

Marie Curie Fellows Association



Letter to Members

2014

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

Save the date: MCFA Annual General Meeting London, 28 February 2015

The MCFA Annual General Meeting will take place in London. Book the date, as this will be an important meeting for the future of MCFA. In particular, this General Assembly will have to discuss and decide about the further strategy with the MCAA: Is it meaningful to have an independent association besides an EC-funded association? Should MCFA try to merge with MCAA? Odyssefs Panopoulos from the European Commission Marie Skłodowska Curie unit has been invited to come to our meeting. He will be able to talk about issues arising from the creation of MCAA, as well as other issues related to fellowships under the Horizon 2020 scheme.

<http://mcfa.eu/site3/?q=mcfa-workshop-and-general-assembly-2015>

Marie Curie Alumni Association

On November 23rd 2013 the first general assembly of the new Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) created by the European Commission took place in Brussels. During the assembly the first MCAA Board was elected. The MCFA wishes to congratulate all the elected MCAA board members. We wish them to enjoy this new experience. All of them are interviewed in the [MCAA newsletter](#) (login required). In addition, MCFA board member Maria Bostenaru Dan has been interviewed in the feature on Individual Fellowships.

The MCFA has welcomed the initiative of founding the MCAA since the beginning and we are happy to be able to contribute

with the experience gained in years through the election of Axelle Viré as Vice-Chair, Maria Antonietta Buccheri as General Secretary and Anett Kiss as Ordinary Board Member.

The elected members from MCFA resigned from their MCFA administrative board positions and are now in the MCFA advisory board. The composition of the MCFA board changed hence.

MCFA webpage and database

The current version of the MCFA website, located at <http://mcfa.eu/>, is now operational for more than a year. It includes information about our association, and a searchable database of

MCFA members and affiliates (people who have registered at MCFA but have not paid membership). Please check and update your record in this database, by logging in the the website and by going to "My account". You can get a password reminder to your registered e-mail address; if you do not have access anymore to this e-mail account, please contact webmaster@mcfa.eu. If you have colleagues who are or were Marie Curie fellows, please encourage them to register!

The MCFA Administrative Board

News from the COST action genderSTE

The webpage of the action, where the MCFA is member, is online at

<http://www.genderste.eu/>

See also the past meetings section for a report on the genderSTE conference in Rome.

Careers, funding, and networking opportunities

European Research Council calls Horizon 2020

The first calls within ERC under Horizon 2020 have been launched, with a unique submission deadline: 3 February 2015 for starting grants.

<http://erc.europa.eu/>

New COFUND programme

In addition to the programmes already mentioned in past Letters to Members, the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer

AustauschDienst/German Academic Exchange Service) also joined the COFUND scheme with the programme *Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience (P.R.I.M.E.)*

More details at:

<https://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/22962-postdoctoral-researchers-international-mobility-experience/>

Past meetings with MCFA participation

SAPGERIC conference

21-22 November 2013, Vilnius, Lithuania

Eleni Chatzichristou was due to represent the m-WiSET group (Mobile Women in Science, Engineering and Technology of the MCFA) at the Lithuanian Presidency Conference on "Structural Change

Promoting Gender Equality in Research Organisations" with a poster. The genderSTE management committee meeting took place on this occasion.

<http://www.sapgeric.eu2013.vu.lt/>

The MCFA poster is [electronically available](#).

Raising Researchers' Voices - opinions on jobs, careers and rights

21-22 November 2013, Brussels

Maria Antonietta Buccheri, the former chair of the MCFA participated in this conference representing the association in the Roundtable discussion: THE VOICE OF RESEARCHERS' ASSOCIATIONS European grassroots associations present what they do for research professionals.

<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/services/singleNews/1074>

Women in science session at the fireplace of the Hungarian Institute of External Affairs



EURAXESS on tour

In March 2014 EURAXESS was doing a road show in different cities in Europe.

<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/singleNews/1211>

On the facebook page there were the locations and the event.



Plenary talk of Maria Antonietta Buccheri

Eurodoc conference in Budapest

25-27 March 2014, Budapest

The MCFA was represented in the plenary introductory session at the Eurodoc conference in Budapest by Maria Antonietta Buccheri, former chair. Maria Bostenaru Dan organized at the same conference a parallel workshop on "Women in science". Invited were representatives from the COST action genderSTE (Monika Magyar and Dalma Sziller) and from the Eurodoc "Gender equality" working group (Carole Chapin).

The conference webpage is available here:

<http://www.eurodoc2014budapest.hu/referenciak>

The 2015 eurodoc conference will take place in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 27-28 April 2015 and arrangements are met to participate.



Opening session at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences



speakers from the side of MCFA and respectively ESF, following a short round of presentations. For the round tables a set of questions was elaborated. The responses will flow into a policy document. For an example of result, please see the documentation on the ESF page.

<http://www.esf.org/media-centre/ext-single-news/article/new-concepts-of-mobility-to-foster-career-development-and-gender-balance-in-europe-1029.html>

The second workshop also resulted into a correspondence item into the journal „Nature”.

The results of the first workshop will be shown at the MCFA AGA.

There was also a Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions MSCA satellite event "Transferable skills: MSCA added value for your CV" (19-20 June) at the conference open for fellows and alumni.

