

Forthcoming events

29 January - 12 December 2007

Many UK venues

Lectures: Institute of Physics Schools Lecture Series 2007

The science of light and colour is fantastically important in an enormous number of areas: from observing and understanding the Universe in astronomy; to diagnosis and treatment processes in medicine; to efficient communications and signal processing in industries.

The Institute of Physics 2007 schools lecture will be presented by Dr Pete Vukusic, a researcher and lecturer at the University of Exeter's School of Physics. He is one of the leading scientists in the world involved in broadening our understanding of how nature uses and controls the flow of light and colour.

Light Fantastic: the Science of Colour will open pupils' eyes to the basic concepts of the science of light and colour and show how technology is making the most of light's astonishing properties. This presentation will include demonstrations, hands-on activities and movie clips to help shed light on the science of colour. The lecture lasts an hour and is suitable for 14-16-year-olds.

More information: www.iop.org

26-27 February 2007

European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Monterotondo, Italy

Lectures: Stem Cells – from Basic Research to Clinical Applications

Organised by Cusmibio in collaboration with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Monterotondo, this course is intended for high-school science teachers and PhD students in the biological sciences. Given by prominent scientists in the field of stem cells, from basic research to clinical applications and bioethics, the lectures (in Italian) will cover:

- Stem cells: biology and clinical applications
- Neuronal stem cells
- Stem cells and neuronal diversity
- Epithelial stem cells in regenerative medicine
- Cancer biology and epigenomics
- Bioethical and legal aspects of embryonal stem-cell research.

More information:

www.cusmibio.unimi.it

Until 2 March 2007

Worldwide

Competition: Catch a Star!

This competition, organised by the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO) and the European Association for Astronomy Education, aims to encourage students to work together, learn about astronomy and discover things for

themselves by researching information.

Student teams can write a project about a chosen topic in astronomy, selecting an astronomical object such as a nebula, star, planet or moon, or a more general theme such as 'black holes' or 'star formation'. Younger students may take part in a drawing and painting competition. Prizes include a trip to visit ESO's Very Large Telescope facility on the Paranal mountain-top in Chile. Deadline for entries: 2 March 2007.

More information: www.eso.org/catchastar/

Contact: eduinfo@eso.org

9 March - 30 April 2007

UK

Competition: SciNews Writing Competition

Are you a budding science reporter, aged 14-16? Why not enter our science writing competition and win a day with the Cancer Research UK press team? To take part, write a news story about something related to health or medicine that has recently been in the headlines.

Entries should be no more than 300 words and the competition is open to all schools in the UK. Deadline for entries: 30 April 2007.

More information:

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org>

15-16 March 2007

Riga, Latvia

Conference: Didactics of Science Today and Tomorrow

This conference will consider the development of science didactics in Latvia, current problems in science education, as well as its place in pedagogy and natural sciences. Discussions will take place in plenary sessions and workshops. University teachers, scientists, school teachers, doctoral and masters students and others interested in the issue are invited to participate.

The conference is organised by the Riga Teacher Training and Educational Management Academy, the Association of Biology Teachers of Latvia and the Natural History Museum of Latvia. Conference fee: €10 (5-7 LVL for participants from Latvia). Deadline for submission of abstracts: 1 February 2007.

More information: www.rpiva.lv

Contact: Janis Gedrovics (janis.gedrovics@rpiva.lv)

25 March - 1 April 2007

Potsdam, Germany

Competition: European Union Science Olympiad

The European Union Science Olympiad (EUSO) is a team competition for EU secondary-school science students (aged 16 or under). The intention is:

- To challenge and stimulate gifted science students to develop their talents and to promote their careers as scientists
- To provide invaluable experience for students who may take part in the International Science Olympiads
- To offer the opportunity to compare the syllabi and educational trends in science education within the EU member states, which could help improve science education at national levels.

The deadline for applications is 1 March 2007.

