

National Institutes of Health



Visiting Fellows Committee

# NIH VFC Newsletter

## 2014 Fall Edition

Contributing to global science development by building careers

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# Introduction

By Amie D. Moody, PhD

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The International Opportunities Expo is an event sponsored by the Visiting Fellows Committee (VFC), a subcommittee of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fellows Committee, once every two years. At the Expo, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows can network with representatives from embassies, funding agencies, foundations, and institutions with a global focus. The Expo 2014 featured seven different presentations exploring research opportunities in Europe, Asia and South America. In addition, representatives from over 20 globally-oriented exhibitors discussed research and employment possibilities face-to-face with fellows.

The Expo is geared toward helping fellows find potential job opportunities around the world. Therefore, it was fitting that Shawn Mullen, PhD, the Deputy Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Services, gave a presentation advising postdoctoral fellows how to prepare for their job search before the day's festivities got underway. To complement Dr. Mullen's presentation, members of the VFC prepared a video for the fellows in attendance that showcased former NIH postdoctoral fellows who now work at institutions around the world. These former fellows answered questions about their own

successful job searches and provided advice to current fellows.

As one would expect, everyone's experience was unique, but there were common themes across the responses. For example, although everyone started their job search at different points during their postdoctoral careers, they all emphasized the importance of starting early. Generally, most fellows began their serious job searches at least a year before they anticipated leaving the NIH. However, exploratory searches, which involved researching the types of positions being advertised and self-assessing how prepare for those positions (e.g., gaining teaching experience or publishing much-needed first author publications), typically began much earlier.

Networking was another activity that most fellows credited with being beneficial to their job search, although the extent to which each networked differed. One former fellow leveraged her attendance at scientific conferences by meeting people and distributing her curriculum vitae (CV), an endeavor that lead to two of her three interviews. The benefits of networking were also lauded by another former fellow, although he secured his job by applying for advertised positions. Many of the former fellows also highlighted the mock interviews, and other career services, offered through the Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) as being very useful towards their preparations for the real thing.

Please enjoy reading the information provided in this special edition of the VFC Newsletter. The full list of the International Opportunities Expo 2014 presenters and exhibitors can be found at [https://www.training.nih.gov/international\\_expo\\_2014\\_represented\\_organizations](https://www.training.nih.gov/international_expo_2014_represented_organizations). Fellows can also visit OITE's website ([https://www.training.nih.gov/career\\_services](https://www.training.nih.gov/career_services)) for information about getting help with CVs and cover letters, scheduling mock interviews, and other career services.



Dr. Shawn Mullen presenting the opening lecture for the International Opportunities Expo 2014.



Fellows walk among the different exhibitor booths and speak to representatives from countries like Germany to learn about the variety of careers opportunities outside of the US.

## The American Chemical Society

By Gerhard König, PhD

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Senior associate Steven Hill represented the American Chemical Society (ACS) at the International Opportunities Expo 2014. ACS is the world's largest scientific society with more than 160,000 members in the fields of chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering, and related disciplines. Despite its name, about 15% of all ACS members live outside of the US and about 68% of all articles published in ACS journals come from international sources. Recently, the ACS founded international chapters in eight different regions (Hong Kong, Hungary, Malaysia, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Shanghai, South Korea, and Thailand) to provide a means to network, exchange technical information, and gain greater international recognition. More chapters are expected to form soon to facilitate access to ACS resources to existing members and to encourage the recruitment of new members.

To help their international members, the new ACS International Center has been established to guide scientists and engineers that are searching for opportunities to study, work, or conduct research overseas. This section of the ACS website provides listings of programs and opportunities for funding based on the target country or on the experience level of the user. At this point, more

than 600 programs are included on the webpage, in addition to information on funding agencies, international scholarships, exchange programs, internships, and travel awards. For more information, please visit [www.acs.org/ic](http://www.acs.org/ic).

