

January 2017

NEWSLETTER



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The UK Chapter will hold its first general meeting on Saturday 4 March 2017 at London University College.

The ITWIIN prize is awarded by the Italian Association of Women Innovators and Inventors to Italian (or resident in Italy) entrepreneurs, professionals, and researchers living and working in the country. We met Angela Bellia who won a prize in the category "Exceptionally Creative Woman" and Eleonora Leucci who was praised in the category "Medical research".

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EVENTS

MCAA/EUROSCIENTIST 2017 WEBINAR SERIES 'WHAT CAN SCHOLARS DO ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS?'

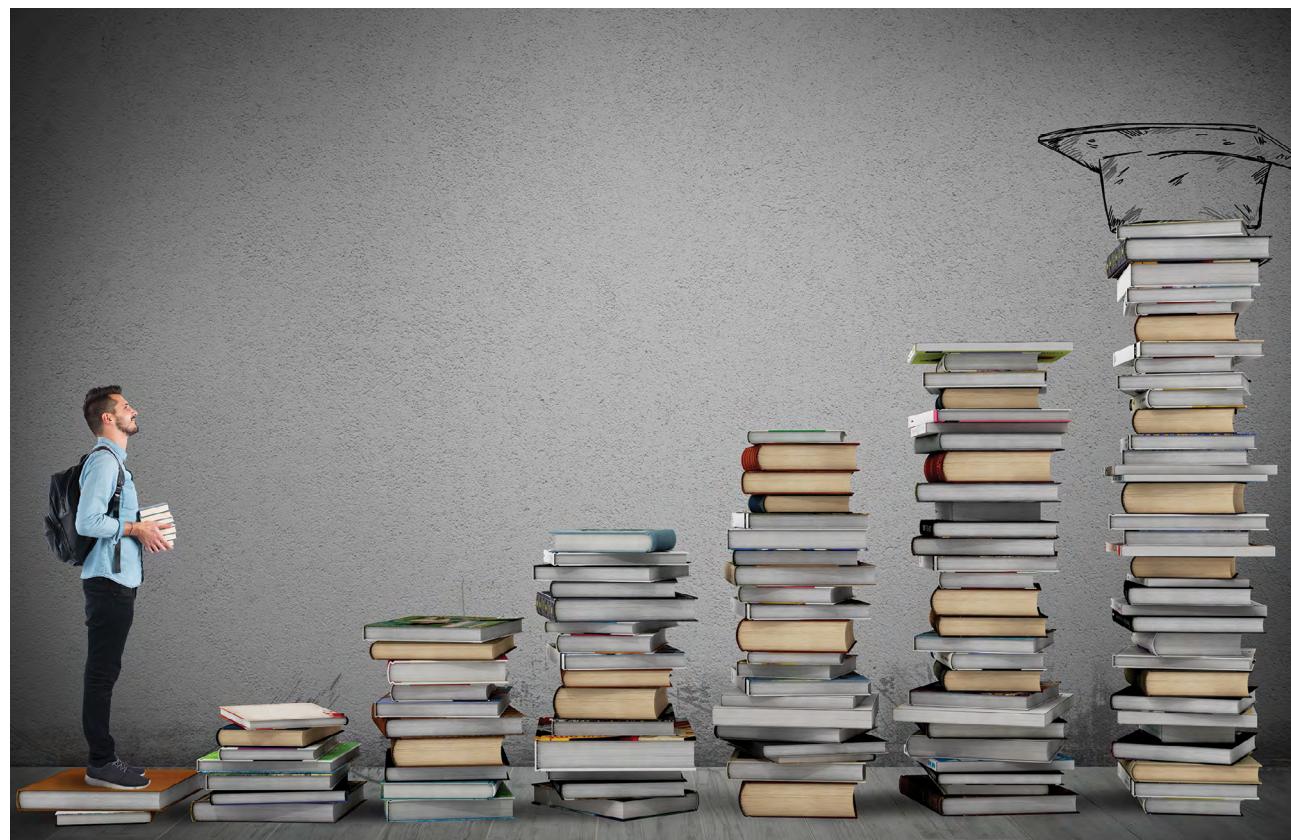
For the first edition of our 2017 webinar series, there will be a round table on how scholars can help alleviate the refugee crisis. Speakers include:

- Rose Anderson (Acting Director for Protection Services, Scholars at Risk);
- Dr Enno Aufderheide (Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation);
- Dr Allan E. Goodman (President and CEO, Institute of International Education);
- Dr Renata Suter (Head of Research, Kiron).

The round table will be moderated by Dr Michele Catanzaro (Editorial Board, Euroscientist).

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD ONLINE ON 15 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 17:00 CET

DON'T MISS IT!
[Click here to reserve your place!](#)



MICHAELA CRESPO
QUESADA

EVENTS

NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SALAMANCA: WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2017.

