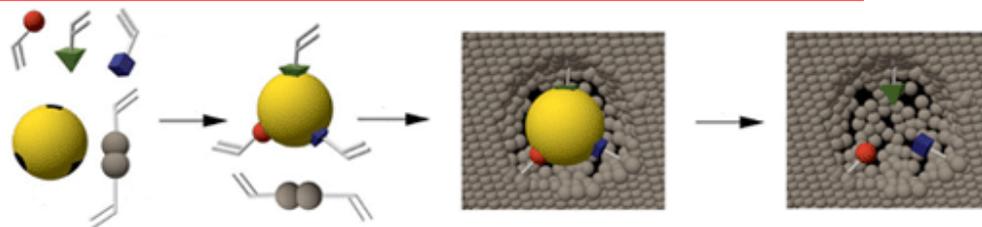


NASCENT Newsletter



Nanomaterials for **A**pplication in **S**ensors, **C**atalysis and **E**merging **T**echnologies

Kick Off Meeting in London

The kick-off meeting was held on the 9th of November, 2006 at Queen Mary, University of London. The aim of the meeting was to get together the Scientists-in-Charge (SiC) of each team, to discuss important features of the NASCENT contract and start planning the Network activities. All teams were present and were joined by Ms Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, the EU project officer assigned to NASCENT.

Most SiCs arrived on the 8th of November and joined the Coordinator, Dr. Marina Resmini, for a nice dinner at Rama, the local Thai restaurant on the Mile End Road.

The following morning the Coordinator opened the meeting with a comprehensive overview of the project, highlighting important issues relating to the contract and the budget. The representatives of each team then gave short presentations about their Institutions and their area of

expertise. After a lovely lunch at The Gallery restaurant, the administrative and financial issues were covered by a short presentation by Jean Smeeth, EU projects grant administrator (QMUL) followed by the presentation of Vanessa Debiais-Sainton. She provided a lot of information on RTNs and answered numerous questions from all of the participants.

After a short tea break the SiCs were involved in a workshop, organised by Catherine Haines, from the Staff Development Office of QMUL, covering a variety of issues mainly relating to PhD training and supervision. The session prompted a number of exchange of views on the approaches to supervision taken in different European countries and initiated interesting discussions. These were continued during dinner at the Oasis restaurant, where everybody enjoyed a few drinks and a nice meal.



Dr Marina Resmini



Lunch at The Gallery, the Gastro pub cuisine of QMUL



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ER and ESR News: "Never a dull moment" by Rita Jorge (QMUL)

If you are going to survive in London, whilst trying to do some research, probably the first thing you will have to do is to get rid of the old myths that you might have, when first moving from your country. Here are some of the urban myths that I had.

First London urban myth: London is a big city.

Actually, no! For someone coming from a country whose total population is more or less the same number of people that live in this city, London is not big. It is **huge!!!** It is a whole country by itself. This is actually the highest amount of overwhelming feeling that my Portuguese brain can process.

Second London urban myth: You will get a lot of sightseeing done.

You can actually do some sight seeing, but you get so tired of being lost all the times ("Where is the bus stop?", "Where are the academic services?" "Where is the nearest bank?" "Oh my God I am travelling in the opposite direction!!!") that you actually look forward to a nice two days break, at the weekend, where all you have to do is just going from your flat to your local grocery and local café.

Third London urban myth: You will have to learn good English to survive in London.

London is characterised by such a rich multicultural diversity that what you really need to understand are the different ac-



cents. Sometimes I get the strange feeling that the 'real Londoner' does not exist... they all just ended up here.

Fourth London urban myth: Efficiency is London's middle name.

It is true that for an underground network that has been running since 1863, it works fairly well, but then again...who really wants to travel several meters below ground in rails that are more than 100 years old? Every morning new system failures arise in London's underground system...They actually have daily news bulletins telling you which London Underground Lines are closed due to some sort of complication. So much for the famous portuguese "improvising" quality...If you want to go somewhere, and be there on

time....PLAN alternative routes!

As for other services, such as Banks... well, I really wouldn't want to start on that, since I actually have a small guerrilla warfare going on with my soon-to-be-ex-bank. Forget internet banking, forget proof of residence, forget character witnesses, what you really need when setting up a bank account in this country is a GREAT deal of patience. Ever thought about joining a meditation group, a self help workshop, a "Breathing peace" seminar? You will definitely need it.

