



# NEWSLETTER

October 2016  
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## Member Anna Laromaine wins L'Oreal Women in Science Award

L'Oreal-Unesco "For Women in Science" is a pioneering program for the promotion of women in science, having started in 1998 with the aim of promoting and recognizing women researchers who, through the scope of their work, have contributed to overcoming today's global challenges. Every year the foundation honors, nationally, 5 women with a prize of 15.000 Euros to further develop their research. One of this year's awardee in Spain was **Dr. Anna Laromaine** (ICMAB, Barcelona), one of the first members of our chapter.

Anna works in the [Institut de Ciència de Materials de Barcelona \(ICMAB-CSIC\)](#) (ICMAB-CSIC), where she combines the study of materials science, chemistry and biology for the design of nanomaterials with the ultimate aim of commercialization for medical and cosmetic applications. Specifically, Anna studies the **interaction of nanoparticles with biological material**, using bacterial cellulose and the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans*, a model system that has been used for the last 40 yrs to learn, among other things, about cellular aging, cell death or genomic structure. "Our idea is to optimize the physico-chemical properties of nanomaterials and use them in biomedicine" explains Anna. In her spare time, Anna is also involved in science communication, tech transfer and teaches classes in the UAB master in Nanotechnology.



"My dream is to bring the nanomaterials that we design in the lab close to commercial use so their full potential can be taken advantage in medicine and cosmetics for the benefit of our society"

## 2016 Researcher Night in Lisbon

Last 30 of September I participated in one of the Researchers Night 2016 events that took place in the Pavilion of Knowledge – **Ciência Viva** in Lisbon (<http://www.pavconhecimento.pt/>). This year 168 researchers were present and approximately **3000 visitors** participated in the activities (<http://noitedosinvestigadores.pt/>). I participated in the EU Corner booth together with two other ITN fellows and two National Contact Points for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. The objective was to show some of the studies researchers funded by MSC projects develop in Portugal and to disseminate the EU project funds and activities.



**Afonso Duarte**

ITQB-NOVA, Oeiras (Portugal)



# NEWS

## Public stakeholder consultation – interim evaluation of Horizon 2020

All citizens and organisations are welcome to contribute to this consultation. Contributions are particularly sought from researchers, entrepreneurs, innovators and all types of organisations that have participated in Horizon 2020. The objective of the consultation is to collect information from a wide audience on different aspects of Horizon 2020 implementation.

**Period of consultation:** from 20.10.2016 to 15.01.2017.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim\\_h2020\\_2016/consultation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim_h2020_2016/consultation_en.htm)

<http://encuesta.fecyt.es/RespWeb/QN.aspx?PECO=mel41yzleg3kjh55lejruaar>

e-mail: [RTD-H2020-IE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-H2020-IE@ec.europa.eu).

## 20 Years of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

On 8 November 2016, the **Opening Ceremony** of the 20th Anniversary will take place in the Berlaymont building, Brussels, with one **itinerary exhibition** of the famous researcher featuring key moments of her life and a **photo exhibition** of MSCA fellows. Commissioner Tibor Navracsics and members of his Cabinet as well as stakeholders and EU Staff will attend. You can **register** for this event at: [EAC-MSCA-COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EAC-MSCA-COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu) (no later than 07 November 2016!)

## Meet some Chapter Members!

**Carlos Hernández-García** is a postdoc researcher at University of Salamanca (USAL), working in **intense laser-matter interaction** and **attosecond science** through a special program of excellence. He obtained his PhD in 2013 at USAL under the supervision of Prof. L. Plaja. After finishing his PhD, he was awarded with a Marie Curie Action-International Outgoing Fellowship (Project X-HARM). During the outgoing phase (2013-2015), Dr. Hernández-García joined the theoretical group of AMO physics at JILA (USA), in close collaboration with the experimental Kapteyn-Murnane group. He participated actively in generating **coherent x-ray lasers** with arbitrary polarization, tailoring their emission into ultrashort attosecond (10-18 seconds!) pulses.

During the returning phase at **USAL** (2015-2016), he joined the Photonics and Laser Applications group at USAL, where he is now conducting research exploring the fastest processes occurring in Nature, in the attosecond timescales (more info at [diarium.usal.es/carloshergar](http://diarium.usal.es/carloshergar)).



### Rafael Vázquez-Manrique

After finishing a second postdoc in Paris (2008-2012, Centre de Psychiatrie & Neurosciences – Inserm) I got both a “Miguel Servet” fellowship and a Marie Curie Career Integration Grant to work in the **Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria La Fe** (2012- to date, Hospital Universitario y Politécnico La Fe, Valencia, Spain). Here we are developing new invertebrate models of polyglutamin toxicity. We also use *in vitro* and *in vivo* mice models of **Huntington’s disease** (HD), to find drugs against this condition. HD is a rare neurodegenerative disease that causes chorea, psychiatric problems and cognitive decline in patients and which has no treatment to date.