MCAA BOARD MEETING:

Event restricted to the members of the MCAA Board

FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2017, MCAA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Event restricted to MCAA Members

Morning:

Opening Speeches

- Brian Cahill, Chair of the MCAA Board
- Odissefs Panopoulos, Policy Officer DG EAC.C3 - European Commission

Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly 2016

- Maria-Antonieta Buccheri, Secretary of the Board of the MCAA

Report on 2016 Activities and Approval of Annual Accounts 2016

- Maria-Antonieta Buccheri, Secretary of the Board of the MCAA
- Kiran Kumar Chereddy, Treasurer of the Board of the MCAA

Appointment of the Chairs of Working Groups and Chapters

- Marco Masia, Vice-chair of the Board of the MCAA

Enhancing Collaboration Among Members Part I

- Parallel sessions for six Working Groups to present their work to a smaller audience: Communications; Career Development; Gender Equality; Bridging Science and Business; Events and Networking; Science Policy

Afternoon:

Poster Session

Promoting Engagement of Membership within MCAA

- How to Contribute to the MCAA
- Suggestions to MCAA board and open floor for Q&A

SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2017, MCAA CONFERENCE:

Morning:

Event open to all registered participants

Opening Speeches

- Brian Cahill, Chair of the MCAA Board
- Juan Manuel Corchado, Vice-Rector for Research, Salamanca University

Plenary Session: Protecting Freedom in Science

- Role of scientists and researchers in society
- Sophie Beernaerts, European Commission Head of Unit DG EAC - B3: Innovation in Education, EIT and MSCA
- Logic and Reason: Their roles in Contemporary Society
Mats Rosengren, Professor of Rhetoric, University of Uppsala

Session A: panel discussion: science to business: researcher to employer

- Emilio Corchado – Salamanca University – Organiser Start-up Ole

Session B: Pensions for Mobile Researchers

- Dr Paul Jankowitsch, RESAVER Pension Fund
- Delicia Hofmann, Claudia Wegner-Wahnschaffe Findyourpension.eu Project

Afternoon:

Panel discussion: International Cooperation and Mobility of Scientists

- Gülsün Saglamer, Former Rector of Istanbul Technical University
- Margaux Kersschot, Adoc Talent Management, former president of Eurodoc
- Fiona Colligan or Martina Mallett, jobs.ac.uk
- Izaskun Lacunza, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)

EVENTS

Parallel Sessions: Skill portal

Session A: Business communication skills: pitching with song, music and dance

- Kiran Kumar Chereddy, Treasurer of the Board of the MCAA
- Rita Ribeiro (BeNeLux chair)
- Scott Harrison, Eduworks ITN

Session B: Mentoring and Networking

- Francesco Grassi / Danilo Maddalo - MCAA Academy – MCAA's mentoring scheme
- Frauke Kersten / Natalia Balcazar – Practical example of how Mentoring helps career development

How can MCAA help displaced researchers?

- Sinead O'Gorman – European Director of Scholars at Risk

MCAA Awards Ceremony

- Brian Cahill, Chair of the MCAA
- Marco Masia, Vice-Chair of the MCAA
- Amit Zodge, Vice-Chair of the MCAA

The updated version of the programme is available [here](#).



Nota Bene: the following agendas are working drafts, based on information available at the time of publication. The final details will certainly evolve further over the time between now and the events.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

THE MCAA: A TIMELINE FOR 2016 AND 2017

Brian Cahill was elected as the Chair of the MCAA in March 2016, after the two-year mandate of Snezana Krstic came to an end. Here he presents the activities he has overseen since he took over the reins, and unveils what is in the pipeline for the association in 2017.



2016: A FRUITFUL YEAR

At the time of my election in March, the MCAA was at the very end of the first period of financing from the European Commission. This required much administrative work to tie up loose ends for which I must extend great thanks to the contractor Inova+.

The tender for the new contract had a deadline in April, was decided in September and the current contract began in mid-October.

Inova+ and INTRASOFT International were awarded the contract once again.

IN MARCH, I took part in the General Assembly of the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) as an observer, as the MCAA is not a Member organisation. ISE is an umbrella group for learned societies in Europe and was a leading supporter of the introduction of European Research Council (ERC) grants.

IN APRIL, I attended a meeting of the Austrian Chapter in Linz, and presented an appraisal of the

performance of the MCAA thus far, and how we could engage our Membership more effectively in future.

I also attended the Bridging Business and Research meeting at Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

IN MAY the German Chapter organised a career seminar at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg in cooperation with the Advanced Training Centre of EMBL. I thank our alumni Members Danilo Maddalo, Vitor Vieira and also a Max-Planck Alumnus Dennis Fink for their excellent contributions.

IN JUNE, I was invited to be a contributor to a panel discussion in Brussels on the careers of internationally mobile researchers. The topics were dual careers and career restart.

IN JULY I was invited by the Commission to speak on the topic of 'research integrity' at the MSCA Satellite Event of the European Science Open Forum. I focused on the case of Jan Hendrik Schön

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

and how this scandal was a catalyst for institutions and funding bodies to develop strategies to encourage junior researchers to carry out research responsibly.

IN SEPTEMBER. I took part in the Summer School for Technology Transfer in the Life Sciences at the Technical University Dresden. The event allowed a small group of junior researchers to develop ideas from their own research over five days, so that we could pitch them to a group of potential investors on the final day.

IN MID-SEPTEMBER. I was invited to speak at the Vitae Researcher Development Conference in Manchester about post-doctoral careers. This is the main annual event for career advisors in the UK.

