

Marie Curie Fellows Association



Letter to Members

April May June 2012

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

Membership renewal 2012

We would like to thank all of you who already renewed their membership for 2012 and also the new Fellows who have recently joined the Association. We would like to remind fellows who have not paid their membership fee for 2012 to do it before as soon as possible (unless they are lifetime members). Members who have not paid will be considered as “MCFA Affiliates”, with 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.

Membership fee is payable either by international bank transfer, PayPal or by credit card on our website (<http://mcfa.eu/newmcfasite/membership-fees>). 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). MCFA membership is open to researchers who have benefited from mobility research training grants by the European Commission. Finally, if you know any other Marie Curie Fellows in your institution, please invite them to join the MCFA.

Thank you for your support!

MCFA Board

MCFA Irish National Group meeting

10 July 2012, Dublin, Ireland

The meeting will be held in the Conference Center at 17.30 after the

Marie Curie Conference. There will be a list at the entrance with the names of the people that will be given access only for this meeting. Unfortunately it is not a free pass for the whole conference if you have not registered for it. The agenda of our meeting is as follows:



17.30 Elena Martines to introduce MCFA Ireland to new fellows

17.45 Jennifer Brennan (NCP) to welcome the new fellows in Ireland

18.00 Informal discussion around the future of the MCFA Ireland and any other proposed issue.

This event is organised by Elena Martines (MCFA-Ireland group coordinator) and Jennifer Brennan (Mobility NCP for the PEOPLE Programme in Ireland).

Group page:

<http://www.mcfa.eu/newmcfasite/mcfa-ireland>

Blog: <http://mcfairland.wordpress.com/>

9th MCFA Italian National Group meeting

22 June 2012, Rome, Italy

This meeting was held on June 22 in Rome at the Università La Sapienza.

The national MCFA-Italy group coordinators (Manuela Giovanetti and Maria Antonietta Buccheri) organized the meeting with specialized speakers. National Contact Points (NCP) managers were also invited to share their experience.

The program can be consulted online: https://www.dropbox.com/s/ev0jt2cbqOnjmsa/MCFA_IT_9meet.pdf

The topics covered were as follows:

- Taxation In Italy,
- The Charter & Code,
- Horizon2020,

Your Experiences!

A social event was organized: "Italian mood: a glass of wine all together".

A more detailed report will be presented in our next newsletter or the group page.

If you would like to join the MCFA-Italy national group, you can subscribe at <http://mcfa.eu/newmcfasite/mcfa-it> (first you have to have create an account in our website <http://mcfa.eu>, to do so, just go to the [registration page](#)).

MCFA- Hellas Info Day in Thessaloniki

28 June 2012, Thessaloniki, Greece

An Info Day has been co-organized by MCFA-Hellas, as a Mobility NCP for the PEOPLE Programme, together with the Mobility NCP of CERTH the Aristotle University of

Thessaloniki and the European Commission. The agenda of the Info Day can be found at

https://www.dropbox.com/s/966uo6hlql51qlx/Agenda_June_2012_Final.pdf. A detailed report will be published in our next newsletter or the group page. (<http://www.mcfa.eu/newmcfasite/mcfa-hellas>). A similar info day will be organized in Athens in September 2012.



More information will be published on the group page.

Marie Curie fellows meeting and Networking event

The Hague, 23 May 2012

This event was organized by Agency NL, National Contact Point People programme. You can see the agenda [here](#).

Role Models wanted from Marie Curie women Fellows

m-WiSET (Mobile Women in Science, Engineering and Technology) (<http://mcfa.eu/newmcfasite/women-in-science>) 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.

In 2011 a first version of the Role models booklet was published, and presented at a booth during the Marie Curie conference in Warsaw.

Now available from the MCFA page:

<http://www.mcfa.eu/newmcfasite/sites/default/files/WiS-booklet29Oct11WEB.pdf>

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 an updated version of the booklet published in 2011. The group has already over 80 members. Welcome and thanks to all of them!

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**Recognition to MCFA woman
scientist – Silvia Giordani won
the L’Oreal prize**



Dr. Silvia Giordani, m-WiSET and advisory board member has been awarded on of the four 2012 L’Oréal UNESCO UK and Ireland For Women In Science Fellowships for outstanding female scientists, of £15,000 at an awards ceremony, held at the Royal Society in London on 28 June 2012.

