



Letters to members

January 2006

Dear colleagues and friends

This is another issue of the "Letters to Members", aimed to inform you about the recent and future developments in the Marie Curie Fellowship Association. In this issue, we kindly remind you to renew your membership (if you have not done so already) and update your records in the database. Furthermore, the letter includes information about available bursaries to attend conferences organised by Academia Europaea and Euroscience; an invitation to contribute to the next MCFA newsletter; vacant internships positions; a public competition to design a new logo; and more.

- MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We would like to thank all of you who already renewed their fellowships for 2006. In two cases we have received the payment but the bank statement did not include any information about the identity of the member. Please check your records at your next convenience and if your payment is not listed in the member area (see under http://www.mariecurie.org/members/only/fees_tatus.php), please contact us at treasurer@mariecurie.org.

In this occasion, please update also your records in the database. Keeping the record updated help us to provide you with information which may be of your interest. We are regularly contacted by different organisations, including the European Commission, with invitation to conferences (as invited speakers, panel members or rapporteurs), members of working groups or evaluators. To be able to pass this information to you, we need up-to-date information about your field

of expertise, past experience and current contact address.

If you are an affiliate, we invite you to upgrade your status to full member. To do so, you have only to pay the fee for the current year. Full members have access to a number of membership benefits and are favoured by allocation of funds available to MCFA.

If you are a Marie Curie fellow and you are not registered in MCFA, please fill in the membership application form available at http://www.mariecurie.org/members/mem_form.php. Information about how to pay the fee is available at <http://www.mariecurie.org/members/only/fees.php>.

Please note that current fellows can ask their host institution to pay the membership fee for them, as they have been declared "eligible research costs of a Marie Curie Fellowship contract" by the European Commission. Details concerning this arrangement can be found on the "fees information page" as well.

Please note that the deadline for renewing the membership is February 15th. After this date the status of those who did not renew their membership status will automatically be set to "MCFA affiliate". You will be able to upgrade to regular membership by paying your membership fee at any moment of the coming year, should you change your mind later on.

- AVAILABLE BURSARIES

Speaking about membership benefits, we are happy to inform you, that like last year, Academia Europaea (<http://www.acadeuro.org/>) will provide a number of bursaries to MCFA members and affiliates to attend the conference "**Quality Assessment in Institutions of Higher Education in Europe**". More information can be found at <http://www.mariecurie.org/src/AE%20Pavia%20Programme.pdf>.

Fifteen bursaries, each of 100 euros, are available to enable the MCFA members and affiliates to participate at the conference. Please note that the full members (those who paid their fee for 2006) will be favoured on allocation of the bursaries. The application form can be found at <http://www.mariecurie.org/src/application%20form.doc>

Funds are also available for the **Euroscience Open Forum 2006**. Please find details about how to apply at <http://www.euroscience.org/esof.htm#grants2006>

– CALL FOR PAPERS FOR MCFA NEWSLETTER

We are collecting contributions for the next issue of MCFA Newsletter. The Newsletter differs in scope from the **Letters to the members** which is normally sent out once a month and present an overview about current

activities. The **MCFA Newsletter** on the other hand features short scientific articles presenting results of your projects in a way understandable to non-experts; reports from the past conferences; short notes from the mailing lists; book reviews ; interviews; useful tips; news from the ERA; and a list of the planned events. The next issue will feature a retrospective on the past MCFA activities, in light of the 10th anniversary of the association, and will present an overview of the ongoing projects.

- INVITATION FOR INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS

Related to the newsletter, we invite applications for internship (up to 3 months) in the MCFA. Journalism students, graphic designers, journal and media managers are encouraged to submit the application. Please send enquires and applications to office@mariecurie.org.

- PUBLIC COMPETITION FOR A NEW LOGO

The board announces a public competition to design a new logo of the association. The logo symbol will be used for the web site and promotional material. The logo should convey the MCFA character as a multidisciplinary and international network. Alternatively, it can relate to Marie Curie Actions programme or scientific mobility in general. The logo must be original work of the applicant and should be vector graphics (not a bitmap image). It should be usable in monochrome and colour media, including limited colours (maximum 2 or 3). Needless to say that the logo must not exploit or offend anyone's sex, race, religion, morality, culture. Please submit the proposals by

February 28th. Please address any questions to office@mariecurie.org.

- PUBLICATIONS

A short summary of the survey about the European Reintegration Grants, carried out by MCFA last year, was published in the Europe4Researchers Newsletter (3th issue, January 2006). The short article is available at http://europa.eu.int/eracareers/index_en.cfm?l1=16&l2=1&newsletter=04_07. The full report will be published shortly on the MCFA portal.

– NATIONAL GROUPS AND MAILING LISTS

Call for coordinators of MCFA national groups

We are looking for MCFA members who are willing to become National MCFA Groups Coordinators in the following countries: UK, Portugal, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, USA, China and Japan.

If you would like to set up a MCFA National Group or help existing Coordinators in any other country please let us know. National Group coordinators can be current or past MC fellows who are currently resident in the given country. For more information please get in contact with

us by email: office@mariecurie.org or antonella.di.trapani@mariecurie.org.

A new mailing list for the joint national group of Czech Republic and Slovak Republic has been installed. For subscription follow the instruction at following web page: http://mariecurie.org/mailman/listinfo/mcfa-czsk_mariecurie.org. You may contact the group coordinator Jana Kadukova at jana.kadukova@mariecurie.org.

– MARIE CURIE CONFERENCE, 10-12 APRIL, MANCHESTER

A special plenary session dedicated to MCFA will be held during the annual Marie Curie conference, organised by the European Commission, taking place in Manchester on April 10 – 13, 2006. The session is scheduled in the preliminary programme for April 11th, 11:00-12:30. Also several MCFA members will be panel members and chairs of parallel workshops or streams. Attached to the conference there will be a UK national group meeting on Sunday, April 9th in the afternoon. All MCFA members and affiliates based in UK are invited to take part in the meeting.

Many thanks for your constant interest in the MCFA

Jaroslav Mysiak
Chair of the MCFA