## vivoPharm

*Linking preclinical services to drug development*

By Heba Diab, PhD

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Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are used to having their own projects, guiding the project's direction, and taking risks. Working at a contract research organization (CRO) gives one the opportunity to be involved in several projects that are oriented towards well-defined goals and follow strict timelines. Often one will work on a project for several weeks, obtain the required results, and then never see that particular work again. This type of environment provides a great deal of variability in the science and allows one to become an expert in several techniques.

Many clients approach a CRO because they may not have the expertise or facility to address their needs. Often they would like to receive second-site validation of their findings or expand their resources without accruing additional costs. vivoPharm is one such CRO that provides biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies with preclinical services in several diseases, albeit with a focus on cancer. It is a ten-year old company that has facilities in Germany (focusing in project management and marketing), Australia (focusing on safety, toxicology, and analytics), and the US (in Pennsylvania, focusing on efficacy and screening). In essence, vivoPharm specializes in helping clients plan and conduct a drug development program.

Scientists at vivoPharm conduct *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies on a drug/compound that the client wishes to develop, and then they provide the client with a comprehensive and clear data report

compliant with Investigational New Drug Application (IND) filings. The US branch has 16 employees, including three study coordinators who are project managers. They are in direct contact with the branch researchers as well as with the client. Their role is to ensure that the research plan is well-reasoned, efficient, and on course for completion within the allotted time. The US location also has five laboratory technicians and a few research technicians. Experiments are performed as quickly and efficiently as possible to minimize repetition and ensure accuracy. All individuals who join the laboratory are trained on everything. This is to ensure that if one person is unable to go to work there are others who can continue the experiments. In this sense, there is no project “ownership.” However, the important point is that everyone is part of a team, where each member is working towards the same goal.



A staff member of vivoPharm presents an overview of the company's mission and organization.

While experience with animals and cancer research are attractive qualifications, they are not requirements at vivoPharm. Michelle Tran, a Senior Study Coordinator, never had any postdoctoral experience when she secured her current position. Importantly, however, she said that one must be an excellent communicator to work for a CRO. It is not uncommon to never meet a client, and therefore she relies heavily upon email for communication. Additionally, because CROs do not have enormous resources projects cannot stop because of one person, thus, work may often be delegated for quick and cost-effective completion. Scientists with experience managing people (e.g. undergraduates, graduate students), a

drive to achieve, and good computer literacy should consider contacting vivoPharm.

While vivoPharm is not actively hiring at the moment, a candidate that stands out will not be ignored. As such, they emphasized that interested parties should still submit a CV. vivoPharm's hiring peaks when there is an increase in client number, and it could be *your* CV they turn to when this happens.

## Research Opportunities in Sao Paulo State, Brazil, Funded by the Sao Paulo Research Foundation

**By Maria Cristina Rangel, PhD**

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Have you ever considered doing research in Brazil? Did you know that the state of Sao Paulo produces about half of the total scientific publications originating from Brazil? Please read on for useful information about funding opportunities for foreign scientists in Sao Paulo.

During the 2014 International Opportunities Expo, Dr. Simone Godoi, Area Director of the Sao Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), spoke about the Research Opportunities in Sao Paulo state (Brazil) that are funded by FAPESP. Sao Paulo is the most populous state in Brazil, with 42 million people, which is about 21% of Brazil's total population. Importantly, almost half of Brazil's scientific production, and 45% of all Brazilian PhDs, come from Sao Paulo. The public research foundation, FAPESP, began operations in 1962 with the mission to support all fields of research. Today, it grants fellowships to most of the doctoral candidates, and 1% of all Sao Paulo state tax revenues support the foundation.

In 2012, FAPESP received 25,000 proposals; about half were funded, with an average decision time of 65 days post-submission. FAPESP had a budget of USD 580 million in 2013, of which 37%

was designated to academic research, 38% to fellowships, 20% to applied research, and 5% to internal costs. Notably, the health sciences were heavily funded by FAPESP, with approximately half of all submitted proposals being funded, reflecting the numerous opportunities for Brazilian and foreign investigators in these fields.