The four winners wereselected by a panel of eminent scientists, chaired by Professor Dame Athene Donald DBE FRS - Professor of Experimental Physics, University of Cambridge.

The fellowships, now in their fourteenth year internationally, promote the importance of ensuring greater participation of women in science by offering awards to outstanding female researchers.

The fellowships have been designed to provide practical help for the winners to undertake research in their chosen fields. Winners may chose to spend their fellowship on buying scientific equipment, paying for childcare, or what ever they may need to continue their research.

The awards are run in partnership with the UK National Commission for UNESCO, the Irish National Commission for UNESCO and the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

The full list of the awardees can be found at the website: http://www.unesco.org.uk/honouring_the_next_generation_of_female_scientists.

Careers, funding, and networking opportunities

Still open:

Marie Curie Fellowships for Career Development

On the 13th of March the European Commission announced the call for 2012 for Intra-European, International Incoming and International Outgoing Fellowships. These Fellowships are aimed at experienced researchers, either holding a PhD or having 4 years of research experience after obtaining the degree which allows them to embark doctoral studies. Who are willing to spend a period of mobility outside the country where they were active at most 24 months in the last 3 years, or for a career restart. Intra-European Fellowships allow mobility among EU and associated countries, international incoming fellowships allow coming or returning or researchers who were working in third countries (read the call to see which special conditions apply according to the activity in the past years which might make a researcher eligible for both IEF and IIF), while international outgoing fellowships allow European researchers to go to a third country and return a period equal to the half of that spent outside. Marie Curie Fellowships for Career Development are individual fellowships, where the fellow, in most cases as proposal coordinator, applies jointly with the host institution where (s)he wants to move, and which will act as

coordinator after acceptance. The last min. 12 and max. 24 months.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/understanding/marie-curieinbrief/research-development_en.html

Deadline 2012: 16. August

Marie Curie COFUND Fellowships

Within approved COFUND schemes the following calls for a mobility stay are currently open:

ETH Fellows – for researchers within 2 years from obtaining a doctorate, to spend time at the ETH Zürich. Researchers apply jointly with a professor, who submits the application. Eligibility condition is to have apart of the doctorate an award for the doctorate or a publication in a peer reviewed journal. The doctorate certificate must be available before start of the fellowship, but the defense date must be fixed when the application is submitted.

Deadlines 2012: 1. September

<http://www.ethfellows.ethz.ch/>

Also the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation increased the number of their postdoctoral fellowships with the COFUND scheme. Submission is continuous.

<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/humboldt-fellowship-postdoc.html>

More COFUND fellowship schemes can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people&cofund=true;e_fp7_SESSION_ID=QYG8PM3FrJPDTNXCTYcfGVyF4f48nhsCJ9VsWZpGwFWlpkqTsGPZ!-697169953#List and

<http://www.kowi.de/Portaldata/2/Resourcen/fp7/marie-curie/FP7-MC-COFUND-projects.pdf>

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: 06 September 2012

Scientific Exchange Programme New Member States -Switzerland

Crus.ch the Rectors' Conference of Swiss Universities, is promoting a mobility

programme between New Member States of the EU (EU-12) and Switzerland. Doctoral researchers can apply for fellowships between 6 months and 2 years, provided they are enrolled in an institution in a NMS. Postdoctoral researchers can apply for fellowships between 6 and 18 months, provided they are employed as researchers at an institution in an NMS deemed eligible by the respective country. In both cases there are two mentors, one from the NMS and one from the Swiss side, and funds are provided also for the exchange of the mentors. The programme will have open calls also in the following years, ending 2016.

Deadline 2012: 1. November.

<http://www.sciex.ch/>

European Science Foundation calls

Competitive [research conferences](#) to be organised 2014 call open.

Deadline 2012: September 15

Grants for current conferences are still open.

It is also possible to apply for an exchange grant within running Research Network Programmes, to spend a mobility period of up to 6 months in another country or for a short visit grant for up to 15 days.

Looking for evaluators for Croatian national projects

Competitive [research conferences](#) (closed for those to be held in 2013) continue to be organised

<http://www.evaluator.hrzz.hr/login>

Past meetings with MCFA participation

1st Annual Metaflux Workshop

16-17 April, Barcelona

In April, the researchers involved in the FP7 Marie Curie Training Network (ITN) METAFLUX met for the first time in Barcelona.

