

Marie Curie Fellows Association



Letter to Members

November-December 2010-January 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 Annual General Assembly and Career Workshop

20-21 November, Paris, France

From industry to management, sharpening the translational skills for the next step

Following last year's success, MCFA organised another career workshop, together with its Annual General Assembly, in a historically scholar quarter at the heart of Paris. Whereas the focus of the previous workshop was on self-promotion, CV shaping and interview skills, this year, the topics were instead aiming at communication, leadership and management.

Natalia Balcazar, founder of a company ENVIROpro and an ex-Marie Curie Fellow, explained the qualities of a good management. In addition, she illustrated different monitoring stages throughout a project and visualising tools to make collaborating partners aware of the achievement status.

Guggi Kofod and Vanessa Dias-Zuccarini, two MCFA members and young principal investigators of research projects, gave advices on how to become a PI and how to manage it based on their experiences. Inderjit Seehra, Director of



the Human Resources at University of Cambridge, also shared



his opinions on leadership from an institute's point of view with examples on the evolutions of a modern leadership.

Other talks include an insight overview on current FP7 framework; a study on post-doc research and their career follow-ups by Chris Armbruster of the Max Planck Society; tips on good practices in getting

research articles published by Caroline Ash, Senior Editor at Science, and Pierre Goldberg, Vice-Director of the Association Bernard Gregory, described their extracurricular training projects for

PhD students with emphasis on the translational skills for future industrial applications.

With all these skills at hand, Kitty Fehringer of the European Commission urged Fellows to consult the portal of Euraxess (<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/>) for job vacancies, funding opportunities and services on mobility issues. Most of all, this portal can also be used to enhance individual's profile visibility at European and international levels.

This career workshop was very particular by its active interaction between speakers and audience, often with pungent questions and constructive comments. The remarks from the audience gave equally useful information, for example, other funding sources, criteria for certain funding or how researchers should prepare themselves for non-academic jobs from an industrial's view.

In all, this workshop has been very successful. Member fellows had the

opportunities exchanging their professional experiences, obtaining information on the administrative advices, or even, sharing their difficulties in personal lives on various practical subjects like mobility, dual career and tax/pension issues.



Although still uncertain where was their best pitch in the European research-related job market, member fellows were surely motivated by this gathering and, perhaps, a bit more relaxed after a boat dinner and a night cruise on the Seine.

Nan-Chin CHU

Outcome of the Annual General Assembly

On a cold, but sunny winter day, the MCFA Board was glad to welcome participants to the second MCFA workshop on soft skills and to the MCFA Annual General Assembly.

The workshop is meant to be an opportunity to enrich Marie Curie Researchers' portfolio of competencies with some training on complementary skills. It is now at its second edition and the MCFA is already planning the third one!

During the same day, the MCFA Annual General Assembly took place. According to the MCFA Statutes, the General Assembly has to be organised once per year. At that time, the elections of the new Administrative Board take place.

Moreover, the event is a unique chance to discuss about Association's life.

The Assembly has been opened by Gugli Kofod, Chair of the Association. Then, the Activity Report of the year has been illustrated by Maria-Antonietta Buccheri, Vice-Chair, and the Financial Report has been presented by Eric Buchlin, the Treasurer. If you were not present, but are now curious to learn more about the Reports, you can find them in the private area of the website.

Following the two presentations, a short debate took place: some participants asked for more information about some MCFA activities as Science Policy Group and National Groups. Many Fellows showed enthusiasm about the MCFA and asked for more involvement in MCFA activities! Also, new propositions arose from the Assembly.

It was really nice (and rewarding!) to have such a feedback from the Assembly and we hope that this year the MCFA will continue to evolve and reach new goals. If you are now willing to share your experience as Marie Curie Fellow or if you wish to devolve some of your time to the MCFA, please, contact us at the following address: office@mariecurie.org. The more we are, the more we can do.

A key moment of the AGA is the election of the new Administrative Board. Unfortunately, the quorum was not reached. Thus, the elections were not valid. An Extraordinary General Assembly has been organised in Paris again on January the 20th. You will find more in the next piece. Have a nice read!

