

June 2017

NEWSLETTER



Around 600 people attended the March for Science Brussels on 22 April, including researchers from many Belgian universities. The key messages were 'facts matter' and 'science is global'. They added their voices to the hundreds of thousands of people who marched in over 600 locations across the world.

The MSCA 2017 event "Mobility Takes Research Further" took place from 11 to 12 May in Malta. The MCAA was well represented!

[page 02](#)

Orla Feely is the Chair of the advisory group to the MSCA. We met her to find out more about how the group helps the European Commission to improve the MSCAs.

[page 08](#)

CONTENTS

MSCA 2017 –
Malta
[page 02](#)

Interview with
Gareth O'Neil
[page 09](#)

News from the
Chapters 02
[page 16](#)

Interview with
Kristina Bliznakova
[page 03](#)

Interview with
Kiran Chereddy
[page 11](#)

News from the
Chapters 03
[page 17](#)

Interview with
Camilla Pandolfi
[page 05](#)

Research 01
[page 13](#)

News from the
Chapters 04
[page 18](#)

Interview with
Vesna Prchkovska
[page 06](#)

News from
Working Groups
[page 14](#)

Research 02
[page 19](#)

Funding
Interview
[page 08](#)

News from the
Chapters 01
[page 15](#)

EVENT

SPECIAL COVERAGE MSCA EVENT IN MALTA MSCA 2017 'MOBILITY TAKES RESEARCH FURTHER'

The MSCA 2017 event "Mobility Takes Research Further" took place from 11 to 12 May in Malta. The MCAA was well represented!



The overall objective of the conference was to discuss and reflect on the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions with a special focus on 'Mobility Takes Research Further'. It was an opportunity to share good practices and to encourage debate on past and ongoing experiences.

Experienced and early stage researchers, academics from various universities, European Commission officials, proposal evaluators, representatives of National Contact Points and Programme Commit-

tee Meetings for Horizon 2020 had the opportunity to share their views and opinions.

The fourth award ceremony comprised three categories:

- Innovation and Entrepreneurship;
- Communicating Science;
- Contribution to a better society.

Two Board Members represented the MCAA: Brian Cahill (Chair) and Kiran Kumar Chereddy (Treasurer).

MORE INFORMATION:
<http://msca2017.eu/>

EVENT

SPECIAL COVERAGE MSCA EVENT IN MALTA INTERVIEW WITH KRISTINA BLIZNAKOVA, RECIPIENT OF THE 'CONTRIBUTING TO A BETTER SOCIETY' AWARD



Kristina, you are the lucky recipient of the 'Contributing to a better society' award. Congratulations! Could you tell us more about your project?

Thank you. My project is about breast imaging – a new imaging technique for screening the breast. It is about the development of algorithms for a three-dimensional breast technique based on phase contrast imaging. The main idea is to show images of three-dimensional breast cancers with improved edges for better characterisation. I have been in the field of breast imaging since 2000, during my PhD studies in Greece. Thanks to the Marie Curie grant I was successfully reintegrated back into the Technical University of Varna, beside the beautiful Black Sea, where I had done my Bachelor studies. So I brought back all of my knowledge and experience.

How can science contribute to a better society?

The statistics are not at all optimistic. One in 10 women develops breast cancer in her lifetime, and someone dies from the disease almost every minute of the day. As a researcher and a woman, I feel a strong sense of responsibility to change these numbers! We can do this in many ways. I do it through my research, trying to develop a realistic computational model of the breast and to use this model to create and test new imaging technologies, as well as improve existing ones.

In addition, I organise dedicated workshops and talks for the public to explain, simply, why we do need to visit our radiologist once a year and have regular checks. Here I would like to emphasise that it is

One in 10 women develops breast cancer in her lifetime, and someone dies from the disease almost every minute of the day. [Kristina Bliznakova's](#) project deals with breast imaging and aims to bring down these worrying figures. She was awarded the 'Contributing to a better society' prize at the MSCA event in Malta and told us about her hopes following the win.



EVENT

really important for the medical industry, researchers and medical doctors to be involved in such workshops, in order to discuss issues such as breast cancer, current technologies and our contribution to improvements.