More information: www.euso2007.de

Contact: Michale Cotter, ESO President (michael.cotter@dcu.ie)

14 March 2007

Keele, UK

Training course: Motivating the Disaffected in Science

This new course views learning from the pupil's perspective and seeks engaging solutions to motivate and inspire adolescents to succeed in science. Pop culture, movies and games can all be applied in new teaching and learning approaches. This course will share outcomes from classroom-trialled activities and recent research findings to provide participants with immediate ideas for the classroom.

More information: www.slcs.ac.uk/wm/

Contact: enquiries@slcwm.keele.ac.uk

19 March 2007

Warwickshire, UK

Training course: Learning Skills in Science

This training course aims to:

- Enhance learning skills for science among secondary-school students
- Provide teachers with resources that can be easily integrated into a variety of scientific subjects
- Design flexible teaching and learning tasks suitable for different levels of students and a variety of learning styles.

More information: www.slcs.ac.uk/wm/

Contact: enquiries@slcwm.keele.ac.uk

20 March 2007

Worcestershire, UK

Training course: Learning Skills in Science

This training course aims to:

- Enhance learning skills for science among secondary-school students
- Provide teachers with resources that can be easily integrated into a variety of scientific subjects
- Design flexible teaching and learning tasks suitable for different levels of students and a variety of learning styles.

More information: www.slcs.ac.uk/wm/

Contact: enquiries@slcwm.keele.ac.uk

Until 30 March 2007

Europe-wide

Competition: Marine Biodiversity

To celebrate Biodiversity Day, MarBEF (Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning) are launching a competition for European children and adults to capture marine biodiversity by:

- Drawing a picture
- Designing a mascot
- Taking a photograph.

Winners will receive prizes of up to €100, and their entries may be published online and in the MarBEF newsletter, which is delivered to almost 1000 scientists across Europe.

More information: www.marbef.org/outreach/kids/competition.php

Contact: Chris Emblow

(cemblow@ecoserve.ie)

2-6 April 2007

European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, Grenoble, France

Science teaching festival: Science on Stage 2

Science on Stage offers European science teachers the chance to exchange successful and innovative teaching methods and materials. In 2006, national competitions, workshops and events in 30 participating European countries raised awareness of best practices in science teaching and identified exceptional teaching projects and outstanding educators in each country.

At the European science teaching festival at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Grenoble, France, 500 teachers selected from the 30 countries will take part. The event will showcase the very best of today's science education and serve as a discussion forum for relevant topics.

More information:

www.scienceonstage.net

Contact: Physics.on.Stage@esa.int

10-12 May 2007

**Pavilion of the Future, Seville, Spain
Science fair**

During the three-day science fair, students from primary and secondary schools as well as universities will present science projects that they have prepared with their teachers. The projects will be communicated and exhibited to visitors in an interactive, engaging and entertaining way. National private and public institutions will also present their current research.

Organised by the Andalusian Society for the Popularisation of Science (Sociedad Andaluza para la Divulgación de la Ciencia), the science fair aims to help teachers, students and scientific communities share scientific experiences, as well as to promote science in our society. Most participants will be from Andalucía, but everyone interested in presenting and developing this kind of educational science project is welcome to attend. The working language will be Spanish.

*More information: www.cienciaviva.org
Contact: Maria Jose Garcia Belmonte (mariajosegarciabelmonte@hotmail.com)*

11 May 2007

Museum of Industry, Oberhausen, Germany

Conference: Innovative Technologies Move Europe II

Eleven teams from four different countries participated in the European school project, Innovative Technologies Move Europe. The teams of teachers and students developed creative and innovative projects in their schools, addressing one of the following topics:

- Movement – constructing a means of locomotion
- Energy requirement – one litre of water
- Energy – constructing a model of a system that converts regenerable energy into electric power
- Chaos – representation of chaotic

movement using elementary means. Teachers are invited to join this final meeting, where the students will present the results in English.