IN OCTOBER. I spoke in Bristol at an excellent meeting of the UK Chapter organised by Yaroslav Verkh. The highlight was a contribution by Erik Lithander, the Vice Rector of Bristol University. He gave a very personal review of how Brexit affects him, his researchers, his university and British research.

IN NOVEMBER. I was invited to participate in the REFLEX workshop on 'researcher career choice' in Bratislava. This is a EU-RAXESS programme initiative and I was able to make contacts with many EURAXESS coordinators from all around Europe.

The 20th anniversary of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, 29 November, Brussels.

Many MCAA Members spoke at this event including:

- **Minister Tiago Brandão Rodrigues,** the Portuguese Education Minister;
- **Nadine Zeeni,** Lebanese American University;
- **Francesco Ometto,** Scandinavian Biogas Fuels;
- **Elizabeth Evenden Kenyon,** Brunel University;
- **Xoana Troncoso,** CNRS;
- **Shane Bergin,** University College Dublin;
- **Yoran Beldengrun,** Founder of Scientists Dating Forum;
- **Brian Cahill,** Chair of MCAA.

I encouraged many of our Members and Chapters in Eastern Europe to approach the EURAXESS Bridgehead Organisation in their countries about applying for funding for a Career Day through the Science with and for Society programme.

I have been in contact with EURAXESS Links Coordinators from India, South-East Asia, Brazil, China, Japan and North America and it is highly likely that we will form new Chapters in all of these territories.

The French and UK Chapters are becoming much more active. These are the two major European countries where we hadn't had much activity up until this year.

During the intermezzo between contracts, I took a much more direct role in MCAA social media. This is particularly visible in our Twitter feed. This allowed me to assess which external partners are relevant to MCAA and which issues provide the greatest resonance.

The Board has met on several occasions since March and is a very productive group of people who actively contribute to the work of MCAA.

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR 2017?

In 2017, MCAA will be much more active than in 2016. The General Assembly at the University of Salamanca is the main event to look forward to. Our host in Salamanca has offered us a large auditorium and much support to run what will be the largest MCAA General Assembly yet. In particular we are looking to use this event to deepen engagement with our Membership, and some of the working groups will run workshop sessions that will gather feedback directly from Members. The MCAA will launch a mentoring programme that aims to support Fellows in the time just after they finish their Fellowship.

I wish all our Members a happy new year and hope that we can continue to develop the MCAA in 2017.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

MCAA FRANCE CHAPTER - WHAT'S NEXT?



THE PARIS & ILE-DE-FRANCE CHAPTER WAS FOUNDED IN 2015.

with the aim of promoting the MCAA and connecting MSCA Fellows in the city and the region. It created a forum for Fellows to meet, discuss, share experiences and information as well as a contact points for grant-related questions and problems.

WITH THE MEMBERSHIP OF MCAA STEADILY GROWING,

it soon made sense to move towards an expansion, i.e. to form a France Chapter covering the whole country. Due to the size and

The France Chapter was officially launched on 21 October 2016. We met Petra Dunkel, outgoing Chair, to find out what MCAA members can expect in France in 2017.

diversity of research facilities in France and the significant number of MSCA Fellows, the France Chapter has the potential to be an effective promoter of the MCAA and its activities.

TO LAUNCH THE CHAPTER,

a kick-off meeting was held on 21 October 2016 in Paris, attracting approximately 20 Fellows.

The meeting was organised as a half-day 'mini-conference', with talks on topics potentially of interest to young researchers/Fellows in France, as well as time for discussion and networking (presentation slides are available on the MCAA website).

Besides providing useful information for Fellows, the kick-off meeting was also a good opportunity for participants to meet both Fellows themselves and French organisations involved in project management, career counselling or outreach activities (e.g. National Contact Points, Euraxess France, the French Na-

tional Research Agency (ANR), the European Youth Parliament, ABG – L'intelli'agence).

THE END OF 2016 ALSO SAW AN IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE.

a new Chapter Chair was elected: Andrea Viti (Early stage researcher Fellow at the French Aerospace Lab (ONERA), member of the MCAA Events & Networking Working Group). His main objectives as Chair are strengthening the Chapter's active membership, organising information events and building up a network with other Chapters and local industrial partners.

As former Chapter Chair, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year, leading to fulfillment of your personal and professional objectives.

PETRA DUNKEL

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

MCAA UK CHAPTER - KICK-OFF MEETING ON MARCH 2017



The UK Chapter will hold its first general meeting on Saturday 4 March 2017 at London University College.



WHAT TO EXPECT?

According to Stefan Bauer, Chair of the UK Chapter, high quality speakers, including Professor Richard Catlow, the Royal Society's Foreign Secretary, will be present.

Topics for discussion are planned as follows:

- Strengthening academic connections in Europe;
- Beyond Brexit: international collaboration and communication in science and humanities.

There will also be working group meetings on:

- "Problems & fixes" (discussing problems encountered by Marie Curie Fellows);
- "Training: impact and engagement";
- "Career development: your next step" for both PhD and experienced researchers.

MARIE CURIE SLAM

After the serious work, the audience is expected to move to a pub for a "Marie Curie Slam", where some will give three-minute presentations about their topics of their choice.

The presentations will be judged by the friendly crowd.

WHY YOU SHOULD GO

The meeting will be an opportunity to meet like-minded international scholars, share experiences, discuss academic collaboration after Brexit, make new friends, and even get help with career planning.

