenaru Dan and Samer Zaky. E-mail address: editors@mcfa.eu. Director of publication: Guggi Kofod. Please send requests about articles in this Letter and submissions for the next Letter to Members to office@mariecurie.org.