



Letter to Members

The Association in June 2006

Welcome to another issue of the "Letters to Members" which summarises the recent developments in the Marie Curie Fellows Association. In this issue we introduced a new section dedicated to career and funding opportunities. Parallel to this Letter we have released also the next issue of the MCFA Newsletter. The Newsletter is published quarterly and features articles, reports and communications.

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

Reminder: Call for expression of interest for the next MCFA administrative board 2006-2007

We are inviting members willing to candidate for the MCFA administrative board to express their interest. The election of the new board is scheduled for October but the potential candidates can learn the board activities from now. You can have a look at the work areas of the Board at www.mariecurie.org/src/members/only/structure.doc. The administrative board is the governing body of the Association and its members are in regular contact with various partners and institutions such as the European Commission, the European Research Council or Academia Europaea. Through your involvement you will learn how to manage an international association, gain background information from various science policy issues and develop your skills and experiences. For more information please contact us at office@mariecurie.org.

MCFA Membership Fees

The Association is constantly introducing new membership benefits for the registered fellows. The majority of these benefits are restricted to genuine members – i.e. those who have paid their membership fee for 2006. If you have not paid the fee yet, you are warmly welcome to do so as soon as possible. If you have any problem logging into the website, please get in touch with

our office.

Translation of the MCFA activity reports from English to French – Call for help

The MCFA has been asked to provide an account of its activities (mainly the activity reports and minutes from the past annual general meetings) for the period 2003–2004. Help with the translation of these documents from English to French would be very much appreciated. This task can be easily managed by splitting the documents into small parts of up to five pages. French speaking members willing to help are kindly asked to contact us at office@mariecurie.org.

PERSONAL NEWS

The board congratulates Andreas Drouzas (below left, in the past member of MCFA board and the chair of MCFA national group in Greece) and Christos Christoglou (below right, MCFA general secretary) on their marriages.



INFORMATIONS FROM NATIONAL GROUPS

3rd MCFA Nation Groups Coordinators's workshop, 15th July

2006, Munich

The next meeting of the MCFA national group coordinators will take place in Munich, July 14th -15th, just before the Euroscience Open Forum. The venue is PPT Schreiner & Romoser oHG, Apianstrasse 6 (street floor, entry through the shop window), 80796 Munich (see also www.ppt.de). 14 national coordinators have already confirmed their participation. The meeting is open to all members interested in getting involved more actively in the MCFA national groups' activities. The discussed topics will include the establishment of a network of local mentors, which is likely to be subsidised by the EC, Marie Curie Fellows' problems and experiences in the different countries, good practices from organising national and regional meetings, and fundraising activities. For more information please contact

Antonella.Di.Trapani@mariecurie.org

MCFA National Group Meeting in Ireland, 10th July 2006 Dublin, UCD Conway Institute

The Irish national group will hold its next meeting on the 10th July, from 14:30 till 17:00 at the Conway Institute of UCD (University College Dublin). The meeting aims to introduce the MCFA activities and projects, explain the membership benefits in the Association, and solve administrative and contractual issues based on the Fellows experience in Ireland. Conor O'Carrol (Head of IUA) and other representatives from the National Contact Point for Mobility in Ireland will be present. To confirm your participation, please send an e-mail to William Gallagher (william.gallagher@ucd.ie). More information about the meeting can be found at the MCFA web page (www.mariecurie.org)

MCFA National Group Meeting in UK, 17th June 2006, London

A successful national meeting was the workshop organised by Vanessa Diaz and Antonella Di Trapani. The meeting was held at the University of London Union (ULU), on

the 17th June from 12:00-16:00. Estelle Kane from the UK Research Office (UKRO) kindly made a presentation about the role and activities of the National Contact Point (NCP). Particularly related to the Marie Curie Actions, the NCP can advise on the proper implementation of the Marie Curie Actions. A lively discussion followed the talk by Antonella Di Trapani, dedicated to issues regarding the taxation of various allowances as well as other contractual problems. The minutes from the meeting can be downloaded from the MCFA-UK blog (www.mariecurie.org/mcfa_template).

