

Marie Curie Fellows Association



Letter to Members

July August September 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

Young researchers' questionnaire

Dear Young Researchers, MCFA is currently running an online questionnaire for young researchers in order to understand better the needs, expectations and challenges they face. The questionnaire focuses specifically on young researchers (MSc and PhD students as well as postdocs) therefore we would like to have your input about your own experiences. Although the participation is anonymous, you will be informed about the outcome of the survey through our website. We would appreciate if you can find ~10 minutes to fill out the form: www.surveymonkey.com/s/MCFAsYoungResearchersQuestionnaire

MCFA Annual General Assembly and Career Workshop

30 November – 1 December, Rome

We are delighted to announce that the next MCFA workshop will be held in Rome on the 30th of November and the 1st of December, 2012. The MCFA activities are going to be discussed and the Horizon2020 program will be introduced by a Marie Curie Actions representative. The workshop dedicated to soft skills and publications (e.g. time & project management, leadership skills, grant applications, how to get published, publication ethics, etc.) will be held on Friday and Saturday.

Based on the positive experience of last years, we believe that the workshop will meet your interests! The agenda of the workshop will be online soon. Should you plan to come, please let us know at:

<http://mcfa.eu/workshop2012>

The registration fee for MCFA members and non-members are 50 and 70 euros, respectively. Due to the nature of the workshop, the number of participants is limited and the registration is on the basis of first come, first served!

Don't miss the opportunity of both boosting your career and participating to the Association's life: take part to these events!



ESOF2012
EUROSCIENCE OPEN FORUM

**EuroScience
Open Forum 2012**
July 10-15, Dublin

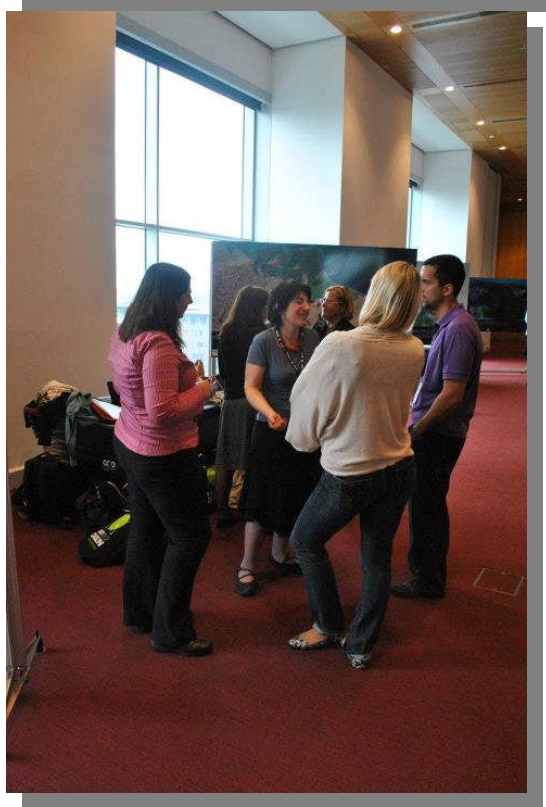
<http://esof2012.org/>

The participation of MCFA members and board members at the EuroScience Open Forum in Dublin was a remarkable success.



On the 13th of July at 10:00 am also a **board meeting** took place. Participants were Marie Antonietta Buccheri (chair), Esperanca Manuel (vice chair), György Székely (vice secretary general and science policy group coordinator), Keira Melican (vice treasurer), Gianna Avellis (Women in Science coordinator), Marie Bostenaru Dan (Women in Science coordinator and Letter to Members editor), Anett Kiss

(Letter to Members editor). Natalia Balcazar, who represented the MCFA in the programme committee, arrived later at the conference.



Prior to the conference there was a **Marie Curie conference** Tuesday the 10th of July and Wednesday the 11th of July, the programme of which you can consult at <http://esof2012.org/2012/02/conference-schedule/>

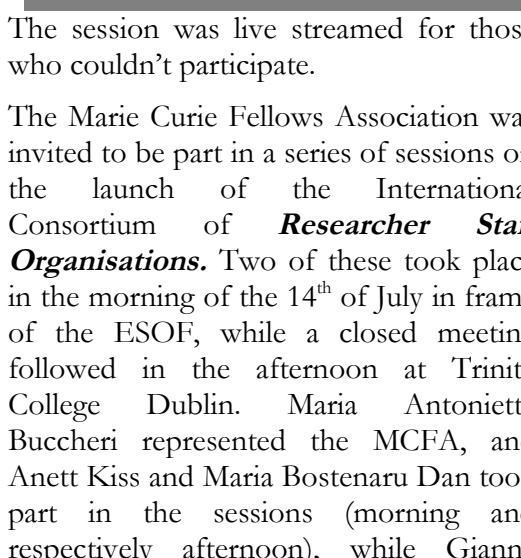
Keira Melican, Maria Antonietta Buccheri and Esperanca Manuel participated to the Marie Curie Conference.