Maria-Antonietta Buccheri

Second General Assembly of MCFA, and update on the change of Statutes

20 January, Paris, France

As the first General Assembly in November did not reach the quorum, we needed to organize a second General Assembly. The original plan was to organize this meeting at our notary's office in Brussels, so as to finally validate the changes of Statutes. Unfortunately, our notary changed his mind about the procedure we agreed on last year (and that was suggested by the Belgian Ministry of Justice!), and then it was too late to organize the second General Assembly at another notary's office. As a result the changes of Statutes can still not be validated this year, and we have organized the second General Assembly (without a notary) at Institut Curie in Paris on January 20, 2011. This Assembly has approved the activity report, and the financial report and the budget. It has voted the discharge of the previous board, and it has elected the new board members (see below).

The changes of Statutes have also been (again) approved by the General Assembly, but these changes still cannot be made valid because the law requires us to do so in front of a notary, with conditions that are obviously very difficult to meet for us. We do not understand why the requirements of the Belgian administration for changing the Statutes of a non-profit organization are so strict (and costly). If you have any experience about changing the Statutes of an association in Belgium, please contact us.

New administrative board:

Following the General Assembly on January 20, 2011, the new board is composed of:

Gianna Avellis

Natalia Balcazar

Maria Bostenaru Dan

Maria-Antonietta Buccheri

Eric Buchlin

Francesca Casini

Yegor Domanov

Diana Garcia-Alonso

Rui Pinto Guimaraes

Anett Kiss

Guggi Kofod

Esperança Manuel

Erwan Lejeune

Federico Montesino Pouzols

Nusrat Jahan Mobassarrah Sanghamitra

Fernando Perez Cruz

Malte Rehbein

A first meeting is planned in February.
Congratulations to the new board!

Eric Buchlin

Membership renewal 2011

We would like to thank all of you who already renewed their membership for 2011 and also the new Fellows who have recently joined the Association.

We would like to remind fellows who have not paid the membership fee for 2011 to do it before 31 March. After this date all non-paying members will be considered "MCFA Affiliates", with very limited access to the MCFA membership benefits. If you are currently an Affiliate, we invite you to upgrade your status to Full Member. To do so, you only have to pay the fee for the current year.

Full membership benefits include access to the database of current and former Marie Curie Fellows (including contact

details, professional profile, and contract data), access to the MCFA discussion forum, and access to internal documents (including administrative and financial reports, meeting minutes, collaboration documents). Furthermore, MCFA membership entitles you to vote at the Annual General Assembly and to participate actively in decision making, policy formulation, and contribute to MCFA publications. Full membership is also required in order to candidate for a position in the Administrative or Advisory Board.

Membership fee is payable either by international bank transfer, PayPal or by credit card on our website (<http://mcfa.eu/site/memberArea/fees.php>). Please keep in mind that the MCFA membership is endorsed by the European Commission and the annual membership fee can be charged to the Marie Curie project (eligible participation costs).

Finally, if you know any other Marie Curie Fellows in your institution, please invite them to join the MCFA.

MCFA membership is open to researchers who have benefited from mobility research training grants by the European Commission:

-individual Marie Curie fellows (EIF, IIF, OIF, COFUND) from the 6th and 7th Framework Programmes (FP6 and FP7);

-Marie Curie Host fellows (EST, RTN, ITN, TOK, EXT and IAPP) from FP6 and FP7;

-recipients of Marie Curie reintegration grants (IRG and ERG);

-Marie Curie fellows from FP 5 (Improving Human Potential - IHP) and FP 4 (Training and Mobility of Researchers - TMR);

-individual fellows from the Human Capital and Mobility programme of FP3;

-individual fellows within one of the programmes for Research, Training and Mobility of FP 2 or FP 1;

-fellows within a Research Training Network from one of the framework programmes up to and including FP 5 whose fellowship had a duration of at least one year;

-Considering the statutes of the MCFA "Any person not completing a Marie Curie fellowship or having held a Marie Curie fellowship for less than one year can become a full member at the discretion of the board". Therefore fellows with fellowships like IRSES are also welcome to join the association; they just have to make a request to the MCFA Board.

Thank you for your support!

MCFA Board

Careers, funding, and networking opportunities

Marie Curie Career Integration Grants (CIG)

[Marie Curie Career Integration Grants](#) are intended to improve considerably the prospects for the permanent integration

of researchers who are offered a stable research post in Europe after a mobility period in a country different from the country where the researcher has been active during the past years. The duration of these grants is between 2 and 4 years.