The aim of the METAFLUX (Metabolic Flux Analysis and Cancer) program is to understand the cellular metabolic changes induced by cancer and study tumours' response to treatment after drug intervention. It requires a multidisciplinary approach and a variety of techniques - such as Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), Positron Emission Tomography (PET) or mass spectrometry among others -, which is evidenced by the heterogeneity of backgrounds and projects of each of the 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESR) of this network.

The 9 partner institutions within METAFLUX are the University of Birmingham (UK), the University of Cambridge (UK), the Weizmann Institute (IL), the University of Barcelona (SP), the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (SW), the Biological Research Center of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HU), Tel Aviv University (IL), Oxford Instruments (UK) and BIOCRATES (AU).

The workshop was held at the Hotel NH Rallye in Barcelona, located very close to Camp Nou (the stadium of the F.C. Barcelona). The fellows were welcomed by Prof. Ulrich Guenther (Birmingham), followed by first lectures on Monday morning by Prof. Kevin Brindle (Cambridge), Prof. Marta Cascante (Barcelona), Guido Dallmann (BIOCRATES) and Christian Ludwig (Birmingham). Fellows had also the

chance to give a 20-minute talk on their project, meet during a poster session and discuss ideas during the breaks. The Young Researchers group of the MCFA was also introduced to the fellows, who seemed keen on joining and taking part in the activities the association can organise.

The last day, after the last talk, some ESR willing to enjoy the warmth of Barcelona explored the surroundings of the hotel and stumble upon the magnificent garden of Palau Reial, with its fountains and Mediterranean trees filling the air with the characteristic smell of Catalunya. The workshop could not have ended in a better way, with new colleagues with whom to keep in touch, share ups and downs and feel member of this appealing and exciting world that is Science. We are already looking forward the next meeting, which is scheduled to be in Oct. in UK.



Report Irene Marco Rius

Marie Curie Actions Workshop

April 18, Aarhus

The workshop lived up to its billing, on the 18th April 2012 (<http://www.au.dk/en/about/events/event/artikel/marie-curie-actions-workshop-2/>), and organised by Aarhus University as a practical adjunct to the Presidency event on "Excellence in

Science"

(<http://en.fivu.dk/press/2012/aarhus-hosts-debate-on-the-future-of-european-research>) 18-19th April. With an initial attendance planned of 25 local researchers, it finally attracted over 70 from all over Denmark. But note - Aarhus has participated in projects that sum to 0.3% of the FP7 MC budget - as a provincial university in a small country that shows sustained dedication and quality at all levels.

In true Danish style, the format was very relaxed, everyone was there on the dot and the breakfast was healthy and generous.

There were two presentations on Marie Curie: on the current Marie Curie actions and opportunities under FP7; and on the likely shape of the future of the MSCA under Horizon 2020.

There were also very practical presentations from an evaluator and an ITN coordinator. Unfortunately the immediate past president of the MCFA who had been slated to speak, had to cancel due to his organisations participation in a kick off meeting for a new large research programme.

Those in the audience already MC fellows were asked to wear a button to identify them to be prepared to answer questions and explain their experience. For the afternoon the speakers from the Marie Curie programme held a total of 12 x 30 minutes interviews for individual or student-tutor pairs about their possibilities and issues for future MC actions.

There was sustained interest in the future prospect of supporting more flexible short duration, more frequent periods of research to be under the old IOF scheme, as well as that such a scheme in the old IIF would attract more high quality staff from 3rd countries.

There was general satisfaction at the way the MCA had seized the example of the DK Industrial Ph.D. programme and had

included it into the WP rapidly, via the ITN action. The continuity of MC as a bottom up well funded programme separate from the ERC was confirmed by several questions and comments.

For further information contact Jakob Feldtfos Christensen, Research Support Unit

Email: jakchris@rm.dk

Voice of the researchers

April 24, Brussels

The European Commission launched a call to express ideas about better



conditions for research and researchers in Europe. In two days, 23 and 24

April consultations took place with 25 authors of selected ideas and with representatives of research organizations respectively. Maria-Antonietta Buccheri represented the MCFA as its chair. Discussions were held on:

- The social recognition of researchers in Europe or the lack thereof;
- The career perspectives and barriers for researchers;
- The current reality of the common European Research Area (ERA).

The issues discussed resulted in a [questionnaire](#), which you are welcome to fill in, until the 1000th voice.