There will also be an opportunity to speak with the members of the events committee about further events across the UK.

You'll have time to enjoy London on Sunday (if you are travelling alone, perhaps exploring the city together with some of the new connections you made on Saturday).

Register here:
<https://mcaauklondon2017.wordpress.com/>

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

MCAA SPAIN-PORTUGAL CHAPTER - PAST AND PRESENT ACTIVITIES



Luis Sanz Andreu, Chair of the Spain-Portugal Chapter, sums up what the Chapter has been up to, and what lies ahead.



Since the creation of our Chapter, we have put great effort into recruiting new Members, which was one of the main aims defined in the first Chapter meeting in Barcelona at the beginning of 2015.

During our first year, we created a Chapter brochure explaining its mission and aims, designed to be given out at events and posted on each Member's institutional website to increase the Chapter's visibility and attract new Members. We have been using the brochure ever since and have grown steadily, not having experienced membership loss. At

the moment we are the third largest MCAA geographical Chapter.

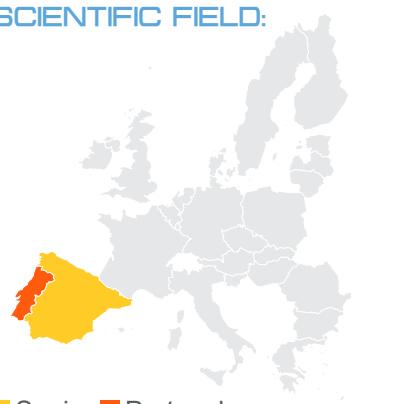
Our approach to retaining existing Members involved continuing the Chapter's activities, keeping Members informed of local events, and generally ensuring a dynamic network through the use of a Chapter mailing list (created in the first Chapter year) and a monthly newsletter (created in the current year by the current executive board). See below for details of our Members by gender, location and scientific field ("unknown" means that the information is not available).

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 145
Gender: 81 male, 64 female



DISTRIBUTION BY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION:
USA: 1, Australia: 1, Europe: 143

DISTRIBUTION BY SCIENTIFIC FIELD:



Scientific Field	Spain	Portugal	Others
Life Sciences	48	35	4
Engineering	29	15	7
Chemistry	22	14	1
Social Sciences	17	8	4
Environmental Sciences	13	10	2
Physics	10	6	3
Maths/Computer Science	3	3	0
Economics	2	1	0
Unknown	1	1	0
	145	93	21
			31

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS



PAST ACTIVITIES (2016)

Last year we organised two events:

- During the last annual meeting organised by the Spanish Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (5-8 September 2016), our Chapter organised a session on MSC grants (<http://www.sebbm.com/xxxixcongresoso/index.asp?item=2449>).
- Marie Curie Individual Fellowship Infoday, Salamanca (8 July 2016) (<http://transferencia.usal.es/jornada-informativa-sobre-las-becas-marie-curie/>).

Main achievements of the Chapter during 2015-2016:

- Increase in the number of MC Fellows joining the Chapter (from 113 at to 145) and no Member-

ship loss.

- A new Spain-Portugal MCAA Newsletter, which keeps Fellows informed of programmes, opportunities and events related to MSC Actions. Since its launch (February 2016), it has been published once per month. A special section within each issue (Meet the Fellows) gives MSC researchers an opportunity to present their CV in a different way to usual.
- Annual Meeting of Spain-Portugal Chapter MCAA (26 March 2017)

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

Two examples of planned activities for 2017:

- Annual Chapter meeting & General Assembly. The Board of MCAA decided to accept the bid from Spain & Portugal MCAA Chapter to hold the

General Assembly in 2017. The meeting will take place on 24-25 March (2017) at Fonseca Complex, University of Salamanca (<http://www.usal.es/>)

NEWS FROM WORKING GROUPS

NEWS FROM THE MCAA – CHAPTER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Matthew DiFranco, MCAA Ordinary Board member and founder of the Chapter Management Working Group reveals what lies ahead for the new Working Group in 2017.

The coming year will bring many welcome changes to the MCAA, including an emphasis on best practices for Chapter Management. The MCAA relies on its local Chapters for engagement of members through workshops, networking events, and locally informative communication. To promote more active, effective Chapters, the MCAA Board has initiated a Chapter Management Working Group (CMWG) to begin work in 2017. As founder and organiser of the CMWG, I plan to bring together current and past Chapter Chairs to develop best practices for MCAA Chapter management. For example, we plan to standardise Chapter Board elections, with the goal of running those elections through the MCAA Portal.

The MCAA board wants to open up more consistent communication between Chapters, the MCAA board, and the MCAA contractor. We will begin by asking Chapter Boards to report periodically on their activities and

budgets, and we will provide advice and support for MCAA Chapters who may need it. In particular, we would like to help Chapters develop strategies for generating revenue for their events and content, with the aim of becoming more self-sustaining over the next few years. CMWG members will be encouraged to attend local Chapter meetings during the year, especially for newer Chapters.

Starting in 2017, Chapters will be encouraged to organise more events for their members, with budget allocations possible on a rolling basis. Each Chapter will be asked to contribute write-ups, photos and videos from their events for the newsletter, and will also be encouraged to provide original content for both the newsletter and the Irradium magazine.