Experienced researchers (with at least 4 years full-time postgraduate research experience or a doctoral degree) of any nationality can apply who, at the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals, have not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference deadline. A researcher who has benefited or is benefiting from a FP6 or FP7



Reintegration Grant is ineligible for funding under this call.

Next deadline:
08 March 2011

Return grants to Belgium for researchers working abroad

In the frame of the promotion of the European Research Area, the Federal Science Policy has launched a programme of return grants. These grants are aimed to promote the reintegration of highly qualified Belgian researchers working since at least 2 years in a foreign country. Eligible candidates must be Belgian nationals OR having spent at least 3 years in Belgium for R&D or higher education purposes, before their post-doctoral stay abroad.

There is no difference between a stay inside the EU and outside the EU, but the stay abroad must be post-doctoral. These mandates are granted for 24 months and on a full-time base. Concerned researchers may propose a research project to be performed in a Belgian research unit, in a research team related a.o. to Interuniversity attraction poles (IAP) or other research programmes financed by the Federal Authority.

Deadline: 14 March 2011 at 4 pm

Further information and application form:
http://www.belspo.be/belspo/home/cal/retour11_en.stm

CEA Eurotalents

'CEA Eurotalents' program of the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA – Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives) is a European Commission co-funded program aimed at increasing and facilitating international mobility of scientists in the following five research domains:

- Microelectronics, nanosciences and nanotechnologies
- Energy, environment and climate change
- Science and technology of high performance computing
- Life sciences and biotechnology
- High energy physics, high energy density physics and astrophysics

in which leading CEA laboratories contribute at the international level.

Research scientists applying to this action are expected to identify and develop a research training project leading to increased professional maturity and independence, and enlarged scientific competencies such as inter/multidisciplinary research and research management skills.



In the context of advanced training and life-long training, the fellowship is expected to be part of a structured, long-term professional development plan that is coherent with past achievements and

clearly defines the researcher's future aims.

The program is set up for the period 2009-2012 and will fund two types of actions:

- Incoming CEA Fellowships (ICF) to financially support scientists selected by the program to initiate and carry out an innovative research project in one of the CEA laboratories.
- Outgoing CEA Fellowships (OCF) to financially support scientists with a research project in a partner laboratory established outside France and that identifies a CEA laboratory as a return host laboratory after the training period to be funded.

For the detailed eligibility criteria and the application procedure please visit:

<http://eurotalents.cea.fr/>

Mellon/Newton Interdisciplinary Post-doctoral Research Fellowships

The Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities ([CRASSH](#)) at the University of Cambridge is delighted to announce the first year of a five-year programme of interdisciplinary postdoctoral research fellowships funded jointly by the Mellon Foundation and the Isaac Newton Trust.

Applications are invited for two 2-year interdisciplinary Post-doctoral Research Fellowships aimed at researchers working in any field of the arts, social sciences or humanities, starting in October 2011. The fellowships will enable post-doctoral fellows to consolidate their research and publication record while developing a

related project or initiative at CRASSH during their two-year fellowship.

Essential criteria:

- A good first degree and a doctorate in a relevant subject area of the arts, social sciences, or humanities, the doctorate being awarded not more than three years before 1 October 2011;
- Evidence of ability to engage in high-level research in an interdisciplinary context, with publications and participation in scholarly activity commensurate with stage of career;
- Evidence of ability and/or aptitude for organising and participating in collaborative research initiatives/projects;
- Native or near native competence in English.

Application deadline: 1 April 2011

Further information:

<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1020/mellonnewton-fellowships-11-12.htm>

Nature Careers columnist competition

Nature's Careers section is pleased to announce a new international competition to select 5 young scientist columnists for 2011. All currently enrolled science graduate students and working postdocs are eligible.

Over the course of the year, each columnist will write 2 or more columns to be published in Nature. Columnists will also be asked to write 3 or more online-only journal entries that chart their ups and downs through the year and describe how their experiences have shaped their future career choices.

nature

We ask that applicants provide three things:

1. A cover letter explaining why you want to be considered and what would make you a good columnist. Include your institutional affiliation, general area of research, the focus of your graduate degree, and how long you've been a graduate student or postdoc.