“The VoR wants to be a resource to different academic stakeholders and to the European Commission to complement and support their activities structuring the researcher’s careers. The VoR should be a bottom-up movement of researchers, collecting and channelling legitimate concerns to improve the life and working conditions of all European researchers. As

such, the VoR remains entirely independent of the current stakeholders and needs as many supporters as possible. The European Commission acts only as a facilitator in this process.”

Human Resources Strategy for Researchers Mutual learning seminar and Pan-European pension fund info session

23-24 April, Palermo

The European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers were adopted by the European Commission as a Recommendation to the Member States. The *'Charter & Code'* address researchers as well as employers and funders in both the public and private sectors. The Charter provides a framework for the career management of researchers, while the Code promotes open and transparent recruitment and appraisal procedures. Together they are aimed at developing an attractive, open and sustainable European labour market for researchers.

To facilitate the implementation of the *Charter & Code*, guidance is provided by the "Human Resources Strategy for Researchers incorporating the Charter & Code". This mechanism is put into action on a voluntary basis, and is as simple as possible, avoiding cumbersome procedures and respecting the variety of situations across institutions.

Dr. Dagmar Meyer, policy officer at the European Commission (DG Research and Innovation), and a former MC fellow and MCFA chair, set up mutual learning seminars to help institutions in the

implementation of the *Charter & Code* principles, with the expertise from Deloitte Consulting. Esperança Manuel has had the opportunity to participate to the seminars of the first cohort (a cohort being a group which members are research institutions, complex higher education institutions, non-complex and smaller higher education institutions, funders, multipliers and umbrella organisations). Rui Guimaraes joined her in the last seminar of the first cohort.

The mutual learning seminar (MLS) held in Palermo was based on participative methods ensuring the cooperation between participants in order to facilitate the emergence of the collective intelligence. Brainstorming and cross-pollinating processes were used to facilitate the seminar.

The objectives of the seminar were to prepare Step 5 of the HRS4R – The external evaluation – and also to reduce the difference of levels (implementation stage) between the participants.

In this context, the specific objectives of the MLS were threefold:

- Facilitating the implementation of a continuous improvement process which will ease the implementation of the HR strategy inside the institutions in preparation of the external evaluation;
- Explaining, in the framework of the evaluation, what will be evaluated considering the types of institution, and how it will take place;
- Based on the first two objectives, developing a set of tasks that the participants should carry out to enable a fruitful evaluation.

In addition to the main specific objectives, the MLS was also an opportunity to reinforce:



- The **team spirit** between members of this cohort in order to facilitate cooperation and produce positive results of the cohort's activities;
- The **network effect** which will ease the relationships between members of the different cohorts.

MCFA as a multiplier and umbrella organisations has gained expertise in the implementation of the *Charter & Code* principles. If your institution would like a presentation on the steps to take to implement the *Charter & Code* and earn the right to use the 'HR Excellence in Research' logo, MCFA would be happy to share its expertise. Don't hesitate to contact us!

Email: office@mariecurie.org

The seminar was followed by a mini-workshop on the topic "**Pan-European Pension Funds**". It was information on the European Commission's project to facilitate the setting up of pan-European supplementary pension funds for researchers, its background, its feasibility and the current state of play. The project's emphasis is on:

- informing
- mobilising employers of researchers and
- providing them with a basis to request an informed offer of pension providers.

The European Commission will organise a meeting between HR department and Rectors (finance directors), explaining benefits and costs to joining the pension fund. Let the Commission know if you want technical expertise and support. Express interest in joining the consortium of employers who will set up the fund. This initiative is being supervised by Anna Kadar from the EC DG Research & Innovation. For questions and express of interest, please contact her.

Email: anna.kadar@ec.europa.eu

Report by Esperança Manuel

Marie Curie Info Day in Bucharest

May 3, Bucharest

As part of a multinational RoadShow an Info-Day focused on the individual MCA grants IEF and CIG took place in Bucharest at the World Trade Centre. Participants at the RoadShow from Germany, Italy, France, Czech Republic, Turkey, Poland and Romania presented their opportunities and held exhibition stands. The event was organised by Ms. Alexandra Vancea, National Contact Point in Romania for Marie Curie Actions.

Fredrick Olsson-Hector, Head of Unit at the Research Executive Agency, presented the actions and also invited integration grant fellows from Romania to participate at an informal meeting at the end of the info-day.