The main universities that received FAPESP funding for health sciences included, the University of Sao Paulo (USP), the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), the State University of Sao Paulo (UNESP) and the Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNIFESP), Hospitals such as AC Camargo Cancer Hospital, Syrian-Lebanese Hospital and Albert Einstein Hospital, and research institutes, such as Butantan and Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, also provide good opportunities for researchers working in the health sciences. Important research programs supported by FAPESP include the Center for Research Innovation and Diffusion (CEPID), the environmental research program BIOTA (Virtual Institute for Biodiversity), and the Industry-University Cooperative Research Program. In particular, CEPID plays the crucial role of guaranteeing long-term awards to centers of excellence in Sao Paulo. It currently supports 20 centers, including 8 health science centers studying areas like cell therapy, human genomics, molecular biotechnology, and cancer research and treatment.

Dr. Godoi then discussed FAPESP's funding opportunities for early-career, foreign and Brazilian scientists. She explained the "Young Investigator Award," a 4-year grant, ranging from USD 200 thousand to USD 2 million, which includes a fellowship for the investigator, support for laboratory start-up, travel to conferences, and fellowships for students. From the 219 proposal submitted in 2010, 35% were approved. Detailed information for this program can be found at <http://www.fapesp.br/en/4479>.

For postdoctoral fellows, there are "Postdoctoral Fellowships," which are 3-5 years in duration, and include the fellow's stipend, relocation support, and money for research incidentals (travel and

small equipment purchases). Approximately 46% of the postdoctoral fellowship proposals are funded. Details about these opportunities can be found at <http://www.fapesp.br/oportunidades/en/>.



Simone Godoi, PhD, Area Director of the Sao Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), speaks to fellows about research opportunities in Brazil in the Exhibition Hall.

For short-term research, there is the "Visiting Researcher Program" (<http://www.fapesp.br/en/6659>), a funding mechanism to cover stipends and travel expenses for foreign investigators visiting higher education and research institutions in the state of Sao Paulo for periods of two weeks to one year. In 2013, 252 out of 321 submitted proposals were awarded. There is also the "Sao Paulo School of Advanced Sciences" (<http://www.fapesp.br/en/5986>). This program offers short duration courses (1-3 weeks) in advanced research to foreign graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early career investigators. These courses provide great opportunities to interact with scientists from all around the world and initiate new collaborations.

Dr. Godoi closed her talk by discussing the

FAPESP mechanisms for international collaboration. A total of 303 agreements for joint research funding are currently signed with foreign funding agencies, universities, research organizations and companies all around the world. FAPESP currently has 115 joint agreements with the US alone ([www.fapesp.br/en/5399](http://www.fapesp.br/en/5399)). There is also the SPRINT program. The “Sao Paulo Researchers in International Collaboration” (<http://www.fapesp.br/en/8603>) is designed to encourage and promote collaborations between Sao Paulo researchers and scientific partners abroad. This program provides funding for the initial phase of the international collaboration with the clear expectations that the partnership will continue after the initial phase is completed. Finally, a new program funded by FAPESP for the advancement of scientific research is the “São Paulo Excellence Chairs.” This 3-5 year research grant encourages top international scientists to conduct collaborative research in Sao Paulo for at least 3 months each year.

To learn more about the quality research conducted in Sao Paulo, and the opportunities for international investigators, visit the FAPESP website at <http://www.fapesp.br/en/>, and the FAPESP Newsletter at <http://agencia.fapesp.br/home/>.

## Career Opportunities in Austria

**By Delphine Quenet, PhD**

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Today Austria, officially the Republic of Austria, is a parliamentary representative democracy comprising nine federal states in Central Europe. Vienna is the capital and largest city (population: 1.7 million) of this member of the European Union (since 1995). Bavarian is the most commonly spoken German dialect in this country. Few know that Austria is one of the richest countries in the world, with a gross domestic product per capita at nominal values of US\$46,330 in 2012. It is also ranked 18<sup>th</sup> (in 2013) in the world for its Human

Development Index, a composite statistic of life expectancy, education, and income indices, and Vienna is the world’s most livable city in 2014 according to the Economist Intelligence Unit. Lovers of outdoor activities enjoy this highly mountainous country (with only 32% of the country below 500 meters, and its highest point around 3,800 meters) for its large selection of hiking and climbing. Austria has a long history (e.g., with the Habsburg dynasty), and is famous for its music (e.g., Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johann Strauss Sr. and Jr., Franz Schubert), its literature (e.g., Rainer Maria Rilke) and its cuisine (e.g., Strudel, Wiener Schnitzel, Sachertorte).