2. A sample first column, 600 words long, that uses personal experience to provide insight on a topic of great interest to young scientists. The winning columnists will likely have these entries published first (after some editing), so they should be written as if they were to appear in the Careers section.

3. Your CV.

For examples of past columns, including some from past Postdoc Journal keepers, see here:

<http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/archive/col/2010.html>

<http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/archive/prospects/2010.html>

For past journal entries, see here:

<http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/archive/postdocj/2011.html>

<http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/archive/postdocj/2010.html>

The deadline for applications has been extended — it is now March 14, 2011.

The applicants will be judged by a panel that includes Careers editorial staff and past Postdoc Journal keepers. Applicants must commit to submitting regular contributions, whether columns or journal entries, for one year regardless of any changes in student or employment status. Columnists are not paid. The winners will be notified by late March.

Please email the cover letter, sample entry and CV as Word document attachments to naturecareerseditor@us.nature.com. In the subject line, write 'Careers column contest' and state the country you are based in and your discipline (example: Careers column contest, Canada, cell biology).

The European Young Researchers' Award

The European Young Researchers' Award (EYRA) is granted to researchers demonstrating outstanding research performance as well as deep insight of the European Research Area. The award aims to inspire early stage researchers and experienced researchers to think 'European' by incorporating the European level into their research. The Award is granted each year but the prize-giving-ceremony is held every two years at the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) where the two recipients will present their work. The Award consists of a Medal and a Certificate. A part of the award will be monetary in the form of a travel and accommodation grant for the stay in the ESOF city.

Qualification Criteria

- The research needs to have a link to the European Research Area, to have a clear European dimension. It can be a collaboration of researchers in different European countries or a research project in one European country that addresses a research topic of European significance.
- The candidate does not need to have a European nationality but he/she should work in a European country.

- The definition of young researcher in this context is all persons preparing a PhD and who are enrolled in her/his first PhD studies at the time of the application deadline (for the uneven years 2011, 2013 etc) and researchers having successfully defended their first PhD with up to five years of experience after their PhD (for the even years 2012, 2014 etc). There will thus be one person awarded each year.
- The application should be in English.

Application procedure and documentation

- Cover page.
- Up to two pages A4 describing the research and its European dimension
- 1 page CV, including statement of prizes/awards already received. 3 reference persons with contact details.

The abovementioned documents should be included in a single pdf-file. In addition candidates must supply:

- Two letters in support of the nomination consisting of no more than 1 page A4 (it can be a letter from the reference persons mentioned in your CV or other persons linked to your research). They should:
 - describe why the candidate deserves this award,
 - comment on the specific research,
 - explicitly comment on the quality and relevance of publications from the research work,
 - explicitly comment on your teamwork experiences,

-explicitly comment on any specific circumstances that would make the award particularly appropriate.

These two letters should be from individuals well qualified in the field, at least one of whom not associated with the research itself.

The call for candidates is published in February each year and the deadline for submission this year is 22 April 2011.

Please find further information on:

<http://www.euroscience.org/european-young-researchers-award.html>

All nominations received will be considered by, and voted upon, by the Selection Committee.

Please submit the PDF application electronically via email attachment to office@euroscience.org or PDF file on CD sent to the address:

EUROSCIENCE
1 quai Lezay Marnésia
F - 67000 Strasbourg

Name the nomination file as “last name-first name-date”.

Please note that your application will be published on Euroscience’s website.

Role Models wanted from Marie Curie women Fellows

m-WiSET (Mobile Women in Science, Engineering and Technology) (<http://mcfa.eu/site/public/workingGroups.php>) is the working group funded in 2006 inside the Marie Curie Fellows Association aiming mainly at promoting and encouraging mobility amongst women scientists.

The Working Group will help raise awareness of the different career obstacles

faced by women researchers when they consider to uptake mobility programmes. Basic questions arising from our m-WiSET group are whether mobility effectively enhances the scientific career and which difficulties are envisaged and/or actually encountered at all stages of their mobility programmes. Our activities are also in the field of women participation in SET, career development, excellence, decision-making.