Maria Bostenaru Dan from the MCFA board also participated. As part of the RoadShow the experience of two Marie Curie Fellows was presented:

- Liliana Velea, researcher at the National Meteorological Institute, the Craiova branch, currently on a CIG project (3 years) started January 2012. Liliana previously benefited of early stage MC fellowship in Italy and MC

excellence team in Greece, at institutions with which she will continue collaboration during the CIG.



- Ioan Alexandru Ivan, lecturer at the Valahia University in Targoviste, former IEF (FP7) in France and currently ERG recipient. Paralelly to the ERG he is also leader of a young postdoctoral team and remained associated with the French institution, after an award winning project there.



On the [website of the event](#) the agenda and the presentations are available.

Marie Curie Actions Event

May 25, Edinburgh

“Marie Curie and its future”, this event was held at the University of Edinburgh, it was organized by Edinburgh Research and Innovation, and was part-funded by the Enterprise Europe Network.

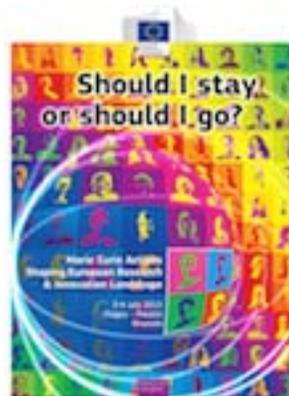
<http://www.enterprise-europe-scotland.com/sct/events/register.asp?eventid=1265>

Mike Rogers, a Marie Curie project officer at the European Commission, shared his insights regarding the future of the Marie Curie Actions programme. Individuals wishing to apply benefited from the advice of a longstanding Marie Curie evaluator, Dr Catherina Becker (Reader in Neurobiology, University of Edinburgh). The Marie Curie Fellows Association was also present, represented by Esperança Manuel, who shared with the audience her experience as member of the administrative board of the MCFA, dealing with issues that MC fellows reported to the association, seeking for help. The presentations are available from <http://mcfa.eu/newmcfasite/marie-curie-event-edinburgh-25may2012>.

Final FP6 Marie Curie conference “Should I stay or should I go”

3-4 July, Brussels, Belgium

The final Marie Curie FP6 Conference,



“Marie Curie Actions shaping the European Research and Innovation Landscape” has been held on July 3 and 4 at the Flagey theatre in Brussels

(Belgium). The agenda is can be consulted online:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2012/marie-curie-brussels/pdf/conference-agenda-finalday.pdf>.

Esperança Manuel and Rui Guimaraes from the MCFA administrative board attended this very lively conference where the way of sharing the experience of the Marie Curie Programme was quite unusual. It was a definitively modern and innovative way. This conference was designed like a TED event (a suite of short, carefully prepared talks, demonstrations and performances with the theme focusing on mobility, research and innovation). Watch the videos and, with no doubt, you will agree with us. Marie Curie Fellows, with the most appealing success stories, presented the impact of the programme on their personal lives and career paths. Among them, the Romanian fellow receiving the LSRS award about which we reported in the previous LtM edition. The talks of the first day can be watched online: <http://webcast.ec.europa.eu/eutv/portal/archive.html?viewConference=16090&catId=16053>

During the second day, the presentation of the data from FP6 by Sergio Di Virgilio was followed by a discussion which was an exchange of views between the people in the European Commission who have implemented the Marie Curie FP6 programme and all the participants of this

programme (Marie Curie Fellows, supervisors, project coordinators, administrators of institutions). The idea was to present what has been done within the FP6 Marie Curie programme and discuss what are the possibilities of improvement. Rui Guimaraes was part of the panellists representing the stakeholders with whom the audience could interact.

Alessandra Luchetti, the new head of unit of the Marie Curie Actions and Jan Truszczyński, the director General of the DG Education and Culture at the European Commission gave us detailed information on how the issues raised by the fellows, by the MCFA have been taken into account in the new framework programme Horizon 2020. The talks of the second day can be watched online:

<http://webcast.ec.europa.eu/eutv/portal/archive.html?viewConference=16090&catId=16091>

Report by Esperança Manuel

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

ESOF 2012 and Marie Curie Conference

(10)11-15 July, Dublin

MCFA contribution is now online on our main page.