Last, and most important London myth: British people lack warmth

Arriving at QMUL I was greeted by a wonderful group of smiling faces and patient helpful hands. Everybody just seems to understand the awesome change that occurs when you change country, so you never really feel left out. I get people repeating the same joke over and over again until I get it and people trying to laugh at my weird attempts to make jokes sound as funny in English as they do in Portuguese... Also there are a lot of opportunities to discuss the work you are doing and there is always someone willing to clear any doubts that you might have.

I am having the time of my professional life here, amongst all the homesick moments and all the permanent confusion.

So, in a nut shell what would summarize my first two months here?

That is really easy.... **"Never a dull moment"**

Recruitment

The recruitment status of NASCENT is proceeding very well. Below you will find the list of the ESR and ER that have been appointed so far and that are expected to start working during the next 6 months.

Still looking for an ESR candidate for BGU...

Unfortunately the latest candidate from Sicily has recently turned down the offer to join our colleague Levi and his excellent research group. The project that Levi is offering is very interesting and should appeal to candidates with both chemistry and physics background. Please advertise this position widely in your Institution and with your Colleagues. Details of the project can be obtained by contacting Dr. Levi Gheber at glevi@bgu.ac.il.

List of ESR and ER

Ania Servant, ESR, from France, lab: QMUL

Rita Jorge, ESR, from Portugal, lab: QMUL

Kevin Flavin, ER from , Ireland, lab: QMUL

Frank Pithan, ER from Germany, lab: CNRS

Ana Linares, ESR from Spain, lab CNRS

Tristan Doussineau, ER from France, lab: FSU

Artur Moro, ESR from Portugal, lab: FSU

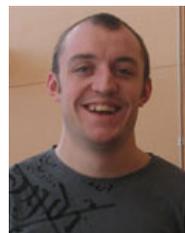
Giorgio Ceolin, ESR from Italy, lab: BME

Gita Dvorakova, ESR from Czech Republic, lab: UP

Bouzid MENAA, ER from France, lab: CiS

Sofia Martins, ESR from Portugal, lab UCM

Ievgen Obratsov, ESR from Ukraine, lab IPC



Kevin Flavin



Ania Servant

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Please send all your news and photos to the NASCENT Administrator s.fritche@qmul.ac.uk



Next Scientific Meeting in Paris

All the SiCs agreed that the Network would benefit from organising a Scientific Meeting to focus on the project, discuss the development of the scientific objectives and start planning the collaborations and the secondments for the researchers. It was agreed that a convenient date for all parties would be the 26th and 27th January, 2007. The meeting will be held at the Scientific Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences, 74, rue Lauriston, 75116 Paris, which provides accommodation as well as a conference hall.

Each participant is required to organise their own travel arrangements and also book the accommodation by contacting the secretary of the station. Specify that you are coming for the NASCENT meeting. Please note that if you need to arrive on the Thursday, you MUST specify your travel arrangements and the expected hour of arrival because the secretary leaves the office at 5.00pm each day and therefore she will need to organise for someone to be there and give you the keys.

transport :

Métro (ligne 6): Boissiere ou (ligne 2): Victor Hugo

Bus: Boissière (ligne 30, 82) ou léna (ligne 63)

Secrétariat of the Station:

Tél.: +33 (0)1.56.90.18.34

Fax: +33 (0)1.47.55.46.97

E-mail: sekretariat.parispan@free.fr

The Station is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 1.00pm and from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

Administration and réception :

Tél.: +33 (0)1.56.90.18.35 (room booking)

Fax: +33 (0)1.47.55.46.97

E-mail: rezerwacja.parispan@free.fr

Reception is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm

URL: <http://www.academie-polonaise.org/fr/prezentacja-kontakt.html>



Scientific Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Paris

Useful information



The EU Project Officer assigned to NASCENT is Vanessa Debiais-Sainton.

Useful websites:

For the recruitment of researchers:

<http://europa.eu.int/eracareers/>

<http://www.europeancharter.eu/>

<http://www.cordis.lu/mariecurie-actions/rtn/manage.htm>

http://europa.eu.int/eracareers/index_en.cfm

Information regarding FP6

<http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/home.cfm>

<http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/whatisfp6.htm>

Marie Curie Actions search tool

<http://mc-opportunities.cordis.lu>

Marie Curie RTNs home page

<http://cordis.europa.eu/mariecurie-actions/rtn/home.html>

Official Euro Exchange Rates

<http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm?Language=en>

The NASCENT website is now live at:

<http://www.nascent.qmul.ac.uk/>

All your suggestions, comments, stories, news and photos are welcomed.

An Intranet access will be added soon for scientists of the project.

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to Everyone.*



*Seasons
Greetings*