Aims of m-WiSET:

1. Promoting mobility among women scientists
2. Empowering women scientists in Europe and discouraging discrimination and marginalisation
3. Fostering gender equality and scientific excellence in set
4. Encouraging the promotion of equality policies at national and European level

This year the m-WiSET WiS working group intends to investigate on the issue of Role Models inside MCFA, taking into account the relationship with glass ceiling issue, to publish a booklet of MC women Fellows, starting from the biography of Marie Curie herself. The aim of this booklet is to mention and promote the knowledge of the large heritage of scientific culture that women have built up during these years since the foundation of Marie Curie Fellows Association. Last but not least the aim is also to raise awareness especially in young researchers on the career paths that could be taken and see success stories encouragements for their current research.

We welcome MC women Fellows to participate to the m-WiSET WiS working group and to send one page of their achievements of the current CV to be included in the booklet.

Contact details:

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+ 39 080 4670374
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Researcher's Visa for third country nationals

The Researcher's Visa is a directive which outlines guidelines regarding what rights European countries should give to researchers from third countries (third country researcher, TCR) who want to take up research positions in Europe. It is proposed that a work and residence permit should be awarded to the TCR, and that the visa should also permit European-wide travel. This is typically a simple matter due to the Schengen agreements.

We should be proud and happy whenever third country researchers choose Europe, which in the big world-wide battle for minds happens too rarely. Europe also knows itself as the Social Union, and we should therefore be able to offer TCR's the best social conditions.

In practice, the Researcher's Visa does face up to what is implied by the Social Union. Not all countries have joined the Schengen agreement; therefore participation in conferences, even within the EU, is made difficult. When TCR's arrive with a spouse and children, typically

only a residence permit and no work permit is offered to the spouse. Finally, the permits are time-limited and often run out when the corresponding project is finished. This is tragic to the TCR and to Europe. If the TCR has not secured the next project or has found a position when the permits run out, the TCR is forced to leave Europe. This has several consequences: the TCR will leave with a strong sense of failure; the social benefits to which the TCR is entitled will usually not be paid; Europe is actively brain-draining itself.

The MCFA would like to encourage all European countries and the European Commission to re-evaluate the following elements of the Researcher's Visa:

- The Visa should be awarded independently of project duration. We would recommend 5-10 years. As long as the TCR is employed (doing research or other) or is entitled to social benefits, the TCR should be allowed to upkeep the residence and work permit.
- A work permit must be awarded to the spouse/partner.
- The TCR must be allowed to enjoy the benefits to which he/she is entitled. If he/she has earned 12 months of unemployment benefits, he/she should be allowed to stay and make use of them.
- Social rights is the central principle of the Social Union!

The strong confirmation of the rights would raise the profile of Europe in the global competition for the brightest people. The MCFA strongly believes that countries that adopt these principles will have an edge in this competition.

Guggi Kofod, Chair

Ideas for ESOF 2012

This year, the MCFA has the great honor to be part of the Programme Committee of the next ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum) that will be held in Dublin in 2012.

Natalia Balcazar has been chosen to be the representative of the MCFA in this committee. The next meeting of the Committee will be around March. Natalia is currently gathering ideas for the programme and the potential speakers. If you have suggestions on research issues or speakers for this event please contact Natalia (esof2012@enviro-pro.eu) until 04 March 2011 so she can present the suggestions to the Committee for consideration.



Consultation: Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU Research and Innovation Funding

On 9th February 2011, the European Commission presented a Green Paper which proposes major changes to EU research and innovation funding to make participation easier, increase scientific and economic impact and provide better value for money. The changes, to be introduced in the next EU budget after 2013, would bring together the current Framework Programme for research, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

The Commission is seeking the views of all interested individuals and organisations on these proposed changes and on the specific questions set out in the Green

Paper. The deadline for contributions is Friday 20 May 2011. In parallel, a competition for the name of the Common Strategic Framework is being organised.

There are a number of ways to contribute through the website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/>

- An online questionnaire
- Submission of written responses

- An interactive blog
- Events

The responses received will be analysed carefully by the Commission services. They will be used to design the proposals, to be presented by the Commission by the end of 2011, for a legislative decision of the Council and Parliament on the Common Strategic Framework.