MCFA participates in the Career Programme of the ESOF with one organised session and one session participation. The Career Programme will be opened by a [Keynote Lecture](#) of Dr. Daniel Funeriu, former Marie Curie Fellow and former Minister of Science in Romania. He will talk exactly about this switch from the Science Lab to Minister, in the morning of Thursday, the 12th of July. After this he will give over the [European Young Researchers' Awards](#) for 2011 (for doctoral candidates, Dorthe B. Ravnsbæk, Interdisciplinary Nanoscience Center, iNANO, at Aarhus University) and 2012 (for postdocs, Dr. Davide Scaramuzza, Artificial Intelligence Lab at University of Zurich). Gianna Avellis organises the session "[Role Models for Mobility: Portraits of Women from the Marie Curie Fellows Association](#)" promoting the m-WiSeT booklet. Participants are Antonella Di Trapani, Maria Bostenaru, Natalia Balcazar, Silvia Giordani and Gianna Avellis. The session will take place on Friday the 13th of July at 13:15. Currently media materials are gathered by the organizers, so stay tuned!

The Marie Curie Fellows Association was invited to be part of a session on Researcher Staff Organisations, which will take place on Saturday, the 14th of July.

Maria Bostenaru Dan gave an interview to a Deutsche Universitätszeitung journalist about the MCFA participation to ESOF.

There will be a **Marie Curie conference** before the ESOF on Tuesday the 10th of July and Wednesday the 11th of July, the programme of which you can consult [here](#). Esperance Manuel will held the MCFA stand. There will be a [Marie Curie dinner](#) Tuesday 10th July in The Royal Dublin Society. *The Marie Curie Actions conference recently opened to Marie Curie Alumni. To register, please follow the instructions on [this page](#) (password, fee).* For further information on the Marie Curie Actions conference programme please contact:

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ESOF2012
EUROSCIENCE OPEN FORUM

Conference website:
<http://esof2012.org/>

Women's International Research Engineering Summit 3

Date changed: 10-12 April 2013, Athens

The 3rd Women's International Research Engineering Summit is going to be held in Athens in September. Aim of the Summit is to promote international collaboration. The conference is mainly aimed at associate professors, since international cooperation is required to become full professor, but welcomes also full professors to present their international experience, and junior researchers starting with postgraduate students. Maria

Bostenaru Dan has been invited to participate.

Results on acceptance of coverage of costs will be communicated shortly, and it is still possible to apply.

Conference website:

<http://wires.womenandtechnology.eu>

News in Brief

FROM SCIENCE CAREERS

What we need is more jobs for scientists

We don't need just more researchers in order to have 3%, but also might need

jobs for them, as this Science Careers article shows for the case of the US.

<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/sciencecareers/2012/06/a-couple-of-wee.html>

National Groups

The MCFA National Groups are now officially re-launched

We received several enthusiastic candidatures to manage the national groups. Here is the list of the group managers who expressed their interest:

- MCFA-Belgium: Tom Willems
- MCFA-France: Eric Buchlin and Yegor Domanov
- MCFA-Germany: Ivan Flammia
- MCFA-Hellas: Spyros Kitsionas and Alexandros Savvaidis
- MCFA-Ireland: Elena Martines and David Hoey
- MCFA-Italy: Manuela Giovanetti and Maria Antonietta Bucherri

- MCFA-Netherlands: Diana Garcia Alonso
- MCFA Portugal: Rui Guimaraes and Tiago Brandao Rodrigues
- MCFA-Romania: Maria Bostenaru Dan
- MCFA-UK: Angel Medina-Vaya and Dorota Roberts
- MCFA-US: Marina Kvaskoff

Call for coordinators of MCFA National Groups

If you would like to become a group manager, of one of the remaining groups (<http://mcf.eu/newmcfasite/national-groups?page=1>) or would like a group to be created, here are the guidelines of what it is expected from you.:

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: <http://mcfa.eu/newmcfasite/mcfa-promotional-material>

This Letter is edited by the Association des Boursiers Marie Curie a.i.s.b.l. (Marie Curie Fellows Association), <http://mcfa.eu/>. Editors: Maria Bostenaru Dan (Maria.Bostenaru-Dan@alumni.uni-karlsruhe.de) Anett Kiss (anett.kiss@gmail.com) and Samer Zaky (shz33@pitt.edu) Director of publication: M.-A. Buccheri. Please send requests about articles in this Letter and submissions for the next Letter to Members to office@mariecurie.org.