

Marie Curie Fellows Association



Letter to Members

May-June 2008

Dear MCFA Member,

Welcome to a new issue of the Letter to members with news concerning our Association!

The MCFA board

Contents

Life of the Association	1
Fellows' paths	2
News in Brief	3
Funding	4
Upcoming Events	4

Life of the Association

European Commission “Green Paper” consultation of 2007 results in policies

In a press release from 27th of May (Reference: IP/08/802), several of the ideas from the public consultation leading to a “Green Paper” were presented, under the title of “Boosting a European Single Labour Market for Researchers”. These ideas are now adopted as the policy of the

Commission. These new policies are very similar to the suggestions made by the MCFA at the consultation, which we are of course extremely pleased to see. The policies are summarized in the following bullet points, which will form a platform for partnerships to be formed with each of the member nations. In particular:

It is proposed that the partnership should make a commitment to achieving by the end of 2010 rapid, measurable progress to:

- systematically open recruitment by research institutions to all European researchers;
- meet the social security and supplementary pensions needs of mobile researchers;
- provide attractive employment and working conditions, such as improved contractual terms, salaries and opportunities for career development;
- ensure researchers have the necessary skills to turn knowledge into results including by creating stronger links between universities and industry.

All of these issues are central to the needs of the members of the MCFA, and will continue to

form the basis of our policies in the future.

We note the absence of an Equality policy in this list of prominent issues, and hope they will be addressed in the following policy papers to follow. We are aware that Equality is fundamental to the policies of the Commission, however, we must remind the Commission that issues of Gender, Race and Religion even today strongly affects the career of a researcher.

The press release address is <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/802>

Raffaella di Sante and Gugli Kofod

A LinkedIn group for MCFA

MCFA has a growing presence on professional social networking websites. After a first group on XING, we now have a MCFA group on LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com>

Fellows' paths

Daniel Gromadzki: "hot science"

In order to track the latest trends in the respective field of science and to discover what your peers and colleagues are reading the ScienceDirect provides list of TOP25 Hottest Articles: <http://www.info.sciencedirect.com/using/personalization/top25/>.

Read by nearly 11 millions regular users this service allows you to see the most downloaded articles from any of the 24 subject areas and any of the 2,200+ journals providing an authoritative reflection of readership habits

Among these TOP25 Hottest Articles in field of Chemistry are also papers of the former Marie Curie Fellow Daniel Gromadzki, full member of the MCFA and the former National Group Coordinator to Marie Curie Fellows in Lithuania (2005-2007).

Daniel published his first two papers in the January 2008 Issue of the European Polymer Journal. The articles describe the use of advanced techniques of macromolecular engineering such

as the controlled/"living" radical polymerization and "click" chemistry to construct new polymers with complex architecture (block copolymers, combs, stars) that self-assemble into highly organized nanoscaled morphologies. These papers are part of his PhD thesis which he is planning to submit to the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Charles University in Prague.

Daniel is native Polish, but studied in Germany, Czech Republic (short term Marie Curie Fellowship) and in Lithuania (2-years long Marie Curie Fellowship). He is currently employed at the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague in the group of Professor Petr Stepanek — his thesis advisor.

We congratulate Daniel to this end and wish him every success in his further activities!

Besides his achievements as Chemist, Daniel is planning to revive the Czech National Group; feel free to contact him if you are interested in collaborating! E-mail: d_grom@interia.pl.

News in Brief

From Science Careers

Please read these articles and others at <http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/> or click on the titles below (if you are reading the electronic version of this Letter to Members):

In person: research in France

Andreas Bikfalvi has been successful partly because of his knowledge of the complexities of the French academic system. But he has seen many scientists who've only done research in the United Kingdom or in the United States move to France and struggle with the system's peculiarities.

Mastering your PhD: better communication with your supervisor

If you and your supervisor have different expectations of your output, and the two of you haven't spoken in months, then a lack of communication is surely holding you back.

Creativity and persistence overcome failure

Tony Kouzarides tells the story of his early career as a comedy of errors.

Tooling up: giving a job talk

The "job talk" is a seminar given by a company applicant on interview day, and it is often judged entirely differently than a scientific presentations. Candidates are usually overconfident about giving their job talk.

Training in Academia – and Industry

A CIFRE agreement is a funding mechanism supported by the French science ministry through which young researchers are employed by a company and obtain a doctorate in partnership with a public lab.

Industrial Postdocs: The Road Less Traveled

Industrial postdocs offer a valuable experience for those wishing to pursue a career in industry — providing an early start along that chosen path. But these positions can sometimes be a good choice for those who end up staying in academia.

From the EC

The ERC has made available to the public the guide for peer reviewers for the ERC advanced investigators grants scheme. The guide describes the structure of panels, their role and the main features of the evaluation process of the projects sent for the first call: http://www.eurosfaire.prd.fr/7pc/documents/1214296822_guideforercpeerreviewers_adg.pdf

On 24 June 2008, the EC Commission has officially launched Euraxess, the new portal for the mobility of researchers in Europe: <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/>, including:

- Euraxess Jobs (former researchers mobility portal): job and funding opportunities;
- Euraxess Services (former ERA-MORE): national mobility centres, offering services and information for mobile researchers;
- Euraxess Rights: Charter for Researchers, and Code of Conduct
- Euraxess Links (former ERA-link): a networking tool for European researchers out of Europe (now: USA and Japan).

The Members States have finally decided that the EIT (European Institute for Technology) will be in Budapest. More information: http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=29566

A list of events organized in the field of the research for the French presidency of the EU: <http://www.eurosfaire.prd.fr/news/consulter.php?id=2051>

Funding

FP7 PEOPLE calls

We remind you the FP7 PEOPLE calls for this year:

Intra-European fellowships. This action supports experienced researchers at various stages of their career, helping them in acquiring new research skills (multi or interdisciplinary) or to undertake intersectoral experiences.

International outgoing fellowships. This action offers European researchers the opportunity to be trained and to acquire new knowledge in a third country high-level research organisation, and subsequently return to an organisation in a Member State or Associated Country.

International incoming fellowships. This action encourages top class researchers from third countries to work on research projects in Europe, with a view to developing mutually beneficial research cooperations between Europe and third countries.

Initial Training Networks. This actions support networks of institutes, aimed at the training of early career researchers.

To see the full details of the calls, please consult the following web address: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage&rs>

The deadlines for submitting proposals is 19 August (02 September for ITNs).

Upcoming Events

ESOF 2008 and Marie Curie workshop

MCFA will be participating and/or organizing several sessions in the Careers programme of the Euroscience Open Forum 2008 in Barcelona, 18-22 July 2008: <http://www.esof2008.org>. There are also a Science programme and Outreach activities. In addition, MCFA will be present at the Marie Curie Workshop the day be-

fore ESOF. Please do not hesitate to come and talk with us!

Input wanted! One of the MCFA talks will be in the session "Working in Science or Politics – or both?". Do you have any success (or failure) experience about combining scientific research and interest in science policy? Did interest in policy help you for your career in science? Please tell us about your experience (as soon as possible) to eric.buchlin@mariecurie.org.

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

The MCFA Board