Beyond tourism, what attractions can Austria offer to scientists? Career opportunities in Austria are diverse, with options in both academia and private industry. Austria counts more than 200 life science companies, including large organizations (e.g., Baxter, Roche, Boehringer, GE healthcare) and smaller biotechnology companies (e.g., Genosense, VBC Genomics). Different types of universities also exist in Austria: federal universities (Universitäten), private universities (Privatuniversitäten) and universities of applied science (Fachhochschulen), mainly located in Graz, Innsbruck, Salzburg, and Vienna. Two main categories of positions are available in academia: full professor and research positions. There are few positions as full professor, which are usually reserved for senior, experienced and qualified researchers with a competitive salary. In contrast, researchers with less experience can apply for assistant professor or staff scientist positions. The likelihood of advancement is dependent on research progress and the institute where one works. To fund research, there are several possibilities at the European level (e.g., Horizon 2020, European Research Council grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions), and Austrian level (e.g., Austria Science Foundation, Vienna Science Research and Technology). Austria is one of the European countries with the highest growth in research and development (increase of +0.82% between 2000 and 2010; [http://www.bmvit.gv.at/en/service/publications/downloads/downloads\\_ftb/ftb\\_2012\\_en.pdf](http://www.bmvit.gv.at/en/service/publications/downloads/downloads_ftb/ftb_2012_en.pdf)).

Vienna and its surrounding areas are fast becoming the epicenter of life science institutes. For instance, the Campus Vienna Biocenter, founded in 2001, hosts 1400 scientists, 700 students, 12 companies (e.g., Bender MedSystems, Affymetrix/eBioscience), and the university of applied science in Biotechnology. Four basic research institutes are also present on this campus: the Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP), the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology (IMBA, founded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences), the Max F. Perutz Laboratories (MFPL, established by the University of Vienna), and the Gregor Mendel Institute (GMI, founded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences). A new institute, the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (IST Austria) was inaugurated in 2009 and is located in the suburbs of Vienna. Its mission is basic research and graduate education in biology and mathematical sciences, with a focus on raising cross-disciplinary collaborations between theoretical and experimental research. Those are just two examples of Austrian research institutes among many others. Opportunities also exist at Innsbruck or Salzburg. The Euraxess website is a good tool to stay informed about open positions in Austria and in Europe



Philipp Marxgut, Director of the Office of Science and Technology in Austria, highlights some of the opportunities for research in his country.

(<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/>).

Finally, there are representatives of Austrian research in the United States. Philipp Margut, Austria's Director for Science and Technology,

and his team can provide support and advice on your move to Austria. Do not hesitate to contact them at [office@ostaustria.org](mailto:office@ostaustria.org).

Links for funding resources:

Horizon 2020

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

European Research Council grants

<http://erc.europa.eu/>

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

Austria Science Foundation

<https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/>

Vienna Science Research and Technology

<http://www.wwtf.at/>.

Links to the Austrian institutes cited in this article:

Campus Vienna Biocenter

<http://www.viennabiocenter.org>

IMP <http://www.imp.ac.at/>

IMBA [www.imba.oeaw.ac.at](http://www.imba.oeaw.ac.at)

MFPL <http://www.mfpl.ac.at/>

GMI [www.gmi.oeaw.ac.at](http://www.gmi.oeaw.ac.at)

IST Austria <https://ist.ac.at/en/>.