Publications

Call for special feature articles on “Science Careers” in RESB Journal

In Collaboration with MCFA, the journal Reviews in Environmental Science and/Biotechnology (RESB) has started a section having feature articles on “science careers” from 2009. The articles describing the career and research topic of the Marie Curie grant of the MCFA member should be within 2-4 printed pages. The article should not have any original results but a form of feature article, a mini review of the project description aiming at a broader range of readers. The feature article on ‘science career’ starts with a short abstract, a short introduction about the project and how you or your network aims at achieving it, the working principle and application fields (use of Illustrations and figures are encouraged in this section), the detail of the network (if it is a Marie Curie Network) followed by a small paragraph highlighting how this particular project or network influences the career of the

fellows. The article may include 5-6 references under the heading ‘further reading’. Further, while preparing their manuscript the authors are encouraged to have a look at the published articles in this category which can be found in the links below:

Nusrat J. M. Sanghamitra: [FluRox based biosensors](#)

Philippe Zinck: [One-step synthesis of polyesters specialties for biomedical applications](#)

Karthick Babu Sai Sankar Gupta: [Towards spin torch experiments and artificial reaction centers](#)

We thereby invite articles from our members which would not only be a source of inspiration and valuable for the readers but also strengthen our alliance with RESB.

Philippe Zinck

philippe.zinck@ensc-lille.fr

Science Career Editor in RESB for MCFA

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

Lille Innovation Conference

21 March 2011, Lille, France

The Lille Innovation Conference will focus on major economic changes, new models to promote innovation in the broadest sense and good European practices. It will present some of these models and their application in regions and businesses. Participants will be European regional and local governments, innovation/development agencies and operators.

Free registration at:

<http://semaine-innovation.com/anglais/european-conference-linc>

Writing in English - A Workshop for Scientists and Engineers

11-12 April, Karlsruhe, Germany

The training centre of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is organising the workshop "Writing in English - A Workshop for Scientists and

Engineers" in Karlsruhe (Germany) on 11th-12th April 2011.

When writing an article for a magazine or journal, drafting a report to submit to a government department, writing an FP7 proposal or any other proposal to an evaluation committee, it is essential to use correct English grammar and vocabulary. It is also necessary to write in a style that is clear and accessible to the intended reader, so the article, report or proposal 'does its job' properly.

The focus is on how you can prepare yourself to write in an effective and professional way. Participants will learn how to analyse, review and optimise their writing in English to ensure that it is presented in the best way possible.

The workshop is specifically designed for scientists, engineers, research managers and all other staff who have to write articles, reports or proposals in English. It is limited to 12 participants. The level of English should be intermediate and above. This course is not suitable for beginners.

Individuals are asked to bring their own portable PC to the course to fully benefit. They are also asked to send a copy of a publication or report in advance so the tutor can prepare.

Tutor: A Robin Widdowson, Bath, UK

Venue: Akademie Hotel, Karlsruhe, Germany

For further information please contact Rudolf Woeste rudolf.woeste@kit.edu.

2011 Global Summit of Women

5-7 May 2011, Istanbul, Turkey

The Conference aims:

- to grow the world's economies
- to create a green future
- to develop a new breed of leadership
- to make technology accessible for all
- to engender peace worldwide

Join 1,000 women leaders from every corner of the world to share winning strategies to advance women's economic lives and to ensure global prosperity.



The 2011 Global Summit of Women focuses on women providing the bridge to solutions in the worlds of business, government, and civil society. For 21 years, the Global Summit of Women has been enabling women leaders to make change in their businesses, in their networks, in their countries, regions, and globally. Join us at the Summit to share lessons for improving the lives of women everywhere.

Showcase your products at WEXPO Market Place: Summit participants who

would like to advertise your goods and services online – click the link: www.globewomen.com

Network with us and other women around the world! Follow the Global Summit of Women and its President Irene Natividad on: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn

Conference website:

<http://www.globewomen.org/summit/summit.htm>

Contact us:

Global Summit of Women
1100 G St. NW, Ste. 700
Washington, DC 20005 USA
tel: 202-835-3713 / fax: 202-466-6195
email: summit@globewomen.com

Some participants of the MCFA m-WiSET (mobile Women in Science Engineering and Technology) WiS working group will attend the conference.

Scientix European Conference

6-8 May 2011, Brussels, Belgium

The Scientix European Conference is an opportunity to learn more about different science education projects in Europe, get to know the people behind the projects, and share expertise, knowledge and best practices with colleagues from across Europe. Also, it gives a thorough view of the potential and possibilities of the Scientix portal and community.

