

Marie Curie Fellows Association

Letter to Members

April 2007

Dear MCFA Members,

Welcome to this new edition of the Letter to Members.

The new website is up and running. We would like to invite all of you to visit it and check if your personal data has been transferred. Of course, any observations on dead links are more than welcome. <http://mcfa.eu>. The more you bug us with propositions and questions, the less mistakes will exist on the new website.

We have gathered all the contributions with new ideas for the MCFA logo and plan to start an online vote for the one that will finally be the new official logo of our association. Check the new website regularly to cast your vote for the logo!

The French and the UK welcome packs are currently being updated. Anyone who feels like contributing, even if only to read the text and propose changes or make corrections can contact the office.

Lots of meetings, conferences, science career fairs and news from the E.C. and of course the MCFA is present. We also publish info on deadlines for the "People" calls and links you can find more information. You can also check the link for the news concerning the EIT as published by the Commission and the Green Paper. The MCFA and the science policy-working group are preparing discussions on these topics and you are welcome to participate. Contact the board to be redirected to the responsible persons.

MCFA members make themselves useful for future and present mobile researchers. No better example than Dagmar Meyer who was appointed by the Irish Universities Association to do exactly that.

Contents: Life of the Association, 1. — Publications and Communications, 2. — Career Development, 3. — National Groups and Mailing Lists, 3. — News from the Board, 4. — The Speaker's corner, 4. — Diary of Events, 5.

Life of the Association

New MCFA logo: final propositions!

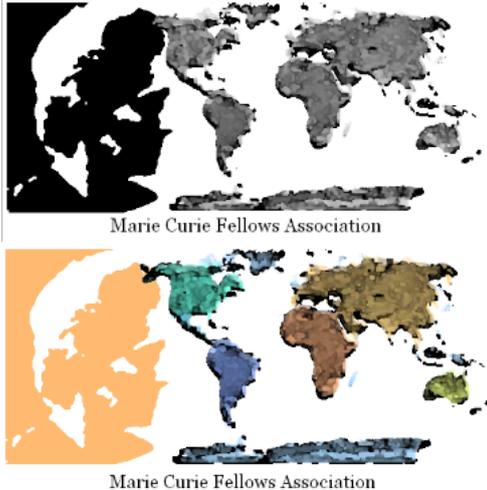
- Margarita Sifnaiou:



- Natalia Balcazar:



- Vanessa Diaz:



- Guggi Kofod:



- Carsten Thun:



Check the new MCFA website, www.mcfa.eu for the online voting and give us your opinion.

News from the Advisory Board

Ivana Casaburi, new advisory board member and lecturer in the Department of Marketing Management at ESADE, Barcelona, Spain together with Vanessa Diaz and Christos Christoglou will try to prepare a business plan for the association. MCFA members with experience in such topics are invited to participate.

Efforts to revive the MCFA annals will be made. You will have news concerning this in one of our next letters to the members. Of course, the editorial team in charge of the annals until now is welcome to continue working on them. Please contact the board!

If you are interested in joining the MCFA advisory board, you are still welcome to submit your candidacy to the office@mariecurie.org, with a CV and a suggestion for your preferred area of contribution.

Publications and Communications

First MCFA Newsletter 2007

The MCFA Newsletter, Spring 2007 will soon be available! You can still download the Summer 2006 newsletter from the MCFA webpage.

If you want to publish an article in the next

MCFA Newsletter (which will be released in approx. 3 months), you should send your contributions to office@mariecurie.org with the subject line "Newsletter Summer 2007".

Nature Collaboration

The article about the MCFA mentioned herein in the last letter, can be found on the MCFA website.

Invitation for internship applications

Related to the MCFA Newsletter, we invite ap-

plications 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".

Career Development

Survey on researchers' mobility is on-line!

Please have a look at the MCFA survey on Researcher's mobility and give us your opinion! The survey only takes a few minutes of your time, and data will be treated confidentially.

Please follow this link to access the survey: http://www.mariecurie.org/phpESP/public/survey.php?name=mobility_MCF.

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").

For more information contact Max Tani massimiliano.tani@unsw.adfa.edu.au.

Such surveys will give us the possibility to represent your opinion in discussion with E.U. officials.

National Groups and Mailing Lists

News from MCFA National Groups and Call for National Coordinators of MCFA national groups

It is not pointless to repeat that National Groups are central to the Agenda of the new board.

An activity report for each National Group has been asked to assess the level of activity and necessities of different National Groups.

We would like to urge those of the national group coordinators who have not yet submitted their reports to do so. This is the only way we can stay informed of the needs and problems of the National Group Coordinators.

For more information please get in contact with us by email: office@mariecurie.org. A list of mailing lists for the different National Groups can be found at the Communication area of the web site.

MCFA German National Group meeting in May

The German Group coordinators are planning to organise a meeting for MC Fellows in Germany on the Saturday 12th May 2007, previ-

ously to the EUR Future Conference (see more about this at "Diary of Events"). If you can help us arranging a meeting room in Stuttgart please contact lyudmila.zinchenko@iais.fraunhofer.de and/or natalia.balcazar@mariecurie.org.

MCFA France and UK Welcome Pack: Update

The Welcome Packs are documents designed to help Marie Curie Fellows to solve practical problems when arriving or even before arrival in a country, e.g. with respect to administration, social security and taxation. They are available from Publications -> Welcome Packs on <http://www.mariecurie.org/>, but most of them are outdated.

As already advertised in the last Letter to Members and on the mcfa-uk mailing-list, Eric Buchlin, Vanessa Diaz etc are in the process of updating the UK Welcome Pack.

We have set up a Wiki so as to be able to perform this task collectively: <http://eric.buchlin.org/local/mcfawiki/>. Anyone wishing to help is strongly encouraged to

register at this address, log in, and then update the document by editing its different sections (some help on how to do this is available online).

The French Welcome Pack is currently in the process of being updated by Christos Christoglou and Vanessa Diaz. Anyone willing to contribute, even if only for proofreading, can con-

tact us.

It is extremely important to update all our welcome packs as often as possible, as this will minimize the workload. Only a few countries offer the information one can find in the MCFA welcome packs since these are written by MC fellows for MC fellows and often point out the “bad” things you won’t find elsewhere.

News from the Board

European Institute of Technology

The E.C. has published another interesting study on the European Institute of Technology just in March. It is titled “Assessment of the feasibility and possible impact of the establishment of a European Institute of Technology” and can be found at the following hyperlinks: http://www.merit.unu.edu/publications/docs/200704_EIT.pdf, and http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/itre/20070327_eit_presentation_en.pdf The MCFA is working in cooperation with EURODOC on a joint statement concerning the EIT. Our Science Policy Panel with Vanessa Diaz are working on this project.

Deadline for EIF

A reminder for the Intra-European Fellowships for Career development, call identifier FP7-PEOPLE-2007-2-1-IEF, closing date: 14 August 2007 at 17h00 (Brussels local time). An extensive guide for applicants can be found on the FP7 webpage. To check all the existing calls and deadlines go to: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage>. You can also find a nice table with all the calls at the following link (downloadable word doc-

ument): http://www.sussex.ac.uk/rrdd/documents/calls_and_deadlines.doc

Green paper on ERA

In April, the E.C. published a very interesting — for researchers and not only — green paper, titled: “The European Research Area: A new perspective”, http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/consultation-era_en.html#greenpaper. Jaroslav Mysiak, former MCFA chair, will lead the MCFA statement.

Nature Career fair

Nature organises the Science career fairs, expos and meetings where you can interact with Naturejobs and employers in person: The Source Event - London 2007 and details can be found at the following link: <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/magazine/career/index.html>. Attendance is free, just register online.

Dagmar Meyer new Contact Point for Ireland

Dr. Dagmar M. Meyer, former MCFA chair has recently been appointed FP7 National Contact Point ‘People’ and ‘Research Potential’ for the Irish Universities Association. Past MC fellows helping and guiding future and present fellows in praxis!

The Speaker’s corner

Please send your email to office@mariecurie.org (Subject line: ‘Speaker’s corner’) to be pub-

lished (in excerpts) in this section in the Next “Letters to Members”.

Diary of Events

Upcoming meetings with MCFA Participation

- The MCFA has been invited once again to the *Intermediair* event to be held in the Netherlands on the 19th April 2007. We will have a booth together with ERA-MORE NL
- Research in Europe - National and European Funding Possibilities for Young Researchers, National event at the University of Jena, Germany. Date: 8th Mai 2007. Organizer: KoWi.
- "Women in Science: The Way Forward". It will take place in Heidelberg, Germany. Gianna Avellis and ... will represent the MCFA and a report should be available in the upcoming letter to the members (May issue).
- Conference EUR Future European Researchers of Tomorrow – Crossing the Borders of Academia and Industry will be held in Stuttgart from 13th to 15th Mai 2007. The Conference will underline the need and benefits of co-operation between academia and industry. The aim of the conference is to highlight the importance of the promotion of young researchers for Europe and to effectively document and increase Europe's attractiveness for scientific talent. More information available at <http://www.eur-future.eu/>. The MCFA will be represented by Frank Heemskerk.
- The European Materials Research Society (E-MRS) will hold its annual conference on May 28th - June 1st, 2007 in Strasbourg (France). The MCFA needs somebody (possibly based in Strasbourg) to as-

sist. Antonella Di Trapani is representing the Association during the meeting. MCFA can provide a free entry and a free E-MRS membership for one year, in case somebody is interested. This is especially useful if a MCFA member is planning to attend the conference since he/she can avoid paying the participation fee.

- Marie Curie National Launch event in Dublin (see http://www.iua.ie/news_events/MarieCurieLaunchMay07.htm for a very preliminary programme) will be held on May 21 with MCFA representation.
- EARMA is delighted to announce that registration is now open for our 2007 Annual Conference, which will take place at Warsaw University, Poland, between 29 June and 1 July 2007. Please register your place through the official Conference website <http://www.earma2007.pl>. Please note that you must be a member of EARMA (either individual or institutional) to attend the Conference. Membership of EARMA can be applied for through the EARMA website. The main theme of the Conference is "Building the European Research Area: The Responsibilities of Research Managers".
- Training Seminars for Women Scientists – Applications are welcome! Center of Excellence Women and Science offers training on appointment procedures for female scientists. The four-day-long seminars take place in Brussels until January 2008. Check out www.cews.org for more information.

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

The MCFA Board