*More information:
www.science-on-stage.de
Contact: info@science-on-stage.de*

7 June 2007

**Rugby School, Rugby, UK
Conference: 19th Annual Meeting for Teachers of Physics in Schools and Colleges**

Organised by the Institute of Physics, this is a one-day meeting for teachers of physics in schools and colleges, and for teachers in training. The main purpose is to bring together physics teachers from both state and independent schools to learn about the latest developments in physics and physics education. Three lectures are given by leading research physicists and by physics education experts, together with a series of six hands-on workshops, discussion sessions and a teacher exchange of news and information. The meeting also provides an opportunity for equipment suppliers, publishers and awarding bodies to communicate their new products. Most participants come from England and Wales, but teachers from further afield are very welcome. Conference fee: £30 including lunch (concession for new and trainee UK teachers: £15).
Contact: Chris A. Butlin, Chairman of the Institute of Physics School Physics Group (ChrisAButlin@aol.com or +44 (0)1904 607 169)

14 June 2007

**Technopolis, Mechelen, Belgium
Conference: PENCIL Final Science Teachers' Conference**

The European PENCIL project aims to strengthen the operational relations between informal science education in science centres and museums, and in schools. Findings from the 14 pilot projects will be shared during this conference. Practical tools together with new approaches will be communicated, and there will be many workshops to make it easy to grasp and test new concepts and practices. Science teachers and science-centre explainers are particularly welcome.
Contact: info@ecsite.net or Karl Sarnow (karl.sarnow@eun.org)

26-31 August 2007

**Opatija, Croatia
Conference: GIREP-EPEC: Frontiers of Physics Education**

For the first time, the GIREP (International Research Group on Physics Teaching) Seminar is organised as a joint event with the European Physics Education Conference (EPEC). Whereas GIREP traditionally gathers experts and practitioners in educational physics, EPEC is a young conference organised by the European Physical Society, which attracts the top physicists in Europe. The joint conference will bring together physics teachers from schools and universities across Europe, encouraging dialogue and the exchange of best practice in physics education. Teachers are invited to join this conference. (Theme to be arranged, the working language will be English.)
*More information: www.ffri.hr/GE2/
Contact: ge2@ffri.hr*

14 September 2007

Universität Kassel, Germany

Workshop: English-language biology and chemistry lessons in German schools

Biology and chemistry teachers who teach in English are invited to a workshop organised by the Verband deutscher Biologen and the Vereinigung der Schulen mit deutsch-englisch bilinguaalem Zug in gymnasialen Bildungsgängen in Hessen. Participants who already have experience in bilingual teaching are requested to submit worksheets or teaching ideas for a joint collection of teaching materials. Teachers from outside Germany are warmly welcome.

Workshop fee: €10

Contact: Matthias Bohn
(mbohnde@aol.com)

Until 30 November 2007

Italy, Austria and Switzerland

Competition: Junge Forscher gesucht! – Giovani ricercatori cercansi! (Wanted: young researchers!)

In this search for talented young researchers, young people are required to develop scientific projects on many topics, including art and music. Regional finalists, selected on the basis of a report they submit, present their project to an international jury and the public. Prizes of €1500-3000 are awarded.

The competition is open to people aged 16-20, living in South Tyrol (Italy), Trentino (Italy), Tyrol (Austria) or Grisons (Switzerland) and is held in the regional languages German and Italian.

To enter the next competition, register before 30 November 2007. The final event will take place in March 2008 at the University of Innsbruck, Austria.

More information:

www.explora-science.net/wettbewerb/

Throughout 2007

Schullabor Novartis, Basel, Switzerland

Workshop: 'Gentechnik Erleben' (Experience Genetic Engineering)

These workshops focus on practical laboratory work, but background information is given for all experiments. Students isolate plasmid DNA from bacterial cultures and digest it with restriction enzymes. The resulting DNA fragments are separated and visualised by gel electrophoresis. Students should already have the necessary theoretical background and be over 17 years of age. The workshops are free, are in German or English (on request) and have a maximum of 20 participants.