MCFA UNITS AND WORKING GROUPS

MCFA UK National Group's Survey

Related to the above meeting, the MCFA national group in UK is launching a survey about the level of fellows' satisfaction with the implementation of contracts (including their financial aspects) at the host institutions. A broader survey will be launched before the end of this year. The survey can be accessed at the UK blog (as above). Alternatively, you may contact Vanessa Diaz (v.diaz@sheffield.ac.uk).

MCFA Newsletter

The Association is happy to announce release of the next issue of the MCFA Newsletter. This is the first of, we hope, a number of issues that will follow. The MCFA Newsletter will be the primary source of communication between the MCFA Board, its members and the scientific community. It will report on developments, activities and initiatives at European level that are of interest to Marie Curie Fellows. We hope many Fellows will contribute to it, with articles, reports, reviews, opinions, comments and letters to the Editor. Please send them to newsletter@mariecurie.org

Media and PR Unit

The next issue of 'Personal Journeys' (published by Science Careers), will focus on the careers and experiences of the Marie Curie Fellows in UK. It will consist of several

stories or a single article with interviews with several fellows. There is no deadline for contribution but early submission is encouraged. Please contact Christina Vidinova at christinavidinova@gmail.com.

Science-Industry Unit

Dr. Bertram Schleicher (bertram.schleicher@mariecurie.org) became the coordinator of the MCFA Science-Industry Unit. Bertram is a system engineer, currently employed in Siemens, Switzerland. Please contact him if you would like to get involved in this Unit.

MCFA Women in Science Unit

Following recent call, Raffaella Di Sante, Gianna Avellis, Simona Vonica and Antonella Di Trapani created a special interest group within the Association which is dedicated to women in science. Please get in touch with our office if you would like to get involved. A new webpage will be created soon to post news and information.

RECENT CONFERENCES WITH MCFA PARTICIPATION

Austrian Presidency Conference "A Researcher's Labour Market: Europe - a Pole of Attraction?", 1st-2nd June 2006, Vienna



The Austrian Presidency Conference was dedicated to establishing the market conditions favourable for achieving the targets set by The European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for their Recruitment were extensively discussed. The

main outcomes of the conference have been published on the home page of the conference, alongside the contributors'



presentations and pictures. The conference was attended by Dagmar M. Meyer and Jaroslav Mysiak. See for more information: <http://www.eracareersaustria.at/conference/>

17th Sustainable Energy Marie Curie Research Training Fellowships Conference, 20th -25th May 2006, Athens

Konstantinos P. Giannakopoulos represented the MCFA during the MC Research Training Fellowships Conference in Athens, organized by the EC DG RTD in association with NCSR Demokritos and University College Cork. During the meeting, Konstantinos had the opportunity to meet ca. 20 students, some of them MC fellows, and senior researchers and he had the opportunity to explain the aims and ongoing projects of the Association.

UPCOMING EVENTS WITH MCFA REPRESENTATION OR CO-ORGANIZED BY THE MCFA

This event will take place in the context of the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) 2006 (www.esof2006.org). ISE organises also a special session on the ERC on Sunday 16 July at 9:45. The panel consists of Fotis Kafatos and Helga Nowotny, Chair and Vice-chair of the ERC Scientific Council, Wilhelm Krull, Secretary General of the Volkswagen Foundation, and a representative from the European Commission. The session will be organised as a roundtable and will focus on the philosophy, strategy and foreseen programmes of the ERC as well as the executive agency (legal aspects, structure and role, staffing, funding system - grants, etc).

Euroscience OPENFORUM 2006, 15th-19th July, Munich

The ESOF 2006 will take place in Munich in the Deutsches Museum. The full programme is available on the ESOF website (www.esof2006.org). This conference will be attended by Natalia Balcazar (MCFA Germany National Group

Coordinator), Simona Vonica (MCFA Romania National Group Coordinator) and Maria Antonietta Buccheri (MCFA Italy National Group Coordinator).

Marie Curie Nikola Tesla Conference, 7th -11th October 2006, Zagreb/Belgrade

Some time ago information about the Nikola Tesla conference was published on the official Marie Curie Actions website http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp6/mariecurie-actions/news/events_en.html.