## LaBiotech Tour

*Documentary Series of Biotech Ecosystems around the World*

### Djamila Harouaka, PhD

Two enterprising young gentlemen, Philip Hemme and Joachim Eeckhout, set out on their bicycles and embarked on a new and exciting journey. Over the course of 5 weeks they visited 26 different biotechnology companies in various cities in France to learn more about them. The goal of this tour was to collect information about biotechnology companies and compile it onto a website allowing user-friendly access to the information. Hemme and Eeckhout interviewed the CEO or president of each company to introduce their main mission and highlighted their most exciting and cutting-edge research. In order to promote these companies and educate the public about the latest achievements and newest opportunities in the growing “biotech ecosystem,” they chronicled their journey in a documentary entitled, *LaBiotech Tour–France*. The video was

filmed in French and has been dubbed in English; it can be viewed on the LaBiotech Tour website at the following link: <http://www.labiotechtour.com/france/>

The launch of the documentary and the website was only the first step of a journey that was to become a tour of biotech companies around the world. The film was also vetted in Copenhagen, Berlin, Heidelberg, and London to see how well it would be received in different parts of Europe. News of their innovative information sharing began to spread. Currently, the full-length documentary, and all of the videos that were released piecemeal as the tour was taking place, have over 3,500 views on YouTube.

The actual bike ride may have ended there, but then Philip Hemme left France to begin his graduate studies in the United States at Boston University. There he met Michael Snyder, an undergraduate student who joined the LaBiotech team and helped to launch the next project, LaBiotech Tour-Boston. Together they contacted 15 biomedical organizations and firms ranging from start-ups to established companies. They also brought in venture capital firms and had them talk about the importance of investment capital in the biotechnology industry. George Church, from Harvard Medical School, also came on board to lend ethos to the project. His involvement emphasized the contribution of academia to the establishment of new biomedical companies. Boston was an ideal location for a venture like LaBiotech Tour because of the convergence of academic, industrial, and non-profit research organizations. The fortunate meeting of Hemme and Snyder culminated in the launch of a new 50-minute documentary, chronicling one of the premier biotechnology ecosystems in the United States for the first time. Their documentary can be viewed at: <http://www.labiotechtour.com/boston/>

*LaBiotech Tour-Boston* has been viewed at the National Institutes of Health in the Washington, DC area, San Diego, and San Francisco. These cities represent some of the most fertile ecosystems in biomedical science and research in the USA because of a shared similarity to Boston,

with the convergence of major pharmaceutical, academic, and non-profit research organizations. More recently Snyder has promoted the film on his home turf at Boston University. Branching out from the original idea of educating established members of biomedical community, the objectives now are to expose students to this new and exciting world of careers in biotechnology, foster the development of young professionals, and attract new talent into the field.

The success of the LaBiotech Tours in France and Boston demonstrated a widespread interest in this type of venture, which was made possible by accessible networking and communication outlets. A simple idea, launched by two innovative students is now branching out to Southern Germany and to Ireland. Hemme and Eeckout teamed up once again to tackle the biotechnology landscape of the Rhineland. Additionally, an entirely new team of five graduate students from Dublin is working to showcase the biotechnology talent growing on the Shamrock isle. The potential of these types of projects is likely to continue growing, and may aid in fostering communication between different biotechnology markets.

Through the documentaries and websites, the audience is introduced to the participating companies and organizations. We could be witnessing the beginning of a forum for collaborative networking between industrial complexes akin to the type of information flow seen between academic researchers. The hope is that this free information exchange will promote more rapid growth and development of the biotechnology industry and biomedical research. This initiative may have started as a small pebble in the lake, but the calm waters have trembled and their ripple effect is being felt far and wide. For more information on the initiatives in South Germany and Ireland, please check out their websites at: <http://labiotechtour.com/southgermany/> and <http://labiotechtour.com/ireland/>.

# Research Opportunities in Japan

By Amie D. Moody, PhD

At this year's International Opportunities Expo 2014, Japan was represented by both the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Naritake Abe, the Deputy Director of the Washington, DC office of JSPS gave an overview of what the organization has to offer international scientists. Both JSPS and JST had booths at the Exhibitor Fair where interested trainees could talk more in-depth to representatives about conducting research in Japan.