<http://esof2014.org/>

ESOF 2014

21-26 June 2014, Copenhagen

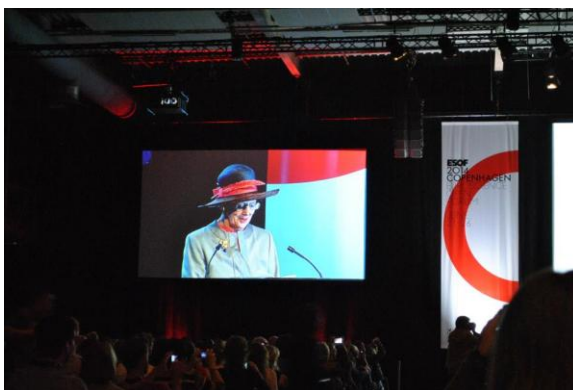
The 2014 edition of ESOF took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 21-26, 2014 and was organised in collaboration between the Danish Ministry for Science, Innovation and Higher Education and the founder of ESOF, Euroscience.

The MCFA has organized or participated in the organization of two sessions:

- “Researchers’ careers in Europe: looking for Ariane’s thread”, organized by Maria Antonietta Buccheri.
- “New concepts of mobility to foster career development and gender balance in Europe”, jointly organized by m-WiSET Group from MCFA and Maria Manuela Nogueira from European Science Foundation.

The workshops were organised in a room which permitted the creation of 9 round tables, which were moderated by the





Manchester will be the European City of Science 2016, and organizes ESOF 2016 on 22-27 July 2016.

Engendering Cities

25-26 September 2014, Rome

The working group 3 on cities, transport, energy and climate change of the COST action genderSTE organised a conference on this topic to which she participated with a presentation on mobility and implications for policy, in section 3. It was an occasion to meet the members of the working group in which the MCFA is represented, first time so far.

More details:

http://www.genderste.eu/engendering_index.php

<http://www.ingenere.it/articoli/citta-di-ogni-genero-le-smart-cities-inclusive>

Women in Global Science Symposium

27-29 October 2014, Hokkaido, Japan

As representative of the m-WiSET group, Maria Bostenaru Dan has been invited to be part of the selection committee of a 5 year programme between the DFG and the Japanese University.

The topic of the 2014 conference was "Water".

More details (since we were not able to participate in person):

http://www.nature.com/natureevents/science/events/25279-International_Symposium_for_Women_in_Global_Science_WinGS

Website of the conference:

<http://wings.synfoster.hokudai.ac.jp/international-symposia/sym-2014/information/>

Publications

Women in science feature for the Horizon magazine

Maria Bostenaru Dan has been invited to this feature which was published in April 2014.

<http://horizon-magazine.eu/>

Booklet on women in science available with DOI

With the OpenAire EU initiative

<https://zenodo.org/record/10160?ln=en#.U4VndHKSwg>

This booklet is about role models for women scientists and that it had been edited by MCFA.

ACA papers open access

Academic Cooperation Association papers go open access, see here the release:

http://www.aca-secretariat.be/index.php?id=29&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1%5Bnl_uid%5D=111&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1%5Buid%5D=3766&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1%5BbackPid%5D=272&cHash=96ad99cf9577484bd867bfd22b1bec94

Journal of international mobility

Is a publication of Agence Erasmus France

http://www.aca-secretariat.be/index.php?id=29&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1%5Bnl_uid%5D=117&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1%5Buid%5D=4028&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1%5BbackPid%5D=272&cHash=7b90753a886756363e874e19428ecee2

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

Women's International Research Engineering Summit 3

16-19 June 2015, Trondheim, Norway

The 3rd Women's International Research Engineering Summit (WIRES) [has been postponed for 2014 with changed location](#).

Aim of the Summit is to promote international collaboration. Application deadline: Still open

<http://wires.womenandtechnology.eu>

The WIRES Network hosted in 2013 on-line discussions with WIRES participants as earlier presented using the "Go-To-

Meeting" software to host the on-line meeting. This will allow participants to share information with the other participants. Each on-line discussion will be facilitated by different WIRES women. The outcomes of these on-line meetings will be identification of other researchers interested in forming collaborative teams, identification of funding sources for international collaborations and identification of interesting research questions that can be addressed by WIRES participants.

News in Brief

New EIT KICs

<http://sciencebusiness.net/news/76838/And-the-winners-are-%E2%80%A6-EIT-picks-Roche-and-Helmholtz-groups-to-start-new-KICs#%2EVIr6n03IqKA%2Elinkedin>

From the BBC: Cambridge call for female professors

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-26259644?SThisFB>

Experiencing the progress report: an analysis of gender and administration in doctoral candidature

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1360080X.2013.861054#.UyRZgz-SwSY>

New approaches to funding

<http://www.oecd.org/science/sci-tech/promoting-research-excellence.htm>

FROM NATURE

Lack of female leaders

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v504/n7480/full/nj7480-473a.html>

FROM SCIENCE CAREERS

New Year's Resolutions for Early-Career Scientists

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2014_01_01/caredit.a1400001

FROM EUROSCIENTIST

About brain drain

<http://www.euroscientist.com/what-does-it-take-for-brain-drain-reversal-initiatives-to-be-effective/>

Film awards including women in science

<http://www.euroscience.org/awards-evening-2014.html>

National Groups

Call for coordinators of MCFA National Groups

After the General Assembly in London we expect to be still 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.

Due to different issues with our website in the past months, we have not been able to provide to MCFA members and affiliates the service we wanted to, please accept our apologies for this. We have now moved the website to a different hosting service, this website is still incomplete but work is in progress. Please try to log in to <http://mcfa.eu/> and write us to webmaster@mcfa.eu for any issue you may encounter. Please also take this opportunity to review your account and contact details.

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@mcfa.eu, 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/site3/sites/default/files/flyer-bw.pdf>.

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). Director of publication: Rui Guimaraes. Please send requests about articles in this Letter and submissions for the next Letter to Members to office@mcfa.eu.