

Marie Curie Fellows Association

Letter to members

January 2007

Dear MCFA Members,

Welcome to another issue of the "Letters to Members", which is meant to inform you about recent and future developments in the Marie Curie Fellows Association. In this issue, we kindly remind you to renew your membership for 2007 (if you have not done so already) and update your records in the database. Furthermore, this Letter includes the results of the EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) and the distribution of essential tasks among the newly elected Board.

Membership News

➤ Membership renewal

We would like to thank all of you who already renewed their membership for 2007 and we bid a warm welcome to the new Fellows who have recently joined the Association.

On this occasion, please take this time to update also your records in the database. Up-to-date records are vital to us. Keeping the record updated helps us to provide you with information of special interest to you. 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 forward 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 member, we invite you to upgrade your status to full member. To do so, you just have 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 but have not yet registered in MCFA, please fill in the membership application form available at mariecurie.org ➔ Members ➔ **Join**. Here, you will also find information about how to pay the membership fee. If you are aware of other Marie Curie Fellows at your institution, please invite them to join the MCFA as well.

Please note that current fellows can pay the membership fee using their grant. The membership fee has 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 28th. 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.

➤ MCFA Member benefits reminder

Don't forget that MCFA members are eligible for 40% discount on New Scientist

and on Hertz car rental. This applies to both new members and membership renewals alike. Check mariecurie.org → Members → **Benefits**, regularly, we are looking forward to introducing new membership benefits very soon.

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Publications and Communications:

➤ *Call for papers for MCFA Newsletter*

We are collecting contributions for the next issue of MCFA Newsletter. The Newsletter differs in scope from the *Letter to the members*, which is normally sent out once a month and presents 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 past conferences; short notes from the mailing lists; book reviews; interviews; useful tips; news from the ERA; and a list of planned events. The **deadline for the next issue submission is 15th March 2007**. Please write to office@mariecurie.org with subject line **'Newsletter Spring 2007'**.

➤ *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 with subject line **'Internship'**.

➤ *New MCFA logo: please help!*

The board announces a public competition to design a new logo for the MCFA. The new logo will be used on the web site and in all promotional material. The logo should convey the MCFA character as a multidisciplinary and international network. Alternatively, it can relate to the Marie Curie Actions program 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, the logo must not exploit or offend anyone's sex, race, religion, morality, or culture. Please submit your proposal(s) by February 28th. Please address any questions to office@mariecurie.org, with subject line **'Logo'**

➤ *The MCFA in Wikipedia: Volunteers needed!*

We need an article in **Wikipedia** about the MCFA. If you have experience with Wikipedia and would like to contribute, please write to office@mariecurie.org. (Subject line **'MCFA Wikipedia'**)

We will try to establish a working group coordinated by one of the members of the board.

Career Development:

➤ *Survey on researchers' mobility is launched.*

A MCFA survey on Researcher's mobility has been launched. **The aim of this survey is to better understand the contribution of Marie Curie Fellows to developing a skilled labour force in both sending and host countries. While it is undisputed that a research period**

overseas forges new skills and knowledge, the role of mobility in forming and in reallocating knowledge across countries is at times debated, particularly with regards to skilled labour movements (e.g. the 'brain drain').

The survey takes only a few minutes of your time, and data will be treated confidentially. Your participation is much appreciated.

Please follow this link to access the survey:

http://www.mariecurie.org/phpESP/public/survey.php?name=mobility_survey

For more information on this survey you may contact Max Tani massimiliano.tani@unsw.adfa.edu.au.

➤ ***Call for Awards for the ESF Humanities Spring 2007- Young Research Forum***

The ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH) invites the next generation of leading scholars in the Humanities ("young researchers") to participate in a three-day "new horizons" workshop in Granada (Spain), 24-26 May 2007. The title of this year event is:

"Disciplines and borders: Humanities research in an age of interdisciplinarity"

ESF offers, on a competitive basis, full-cost awards to leading young scholars to participate in the ESF Humanities Spring 2007.

Deadline for submission of application (online) to HumSpring@esf.org is **15 February 2007**

For more information visit www.esf.org/human

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 and help the existing coordinators, or set up new MCFA National Groups.

For more information please get in contact with us by email: office@mariecurie.org

A list of mailing list for the different National Groups can be found at the **Communication** area of the web site.

Women in Science News:

➤ ***EPWS Membership:***

The MCFA is applying for full membership as an organization to the EPWS (European Platform of Women Scientists) as we believe in the promotion of women scientists and we are committed to gender issues in science.

The details of the membership (including the membership fee) will be decided at the EPWS General Assembly which will take place later in April and the results of the membership application will be announced in the May 'Letter to Members'.

➤ ***Applications open for SUMMER SCHOOL 2007***

The project ADVANCE, carried out under the 6th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, intends to promote the participation of women in science/research decision-making and policy definition. It supports female scientists in acquiring research and career management skills and tools that help them build up their careers.