JST functions in a similar capacity to the US's National Science Foundation (NSF), except that it has been operating as an independent administrative institution since 2003. JST is active in implementing policies and programs to promote innovation, and creating the pipeline that returns those innovations to society. The organization is also dedicated to building the infrastructure necessary to ensure the success of their programs. These efforts include not only providing the necessary physical spaces, but also promoting the importance of science education and science communication.

The JSPS is another independent administrative institution. Similar to the NSF and NIH, JSPS awards fellowships to young scientists, provides multi-year grants for more established scientists, and oversees a variety of other programs. One of the institute's main areas of focus is promoting international collaborations. JSPS has a budget of ¥257.7 billion (approximately USD 2.5 billion) to use towards achieving these goals.

JSPS provides many options for international researchers to conduct research in Japan. For researchers who would like more of an introduction to Japanese culture and research, JSPS offers a two-month summer program for up to 115 pre- and postdoctoral scientists from the US and Europe. Upon arrival to Japan, accepted

fellows spend a week being acclimated to the culture and language of Japan, which includes a two-night stay in a Japanese home. Then summer fellows disperse to the host institutions to conduct research. Before returning to their home countries, summer fellows reconvene to present the findings of their summer endeavors.

For fellows interested in longer stays in Japan, JSPS also offers a short-term (1-12 months) fellowship to international pre- or postdoctoral researchers. Postdoctoral fellows may also apply for even longer stays of 1-2 years. There are approximately 150 short term fellowships, and 350 long term fellowships, awarded each year. The award for both durations includes the cost of round-trip airfare, a settling-in allowance, a monthly stipend for stays over four months, and a research budget.



Representatives from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) stand by their booth in the Expo 2014 Exhibition Hall.

On a more limited basis (only 20 awards each year), JSPS also offers a Pathway to University Positions in Japan fellowship for well-qualified international postdoctoral fellows. These awards provide similar financial compensation to the other long-term postdoctoral awards, but with additional support to help fellows prepare for careers in Japanese research institutions. Finally, JSPS also offers a variety of short-term fellowships for mid-career and established scientists. These programs aim to establish long term collaborations between scientists across the world.

To support fellows for any length of stay, JSPS has created the JSPS Fellows Plaza online. On the website, interested fellows can find information about life in Japan, orientation information and guidelines for how to apply to the various programs, and read messages from former JSPS fellows. Former fellows can join the Alumni Association, and follow alumni from across the globe. So far, there are JSPS hosts alumni associations in 14 countries, including the 200-member association in the US. Please visit the websites for more information about the exciting research opportunities supported by either JST <http://www.jst.go.jp/EN/>, or JSPS <http://www.jps.go.jp/english/>.

## **The World Bank**

### *Opportunities for Young and Motivated Individuals*

#### **Swagata Roychowdhury, PhD**

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When you hear of the World Bank you probably envision economists working on international financial problems. But did you know that as a biomedical professional, you could also contribute to the mission of the World Bank to reduce poverty through adequate healthcare and education? As an international institution, the World Bank Group (WBG) highly values diversity of education, culture, nationality, and gender. There are several opportunities available at the WBG that are the perfect fit for individuals with outstanding academic credentials and commitment to international development.

A great place to start is the Young Professionals Program (YPP) where one may gain exposure to the operations and policies at WBG. Potential areas of interest within the YPP include public health, education, and social sciences. This two-year program provides valuable on-the-job experience for leadership opportunities and professional development. During his presentation at International Opportunities Expo at the NIH on September 9, 2014, Roberto Amorosino, a senior

recruitment officer in Human Resources Development at the Bank, emphasized that the depth and breadth of technical acuity together with client engagement and team skills are strong determinants of success at the Bank. Added to this, experience at the policy level and proficiency in more than one language can be extremely useful.