The Career Programme was opened on the 12th of July, 10:45 a.m. by **Daniel Funeriu former Marie Curie fellow (excellence grant)** and current advisor to the president of Romania on science polity matters. His talk can be followed on video on http://www.livestream.com/esof2012/video?clipId=pla_3edb5ced-6337-43ff-99ab-0ed9f4540e5c

Daniel Funeriu further participated to the session **Engaging in a researcher's career in the 21st century**, from the careers programme, featuring also MCFA advisory board member Silvia Giordani.



MCFA participated in the Career Programme of the ESOF with the session organised by Gianna Avellis: ***“Role Models for Mobility: Portraits of Women from the Marie Curie Fellows Association (MCFA)”*** promoting the m-WiSeT booklet. Participants were Antonella Di Trapani, Maria Bostenaru, Natalia Balcazar, Silvia Giordani and Gianna Avellis. Elena Martines and Charlotte Bora were also invited off stage.



The Marie Curie Fellows Association was invited to be part in a series of sessions on the launch of the International Consortium of **Researcher Staff Organisations**. Two of these took place in the morning of the 14th of July in frame of the ESOF, while a closed meeting followed in the afternoon at Trinity College Dublin. Maria Antonietta Bучcheri represented the MCFA, and Anett Kiss and Maria Bostenaru Dan took part in the sessions (morning and respectively afternoon), while Gianna Avellis took part in both. The meeting was a partner event of ESOF:

<http://esof2012.sched.org/event/43ed1cf57a6b1ba7c1f00b55ed3a63a9?iframe=no&w=990&sidebar=yes&bg=no>

The complete programme of both parts can be found here:

<http://icorsa.org/esof2012.html>



In the afternoon of 14th of July a session related to the initiative supported by the European Commission about which we wrote in the LtM took part: “Research careers in Europe: Make your voice heard!”. Anett Kiss was in the public of the session.

<http://esof2012.sched.org/event/21d18ce7b73b58e6495f91d9b9d92d87?iframe=no&w=990&sidebar=yes&bg=no>

Marie Curie Actions were also present in the “Science in the City programme” with the “*Faces of Marie Curie*” exhibition. The exhibition was organised by Arya-Marie BA Trung, European Commission, Communication Officer, EAC.C.3 – People Programme; Marie Curie Actions.

<http://www.dublinscience2012.ie/2012/07/faces-of-marie-curie-actions/>

More about this itinerant exhibition, featuring also administrative board members Keira Melican and Tiago Brandao Rodrigues can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/documents/documentation/publications/mca_meet_our_fellows_and_read_their_stories_en.pdf

The exhibition in Dublin only included 8 portraits out of the 42 and was displayed in the BATTERY restaurant of Trinity College.

Apart of the various programme sessions at ESOF and science in the city, there was a rich exhibition associated to the conference. Several participants could give short presentations of themselves of their projects at the ESF elevator pitch session (watch Silvia Giordani and Maria Bostenaru Dan on <http://www.youtube.com/esfchannel>).

The European Commission gathered testimonials for Horizon 2020 and Maria Bostenaru Dan represented the MCFA. These will be online at the end of the year.

One highlight of the exhibition was the presence of the *Database of outstanding female scientists* <http://www.academia-net.org/>

This database, an initiative started in Germany, includes outstanding contemporary women scientists nominated by the research organisations in their countries.

Membership renewal 2013

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 that they could pay in conjunction with the workshop also for 2013 (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

Marie Curie and her Daughters book

Palgrave Macmillan has recently published a new biography of Marie Curie and her Daughters which takes a closer look at the lives of science's first family.

