



MSCAA

Danish Chapter

Newsletter

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The board



Julia Chair

MSCA-Horizon2020 PhD fellow in the Comm4Child ITN (current)

From: Brazil

I'm Julia Chiossi, an audiologist almost done with a PhD in clinical research on hearing devices and learning. I divide my time between Oticon in Denmark and the University of Oslo in Norway. I like bringing people together. I don't like unnecessary formality.



George Vice-Chair

COFUND fellow at the French Nat. Inst. for Agro Research (2015-16)

From: Greece

I am George Anasontzis, biotechnologist, innovation consultant, and now business developer specialised in biotech and bioentrepreneurship. I currently work at reNEW, the Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Stem Cell Medicine, with headquarters at Copenhagen University and with nodes in Copenhagen, Leiden, and Melbourne. I like variation. I don't like nervous people.

The board



Aslan Secretary

MSCA-Horizon2020 RISE research fellow MNR4SCell (2017-22)

From: Turkiye

I'm Aslan, Hüsnü and I am the leader of nano-technology and metrology at DFM - Danish National Metology Institute. No, not meteorology... I don't know the weather; stop asking! This is Denmark, it will always be grey and wet. I like dark and cold. I don't like clichés.



Ana Events

Career Restart MSCA fellow at Copenhagen University (2017-19)

From: Spain

I'm Ana Martin González and I currently lead the work in Energy and Sustainability projects at Innovayt, an innovation consultancy. I have a background in complex systems in ecology, but recently I have been working mostly with decarbonizing technologies of all sorts. I like learning new things. I do not like to spend too much time away from mountains.



Thomas Advisor

MSCA-IF at the University of Southern Denmark (2016-18)

From: Austria

I am Thomas Paster. I am a political scientist and work as an Associate Professor in Business and Public Policy at Roskilde University (RUC). I work on how business interest groups in Europe influence social and labor market policies. Originally from Austria, I came to Denmark as an MSCA-Fellow in 2016. I like surprising research findings, I don't like train delays.



Alberto Jutland Representative

MSCA-Horizon2020 PhD fellow in the TEAM ITN (2017-20)

From: Spain

Alberto González Olmos, electrical & biomedical engineer, PhD candidate at Aarhus University's Center for Functionally and Integrative Neuroscience. I'm developing machine learning techniques for laser speckle contrast images to detect early signs of Alzheimer's & Hypertension in the microcirculation. I enjoy creating with most media. I am averse to monotony.

Our first Career Development Seminar

Denmark's landscape for innovation funding includes both public and private grants and investments, spanning from basic scientific research to translational projects and startups. With this in mind, on February 2nd, the MCAA Denmark Chapter organized, in collaboration with the Health Faculty of Copenhagen University (SUND - KU), the seminar 'How do I get my ideas funded in Denmark?'

From the top of the Mæsk tower in Copenhagen, speakers from KU Science, SPARK Denmark, Bioinnovation Institute, and Innovayt contributed to the discussion. Nearly 30 members participated, seizing the opportunity to learn more about funding and to network with fellow members and the



This time, we also had the possibility to provide funding for transportation to members coming from outside Zealand, allowing more people to join the event.

We look forward to organizing more career development events like this in the near future. Please feel free to share your suggestions and ideas with us.

Julia Chair



Interview

From academia to innovation consultancy

Interview with our board member Ana M. Martín Gonzales, today Partner - Head of Energy and Sustainability at Innovayt, Denmark, about her transition to working in innovation consultancy after her MSCA postdoctoral fellowship at Center for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate - University of Copenhagen.

Can you tell a bit about your transition from academia to innovation consultancy?

Once my MSCA postdoc ended there were no opportunities at the lab and continuing in academia would mean relocating again. My kids are young and were already settled at school, and starting all over again in another place just seemed too much. So I started job searching for several roles (mostly as a data scientist). I had participated in a workshop by Innovayt on grant writing - I didn't even know "grant writing" was a job since as a researcher you do this non-stop as part of your tasks. I sent them my CV, and I started working with them, but with an eye on continuing in academia (to me, this was going to be a 6-month stunt so the idea was to have a job while applying for funding to continue doing research in Copenhagen). I never had a "proper job" before and having been trained as an ecologist I felt that my skill set was very limited to academia.

