EICOS

European Initiative for Communicators of Science

Programme Announcement

&

Fellowship Application

2009

***EICOS** is a European programme that endeavours to improve communication between scientists and journalists in order to make the activities of scientists more open and intelligible to the public and to promote feedback from the general to the scientific community. The programme is carried out under the patronage of the Commission of the European Communities, the Union of European Science Journalists Associations, the European Science Foundation, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS, France), the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (Italy), the Comisión Interministerial de Ciencia y Tecnolog&iacutea (Spain), the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften (Germany), the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences (Netherland), The Royal Society (COPUS, United Kingdom), and the Swiss National Science Foundation (Switzerland).*

Max-Planck-Institut für Biophysikalische Chemie
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Telefax +49(0)551 201-1075
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URL: http://www.eicos.mpg.de

Purposes:

EICOS offers suitably qualified journalists from any European country and Israel the opportunity to participate in laboratory research by working closely with investigators in their respective fields of interest. Working together facilitates a dialogue in which journalists gain a deeper understanding of the scientific endeavour and attitudes of scientists, while scientists learn how science is reported to the public and what influences and constraints shape the media. Journalists have the additional benefit of being able to share with, and get to know the problems of journalists from other European countries and other branches of the media.

Activities and Opportunities:

1. *THE HANDS-ON LABORATORY* is an intensive eight-day course which offers the opportunity for journalists ('Fellows') to carry out experiments themselves using many of the modern techniques of cellular and molecular biology, including cell culture, gel electrophoresis, immunofluorescence staining, and various other aspects of immunology and genetic engineering. Fellows are assisted by scientists ('Tutors') from the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry with whom they pursue projects selected from the research areas of the Institute. Research in the Max Planck Institute is carried out by an international group of advanced graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, senior scientists, and technicians who will be available for the programme. There are also lectures, informal group discussions, and social activities, but most time is spent in the laboratory.
Fellows begin their Fellowship with the Hands-on Laboratory, which is offered only once a year, and will take place from

Saturday, June 06th , 2009

to

Saturday, June 13th, 2009

Fellows then may move on to an Extended Laboratory Assignement for up to two more weeks.

2. *EXTENDED LABORATORY ASSIGNEMENT*:
Following the *Hands-on Laboratory*, Fellows are encouraged to spend an additional week and under certain conditions up to two weeks in the research laboratories of the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen or in one of the other participating host institutes in Germany or elsewhere in Europe. These laboratories offer the opportunity to establish contacts and to do journalistic research and/or to get more hands-on experience. A list of laboratories prepared to accept journalist Fellows, with an indication of the principal research areas, is attached to this announcement.

Eligibility:

Applicants must be professional journalists with at least two years experience. Preference will be given to print or broadcast journalists with staff or editorial positions and freelancers, although science illustrators and photographers will be considered. *English* is the *lingua franca* in all laboratories involved in the programme and is thus the official programme language. Reasonable competence in English is, therefore necessary. Knowledge of biological principles and methods is not essential. Since the purpose of the programme is to offer a novel experience, journalists with recent advanced degrees in biology or with extensive laboratory training are not encouraged to apply. Staff seniority is not a criterion.

Programme Staff and Host Institute:

EICOS was hosted from 1993 to 1998 by the Max Planck Institutes of Psychiatry and of Biochemistry at Martinsried, with Prof. G. W. Kreutzberg and Prof. B. H. Waksman as Programme Directors..
EICOS is since then continued by the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen. Director of the Programme is Prof. Reinhard Jahn, (Head of the Department of Neurobiology), Executive Director is Dr. Ulrich Kuhnt.

Support:

The EICOS Fellowship provides financial support unconditionally for up to three weeks. It includes travel to and from Göttingen and to the Extended Assignement Laboratories, housing and food, and the cost of the Hands-on Laboratory. Fellows may request reimbursement of part of income lost as a consequence of their entering the programme. However, applicants are encouraged to treat participation in the EICOS programme as a 'working vacation'.