Most of us are already familiar with Marie Curie, the famed scientist, but few of us know about her rich and fascinating personal life. The first person to be honored by two Nobel Prizes, Marie Curie was also a pioneer of the use of radiation therapy for cancer patients. But Marie Curie was also a mother, widowed young, who raised two extraordinary daughters alone: Irène, a Nobel Prize winning chemist in her own right, who played an important role in the development of the

atomic bomb, and Eve, a highly regarded humanitarian and journalist, who fought alongside the French Resistance during WWII. As a woman fighting to succeed in a male dominated profession and a Polish immigrant caught in a xenophobic society, Marie had to find ways to support her research. Drawing on personal interviews with Curie's descendants, as well as revelatory new archives, this is a wholly new story about Marie Curie—and a family of women inextricably connected to the dawn of nuclear physics. A truly intimate look inside the private lives of the Curie women, this is a groundbreaking book about science's first family.

Marie Curie and Her Daughters is the first – and only – book to focus on Marie Curie and her remarkable bond with her extraordinary daughters; 1% from the sale of every book (excluding North American and Australian sales) will go to Marie Curie Cancer Care. To get 20% discount order your copy now by entering XP356ED (for US and Canada) or WMARIECURIE12 (for the rest of the world) at the checkout at www.palgrave.com. Offer valid until 31st December 2012.

Role Models wanted from Marie Curie women Fellows

m-WiSET (Mobile Women in Science, Engineering and Technology) (<http://mcfa.eu/site/public/workingGroups.php>) 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.

<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.

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Mobile women in science and technology m-WiSET blog

A warm welcome for all new workgroup participants! We try in the following to gather some information for the group to make it more lively.

Other news related to women in science are included in the following sections of the Letter to Members, such as the call for the Gender Summit and WIRES, and the AcademiaNet database.

If you have further ideas, please write us!

We started to put content into the ["Women in Science" blog](#) on the MCFA site.

Please bear with us while we get familiar with the functions, adding events and news.

Radio coverage of women role models

End of July Maria Bostenaru Dan gave several interviews to the radio sender "România Cultural" for a series of interventions in the morning programme „Espresso de vară” (summer espresso) on the MCFA (2nd of August 2012), Marie Curie Fellowships (8th of August 2012) and her own career as woman in science (26th of September 2012, in frame of the programme „Born in Romania” <http://dupa20deani.radiocultura.ro/>).

This comes after earlier endeavours of her of giving an interview to the radio sender România Actualități about the first woman architect in the world, who, Romanian and architect like herself, took a mobility career path to Italy, like herself.

http://www.romania-actualitati.ro/o_romanca_celebra-28394

Databases of women in science and technology in early days

We started collecting links on archives about international women in science. Here are some examples

The International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA), established in 1985, is a joint program of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the University Libraries at Virginia Tech.: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu/IAWA/>

Archives of women in medicine

<https://www.countway.harvard.edu/menuNavigation/chom/awm/collections.html>

If you know of such archives in your field, please let us know.

Project about Woman Writers in History

COST supports the Action IS0901 “Women Writers In History: Toward a New Understanding of European Literary Culture (2009-2013)”, which was also represented at the Digital Humanities conference in Hamburg, attended by administrative board member Marie Bostenaru Dan and advisory board member Malte Rehbein. The abstract book of the conference is available [here](#).

Project webpage:

<http://www.costwwih.net/>

The action provides an overview of efforts in this direction across Europe.

A workshop in frame of the same new research direction of digital humanities will be organised by administrative board member Maria Bostenaru Dan 1-3 November 2012 in Bucharest, funding being assured by the Network for Digital Methods in Arts and Humanities, coordinator advisory board member Malte Rehbein (the network featured workshops of separate working groups in Hamburg, and in Bucharest there will be cross-workshop meetings). Radio Romania Cultural (see previous report) will be partner, seeking for women’s stories for future programmes.

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

<http://nedimah.uauim.ro/>

Hungarian “Women abroad” blog and Linkedingroup

Petra Votisky, a Hungarian woman living in Romania (not from the Hungarian minority in Romania) has initiated a blog on women living or going to live abroad, because of their work or following their husband, tackling with different issues,

including the problems children are facing:

<http://nokkulfoldon.blogspot.hu/>

Recently also a [linkedin group](#) has been established. The blog is in Hungarian language, to the group any language is welcome.

Project about women in landscape architecture in Central Europe

The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, Austria, is running since 2012 a project on "Women in Landscape Architecture in Austria and Central Europe", in the 20th century:

https://forschung.boku.ac.at/fis/suche.n.projekt_uebersicht?sprache_in=en&ansicht_in=&menue_id_in=300&id_in=8950

A publication from the project will be included in a book co-coordinated by m-WiSET co-coordinator Maria Bostenaru Dan.

Women in architecture fund

WIA fund is there mainly for women in the USA, but it allows international listing, and also international entries for award of the fund.

<http://wiafund.org/>

Exhibition about women in architecture in New Zealand

If you are, or have been, a female architectural student, graduate, designer, or architect, in the construction industry as an individual or a practice, in NZ or overseas - be part of an exhibition of New

Zealand women in architecture planned for 2013.

<http://www.architecturewomen.org.nz>

Journals dedicated to Womens' studies

For those of you who might want to write articles on the experience of women in science, either historically, as role models, or regarding the human resources science policy, below is a list of ISI quoted journals:

GENDER SOC 0891-2432 1 1

SOC POLIT 1072-4745 1 2

EUR J WOMENS STUD 1350-5068 1 3

PSYCHOL WOMEN QUART 0361-6843 1 4

FEM ECON 1354-5701 1 5

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOM 1077-8012 1 6

J WOMENS HEALTH 1540-9996 1 7

WOMEN HEALTH ISS 1049-3867 2 8

GENDER WORK ORGAN 0968-6673 2 9

SIGNS 0097-9740 2 10

SEX ROLES 0360-0025 2 11

GENDER PLACE CULT 0966-369X 2 12

FEM PSYCHOL 0959-3535 2 13

AUST FEMINIST STUD 0816-4649 2 14

WOMEN HEALTH 0363-0242 3 15

FEMINIST REV 0141-7789 3 16

J GENDER STUD 0958-9236 3 17

WOMEN STUD INT FORUM 0277-5395 3 18

J WOMEN AGING 0895-2841 3 19

RADICAL PHILOS 0300-211X 3 20

AFFILIA J WOM SOC WO 0886-1099 3 21

FEMINIST STUD 0046-3663 3 22

J WOMEN POLIT POLICY 1554-477X 3 23

WOMEN THER 0270-3149 3 24

FRONTIERS 0160-9009 3 25

INDIAN J GEND STUD 0971-5215 3 26

NOUV QUEST FEM 0248-4951 3 27

ASIAN J WOMEN STUD

Careers, funding, and networking opportunities

Marie Curie Mobility Fellowships Call participation breaks new record

The 2012 call for the Marie Curie Actions (MCA) individual fellowships is now closed. The Research Executive Agency (REA) in charge of implementing the MCA reports that interest in individual fellowships has risen significantly. A total of 6,158 proposals were received, an increase of about 12% compared to last year. To meet the rising number of applications, the budget for this 2012 call has also been increased by 10 Million Eur with respect to 2011 and is now 200 Million Eur.

The applications breakdown is as follows:

- Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development (FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IEF) – 3732 (+12%)
- International Incoming Fellowships (FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IIF) - 1464 (+12%)
- International Outgoing Fellowships (FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IOF) - 962 (+12%)

Open for 2013: 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

Still open: 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 2013: 1. March and 1. September

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

Also the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation increased the number of their postdoctoral fellowships with the COFUND scheme

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

Deadline: continuously.

More COFUND fellowship schemes can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people&cofund=true;efp7_SESSION_ID=QYG8PM3FrJPDTNXCTYCfGVyF4f48nhsCJ9VsWZpGwfwlpkqTsGPZ!-697169953#List

and

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



European Research Council Advanced Grants 2013

Experienced researchers with more than 10 years from obtaining the PhD can apply for the most competitive grants.

Funding: up to € 2.5 million per grant (in some circumstances up to € 3.5 million per grant)

Duration: up to 5 years

Also researchers from outside the EU can apply, provided they dedicate more than half of their time for the research at the European institution.

Single deadline for all three domains: 22 November 2012 ([published 10th of July 2012](#)).

Scientific Exchange Programme New Member States - Switzerland

[Crus.ch](http://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.

Next deadlines (depending on country) 2012: 1. November (launch 1st September).

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

Call for experts for Education and Culture programs

Call for expressions of interest EACEA/2007 for the establishment of a list of experts to assist the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in the framework of the management of the Community programmes in the fields of education, audiovisual, culture, youth and citizenship.

Available programs include those related to teaching/learning mobility (ex. ERASMUS) but also Culture programs, a separate application having to be filled for each of them.

Applications are evaluated twice a year, the previous cut off was 30th of June.

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/call_experts/call_experts_2007_en.php

Call for experts for COST actions

The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) calls for experts to evaluate new proposals and to monitor the progress of running actions.

Those interested have to register and agree to be available as experts (similarly to journal reviewer registration):

<https://e-services.cost.eu/experts>

Publications

ACA Annual Conference publication

This year's ACA Annual Conference was held in June in Helsinki and explored the inter-relationships between four thematic areas: internationalisation and mobility; excellence; social inclusion; and funding. The publication resulting from this conference - Tying it all together - will appear in October. ACA will launch it at a

reception from 17.00 to 18.30 p.m. on 11 October, one day before the next ACA European Policy Seminar Higher education in 2030. Attendance is free and seminar participants are particularly welcome. For practical reasons, we kindly ask you to register for the launch reception before 4 October, by sending an email to secretariat@aca-secretariat.be.

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

Marie Curie Conference 2012

5-6 November 2012, Nicosia

In frame of the Cyprus presidency of the European Union the Marie Curie Conference 2012 will take place in Nicosia.

Marie Curie fellows are invited to register and submit poster proposals. In frame of the conference the Marie Curie Prize (see below) will be awarded. More news will follow.

Conference webpage:
<http://www.marie-curie2012.eu/>

Marie Curie Prize

The Marie Curie Actions invite their current and former fellows to participate in this year's Marie Curie Prize contest. The competition will be held in three distinct categories:

- Communicating Science ;
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship; and
- Promising Research Talent.

Application process will be based on nomination by a peer (colleague, professor, employer, host institution) who has the capacity to judge the fellow.

Nominations deadline: 31 august 2012

For more information please consult:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/news-events/news/2012/marie_curie_actions_prize_2012_en.htm

2nd European Gender Summit

29-30 November, Bruxelles

Following the success of the 1st European Gender Summit and of the Manifesto (see call for signatures in previous LtM versions and on the website) the organisers have been able to persuade the European Parliament to host the 2nd European Gender Summit on 29-30 November, organised again by ESF.

Posters are invited to be submitted till the 7th of September.

Conference webpage:
<http://www.gender-summit.eu>

In partnership with ESF: Science: It's a girl thing

Let's show the Commission what kind of talent is out there. Let's show them how crowdsourcing can create something brilliant.

The contest below is for you!

The winning video will be shown at the European Gender Summit 2012, November 29-30 at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Create a video for Europe

Create your own video teaser and have it shown at the European Gender Summit 2012 and promoted on this site.

Here's how it works:

1. Visit the Science, It's a Girl Thing website.
2. Create a one minute (or less) video designed to drive traffic to the site and create awareness for the project.

3. Upload your video to YouTube and include the hashtag #sciencegirlthing in the description, and tweet to @CurtRice with a link to your video. I'll promote your videos on my blog and on Twitter.

4. Encourage people to "like" your video on YouTube. The one with the most likes on Tuesday, November 6, at 12 noon Central European Time will be shown at the conference.

5. Sign up for our newsletter below and receive updates on who is winning with links to all of the videos.

<http://curt-rice.com/sciencegirlthing/>

Women's International Research Engineering Summit 3

12-14 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.

Application deadline: Still open.

Maria Bostenaru Dan has been invited to apply.

Conference website:

<http://wires.womenandtechnology.eu>

News in Brief

MCFA board member at the Olympics in London

Administrative board member Tiago Brandao Rodrigues, Marie Curie Fellow in Cambridge, has been representing Portugal at the Olympics 2012 in London.

http://jpn.c2com.up.pt/2012/05/14/olimpiadas_2012_neurocientista_portugues_vai_ser_adido_olimpico_em_londres.html

FROM SCIENCE CAREERS

From the humour columnist

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2012_07_27/caredit.a1200083

How to collaborate

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2012_07_20/caredit.a1200082

The Postdoc Experience: High Expectations, Grounded in Reality

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2012_08_24/science.opms.r1200121



National Groups and Mailing Lists

Call for coordinators of MCFA National Groups

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 the Internal Documents: <http://mcfa.eu/site/memberArea/internalDocuments.php>.

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. Bучcheri. Please send requests about articles in this Letter and submissions for the next Letter to Members to office@mariecurie.org.