The conference, which commemorates the 150th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Tesla, is dedicated especially to Marie Curie Fellows in the areas of Engineering, Physics or Mathematics. Conference website will go online soon and an invitation letter will be sent to the coordinators of ongoing Marie Curie fellowship contracts. Please watch out for news on the MCFA website and mailing lists, in case you don't receive the invitation letter.

SCIENCE POLICY NEWS

EU 7th Framework Programme (FP7)

The European Commission has adopted an amended proposal for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), which seeks to incorporate amendments made by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers in their first readings. The Commission adopted its original FP7 proposal in April 2005, while the budgetary aspects to the programme were adopted in May 2006, following agreement on the EU's Financial Perspectives from 2007 to 2013. The Parliament adopted the proposals by a broad majority in June 2006, proposing some 1700 amendments. To follow the debate on FP7, please visit: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home.html>

The current budget for FP7 amounts to €50.521 billions and will likely be allocated as follows: Cooperation €32.292 billions, Ideas/ERC €7.460 billions, **People/Marie Curie Actions €4.727 billions**, Capacities €4.291 billions, Joint Research Centre €1.751 billions. Regarding the Marie Curie

Actions, the Commission gives a high importance on the establishment of appropriate employment conditions, in terms of ensuring independent research, bringing salaries in line with international standards and taking care that researchers are covered by social security schemes.

Communicating science, 20th-22nd June, Brussels

On 20th-22nd June a workshop dedicated to science communication issues was organised in Brussels. The conference web site (http://ec.europa.eu/research/water-initiative/iwrm_scicom_lib_en.html) includes a number of useful tips and articles about how to explain science to the general public and policy makers. Very useful in this context is also the web site of the conference Communicating European Research 2005 from which you can download the **A Guide to Successful Communications**. This publication aims to assist project coordinators and team leaders to generate an effective flow of information and publicity about the objectives and results of their work, the contributions made to European knowledge and scientific excellence, the value of collaboration on a Europe-wide scale and the benefits to EU citizens in general.

Following the examples of a good science communication practice, the Commission has launched a campaign "**You control climate change**" (<http://www.climatechange.eu.com/>)

FUNDING and CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For more career opportunities please subscribe to the mcfa-career mailing lists (mcfa-career@mariecurie.org)

The **Volkswagen Foundation** funds scientific projects in the humanities and social sciences with participants from Central and East European Countries, thus enabling research into the requirements and foundations of an enlarged Europe. See for more information <http://>

www.volkswagenstiftung.de/index.php?id=173&L=1

The **Scientific Council (SC) of the European Research Council** is setting up the evaluation panels for peer review of proposals for Starting Independent Researcher Grants (SIRG). The panel members are expected to be senior scientists in their fields, actively pursuing research at the front line. They should have wide experience as they will have to decide on proposals on a large spectrum of topics within the scope of the panel. Panel Chairs are expected to be internationally recognised, senior scientists in their fields. Later this year also referees will be established for each panel. See for more details http://ec.europa.eu/erc/index_en.cfm?p=5_peer-review

Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP): Long-Term Fellowships and Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships

The HFSP supports novel, innovative and interdisciplinary basic research focused on the complex mechanisms of living organisms; topics range from molecular and cellular approaches to systems and cognitive neuroscience. See for more information

http://www.hfsp.org/how/appl_forms_LTF.php

A practical guide for foreign researchers intending to work in Greece, by the Greek Era-More Mobility Centres Network.

Prepared by the Science & Technology Park of Crete (STEP-C) and published by the Greek Mobility Centres Network, the guide "Working in Greece: a practical guide for foreign researchers" features all that a researcher should know before going to Greece: fellowships, job market, visa procedures, taxes, health, accommodation, Greek language training and, of course a very useful overview of the education system and the landscape of science and technology.

Call for **nominations for the administrative board of the European Society of Ecological Economics (ESEE)**

The ESEE is preparing the election of 10 new members of the ESEE Administrative Board. Nominations can be sent by 15th September 2006. Administrative board members are elected for a 3 year term and can expect to be involved in: attending annual board meetings, work on two of the four standing committees (conference & meetings, publications & publicity, education, and fundraising & membership), producing their own initiatives, supplying items for the ESEE Newsletter. See <http://www.euroecolecon.org/> for more information

Many thanks for your constant interest in the Association,

Jaroslav Mysiak