EICOS 2009 is supported by the ***Max Planck Society***, Munich and the ***Hertie-Stiftung,*** Frankfurt/Main.

Selection Schedule:

Applications (**two copies**) must be received by the Executive Director at the given address no later than

February 15th 2009.

Notification of acceptance will be made on or soon after

March 15th 2009.

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APPLICATION FOR EICOS 2009

Applications must be prepared in English and received not later than February 15th 2009.
Please note that 2 copies of your complete application are required.

Family Name:

First Name (s):

Sex: Female ☐ Male ☐

Date of Birth:

Present Position:

Home Address:

Business Address :

Phone:

E-mail:

Phone:

E-mail

Employment (beginning with present position):
Organisation/Dates/Position:

Education (Name, Location, Subject, Year, Secondary, Undergraduate, Graduate):

Major Publications, Fellowships, or Awards:

Present Supervisor:

Please use the HAND TOOL to edit the text fields (Yellow)

☐ I am applying for an individual laboratory assignement after the H-o-L and wish to be assigned to one of the laboratories indicated on the attached list for a further ☐ (1, max. 2) weeks.

☐ I can only attend the Hands-on Laboratory at the Max Planck Institute.

☐ I request reimbursement of lost income for ☐ weeks; amount / week (please give equivalent in EURO) €☐; total € ☐ Please provide a letter explaining your need to request such reimbursement, which cannot exceed a maximum of two weeks and 500€ / week.

Supplement Material:

A. Statement (not to exceed 500 words) describing your journalistic experience and professional goals, and explaining how this Fellowship will benefit your career. Please include information on the circulation numbers of newspapers/magazines or the public reached by Radio/TV station for which you work.

B. A list of science courses taken after leaving high school and a brief description of any laboratory experience you have had.

C. A brief statement describing your proficiency in English.

D. Four samples of your writing (two copies each). These need not to be in English but they should have been published within the last two years. Do not send anything irreplaceable. Do not send work-in-progress or other unpublished work or elaborate presentations such as complete books, newspapers, magazines, or scrapbooks. Broadcast work should be on VHS videocassette/ audiocassette/ CD/ DVD (only one copy required), with total running time of 30 min or less. If possible, a transcript should also be supplied.
Editors or broadcast news editors should send samples with brief descriptions of their involvement in each story. Cassettes can be returned after the Fellows are announced, if required.

Please indicate below:

I would ☐ would not ☐

Like my cassette / CD returned

E. *(This item is to be completed only by applicants expecting to remain for more than one week in the programme).*
In the attached list of host laboratories for the Extended Laboratory Assignements, please indicate your preferences. Also, please indicate the research area(s) in which you are most interested (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, neurobiology, immunology, developmental biology, physiology, genetics, etc.).

It may be possible that you cannot be assigned to your preferred host laboratory but we will try to ensure that your areas of interest are covered.

Statement:

I submit this information in connection with my application for an EICOS Fellowship with the understanding that the number and selection of Fellows and their final acceptance to the programme lie entirely within the discretion of the EICOS Selection Committee and the host institute.

_____ ☐

Signature Date

I heard about EICOS via: ☐

Laboratories Prepared to Host Journalists after the Hands-on Laboratory

Basic techniques of biochemistry, such as various forms of chromatography, electrophoresis, microscopy, and genetic engeneering, as well as the application of immunological techniques in biochemistry (e.g. enzyme-linked immunoassays, radioimmunoassays, and immunohistology) are being used in virtually all laboratories, and cell biological methods in most. If you are interested in a special technique that is not listed here, do not hesitate to ask us.