Finally, the CMWG will organise an annual networking event for Chapter Chairs in conjunction with the General Assembly. This year, the event will be in Salamanca and will also serve as the

official “Kick-Off” for the CMWG.



MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

ITWIIN: TWO MCAA MEMBERS AWARDED!

ITWIIN is the association of Italian Women Innovators and Inventors. To encourage a culture of innovation and invention, the association has a network offering guidance, exchange of information and training for women. ITWIIN also recognises exceptional talent. We met Angela Bellia who won a prize in the category "Exceptionally Creative Woman" and Eleonora Leucci who was praised in the category "Medical research".



INTRODUCING ITWIIN

The ITWIIN prize is awarded by the Italian Association of Women Innovators and Inventors to Italian (or resident in Italy) entrepreneurs, professionals, and researchers living and working in the country. The prize promotes invention and innovation in the working environment and in education that creates opportunities for creative and innovative women, and supports the introduction of new products, services and processes. The

award categories are: 'Best Inventor', 'Best Innovator', 'Exceptionally Creative Woman', 'Capacity Building', and 'Higher Education and Training'.

"EXCEPTIONALLY CREATIVE WOMAN" PRIZE: ANGELA BELLIA

You are officially an "Exceptionally Creative Woman"! Congratulations! Can you tell us more about your project?

My project concerns a particular

area of social sciences and humanities that is at the crossroads of digital humanities and digital heritage, and involves the communication of cultural heritage through new technologies. My research offers a significant contribution not only to archaeological and musical research, but also to the methodology of the use of digital and acoustic technology in virtual environments and augmented reality. In addition, my research will contribute towards an upgrade of the traditional methods used in humanities, opening up new and

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

extensive opportunities for digital humanities and digital heritage: the idea is to teach the next generation of professionals to reinvent the humanities field and propel it into the future.

How important are the social sciences and humanities, especially today?

The social sciences and humanities provide an unmatched contribution to the workings of democratic societies; they try to protect and enhance our democratic principles and structures, i.e. tolerance, security, inclusivity and innovation. Within this context, research into cultural heritage not only aims to make the findings accessible to all, but also to make citizens responsible for its protection and preservation for future generations. From this point of view, cultural heritage assumes a remarkable civil func-

tion in a fast changing world: no problem can be analysed and no democratic and efficient solution can be found without cutting-edge thinking and research in the social sciences and humanities.

Do you think that this prize will broaden your research horizons? How?

Thanks to this award, I am part of a network of women in different sectors in Italy and Europe, all with different skills and experiences, which include: intellectual property rights, trademarks and patents, industrial and academic research, and technology transfer. The network promotes and develops areas of research in traditional and non-traditional fields of creativity.

This prize will allow me to build new collaborations and synergies in Italy and Europe in order

to make clear that social science and humanities research plays a vital role in society, and addresses key European concerns. In addition, I will be a candidate for the EUWIIN prize to be awarded in 2017, for which I've already started preparing.

What would you advise women before they apply for the award?

The award provides an amazing opportunity for innovative women to benchmark their skills, re-train, re-skill, re-tool and take advantage of current and emerging opportunities. I think it's worth participating to intensify inventive women's impact on the innovation and knowledge-based sectors.

"MEDICAL RESEARCH" PRIZE: ELEONORA LEUCCI

You won a prize in the category 'medical research'. Congratulations! Can you tell us more about your project?

Thank you!

The invention relates to melanoma diagnosis and treatment.

Cutaneous melanoma is the leading cause of skin cancer-related deaths. Its incidence is increasing worldwide faster than any other cancer, with five-year survival rates for patients with metastatic disease being less than 20 %. Presently, there is a dearth of molecular markers that facilitate the detection of differences between benign and malignant melanocytic lesions and assist in predicting their biological behavior.



MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

We found that a particular transcript derived from so-called "junk DNA" (a long non-coding RNA) is specifically expressed in early melanoma lesions (compared to melanocytes and benign lesions) and that it would therefore be a good early marker of malignancy. Moreover, inhibition of this transcript in melanoma cells leads to the induction of apoptosis and is a novel therapeutic strategy in the treatment of melanoma.

The transcript, that we renamed SAMMSON, is expressed in the vast majority of melanoma (and not in normal/non-transformed melanocytes or other normal tissues) and is essential for melanoma cell survival, irrespective of the mutation driving the tumour. This offers significant potential for treating the vast majority of melanoma patients since SAMMSON is expressed in about 90-95 % of them.

Is it important to praise women in science?

Today's scientific environment is very competitive in general and particularly hostile towards women, especially those with a family. Sometimes, giving up sounds like the easier option. Being recognised for your achievements simply keeps you going.

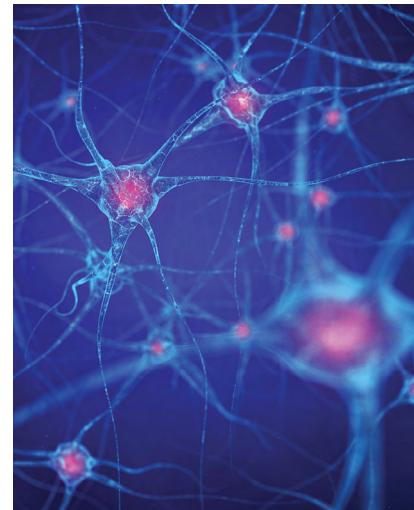
I have a three-year old daughter, my example shows that having a family is not necessarily a handicap and will encourage other women to pursue their dreams.

Do you think that this prize will broaden your research horizons? How?

Yes, definitely. At the meeting in Bologna I had the opportunity to meet many exceptional women with different backgrounds, thus broadening my network.

What would you advise women before they apply for the award?

Make sure that you are dreaming big and be competent; improvisation does not impress anybody anymore!



RESEARCH

RESULTS FROM THE MSCA SURVEY

EXPERIENCES OF LECTURING OR TUTORING OTHER STUDENTS

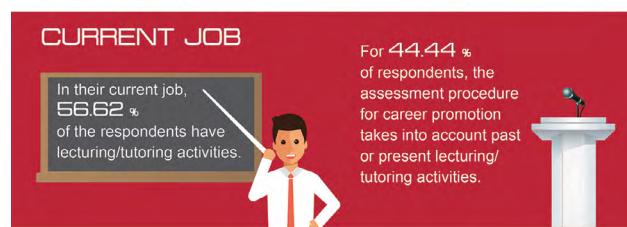
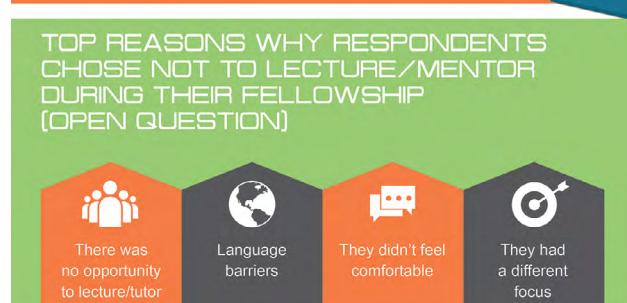
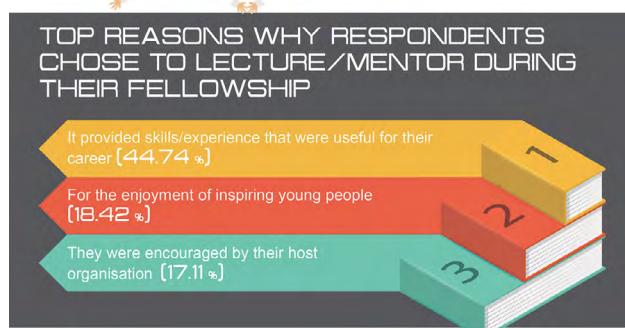
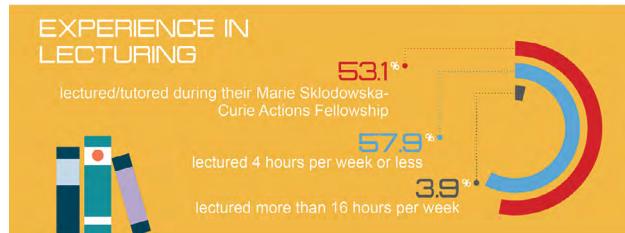
CONTEXT

In its recommendations for the 2018-2020 MSCA Work Programme, the independent Advisory Group recommended support for the development of teaching skills for researchers with an interest in this area, if such skills have not previously been developed.

The purpose of the survey was to better understand the extent to which MSCA Fellows lecture or tutor students or other colleagues.

ACADEMIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

More than **70%** of respondents have a doctorate title.



RESEARCH

COURSE ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY



Dear MCAA Members,

During your career, have you at some point been confronted with complex ethical situations that you did not know how to address? Then this course is for you!

Due to the success of our last launch, the Policy Working Group of the MCAA has purchased more licences for the fully online EPIGEUM **Course on Research Integrity**.

Sorting right from wrong in today's increasingly complex global research world is not a simple task. This internationally developed programme is designed to provide postgraduate, post-doctoral and early career researchers with a better understanding of the obligations and responsibilities today's researchers have. Information, practical advice and reflective activities are included in key areas such as dealing with misconduct, conflict of interest, mentoring, data collection, sharing and interpretation, plagiarism, authorship, peer review and responsibility to the public and society.

The programme can be followed for different scientific disciplines: arts and humanities, biomedical sciences,

engineering and technology, natural and physical sciences, social and behavioural sciences.

After completing a course, you will be given a personalised course completion certificate that you can save, print or send by e-mail.

To partly cover the cost of the courses and motivate participants to complete them, we kindly ask for a contribution of €30. As we only have 10 licences left, they will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis.

If you are interested, please send an email to:
wgpolicy@gmail.com as soon as possible.

ROCIO MICAELA
CRESPO QUESADA

EVENTS

REPORT ON GENDER SUMMIT EUROPE GS9

BRUSSELS,
8-9
NOVEMBER
2016,
EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT
AND BEL
BRUSSELS

Gianna Avellis and Natalia Balcazar attended the Gender Summit Europe GS9 from 8 to 9 November in Brussels and presented a poster. To share the experience with you, they have prepared a round-up of all the main events and connections made.

The Gender Summit Europe GS9 was took place in two locations: the European Parliament and the BEL Brussels building.