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

Yes, definitely. I am really happy about this award and I am now even more motivated to continue my research in this field. A dedicated laboratory for computer modelling and simulations in medicine has now been created in our institution. Wonderful, young, clever, and ambitious biomedical engineers are now involved in research on modelling irregularly shaped breast cancers.

What were your impressions of the MSCA Malta event?

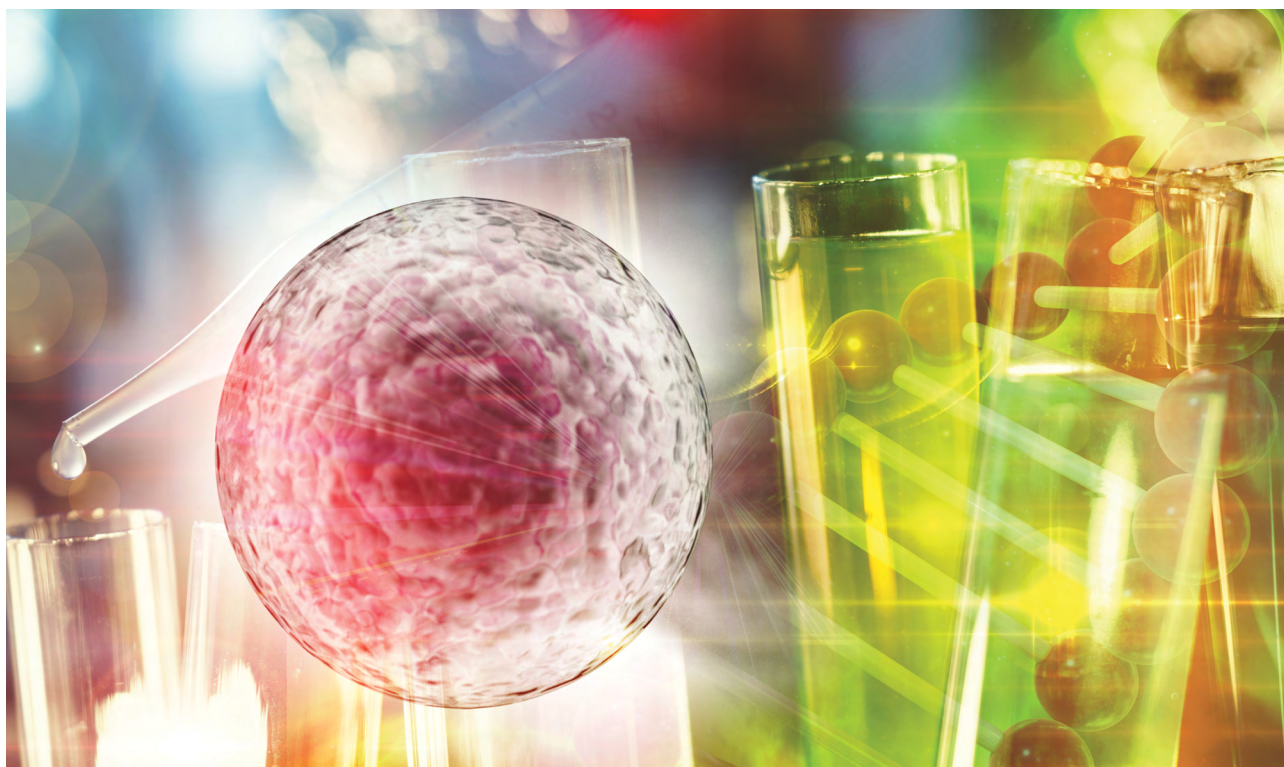
The organisation was excellent and the people were very nice and responsive. I really enjoyed the event. I came back with so many new friends and new ideas for collaborative work.

What would you advise researchers before they apply for an MSCA Fellowship?

To be a Marie Curie Fellow is a wonderful experience. Recently my friend Prof. Paolo Russo from Italy compared my story of moving from Greece back to Bulgaria to the story of Marie Curie, when she moved from Poland to France and then travelled all over the world to spread science, to get help and to

help others. This is an amazing experience and I am really proud that I have had the chance to make the most of it. If researchers feel the way I feel, they should definitely apply.

KRISTINA BLIZNAKOVA



EVENT

SPECIAL COVERAGE MSCA EVENT IN MALTA INTERVIEW WITH CAMILLA PANDOLFI, SPEAKER

The MSCA event in Malta was an opportunity for MCAA Members to present their start-up. Read about [Camilla Pandolfi's](#) project.