Research area, Topic — Your choice

1. Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry (Göttingen, Germany)

Http://www.mpibpc.gwdg.de

Molecular Genetics - *Molecular components of protein transport*
Molecular Cell Biology - *Mammalian developmental and differentiating processes*
Molecular Biology - *Structure-function relationship at the molecular level and in the cell*
RNA Processing - *Biochemistry of RNA splicing; structure / function of spliceosomal UsnRNP's; nucleo - cytoplasmal transport of RNA*
Biomedical Nuclear Magnetic Resonance - *Development/application of spatially resolved nuclear magnetic resonance procedures*

2. Max Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine, (Göttingen, Germany)

Http://www.em.mpg.de

Neurogenetics
Neurodegenerative Diseases
Neural Development
Gene Targeting in Mice

3. Max Planck Institut for Plant Breeding Research (Cologne, Germany)

Http://www.mpiz-koeln.mpg.de/

Molecular Plant Genetics - *Control of floral organ development, evolutionary developmental biology of plants*
Plant Developmental Biology - *Regulation of plant development, signalling pathways, transition of flowering*
Plant Breeding and Yield Physiology - *Molecular markers in crop plants, resistance genes (in potato, tomato, and sugar beet), regulatory genes involved in plant and leaf development*
Plant Microbe Interactions - *Disease resistance and susceptibility, programmed cell death and cell death rescue, genetic control of defense programs*

4. German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) (Heidelberg, Germany)

Http://www.dkfz-heidelberg.de/

Cell and Tumor Biology; Structural and Functional Genomics;
Cancer Risk Factors and Prevention; Tumor Immunology;
Innovative Diagnostics and Therapy; Infection and Cancer

5. Research Center for Environmental Health (Neuherberg near Munich, Germany)

Http://www.helmholtz-muenchen.de/

Biochemical Plant Pathology - *Induction of genes by ozone, metabolism of environmental chemicals in plants*
Soil Ecology - *Degradation of pollutants by micro-organisms in soil, release of greenhouse-gases from soils*
Molecular Pathology - *Gene diagnosis and human tumour research*
Toxicology - *Genotoxic and carcinogenic chemicals, toxicity testing, quantification of risk*

6. Institut Pasteur, (Paris, France)

Http://www.pasteur.fr/

Antiviral Immunity, Biotherapy and Vaccines
Immunophysiopathology of Infections
Retrovirus Biology
Viral Immunology

7. Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) (Berlin Buch, Germany)

Http://www.mdc-berlin.de/

Cardiovascular Research- *Genetic causes of hypertension*
Cancer Research- *Apoptosis, cancer and the immune system, leukemias*
Genetics, Bioinformatics, and Structural Biology- *Search for disease genes, gene mapping, cristallography*
Cell Growth and Differentiation- *Tumor development, development of metastases*
Molecular Developmental Neurosciences- *Glial cells, growth of nerve cells, neuronal stem cells, neurodegenerative diseases*
Molecular Therapy- *New immunological and gene therapy strategies*

8. European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) (Heidelberg, Germany)

Http://www.embl.de/

Cell Biology and Biophysics; Developmental Biology;
Gene Expression; Structural and
Computational Biology; Functional Genomics;
Molecular Medicine; Biochemical Instrumentation

9. Weizmann Institute of Science (Rehovot, Israel)

Http://www.weizmann.ac.il/

Nanotechnology; Submicron Research;
Particles Physics in Medicine; Computer Science;
Biological Physics; Structural Biology;
Cancer Research; Brain Research;
System Biology

10. Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm, Sweden)

Http://www.neuro.ki.se/neuro/
Http://ki.se/fyfa Http://ki.se/onkpat

Cellular Communication in the Nervous System
Cell Differentiation and Development in the Nervous System
Genes, Training and Health
Radiation Biology

11. Institut de Génétique et de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire (IGBMC) (Illkirch near Strasbourg, France)

Http://www-igbmc.u-strasbg.fr/

Cell Biology and Signal Transduction- *Nuclear receptor signalling pathways; nuclear receptor phosphorylation*
Molecular Pathology-*Human molecular genetics of neurologic and neuromuscular inherited diseases; molecular and cellular biology of cancer*
Physiological Genetics of Nuclear Signalling- *Deciphering the function of nuclear receptors using cellular and mutant mouse models*
Developmental Biology- *Embryogenesis and neurogenesis: Mouse, Zebrafish, Drosophila, and Nematode models*
Neurobiology- *Neurogenesis, membrane receptors (dopamine, serotonin, opiates)*
Transcription- *Components and interactions of transcription factors in health and disease, control of alternative splicing*
Structural Biology and Genomics- *Structures (nuclear receptors, transcription and protein synthesis machinery), bioinformatics, crystallography, molecular electron microscopy of multiprotein complexes*