The focus of discussions at the Parliament was the role of policy in achieving societal well-being through science and technology, specifically tackling gender ine-

qualities in health: this is an area where there is scientific evidence that gender differences influence how many diseases occur and how they affect women and men, including mental health and illness.

Commissioner Carlos Moedas appeared via video presenting



EVENTS

the “She Figures” report. He discussed why more women are choosing a career in science and what we can do to avoid a ‘leaky pipeline’.

The sessions at the Parliament was opened by South Africa’s Minister of Science and Technology, who spoke of “the importance of Involving Women in S&T for the development of nations”. She underlined how women should be included as equal actors, and that it is important to recognise that their needs may differ from those of men.

Several policy initiatives around the world were set with the expectation that science will provide the knowledge needed to make the world a better place for all. Such initiatives include HORIZON 2020, the UN Sustainable Development Goals agenda, the OECD’s Inclusive Innovation project, the Millennium Technology Prize and collaborations for global health.

Elizabeth Pollitzer, co-founder of the Gender Summit (GS), underlined how it has evolved into a global platform where scientific evidence and good practice are shared with the aim of reaching consensus on when and how gender issues impact on the quality of science knowledge, practice and institutions.

Gianna Avellis and Natalia Balcazar presented a poster on “Closing the Leadership Gender Gap in Research, Industry and Business”. The poster and

the abstract reported the results of a workshop at the University of Bari in May 2016 on promoting female leadership through role models across research industry and business.

Attendance at the Gender Summit led to fruitful contacts, namely with Elena Gentile, Member of the European Parliament from Bari, who promised her patronage for the Bari EUWIIN2017 conference and award.

■ **Dr Lotta Strandberg**, senior adviser at NordForsk, was approached regarding EUWIIN2017 and the HUMBOLDT project.

■ **Prof. Uduak Archibong** from the GENOVATE project and her colleague Prof. Crina Oltean-Dumbrava (Chair in Sustainable Built Environment School of Engineering) from University of Bradford were both contacted regarding EUWIIN2017.

■ **Dr Elizabeth Pollitzer**, Gender Summit organiser, was approached regarding the promotion of EUWIIN2017 and the HUMBOLDT project. She could be a good speaker at EUWIIN2017 on the theme of gendered innovation.

■ **Prof. Marja Makarov**, Director of the Biocenter Finland and member of Gender in the Nordic Research and Innovation Area Programme Committee, NordForsk, was also approached as a possible speaker at EUWIIN2017.

The main EU-funded projects advancing gender equality through structural changes were approached, and in particular those working on gender equality plans.

These include:

- GEAR (Dimitros Tsoutsias);
- GENOVATE;
- COST ACTION The String Theory Universe (Prof. Maria Antonia Lledo Barrena);
- PLOTINA (Prof. Tullia Galina Toschi, from University of Bologna);
- GENERA.

Gianna Avellis also contacted Dr Hans M. Borchrevink, former director of ‘Medicine’ and special Adviser for International Affairs Staff at the RCN (Research Council of Norway).

G. AVELLIS,
N. BALCAZAR

EVENTS

BRIDGING SOCIAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE THROUGH NETWORKS

WORKSHOP TOPOEI EXCELLENCE CLUSTER, FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN, 2-3 DECEMBER 2016

Helen Dawson was behind this workshop, which took place in Berlin, on 2-3 December 2016. She tells us about the experience, and explains why networks have become a priority for social scientists.



Human society is constantly changing; different forms of interaction lie at the heart of this process. Networks of all kinds (social, cultural, religious, economic, political, etc) underpin human society and we must therefore grapple with networks if we are to understand the changes our society is undergoing. Unsurprisingly, studying networks has become a priority for social scientists, economists, politicians, and philosophers alike. We generally think of archaeologists as being primarily concerned

with studying the past, but the fact is, archaeology provides a bridge between past and present.

Global interaction is a modern phenomenon but – on a different scale – it has historic parallels. Networks are an obvious way of thinking about social relations in the present, but how did social interaction work in the past and what can this tell us about how current networks have developed? Thinking through networks makes us reconsider how we have conceived societal change so far, to the point that we may be living through another “cognitive revolution”¹.

Interdisciplinary research has the greatest potential for producing results that are both relevant for understanding the past and providing feedback on how society has developed. To pull this together, archaeology must ally itself with other social scienc-

es. The recent workshop on ‘Bridging social and geographical space through networks’ is an example of this interdisciplinary potential. The principal aim of the workshop was to explore different conceptualisations of space (both geographical and social) through the use of networks. Speakers referred to networks both as a metaphor for human activity and as a rigorous methodology, the latter including the application of Social Network Analysis and the use of geographic networks (e.g. Geographical Information Systems, or GIS-based approaches).