Apart from the YPP, there are other avenues that can help to get one's foot in the door. The internship program, lasting from four weeks to three months, is a great opportunity to gain hands-on experience at the WBG. Students enrolled in full-time graduate study can work in an international environment towards global development and poverty reduction. Internship assignments usually extend beyond the initial commitment. Consulting opportunities are also available depending on the needs of the Bank and can vary in duration from 3 months to a year. Mr. Amorosino stressed the importance of knowing what the bank is doing and how one can make a contribution, and of networking to help land a position there, especially because consulting positions are not always advertised.

The importance of networking was also echoed by Dr. Jessica Taaffe, a global health scientist and consultant at the WBG and former postdoctoral fellow and founder and chair of the global health interest group at the NIH. This interest group brought her in touch with professionals working on issues related to public health, particularly at the World Bank. Dr. Taaffe started writing for blogs, news reviews, and editorial pieces while involved with the global health interest group. Currently, Dr. Taaffe's work at the Bank includes writing about different issues that go beyond science. She has co-authored several publications related to health economics and investment, epidemiology, and global health advocacy. Dr. Taaffe emphasized that while analytical skills, editorial experience, and an ability to present on different topics are useful, and knowledge in healthcare and related policies is an advantage as they are primary areas of interest of the WBG.

Doing one's homework to better understand the activities of the Bank and to demonstrate a balance

of accomplishments and responsibilities will certainly help an applicant stand out during recruitment, for this or any other job. Interested individuals can check out the World Bank's blogs and podcasts to hear about the different issues the Bank is working on at [blogs.worldbank.org](http://blogs.worldbank.org) and [soundcloud.com/worldbank](https://soundcloud.com/worldbank).

## Career Opportunities in France

By Delphine Quenet, PhD

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The International Opportunities Expo 2014 hosted embassies, funding agencies, and health agencies. Among these groups, France was represented by Dr. Mireille Guyader, Office Director of the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale, Inserm-USA. Dr. Mireille Guyader presented career opportunities at this French national institute for health and medical research. In its 2014 Spring Edition, the VFC Newsletter introduced these opportunities in France (see the NIH VFC Newsletter 2014 Spring Edition, "Science Voices from Home: Applying for an Academic Position in France"). The article also described other options existing in France, including the ATIP-Avenir program for group leader positions, and careers at the other major government agency in France, CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique).

At the Expo 2014, Dr. Mireille Guyader reminded fellows that important deadlines are approaching for this year's applications. For the ATIP-Avenir program, the session will be open from October 2, 2014 (10AM, GMT+2) until November 27, 2014 (4PM, GMT+1). The 2015 recruitment season for researchers at Inserm and CNRS starts in early December and ends the first week of January. Any interested fellows should not hesitate to contact Dr. Mireille Guyader, with questions about applying for any of these programs, or for help finding host institutes ([inserm-usa@ambascience-usa.org](mailto:inserm-usa@ambascience-usa.org)).

Links:

Inserm: <http://english.inserm.fr/>

CNRS: <http://www.cnrs.fr/index.php>

ATIP-Avenir:

[https://www.eva2.inserm.fr/EVA/jsp/AppelsOffres/ATIP-AVENIR/index\\_INSERTM\\_CNRS.jsp](https://www.eva2.inserm.fr/EVA/jsp/AppelsOffres/ATIP-AVENIR/index_INSERTM_CNRS.jsp)

## Horizon 2020

*EU Funding Opportunities*

By Heba Diab, PhD

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In response to the economic crisis that has gripped the world, the European Union Delegation invested in Horizon 2020, the world's largest research and innovation program. Between 2014 and 2020, Horizon 2020 plans to provide €80 billion in funding that aims to couple research to innovation. While the EU spearheads Horizon 2020, participation is open to researchers from the entire world. Funding is available to any nationality and career-stage, as long as the research is conducted in an EU member state.