But to my surprise, I really enjoyed the work. I got to work with really cool projects in areas that I always had an interest in but never dared to touch because they were very far from my field. I realized that all that I liked about academia was there (a very dynamic atmosphere, with tons of smart and interesting people from very different backgrounds, you get to go in-depth in some cutting-edge concepts that can create a huge impact), so I let the deadlines for "my" research projects passed... and here I am still 4 years later.

What actually is innovation consultancy?

An innovation consultancy is an organization that helps creators, inventors, or researchers to understand their technology development roadmap and to navigate the product development and funding landscape. The tasks we can perform are varied and very dependent on each case, sector and type of consultancy (strategizing on product/technology development, helping devise a funding strategy for the products/technologies or improving the internal organization processes, writing applications to secure funding, etc.). We also provide training workshops, seminars, or educational materials to help build innovation capabilities within organizations.

How do you think that your academic background prepared you for this job?

Flexibility and agility in problem-solving; capacity to read complex information and explain it to other audiences; writing skills and writing capacity; being able to see applications/project descriptions as an evaluator, anticipating potential shortcomings; teamwork and capacity to engage with people from other disciplines, backgrounds and cultures... you name it!

What do you think is the most interesting thing about your job?

How dynamic it is. I get bored easily, which is why in academia I tend to be a bit all over the place. What seemed to be a drawback, is an important advantage for my new role. I get to go in-depth with some very specific technologies for a few months, working with extremely intelligent and interesting people, and then move on to another project. Every day is anew.

MSCAA Annual Conference & General Assembly

The MCAA Annual Conference and General Assembly took place in Milan on March 15th and 16th, 2024. Attended by over 300 people in person and 130 online, including representatives from the European Commission, the European Research Council, and researchers worldwide, the event marked the 10th anniversary of MCAA.

With the topic "MCAA 10 years, past, present and future", the conference main discussions addressed the contributions of MCAA over the past 10 years and the future of the association. The plenary sessions centered on shaping the next EC Framework Program (FP10) and the role of alumni organizations in providing input and feedback to the design of this and other initiatives. Parallel sessions brought reflections about the progress of academic research culture, and how it shapes the future of researcher assessment, open science, gender balance, sustainability, and real life impact of research.

Notable initiatives presented included the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA.eu), the SECURE project (Sustainable Careers for Researcher Empowerment), and the newly formed MCAA Project Management working group (more about them in the upcoming newsletters).



Image (left): Christina Yfanti, Asim Ul Haq and Julia Chiossi,
Image (bottom right): Masoumeh Seyedyazdi, members of the Denmark Chapter
Image (bottom left): General Assembly Attendees

During the General Assembly on March 16th, a new MCAA executive board was elected, with Gian Maria Greco as chair, Corinne Portioli and Joaquin Capablo as vice-chairs, Pavlo Bazilinskyy continuing as treasurer and Maria Magdalena Razalan as secretary. The board will represent MCAA for the next two years.

Our chapter members participated both in person and online. Overall, the event was important to strengthen relations between the Denmark chapter and other chapters and working groups, and to engage in key discussions to build new collaborations in the upcoming future.

Julia Chair



Linking points



DENMARK 
CHAPTER

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12076708/>

Email: denmark.chapter@mariecuriealumni.eu

lastweekdk.substack.com/

Weekly newsletter on the latest socio-economic and political developments in Denmark and EU



LAST WEEK IN
DENMARK



To those who would like to save lives in their spare time

<https://givblod.dk/>

Did you know that the MCAA offers you free access to most of the courses in the learning platform Coursera?

<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/mcaa-training/mcaa-learning-program>



The MCAA Learning Program



If you have time please take our MCAA survey at:

https://mariecuriealumni.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aVrOKwIRhqvqT7E