The range of speakers at the Berlin workshop is evidence of the broad range of directions this kind of research can take, with case studies ranging from the Andes to New Guinea, from Iberia to the Near East, and dealing with different time periods and societies². Networks can help overcome

¹ <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/how-networks-are-revolutionizing-scientific-and-maybe-human-thought/>

² For details see: <https://www.topoi.org/event/32715/>

EVENTS

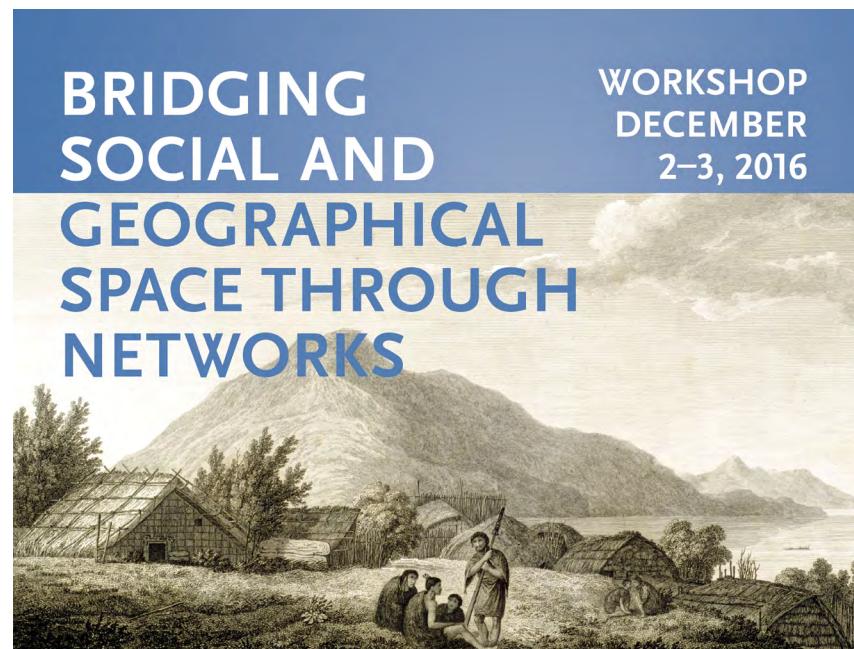
perceived boundaries between traditional anthropological and archaeological categories, with – for example – patterns in material culture likely reflecting interaction patterns rather than linguistic boundaries. Speakers employed network analysis to address social aspects of spatial patterning on the supra-regional, regional and local level. Case studies dealt with the evolution of networks of transportation and communication, and their impact on society across time: such recursive relation can help explain important historical processes, such as the rise of Rome.

Spatial data patterning provides clues on long-range relationships between communities as well as the emergence of elites and social differentiation. Small islands illustrate the power of networks in defining concepts of centrality and marginality in prehistory as much as in the present. Papers focusing specifically on social themes dealt with networks of trust, which enabled transactions in the Roman world, and the role of witnesses in ancient contracts. Applications of network analysis can also benefit from the use of social theory. Life experiences, people, places and things are all tied up in affective networks: memory and identity are compelling forces which can also shape networks.



BRIDGING SOCIAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE THROUGH NETWORKS

**WORKSHOP
DECEMBER
2–3, 2016**



FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER

16:00 REGISTRATION	16:30 WELCOME Michael Meyer, Berlin
16:45 INTRODUCTION Helen Dawson, Berlin Francesco Iacono, Cambridge	16:00 Silke Verheyen, Leuven Theban Witnesses and Contractual Networks
15:00 David Beresford-Jones, Carmarthenshire Paul Higgin, Jma How Network Analysis Can Rewrite Our Past – In Archaeology, Genetics and Linguistics	16:30 Francesca Fiumante, Roma Alessandro Guidi, Roma Sergi Lozano, Tarragona Ignacio Miser, Barcelona Luce Prignano, Barcelona Why Rome and not Veii. Analysing Geographical Networks in Etruria and Latium between the Final Bronze Age and the Archaic Era

Topoi Building Dahlem, Hittorfstraße 18, 14195 Berlin

Organised by
Excellence Cluster Topoi. (B-4) Spatial Identity
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SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER

16:30 DISCUSSION	17:00 COFFEE BREAK
17:30 KEYNOTE LECTURE John Edward Terrell, Chicago Social Networks and Geographic Systems: Models and Hypotheses Testing in Archaeology and Anthropology	10:00 Pau de Soto, Southampton The Mercator e-Project. A New Diachronic Analysis on Historical Transport Infrastructures in the Iberian Peninsula
10:00 Oliver Nakonz, Kiel 'Interaction' Bridges Social and Geographical Space - A Case Study on Integrated Network Studies from the Early Iron Age in South-West Germany	10:30 Helen Dawson, Berlin Interaction and Insularity in the Bronze Age Central Mediterranean: A Network Approach
10:30 Magi Noy, Hamburg New Elites, Old Networks? A Case Study from Central Israel, the 7th-10th Centuries AD	10:30 Sarah De Nardi, Durham Affective Networks: Local Geographies and the More-Than-Representational
11:00 COFFEE BREAK	11:00 DISCUSSION
11:30 LUNCH	11:30 COFFEE BREAK
14:30 Silvia Polis, Berlin Rural Socio-Economic Networks. Farms, Villages and Churches in Late Antique North Africa	17:00 GENERAL DISCUSSION & CLOSING REMARKS

www.topoi.org/event/32715/




Humans are inherently social and have a tendency to interact, our job is to understand the mechanisms underlying this process and its effects. The workshop participants felt that this is becoming all the more pressing in light of the current resurgence of nationalist movements: as communities create networks they are able to overcome divisions and borders. Lessons can be learnt, as history

repeats itself.

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