The ultimate goal of Horizon 2020 is to promote excellent science, encourage industrial innovation, and address societal challenges. Over €24 billion has been allocated to ensure excellent science. This involves providing appropriate means to conduct scientific research (via European Research Council), proper training and career development (via Marie-Sklodowska Curie Actions), promoting cutting-edge technologies, and providing infrastructure. About €19 billion has been invested by Horizon 2020 for industrial leadership. The goal is to enable advancement in bio- and nanotechnology, promote high-risk new ideas, and advance manufacturing in microelectronics. Lastly, nearly €30 billion has been allocated to address societal challenges. These have been divided into seven priorities: health, food/water/agriculture, clean energy, clean

transport, environment/climate, poverty, and security.



A European Union representative engages in discussion with fellows at the Expo 2014.

While funding in general is extremely competitive, it is important to note that grants via Horizon 2020 are available to a wide-range of experienced researchers. There are currently four grant schemes and a new pilot grant; and, the defining criteria for all of these is excellence. The Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced grants are the core grant schemes. These grants are geared towards early-career (PhD, 2-7 years of experience), mid-career (PhD, 7-12 years of experience), and well-established researchers (10+ years with an exceptional scientific track record). These core grants provide funding ranging from €2 to €3.5 million for up to five years. The fourth grant scheme, the Proof of Concept grant, bridges research and marketable innovation and is an award of up to €150,000 for up to 18 months. The new Synergy grant is the new pilot grant and is an award of up to €15 million. This is a 6-year funding opportunity for a team of 2-4 researchers collaborating on a common research goal via a novel approach.

Similar to other grant applications, the process can be quite lengthy. The best way to start the application process is to sign up to receive notices when calls for proposals are made. After calls are made, proposals are due within 3-6 months. During this time, applicants search for partners using the CORDIS database as some calls require

multiple partners to be involved in the project, create an account and register the organization, and then submit the proposal. Twenty-five panelists spend approximately five months evaluating the grant for excellence (sound concept, innovation, novelty), impact, and quality and efficiency of implementation.

While Horizon 2020 focuses on funding research and innovation, there are many non-bench related career opportunities available in Europe. EU citizens can find policy-related jobs in several EU institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, and Council of the EU). Both EU and non-EU citizens can also find numerous job listings, both non-bench and bench research, on the main EURAXESS Jobs website and the EURAXESS-Links North America site. EURAXESS aims to link scientists from around the world. Furthermore, the personnel databases provide contact information of individuals who can advise applicants about available positions and help guide a successful transition into the new job.

Ultimately, the European Union Delegation aims to boost and nurture scientific achievements across Europe. They are not relying solely upon EU citizens and have opened the doors to the entire international community. While funding through Horizon 2020 is competitive, this opportunity provides career development and ultimately contributes to European and global economic growth, health development, and societal advancement.

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

[http://europa.eu/epso/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/epso/index_en.htm)

<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/jobs/index>

[http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/links/eurRes/north\\_america](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/links/eurRes/north_america)

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*Session Moderators*

## Announcements

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- Be on the lookout for another special edition of the VFC Newsletter this fall:

- Immigration 101 Special Edition

- The VFC Newsletter is always looking to add to its talented pool of NIH fellow writers and editors. If you are interested in science writing and editing careers and would like to gain valuable experience, develop transferable skills, and add to your writing portfolio, please submit a 150 word statement of intent to our managing editor, Amie D. Moody ([amie.moody@nih.gov](mailto:amie.moody@nih.gov)). Your statement should highlight your desire to serve in such a capacity, your ability to dedicate the necessary time to this activity, and how this opportunity would fit into your personal career goals. No previous writing or editing experience is necessary.

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## Looking for Leadership Opportunities?

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Join the NIH Visiting Fellows Committee (VFC),  
an organization that is:

- dedicated to building community amongst the NIH's diverse fellow population;
- committed to bringing career building resources and events to the fellows of the NIH.

Become a voice regarding issues of importance to visiting fellows.

Help your career as you help your colleagues.

Contact any of the Visiting Fellows Committee officers below to find out about being a part of the VFC.

## National Institutes of Health Visiting Fellows Committee

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WE ARE ON THE WEB

<https://www.training.nih.gov/felcom/visitingfellows2>