Conference website:

<http://www.scientix.eu/web/guest/conference>



ITWIIN CONFERENCE & AWARD 2011

14 June 2011, Torino, Italy

The third edition of Conference&Awards of ITWIIN 2011 after Milan 2009 and Bari 2010, will take place in Turin Congress Centre TORINO INCONTRA the 14th of June 2011. Partners of the initiative are CIIA Torino, Politecnico di Torino, DISTI, TELPRESS, Studio De Simone &Partners, BRIDGE TO ITALY, CNR, and Studio Petruzzelli. The prize for the Best Innovator and the Best Inventor is of 5.000 €, consultancy services, and the candidature to EUWIIN2011 at the European level.

The deadline for the candidature to ITWIIN2011 is the 16th of April 2011 and the candidature module is on-line on the website www.itwiin.it.

There are also three special prizes: the DISTI TELPRESS prize for communication, the BRIDGE-TO-ITALY prize Honouring Italian Women Scientists in America called THE PREMIO AWARD, the Studio De Simone &Partner prize for the best industrial designer of 1500 €. The Conference organised contextually to the Awards Ceremony will take place with a round table organised by DISTI (Distretto dell'Informazione Scientifica e Tecnologica per l'Innovazione).



PREMIO
ITWIIN
2011

News in Brief

Contribution of FP7 to sustainable development.

Discover new features of the monitoring system FP7-4-SD!

The monitoring system FP7-4-SD has been enriched with new content and features, which you can discover online at: <https://www.fp7-4-sd.eu>

The new features include:

- a longitudinal view, which enables to analyse the FP7 contribution to sustainable development over time (since 2007)
- a search engine, to search for information on topics and projects in the database (within the FP7 Cooperation Specific Programme)
- an application to save your personalised filter settings

- a Policy brief, which contains key results and thematic analyses.

Furthermore, the database has been updated with data on topics of 2011 Work programmes. With this update, the monitoring system contains data on:

- about 2.400 topics (FP7 Work Programmes of Cooperation SP from the years 2007-2011), and
- about 2.500 research projects with more than 27.000 project participations and a total EC contribution of more than € 8.600 million (FP7 Work Programmes of Cooperation SP from the years 2007-2009).

These new features are designed to create a significantly enhanced web-based tool, with strengthened interactivity



to better meet users' specific needs, and with additional functionalities to undertake further in-depth analysis.

**[Nobel Prize in Physics goes to
ERC grantee
Prof. Konstantin Novoselov](#)**



The European Research Council (ERC) announces that one of its grantees, Professor Konstantin Novoselov (36, University of Manchester), has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics "for groundbreaking experiments regarding the two-dimensional material graphene". Professor Novoselov was awarded the ERC Starting Grant in 2007 for his project on the same material.

FROM SCIENCE CAREERS

[Tooling Up: On Interview Day](#)

With the right attitude and actions, you can rise to the top on interview day.

You need to be prepared for whatever your future interviewers have in store. Study these tips before your next interview and you'll come out looking much more confident and – hopefully – more relaxed. Both attributes are keys to "winning the interview."

**[Responsible Conduct of
Research for Junior Researchers](#)**

Every day, researchers make judgments about what data to include and what to

leave out, balancing a desire to be forthcoming with the need to make a clear and simple argument. Navigating such decisions can be difficult for early-career researchers. And decisions about data aren't the only hazardous situations; judgments with ethical implications pervade scientific practice.

**[Reducing the Impact of
Negative Stereotypes on the
Careers of Minority and Women
Scientists](#)**

Learning more about the science of stereotypes can help women and minorities prevent stereotypes from interfering with intellectual performance.

**[Taken for Granted: Choosing
Between Science and Caring?](#)**

Research suggests that many able women view careers in hard science as inimical to important values.

**[It Pays To Plan: Why You Need
A Career Map](#)**

The traditional path – graduate school to postdoc to academic tenure-track – is no longer a sure thing. How can you gain an edge in the increasingly competitive science profession? Start building your career plan.



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 contact with us by email: office@mariecurie.org, with the text [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 (anett.kiss@gmail.com) and Samer Zaky (shz33@pitt.edu) Director of publication: G. Kofod. Please send requests about articles in this Letter and submissions for the next Letter to Members to office@mariecurie.org.