Camilla, you were a speaker at the MSCA 2017 conference in Malta and presented your start-up. Could you tell us more about your project?

PNAT is a startup that combines design technology and plants to create innovative products with synergic relationships between the natural and the artificial environment. PNAT (pronounced pi:nat, just like peanut) stands for 'Project Nature'. Our main project is Jellyfish Barge (JFB), a floating modular greenhouse for urban agriculture that generates its own fresh water and energy using only solar power. It is a tool for urban agriculture, a proven strategy for providing fresh local food, as well as jobs and opportunities in cities. But farming has to compete for land and water access with other activities. Where can we find hectares of farmland close to cities, as well as millions of cubic meters of fresh water to irrigate crops? And how can we fully exploit Urban Agriculture's potential so that it has a positive social and economic impact on urban communities? Jellyfish Barge produces crops using very efficient hydroponics. The water needed is extracted from

the body of water on which the greenhouse floats, whether salt, brackish or polluted water. All energy needs are met by solar power. So the JFB doesn't impact on a city's land, water and energy resources. It simply expands the capacity of the urban environment to provide jobs, economic opportunities, social relations and urban quality.

What kind of collaboration should start-ups establish with research?

In our case, collaboration with research is very strong. We are an academic spin-off from the University of Florence, and PNAT constantly merges and exchanges expertise with PhD students and researchers.

What were your impressions of the MSCA Malta event?

The event in Malta was really a good opportunity to exchange information and ideas with other MSCA alumni and Commission delegates. We also welcomed the opportunity to have a small booth to showcase our company and we were able to make some useful contacts with Maltese companies and also with the University of Malta; we are

already planning collaboration.

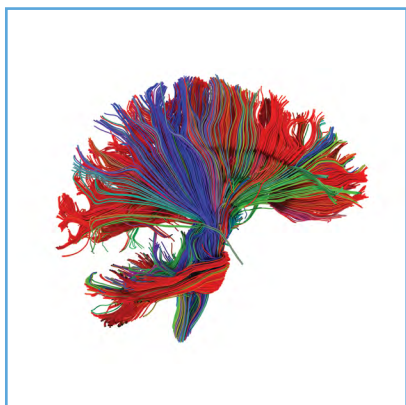


CAMILLA PANDOLFI

EVENT

SPECIAL COVERAGE MSCA EVENT IN MALTA INTERVIEW WITH VESNA PRCHKOVSKA, SPEAKER

The MSCA event in Malta was an opportunity for MCAA Members to present their start-up. Read about [Vesna Prchkovska's](#) project.



Vesna, you were a speaker at the MSCA 2017 conference in Malta and presented your start-up. Could you tell us more about your project?

Mint Labs is an advanced image processing and visualisation company focused on brain data analysis, specifically using MRI, related clinical assessment and biospecimen data. Our aim is to provide state-of-the-art medical image processing algorithms in a seamless way to accelerate the development of new therapies for brain diseases via a scalable and collaborative cloud platform.

Advanced image processing tools are not yet readily available to would-be users; clinicians and researchers must be proficient in coding, scripting, library installa-

tions and using diverse data formats to access the latest methods in brain image processing. On top of that, they need high-end computational resources to apply these methods. Our goal is to offer a solution to these problems. We reduce time and capital spent on data management and processing, thus ensuring the focus to be on achieving results and enabling new insights on the brain.

By putting data management and analytics together in the same place, our platform facilitates the difficult process of patient selection for clinical trials, allowing researchers and doctors to efficiently track the patients over time. As the patient's disease stage can be quantified, and analytics combined with clinical scores and genetic factors, both the design and performance of clinical trials can be radically improved. This, in turn, makes it easier and faster to monitor patients' response to therapy.

Automated processing and analytics also make it easier to reproduce studies, which is of critical importance for the advancement of science as no true validation of findings is possible without it.

What kind of collaboration should researchers establish with start-ups?

There should be more internships available for MSc and PhD students in start-ups as well as more training on leadership, business development, strategy, IP etc. Within Marie Curie, this kind of initiative already exists, and I am also part of the MCAA working group Bridging Science and Business (BSB), which works to promote events that will bolster this kind of relationship.