12. Mouse Clinical Institute (MCI) (Illkirch near Strasbourg, France)

Http://www-mci.u-strasbg.fr/

Targeted Mutagenesis and Transgenesis- *Advanced mouse genetics, creation of mutant mouse cell lines, embryonic stem cells and other cell types, germ line mutagenesis and temporally-spatially-controlled mutagenesis or gene activation in the mouse, construction of reporter genes for studies of gene regulation in animal or cellular models*
Mutant Phenotyping- *Extensive characterisation of mice carrying mutations to establish and distribute mouse models of human disease: routine physiopathology screens (biochemical/endocrinological assays, hematology, immunology, cardiovascular system, nervous system, respiration, vision, hearing; molecular pathology), transcriptome and proteomic analysis*

13. Robert Koch Institute (Berlin, Germany)

Http://www.rki.de/

Infectious Diseases and Their Epidemiology- *Viral, bacterial, nosocomial infections and Hospital hygiene, emerging pathogenes, surveillance and epidemiology, xenotransplantation and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies*
Epidemiology and Health Reporting- *Collection, evaluation of cancer registries, health surveys, Risk assessment of environmental, nutritional, drug-related, and life-style factors*

14. MPI of Biochemistry, (Martinsried/Munich, Germany)

Http://ww.biochem.mpg.de

Structure & Function of Proteins- *Proteomics of cell bodies, microbial organisms, and human body fluids*
Molecular Medicine- *Extracellular matrix of connective tissue, transgenic mice*
Structural Biology-*Structure of subcellular elements in mammalian and microbial cells; kryo electron tomography; regulation of protein folding*
Cell Biology- *Proteins during cell cycle and cell movement; chromosome segregation; regulation of protein degradation; RNA biology*
Systems Biology- *Function of membrane proteins; regulation of chemo-, phototaxis, and movement in Archaea; bioinformatics*

15. MPI of Neurobiology (Martinsried/Munich, Germany)
Http://www.neuro.mpg.de

Cellular & Systems Neurobiology-*Plasticity of the mammalian brain on molecular, cellular, and brain level; synaptic spines, circuits, and cortical maps*
Systems & Computational Neurobiology- *Neuronal computation of visual motion information in blue fly; genetically encoded indicators*
Neuroimmunology- *Autoimmunity in the nervous system; multiple sclerosis, development of transgenic mouse models*
Molecular Neurobiology- *Molecular developmental biology; cell surface proteins and receptors*
Axonal Growth and Regeneration afterLesions in the CNS
Dendrite Development
Development of the Visual System in Drosophila

16. Institute for Research in Biomedicine (Barcelona, Spain)
Http://www.irbbarcelona.org/

Cell & Developmental Biology-*Gene expression analyses; genomics/proteomics of cell/embryo development and tissue regeneration*
Structural & Computational Biology-*Structural analysis of macromolecules and their interactions (X-ray, NMR, electron microscopy, bioinformatics/molecular modeling)*
Molecular Medicine- *Metabolic/genetic diseases, study of diagnostic and therapeutic targets; functional genomics/proteomics of pathologies*
Chemistry & Molecular Pharmacology- *Design/synthesis of molecules, building of libraries, optimization of synthetic compounds; developing biotechnologies for molecular selection directed at therapeutic targets; understanding drug-target relationships*
Oncology- *Study of tumour initiation/progression; stem cell - cancer relationship; identification of genetic programmes driving tissue-specific metastasis*

Please number the external laboratories according to your preferences!

Please indicate below the general research areas in which you are most interested:

Please note that while every attempt will be made to comply with your preferences, we reserve the right to match demand and availability.

Your name: