



NEWSLETTER

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Report of the Annual Meeting, Spain-Portugal Chapter MCAA, 26 March 2017

The annual meeting was held in the “Biblioteca” of the **Colegio Fonseca**, 26 March 2017, 9.30 - 18.30. The chapter’s chair Luis Sanz Andreu (USAL, Salamanca), together with the chapter’s secretary Sara Ricardo (IBMB, Barcelona) and treasurer Concha Gomez Mena (IBMCP, Valencia) presided over the meeting, which comprised four sessions, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. The morning session was open to the general public.

26 Members of the Spain-Portugal Chapter (excluding members of the board) and 2 non members (Ana Leal (InnovaPlus) and Lorena Casado Román (USAL)) were in attendance. The agenda to the meeting can be found as appendix 1.

The **first session** was devoted to career development, and featured three presentations. **Ana Ribeiro of Inovaplus**, the company responsible for the MCAA's own project management, described the services that Inovaplus offers to researchers at non-profit research institutions, such as universities and research councils, and to those working for commercial enterprises. The complexity of funding opportunities offered by the EC and the ERC has generated an opening for commercial project management at non-profit institutions. In the following presentation, for which we relied on Skype, **Alexandros Petropoulos** (National Center for Scientific Research Demokritos, Athens, Greece), described their work on behalf of the MCAA's **Science to Business Working Group**. His talk illustrated the challenges that accompany the transition from a non-profit academic research environment to work in the commercial sector. The first session concluded with **Emilio Corchado** (USAL) pitching his own initiative **Startup Ole**, which matches investors with researchers hoping to realize business ideas.

The **second session** opened with a personal report on how an Indian postdoc experienced the hurdles of working as a non-EU citizen without a Spanish PhD as a postdoc in a Marie Curie project at the University of Salamanca (USAL). **Sudipa Sakar**'s story illustrated that the implementation of the Spanish laws regarding the employment of foreign citizens depends on the goodwill and the training of local administrators. Even if the Spanish laws are in theory quite generous, a non-EU fellow is highly dependant on the PI's resourcefulness and attention to thorny legal matters which may be surprising to those PIs who themselves have never worked outside the EU. The session's other presentation was given by **Eva Montenegro (FECYT)** who presented a survey of the state of Open Access publishing, with a focus on the sciences. Her starting point was the Open Data requirement in Horizon2020 programs.

The afternoon focused on the **future of the Spain-Portugal chapter**. The session was restricted to S-P MCAA members. Luis, Sara and Concha informed the attendees about the most recent decisions of the MCAA board regarding the obligations of and funding opportunities for the regional chapters. They issued a call for nominations, as their terms as chair, secretary and treasurer will end soon. Due to its urgency, it was decided to hold the election via email among those who had attended the Salamanca meeting. In order to support the future work of the chapter the **afternoon session** concluded with **13 enlightening talks** in which members presented their research. The list of talks is attached as appendix 2.

Several concrete **outcomes** originated from the meeting. Namely, the proposal by Dagmar Riedel (Madrid) to organize a workshop on Open Access and Open Data in Madrid, the mobilization, led by Sofia Ribeiro (Lisbon) and Nivas Badu (Aveiro), for the organization of the next Annual Meeting in Portugal and the proposal by Jorge Lozano (Valencia) of an event in Valencia.

The MCAA General Assembly and Conference took place in Salamanca on 24th and 25th of March.

If you were unable to attend you can look at the recordings of the event in the following link:

<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/news/mcaa-general-assembly-and-conference-salamanca-%25E2%2580%2593-recorded-sessions-availa>

Last 9th and 10th of March took place the **VI Spanish Worm Meeting**. This is biannual gathering of the *Caenorhabditis elegans* community that works in Spain or that is of Spanish origin and does their research abroad. *C. elegans* is a nematode worm which is used worldwide as a model to investigate a range of biological and biomedical processes, and five people have received the Nobel Prize for their work with this model organism.

In this meeting we had the pleasure to have three keynote speakers: Mario de Bono (MRC-LMB, Cambridge, UK), Arantza Barrios (UCL, London, UK) and Thorsten Hoppe (University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany). They discussed interesting topics such as the role of chemical receptors on animal behavior, neuronal differentiation and homeostasis of proteins and aging. In this context, and among other activities, one of the members of the Spain-Portugal Chapter of MCAA and co-organizer of the meeting, **Rafael Vázquez**, presented our association to the worm community at the end of day 1.