The core of this project is a Summer School for training female scientists. Applications are now open for the

SUMMER SCHOOL 2007, which will take place at the Danube University Krems, Austria, in English.

The program consists of two modules, which cover topics concerning research setting in academia and industry, personal career development and visibility, and training of career relevant management skills.

The program is divided into two modules based on each other:

Module 1: 23.07.2007 - 03.08.2007
Module 2: 07.09.2007 - 09.09.2007

The participation is funded by the European Commission. There will be no attendance fee for the participation, but travel and subsistence costs have to be compensated individually. There is a possibility to apply for scholarship for travel and subsistence costs (see application form on the website below); the awarding will be done by the ADVANCE consortium along national and social criteria.

Deadline: 30 January 2007

For further information:

<http://www.advance-project.eu>

News from the Board:

➤ **EGM, Toulouse, France**

The EGM took place in Toulouse on December the 16th, organized by our Secretary General, Christos Christoglou. At the EGM the following MCFA members were elected to represent the Association:

- **Antonella Di Trapani (chair)**
yes 75, no 11, abstain 12
- **Christos Christoglou (Sec-Gen)**
yes 75, no 8, abstain 15
- **Vanessa Diaz (Vice-Chair)**
yes 80, no 4, abstain 14
- **Natalia Balcazar (Treasurer)**
yes 61, no 11, abstain 26
- **Guggi Kofod (Vice-Sec. Gen.)**
yes 54, no 13, abstain 31

- **Gianna Avellis**
yes 53, no 11, abstain 34
- **Maria Antonietta Buccheri**
yes 53, no 16, abstain 29
- **Ivan Montanari (Vice-Treasurer)**
yes 52, no 19, abstain 27
- **Didier Edouga**
yes 51, no 17, abstain 30
- Vote on discharge of the Administrative Board
yes 42, no 17, abstain 39

A presentation of the new Board can be found in the Members' Area.

The EGM was hosted at the "Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées Laboratoire d'Astrophysique" (CNRS & Univ. Toulouse 3) at the University Paul Sabatier at Rangueil, Toulouse, France thanks to efforts from our member Boris Dintrans. At the EGM a discussion concerning future changes in the statutes of the association was launched. Since last July, a special discussion folder has been opened and will soon be reactivated. All ideas and propositions are welcome. Please take a look at both, the French version of the statutes (original version) and the English translation and let us know what you think should be changed in order to improve the way we function as an association.

➤ **The Speaker's Corner**

We would like to start a new section in this Letter, where open discussions can take place, informal calls can be made and publicity generated for expressions of interest... or simply, publish your e-mails. This should be an area of discussion and hopefully will nurture a few good ideas.

The first idea for this first "Speaker's Corner" is the following: we would like to get more "Senior Members" of the MCFA involved in MCFA Activities, and not just, we would like to get the feedback from



Senior Members about what the Association can do for you. This is your opportunity to speak out. We propose to call it “Senior Working Group”.

Any “Seniors” out there? Any ideas? What are the areas you think you can contribute the most? What does interest you? How can we represent you? Please send your email to office@mariecurie.org (Subject line: '**Speaker's corner**') which will be published (in excerpts) in this section in the Next “Letters to Members”.

➤ *Questions and Answers: French Presidential Elections 2007 candidates*

We would like to launch a new MCFA initiative to stimulate debates and to make ourselves more visible. To start our ‘Questions and Answers’ session we would like to ask a few questions to the French Presidential Elections Candidates. We will collect your questions and send them to all of the candidates. The answers will be published in the MCFA webpage.

You can send your questions to office@mariecurie.org, with Subject line '**Q&A: French Candidates**'

This is your occasion to be a journalist! Please note that offensive questions will not be taken in consideration.

Diary of Events

➤ *Meetings with MCFA participation*

- The EIT Stakeholder meeting took place in Brussels on the 15th January. Natalia Balcazar (Board Member and Germany National Group Coordinator) attended this meeting.
- The ELSF & ISE meeting took place in Lisbon between 15-16 January 2007. The MCFA was represented by Ivan Montanari (Board Member).

➤ *Upcoming meetings with MCFA Participation*

An evening meeting will be held at The Royal Society on 7th February, 2007 on the theme "*Should government do more to create a career structure for young researchers?*"

Vanessa Diaz (Vice-Chair and UK National Group Coordinator) will attend this event.

Thanks and Happy New Year

We would like to thank the outgoing Board and mostly Jaroslav Mysiak for all his hard work in the past year.

A presentation of the new Board can be found in the Members' Area.

We would like to wish all our Fellows a Happy New Year and we hope that in 2007 our Association could be the voice of European Researchers. Many thanks for your constant interest in the MCFA!

The MCFA Board