

Marie Curie Fellows Association

Letter to members

April 2007

Dear MCFA Member,

Welcome to another issue of the “Letters to Members”!

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Editorial

Dear MCFA member, 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 Dr. Dagmar Meyer, former Chair of the MCFA, who was appointed by the Irish Universities Association to do exactly that, as National Contact Point for ‘People’ and “Research Potential” programme.

Membership Renewal 2007

MCFA membership fees were due on 28th February 2007. Your membership makes a real difference to keep the Association live and running. Thanks to your support we could run several projects and have a new MCFA website. Please renew your membership at your earliest convenience.

➤ *New MCFA logo: Final propositions*

Margarita Sifnaiou:



Vanessa Diaz:



Natalia Balcazar:



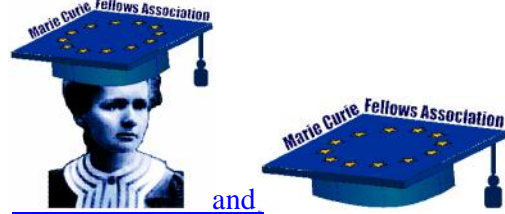
Guggi Kofod:



Carsten Thun:



Eric Buchlin:



Alain Rival:



These logos are available on the MCFA website where a voting system is available for you to choose your preferred one.

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 newsletter “summer 2006” 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, subject line ‘Newsletter Summer 2007’.

➤ *Nature Collaboration*

The article published in Nature about the MCFA that was mentioned herein in the last letter to members can be found on the MCFA website.

➤ *Invitation for internship applications*

Related to the **MCFA Newsletter**, we invite applications 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 outgoing 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 ‘brain drain’).

For more information contact Max Tani mtani@efs.mq.edu.au

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

The survey will be officially closed on the 13 May 2007. This is your last chance to fill it in.

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, previously 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 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 unfortunately outdated.

As already advertised in the last Letter to Members and on the mcfa-uk mailing-list, Eric Buchlin, Vanessa Diaz, Eric Buchlin et al 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 contact us.

It is extremely important to update all our welcome packs as often as possible, as this will minimize the workload. Only few sources 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:

EIT, Green Paper, Career Fairs, Deadlines and the MCFA mailing lists/Discussion Forum

- 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

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.

- 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 document):

www.sussex.ac.uk/rrdd/documents/calls_and_deadlines.doc

- 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 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.

- 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.

- Important notice for applicants of the call ERC-2007-StG: There is very high interest in the ERC Call for proposals. Therefore, applicants are strongly advised to submit their proposal well in advance of the closure of the Call (deadline: 25 April 2007 at 17h00). This is important to avoid technical problems, including IT and help desk support issues. Please note that proposals that have already been submitted can be modified until the deadline.

- We would like to draw your attention to the MAILING LISTS of the MCFA. The mailing list is a way for you to get fast information from many sources. Everyone is allowed to submit a notice for dissemination, also people and organizations outside the MCFA. There is a mailing list for each of the National Groups, and for the Science Policy and Women in Science Groups. There is also a list for general discussions on the Marie Curie

Initiatives, and one list may be used for publication of available positions (mcfa-career). The lists are moderated to combat spam, while all topical contributions will be accepted. Everyone is also allowed to subscribe to the mailing list, or to follow them directly through our homepage

(<http://mcfa.eu/site/public/maillingLists.php>, link might change as the new website consolidates).

The mailing lists are a slower, more formal way, to disseminate views and opinions. A more direct way to engage in discussions is via the Discussion Forum (DF), which is available to members only. The DF is also an archive of past activities in the MCFA. There are discussions on Marie Curie initiatives and the framework programmes, as well as on industry and science policy. A very active group is the National Groups section.

Both the mailing lists and the DF can be accessed through the Communication button on mcfa.eu. We strongly encourage you to take part or initiate the debate using these means, since your experience-based opinions must be the basis of MCFA policy.

The Speaker's Corner

NATURE NETWORK

Networking is of great importance for scientists. Scientific knowledge cannot progress without a world-wide communication among scientists. Exchanging ideas with other scientists is fundamental even in order to deeply understand one's own research' subject.

That is why the Nature Publishing Group launched a new website: the Nature Network. It is intended to be a social network, an on-line place in which scientists from all over the world can connect with each other and discuss through forums and message boards. On the Nature Network website it is also possible to find the latest news on science and a comprehensive list of upcoming meetings and seminars. Nature Network also set up local city hubs, as exchanges are important on a local level as well!

Nature Network subscription is for free. Once you have subscribed, you can create your own profile describing your activity, scientific interests and publications. You can also choose some “tags”: tags are keywords indicating your main interests. You can use them to find people sharing your interests and, of course, other people can use them to meet with you. So, you can join groups of like-minded people or set up your own group and invite other people to join.

There are groups focusing on different issues. You can find groups discussing about a scientific topic, as the “Biomolecular NMR spectroscopy” group which is the most numerous one, or the “Genetics” one which is aimed to discuss criteria for experimental design in Genetics. Or, you can find the “Post-Doc and Graduate Students of the World” group, created to share experiences and insights among students and post-docs, as well as the “talking science” one, addressed to people organizing science communication events. Each group has its own discussion forum.

You can also create your own blog. There are already nice blogs, as the one by Anna Kushnir focusing on labs daily life.

Nature Network is a great opportunity to meet with a large number of scientists, science writers and students and to discuss about scientific issues or problems with them. It is a really ductile and useful tool.

Each one can find its own place and each one can contribute to create an on-line scientific community.

That is why I hope to meet you soon on: <http://network.nature.com> .

M

Maria Antonietta Buccheri

Please send your email to office@mariecurie.org (Subject line: 'Speaker's corner') to be published (in excerpts) in this section in the Next “Letters to Members”.

Diary of Events

Past meetings with MCFA participation

- The MCFA had been invited once again to the **Intermediair** event to be held in the Netherlands on the 19th April 2007.

Upcoming meetings with MCFA Participation

- **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 9-11 May 2007, Germany. Gianna Avellis and Raffaella di Sante will attend the WiS conference in Heidelberg 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 Heemskerck and Natalia Balcazar.

- 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 assist. Antonella Di Trapani is representing the Association during the meeting.
- The National launch of Marie Curie People Programme will take place on the 21st May in Dublin http://www.iua.ie/news_events/MarieCurieLaunchMay07.htm. Please use the online registration form http://www.iua.ie/register_event.php

Vanessa Diaz will be present at this event.

- EARMA (European Association of Research Managers & Administrators) 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".
- A social event to bring together MCFA members in Lyon is organised by

Marianne Schaedel. For the meeting, you have to show up on Wednesday 22nd of May at 20:30 in "L' Harmonie des vins". For information, please contact marianne.schaedel@ens-lyon.fr. This could be a good opportunity to freshen up the MCFA French national group.

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