UPCOMING EVENTS

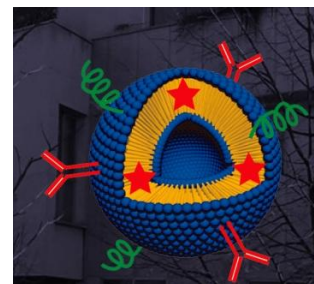


Dr Elizabeth Evenden-Kenyon, senior lecturer in Early Modern Literature and Book History, Brunel University, UK and chapter member is organizing a conference on **Anglo-Iberian Relations** in Zafra, Extremadura, in October 2017. Please find further information at:

<https://angloiberianrelations2017.wordpress.com/call/>

Dr Anna Laromaine, Researcher at ICMAB-CSIC, Barcelona, announces that registration is open to the summer school **“Materials for Biomedical Applications”- MATBIO2017** that will take place in Materials Science Institute of Barcelona (ICMAB-CSIC) from 19-22 June 2017 . Please find further information at:

<https://congresses.icmab.es/matbio2017>



Meet the fellows!

Francisco Huera-Huarte is Associate Professor (Prof. Titular) of **Mechanical Engineering at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV)**, in Tarragona. He is the group leader of the Laboratory for Fluid- Structure Interaction (LIFE) at URV. He is a Mechanical Engineer (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya) and got his PhD at the Department of Aeronautics of Imperial College London.



His research interests are in the broad field of **fluid mechanics**, and in particular in all related to bluff body wakes, flow-induced vibrations and bio-inspired design. During 2008-2010 he was Marie Curie IOF fellow at the Graduate Aerospace Laboratories (GALCIT) of the California Institute of Technology (**CALTECH**). He has been Visiting Associate at CALTECH in 2014 and 2015, Visiting Faculty at Université Paris Diderot (Paris 7) in 2015 and at the University of Massachusetts in 2016. In 2014 he was awarded with the "Agustín de Betancourt y Molina" **Young Investigator Award** from the Real Academia de Ingenieria and in 2015 with the "Isabel P. Trabal" Prize from the Fundación

Patricia Martí Puig is a senior ecologist at Charles Darwin Foundation, since January 2017. She is currently working on the deep-sea and subtidal ecological monitoring projects at the **Galapagos Marine Reserve**. She is from Alicante, Spain. She has obtained her Ph.D. in Biodiversity and Evolution within the Marie Curie Initial Training Network Monitoring Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (ITN MMMPA). Patricia has previously worked in several aspects for **marine conservation**, including ecology, genetics, Marine Protected Areas and scientific awareness in different sectors (NGO, private sector and academia).

Her professional interest is to translate scientific knowledge for a sustainable use of marine resources. More info at: patypuig.com



Pietro Codara (<http://www.cody.it/pietro.php>)

I received my PhD degree in Mathematics and Statistics for Computational Sciences in 2008, from the University of Milan, Italy, with a thesis titled "A theory of partitions of partially ordered sets". My research is devoted to **many-valued logics**, with particular emphasis on **combinatorial aspects**. Other topics of interest are categorical dualities, probability of non-classical events, reasoning under uncertainty, and treatment of vague information. I also love teaching, especially when I'm in front of young students without any prior knowledge on the issues that I have to deal with them.

I currently hold a Marie Curie INdAM-COFUND Fellowship at the **Artificial Intelligence Research Institute (IIIA-CSIC)** in Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain. My awarded project **LaVague** aim to develop a new logical and computational approach to vague real-word problems by using many-valued logics.

Nicolò Bonora. I am a PhD student based at the **University of Salamanca** where I was granted with a Marie Curie action for Early Stage Researchers within the **TINTIN** (Training in Neurodegeneration, Therapeutic Intervention and Neurorepair) consortium. I hold a Master Degree in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technologies by the University of Milan.

My research in the laboratory of Prof. Juan Pedro Bolaños is focused on the physiological role of the endogenous **mitochondrial reactive oxygen species** within the **central nervous system**. I was awarded with an EMBO Short Term Fellowship and nowadays I'm spending a three months period at the Trinity College of Dublin in the laboratory of Prof. Gavin Davey, to perform the last experiments of my PhD thesis.