More information: www.schullabor.ch
Contact: gesche.standke@novartis.com

Throughout 2007

Schools and other venues in England
Roadshow: Cool Seas

Run by the Marine Conservation Society, the Cool Seas Roadshow will visit 150 primary schools throughout England between September 2006 and March 2008. It entertains and educates primary/junior school children about England's spectacular marine wildlife, using life-size inflatable models of whales, dolphins, sharks, turtles, seals and porpoises in dynamic presentations given by a marine wildlife education specialist. The roadshow takes a full day at each school, and is free.

Each school that is visited receives printed materials and web-based resources, including an activity booklet and bookmark for every pupil, and a poster for every classroom. The web-based resources can be viewed here: www.mcsuk.org/coolseas/ The project also has funding for 37 visits to English venues other than schools, mostly in summer 2007. If you have a large and suitable audience who would like a visit from the Cool Seas Roadshow, please get in touch.

More information:

www.mcsuk.org/mcsaction/education/cool+seas+roadshow

Contact: Angus Bloomfield
(angus.bloomfield@mcsuk.org)

Throughout 2007

10 locations around the UK
Training courses: Science Continuing Professional Development

The national network of Science Learning Centres, set up by the UK Department for Skills and Education and the Wellcome Trust, provides continuing professional education for everyone involved in UK science education, at all levels. With nine regional centres and a national centre in York, access to innovative and inspiring courses is within reach across the UK. The centres not only deliver hundreds of courses, but also act as a focus for all the science learning activities in their region.

More information: www.sciencelearningcentres.org.uk

Contact: enquiries@national.slcs.ac.uk

Throughout 2007

Glasgow Science Centre, Glasgow, UK

Free teacher visits

Teachers, classroom assistants, nursery teachers and technicians are invited to visit the Glasgow Science Centre free to explore and investigate what's on offer.

More information:

www.glasgowsciencecentre.org

Contact: +44 (0)871 540 1003

Throughout 2007

Many Scottish venues, UK

Roadshow: Science Circus

Glasgow Science Centre's outreach team brings all the fun of the science centre directly to schools and community groups throughout Scotland thanks to the lively travelling 'Science Circus'. Science Circus activities consist of amazing live science shows and interactive exhibits delivered at your venue.

Contact: +44 (0)871 540 1004

Throughout 2007

Pembrokeshire, Wales, UK

Field trip: Rockpools

The Pembrokeshire Darwin Science Festival invites all primary schools in Pembrokeshire to book a rockpool ramble and identification field trip. The course is aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 8-11), takes half a day and is led by three qualified marine scientists. Cost: £250 with a bus or £170 without a bus. Maximum 30 children.

More information:

Pembrokeshire Darwin Science Festival

Contact: Marten Lewis

(M.B.Lewis@pembrokeshire.ac.uk)

Throughout 2007

Pembrokeshire, Wales, UK

Workshops: Primary school

The Pembrokeshire Darwin Science Festival offers a double workshop visit for a maximum of 30 Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 8-11), costing £200. The group is split into two workshops, which run simultaneously:

- Plankton/microscopy identification workshop
- Energy workshop using dynamos, solar panels and a steam engine as hands on props.

Also available are three 90-minute workshops, each for a maximum of 20 pupils and costing £120:

- Oil spill workshop for Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 8-11)
- Climate change workshop for Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 8-11)
- Marine litter workshop for Key Stage 1 pupils (ages 4-7).

More information: Pembrokeshire Darwin Science Festival

Contact: Marten Lewis

(M.B.Lewis@pembrokeshire.ac.uk)

If you organise events or competitions that would be of interest to European science teachers and you would like to see them mentioned in *Science in School*, please email details, including date, location, title, abstract, website and contact email address, to editor@scienceinschool.org