What were your impressions of the MSCA Malta event?

The event was beautifully organised and there was a good balance of



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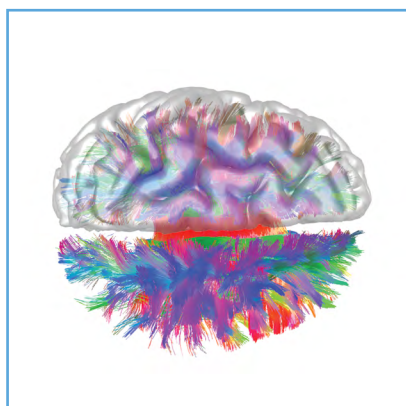
talks, hands-on sessions, panels and exhibition. However, I didn't see a lot of interactions between the participants and the exhibition compared to those that take place at a regular conference. I guess this is because the participants were from different areas of research and maybe there was a lack of direct connection between

their area of research and the work being exhibited.

Do you have any suggestions on how to change this?

I just think that stimulating more discussions and visits to the exhibition stands could make the

event more productive. Maybe this could be executed with a simple questionnaire that the attendees should fill in in order to get accreditation or a prize, something just to stimulate the initial conversation and eliminate any intimidation felt by attendees.



VESNA PRCHKOVSKA

FUNDING

INTERVIEW WITH ORLA FEELY, CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY GROUP TO THE MSCA AND UCD VICE-PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND IMPACT

Orla Feely is the Chair of the advisory group to the MSCA. We met her to find out more about how the group helps the European Commission to improve the MSCAs.

Orla, could you tell us about University College Dublin?

University College Dublin is Ireland's largest university, based on a 133-hectare modern woodland campus in Dublin. We were established in 1854, and one of our most distinguished graduates is the great Irish author James Joyce. Today we have over 33 000 students, with over 5 500 of these in our overseas operations. In addition to these, over 7 000 of the students in Dublin come from outside Ireland. Our strong commitment to global engagement makes us Ireland's global university.

What is your role within this organisation?

UCD is a strongly research-intensive university, and I am UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact. I oversee our research activities, which are arranged around six themes: agri-

food; culture, economy and society; energy; environment; health and ICT. I also oversee our large portfolio of innovation activities, including spin-out companies, patents, and all of the support we give our researchers to help them turn their ideas into opportunities. Finally, I work with the UCD community to plan, capture and promote the impact we deliver through our research and innovation.

You are the Chair of the Advisory Group to the MSCA. How does the group help the Commission to improve the MSCAs?

The Advisory Group is made up of experts from industry, academia and other organisations, brought together to advise the Commission on the MSCA. Our programme of work is particularly im-

portant at this time, as we prepare for the next stage of Horizon 2020 and also look to the next Framework Programme. It is an honour to work with the members of the group and with the very dedicated Commission officials, all of whom share a great dedication to the ideals of the MSCA.

How should the MSCAs evolve in the future?

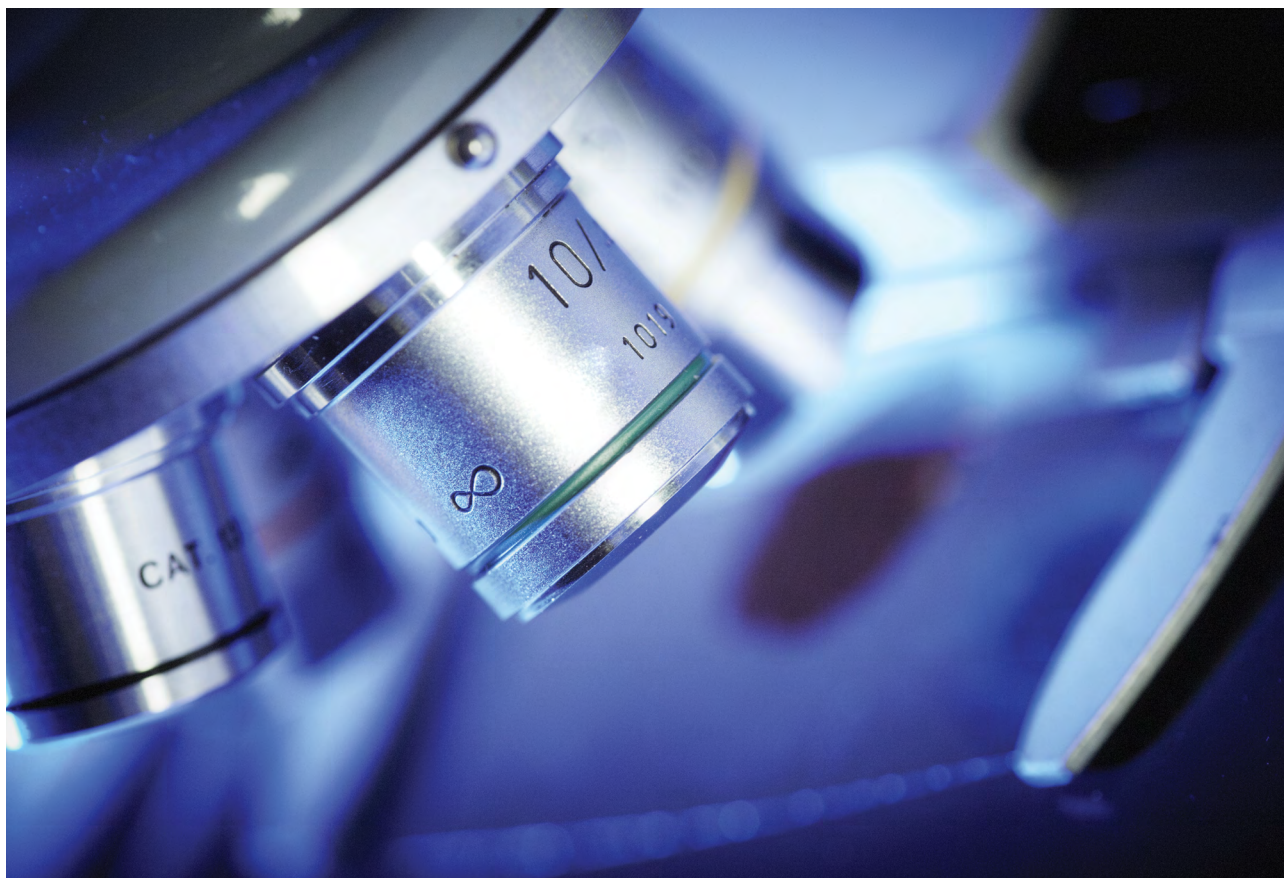
The Advisory Group is keenly aware of the long-standing success of the MSCA, and we want to build carefully on that success. We know that the most important impact of the Actions lies in the outstanding researchers who build their careers through the programmes, and they are our priority. We want to see the Actions enable researchers to succeed in a fast-changing world, developing the broad set of skills they will need to flourish.



ORLA FEELY

EVENT

SPECIAL COVERAGE "THE MCAA AT EURODOC"
INTERVIEW WITH GARETH O'NEIL,
PRESIDENT OF EURODOC



Gareth O'Neil is the President of Eurodoc, the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers. He tells us about the April event that Eurodoc organised in Oslo, and his expectations for the MCAA.

Could you describe the event Open Science. Challenges and Opportunities for Early-Career Researchers that took place from 26 to 27 April 2017 in Oslo?

Eurodoc organises an annual conference for its 36 national organisa-

tion members as well as interested early-career researchers (ECRs) and stakeholders. The theme this year was the challenges and opportunities that ECRs face when wanting to practise Open Science. Eurodoc invited the MCAA to take part in the event to continue and

strengthen the good relationship between both organisations.

How successful was this event?

The event was a great success, largely due to the organisation by the local SiN, which ensured

EVENT

member and stakeholder participation and in interesting discussion on the theme of Open Science. More than 20 national organisations representing ECRs from all across Europe descended on Oslo, along with many local ECRs from Norway, to listen to specialists and express their views on Open Science. There was also great interaction between ECRs and the various stakeholders present, including the MCAA, European Commission, EUA-CDE, and Science Europe.

Why was it important to invite a MCAA Board Member?

It was important for Eurodoc so that our national member organisations could learn more about the vision and goals of the MCAA. It was also important for Eurodoc to strengthen our collaboration with MCAA and discuss how we can work to-

gether even more. It was wonderful having Kiran Kumar Cherreddy from the MCCA present. His clear presentation on the MCCA and his professional and friendly interaction with our member organisations was much appreciated.

How do you envisage future collaboration with the MCAA?

Eurodoc hopes to continue working with the MCAA on topics that are important for ECRs in Europe, such as working conditions, training and supervision, career development and mobility, and equality for all ECRs. We aim to exchange information, which is important for both MCAA and Eurodoc members, co-organise events and workshops for ECRs, and actively work together on common national and European policy initiatives that benefit the members of both bodies.

Do you plan to invite other Board members to other events?

We certainly plan to invite MCAA representatives to future Eurodoc events and hope to likewise participate in MCAA events. We also hope to co-organise interesting events with the MCAA and invite our national member organisations to participate.



The European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers

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SPECIAL COVERAGE "THE MCAA AT EURODOC" INTERVIEW WITH KIRAN KUMAR CHEREDDY

Kiran Kumar Chereddy is the MCAA's treasurer. He attended and represented the MCAA at the Eurodoc conference. Read his thoughts on how will the Association collaborate with Eurodoc.



Kiran, you attended and spoke at the Eurodoc conference in Norway. How would you describe the event?

First of all, thanks to Eurodoc for inviting the MCAA to join their Annual General Assembly (AGA)-2017 in Oslo. From the day of the invitation until the day of event, Ewelina Pabjańczyk-Wlazło, President of Eurodoc, took utmost care of the MCAA representation. The AGA gathered several Members, balancing different parts of Europe. I am also inspired by the fact that Eurodoc gives high im-

portance to gender and regional balance. I will definitely take this experience to the MCAA for the coming GA-2018. Overall the event is very good exposure for the MCAA and it is good to know what like-minded associations are doing and how they are striving for improvements in European education and policy-making.

You gave a presentation. Can you give us an overview?

My presentation focused exclusively on what the MCAA and Eurodoc

can do together, and where there are synergies. I introduced the vision and goals of MCAA, its different arms (Working Groups) and how they correlate with Eurodoc. I showed attendees that the associations have a common vision and aspirations for Europe.

Did you manage to network?

I met several representatives from different associations looking at issues affecting PhD students. For example, EUA – CDE is striving to get recognition for PhD students as employees so that they have access to social security benefits until they secure a position of interest after their PhD research.

How would you describe Eurodoc?

Eurodoc is very strong in policy-making stream and in addressing the inequalities faced by doctoral researchers. They have strong links to the science arena and a huge amount of experience in contributing to science funding strategies at national and EU level. Eurodoc aims to advance the quality of doctoral programmes and the standards of research activity in Europe, to promote the circulation of information on issues relevant to young researchers; organise

EVENT



events, take part in debates and assist in formulating policies about Higher Education and Research in Europe. Eurodoc also aims to establish and promote cooperation between national associations representing doctoral candidates and junior researchers within Europe.

I have no doubt that the MCAA and Eurodoc will be able to speak out on major issues such as the Horizon 2020 mid-term performance, science for refugees, inequalities in standards of doctoral research, etc.

What kind of collaboration with Eurodoc do you envisage for the future?

The MCAA-Eurodoc alliance is absolutely a win-win strategy. If we

keep in mind that the MCAA wants to contribute to better science policy and make itself self-sustainable, it would make sense to have joint initiatives and activities that benefit members of both associations.

Here are a few activities jointly supported by MCAA and Eurodoc:

- co-sign joint policy and press releases;
- joint working group activities: gender equality, mobile researchers, social issues;
- joint innovative platforms;
- sharing of best practices;
- slots at career fairs / external representation;
- public funding calls;
- career trainings/workshops.

I look forward to great collaboration as associations work together

for the betterment of PhD researchers in Europe.

KIRAN KUMAR
CHEREDDY

RESEARCH

MARCH FOR SCIENCE IMPRESSIONS FROM BRUSSELS



Around 600 people attended the March for Science Brussels on 22 April, including researchers from many Belgian universities. The key messages were ‘facts matter’ and ‘science is global’. They added their voices to the hundreds of thousands of people who marched in over 600 locations across the world.

A programme of speakers included the Belgian comedian Lieven Scheire, and the ex-IPCC vice chair Jean-Pascal van Ypersele.

Calum MacKichan, representing the MCAA, spoke about the international dimension of science. He emphasised the power of science to bring people of all cultures together in the pursuit of understanding the world around us. Science is an increasingly global community and barriers and borders will only hinder progress. He asked all international researchers based in Belgium to join him for a group photo to celebrate the

country’s community of mobile researchers. As you can see, many stepped forward!



NEWS FROM WORKING GROUPS

JOIN THE 'EVENTS AND NETWORKING WORKING GROUP'

Are you an active MCAA Member? Would you like to increase the visibility of the Association? See below for a call for volunteers by [Angela Bellia](#), Chair of the WG.

The aim of the Working Group 'Events and Networking' is to promote the conferences in which the MCAA members and Marie Curie Fellows are involved.

The Events and Networking Working Group is actively looking for enthusiastic and productive volunteers to increase the visibility of the MCAA and its Members. Greater visibility will lead to increased participation in important and international events, including: job fairs; events aimed at attracting people to research, such as the European Researchers' Night; and events to promote research and innovation, such as the Euro Science Open Forum.

In this sense, the group works as an interface not only between the public and the research environment, but also between researchers and national and international institutions. It means that the group needs to promote the existence, content and main contacts of the MCAA to groups, companies, autonomous researchers, and politi-

cal and research institutions.

Furthermore, the group is seeking to facilitate collaboration with Chapters, Working Groups and volunteers, as well as networking among Marie Curie Fellows. It is doing this through regular updates on projects, topics and researchers' main activities. All the group's events and activities will be published and shared on YouTube and social networks (Facebook, LinkedIn, Academia.edu, Twitter).



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, SEE:

<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/groups/events-and-network>

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

SCOTLAND CHAPTER & THE JURASSIC NIGHT



© Thomas Rabi

On a warm evening in Edinburgh, something was abrew. In an amazing venue, the Royal College of Physicians, the MCAA Scotland Chapter was set for an epic battle between *drumroll*... a chicken and a T-Rex. It was time for Jurassic Night.

In this third instalment of 'Science of SciFi', a series of talks exploring the connection between scientific research and sci-fi, we looked at the world of dinosaurs and the real-world possibilities of de-extinction with the help of two experts.

The first speaker, Dr Megan Davey, a developmental biologist looking at the role of Sonic Hedgehog (not the video-game character) on limb development, explained that our

Dinosaurs took centre stage at the Scotland Chapter's Jurassic Night on 18 May – an event organised to explore the relationship between research and science fiction. [Valérie Bentivegna](#) tells us what we missed!

best chance of recreating dinosaurs was through reverse-engineering a chicken. Creating a chickenau-sauros, if you will. Apart from the potentially awesome theme parks, tracking the evolutionary changes that led us from dinosaurs to birds, can teach us about embryonic development.

During an intermezzo, our very own sci-comm team Valerie and Bruno (who is a blue ukulele) mused what it would be like to be a dinosaur in modern days, from selfies to the downward dog, and eventually sticking to playing the ukulele.

The second speaker, paleontologist Dr Steve Brusatte, took us through his PhD studies on how a series of chance adaptations in dinosaurs, from feathers over hollow bones to long limbs that would make any T-Rex jealous, eventually led to the right conditions for a creature of flight. His compelling opinion: we don't need to try and recreate dinosaurs, they are

among us every day. For birds are, in fact, dinosaurs.

The session ended with an interesting Q&A session with both speakers, musing over whether we should bring animals back from extinction, the ethical implications of genetics, why T-Rexes had tiny arms and whether birds have thumbs or not.

Jurassic Night was organised by MCAA Scotland and co-sponsored by IOP.

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EVENTS AND MORE MCAA
SCOTLAND NEWS ON:**
<https://mcaascotland.wordpress.com/>

 @MCAA_Scotland

 www.facebook.com/MCAAScotland/

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

ISRAELI CHAPTER: A FIRST EVENT WITH MORE TO COME!



The Israeli Chapter held its first meeting on 4 May and its Chair, [Nehama Lewis](#), unveiled its upcoming activities.

The first Chapter event for 2017 was organised to enable networking between MCAA researchers from different universities in Israel. We chose a venue that was centrally located (Herzliya), and sent out flyers in advance. The event took place on 4 May, and was attended by 12 researchers, including researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University, University of Haifa and the Technion.

In spite of the fact that researchers represented different disciplines, the participants enjoyed the opportunity to meet each other, and we discussed organising a workshop (a professional development sem-

inar on MRI analysis) in the coming year that would be of interest to most of the participants (and other researchers they know).

The next chapter event will be a media training workshop, to be held at the University of Haifa on 4 July. The event promises to be very beneficial and interesting for Chapter members who require training in media outreach. The workshop coordinator, Prof. Ayelet Baram-Tsabari, is an internationally known scholar in science communication. We estimate that 15 people will participate.



CHAPTER MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION

Chapter Chair: Nehama Lewis

Secretary: Cheryl Szlotnick

Treasurer: Sharon Sznitman

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

MCAA NETWORKING POLISH CHAPTER, KRAKOW, 25 MAY 2017



A local networking event took place on 25 May 2017 to both support and boost activities carried out by the Polish Chapter in Krakow.

The meeting was held in the Re pub and attracted seven participants: five MCAA Members and two people who recently received their individual Fellowships and will join the MCAA community soon.

Discussions focused on providing support to incoming grantees through a buddy programme; this would help with both mobility and orientation.

For the four non-Polish speakers, the networking was especially fruitful in terms of practical guidance on Poland-specific administrative obligations and language courses. Two of the participants have already completed their Fellowships and shared their experience as senior mentors in overcoming specific obstacles at their research units.

All participants reported finding it extremely useful to share and compare and personal experience and observations with others. They felt encouraged about dealing with future challenges, and felt the local scientific community had been tightened.



MONIKA GAIK

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

A NEW IRELAND CHAPTER IS UP AND RUNNING!



Ireland has had a great deal of success in attracting funding from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions programme, both in terms of individual Fellowships and International Training Networks.

Interest from EU-based researchers in coming to Ireland is increasing as we are native English speakers and have continually scored highly on an international basis for science, engineering and

the arts. The Ireland Chapter was founded in 2017 to enhance interactions between members and raise the profile of this exceptional group of researchers.

Since it was founded, the Ireland Chapter has attracted ca. 100 members, ranging from high-profile researchers to newly funded Fellows. These members are from across the island of Ireland, both north and south of the border, which is fitting as science knows no borders...

The Ireland Chapter will have its official launch in UCD on 2 October, where there will be an excel-

lent line-up of speakers. Further to this, the Ireland Chapter plans to organise and run specific events in: bridging science and business; and gender equality and science communication.



The Chairperson of the Ireland Chapter is Dr Declan Devine (Nanofact 2012). He is currently the Director of the Materials Research Institute at the Athlone Institute of Technology where he leads a highly skilled team in the areas of polymer engineering, biomedical materials, thermo-plastic composites, recycling and controlled release of active pharmaceuticals.

RESEARCH

STRENGTHENING THE EU-PHILIPPINES RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP



In a bid to promote and improve research and innovation in the Philippines, the University of the Philippines, in partnership with EURAXESS ASEAN, conducted a seminar on 'Strengthening the Philippines-EU Partnership in Research' in Metro Manila, Philippines, on 26 April. [Jenny Lind Elmaco](#) was behind the organisation of the seminar and told us all about it.

What was planned as an intimate gathering became a platform for exchange and collaboration among a diverse group of research experts based in the Philippines.

Rowena Daroy-Morales, Director of the Office of Legal Aid (OLA), opened the event with a lecture on the intersections between law, research and social justice. Professor Salma Rasul from the Philippines Center for Islam and Democracy highlighted the important role that European research collaboration can play in improving the lives not only of Filipinos, but of people across South-east Asia.

Simon Grimley, EURAXESS ASEAN Regional Representative, gave a rich presentation on the different funding and fellowship opportunities available to researchers in the Philippines, including the MSCA, Newton Fund, and the Southeast Europe Joint Funding Scheme for Research and Innovation.

Heads of research as well as professors and practitioners from the fields ranging from law to international relations, to environment, governance, communications and education, were in attendance.

The event was moderated by Dr

Jenny Elmaco, Marie Curie Fellow specialised in sustainable peace-building. Dr Elmaco hoped that the event would become a springboard for future gatherings, promoting a strengthened, evidence-based agenda in the country. She also looked forward to a renewed focus on inquiry and scientific discoveries.

