



MCAA - Danish Chapter

Summer 2019 Newsletter



We're happy to bring to you the Summer 2019 MCAA Danish Chapter Newsletter! Here you can catch up news and events of fellow MCAA members in Denmark. We would also like to take the opportunity to invite you all to contribute to the newsletter. Within its short life we have experienced the newsletter and MCAA meetings to be a fantastic platform for networking across scientific disciplines. We look forward to hearing from you!

1. Master Class on Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowships

On the 13th of June 2019, the University of Copenhagen (KU) held a two-days master class on how to write proposals for the Marie Skłodowska Curie Action Programme (MSCA). The mixed audience of PhD and Post-doc got to learn about what the MSCA programme is about, and met with current fellows. On this occasion, two of our members (Jonathan Quinson, Chemistry and Anupam Das, Mathematics) shared their experiences and tips for writing a successful application. They covered pitfalls, resources, do's and don'ts and personal impressions and experiences on being a Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellow. Although some tips were field-specific, real examples certainly helped the future candidates. Our chapter is also available as a contact point for advice and questions for future applicants.

2. Danish Chapter participated in *Bestil en forsker* 2019

During the Science Week in Denmark, several of our members participated in the program *Bestil en forsker*, by giving popular science lectures in their fields. This was the first time the Chapter contributed to this event and we are happy to see that it brought up so much interest! Among the lectures, the following were given by some of our members:

- **Maria E. Mondejar** reflected on the chances for unlimited electricity supply in two lectures in OneBowl (Copenhagen) and Zealand Academy (Næstved).
- **Thomas Rodriguez Greve** participated in several public lectures with his presentation *Universet set fra Hawai'i*.
- **Julie Zedler** presented the insights on a green future thanks to microbes and photosynthesis at Vibenhush Gymnasium (Copenhagen).



3. Workshop on grant application writing, August 27th

On August 27th, 09:30, we will hold our first workshop on grant proposal writing, intended for those of you at the postdoc (or more senior) level. The workshop will focus on European programs, and include advice through examples. Our speaker will be Thomas Elmbæk Knudsen from Innovayt (www.innovayt.eu). The workshop will take place at the European Environmental Agency in Copenhagen, Kongens Nytorv 6.

Please register for the workshop through this [link](#). There are still two places left! Registration requires a deposit of 100 DKK, which we will refund if you attend. The workshop is followed by the summer meeting of the chapter at 15:00. Participation in the chapter meeting does not require the fee.



4. Meet our Fellows: Jonathan Quinson (Copenhagen University)

I am a French researcher, who grew up in Africa, did his PhD in UK and finally moved to Denmark now 4 years ago. First on a local contract, I managed to secure an Individual Fellowship. I worked on the synthesis of precious metal nanoparticles (e.g. platinum and iridium). The challenge was to obtain colloids in low boiling point solvents (because they are easy to handle) but without surfactants (whereas everyone uses them). Challenge successfully addressed: the nanoparticles produced by the method we developed proved to be extremely useful for catalysis. They are very active while being produced by a simple method, with few and safe chemicals. Beyond their applications, the synthesis method itself is ideal to study the formation of nanoparticles and to control better nanoparticle size. The direct consequence is to allow new types of studies to investigate new effects in the preparation of catalysts and so optimize catalysts e.g. for energy conversion like for fuel cells or electrolyzers.



I also secured a Global Fellowship to spend some time in USA before coming back to Denmark. I will investigate further the benefit of the synthesis method developed for chemical production. In September 2019, I will take part into the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action's [Falling Walls Lab event](#) in Brussels to present my research ideas and results.

5. Board elections and call for board members

Elections for the executive board of the Danish Chapter of the Marie Curie Alumni Association will take place in the coming months. All members of the Chapter are entitled to vote and to stand for election. You will soon receive further information. If you would like to get active in the Chapter and stand for election, please contact us.. Being a member of the board, you will actively participate in organizing events of the Chapter and have a say over the future direction and activities of the Chapter.

6. Some words from the chair

I cannot believe it is already almost two years since some of us first started to think about the creation of The Danish Chapter of the MCAA. I had just started my IF, and after attending the Annual Meeting in Salamanca, I got interested in getting more involved in the activities of the MCAA. However, to my surprise there was no chapter in Scandinavia, despite the many fellows doing their research here and the interest many of us had on it. After these two years I am glad to see that we, not only managed to create it, but also organized engaging activities through which we learned, networked and had a great time. Moreover, today we count also with the presence of the Norwegian Chapter and the new Swedish Chapter, which likely will bring interesting collaborations around Scandinavia. I wish that new members share our enthusiasm for contributing to the MCAA, the chapter, and the dissemination of our research. For those of you about to start your fellowships, enjoy the chance you got to do the research you want, enjoy the opportunity of learning thanks to your fellowship, and enjoy the time to meet other researchers through the MCAA.

Maria E. Mondejar

7. Contact us

Do you have some comments or suggestions? Want to increase the visibility of your research profile, communicate news or exciting new results, or advertise an event or job opportunity?

Contact the editor of the newsletter, Thomas Paster, at: Thomas.Paster@EUI.eu

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