

Forthcoming events

10 May - 30 September 2006

worldwide

Plus New Writers Award – bringing mathematics to life

Plus magazine is launching the *Plus* New Writers Award to find people who can bring mathematics to life. Published online and free of charge, *Plus* is an award-winning magazine about mathematics which is aimed at the general public. Its articles by top mathematicians and science writers provide a window into the world of mathematics with all its beauty and applications, and cover fields as diverse as art, medicine, cosmology and sport.

The competition is open to new writers of any age and from any background who can explain a mathematical topic or application they think the public needs to know about. There are two categories of entrants: secondary school students and the general public. The winning entries will be read by an international audience of over 100 000 in the December issue of *Plus*, and the prize pool includes an iPod. The closing date is 30 September 2006.

More information:

<http://plus.maths.org/competition>

15 May - 15 September 2006

worldwide

Have your Say: bioethics public consultation

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics, UK, has launched a consultation on the ethical dilemmas related to public health, such as the difficulties in balancing individual choice and community benefit. It is interested in the views of young people, so please encourage your students to have their say. A consultation paper provides background information and asks questions in the context of five case

studies: infectious diseases, obesity, smoking, alcohol, and the supplementation of food and water. For example:

- Are there cases where the vaccination of children against the wishes of their parents could be justified?
- Would measures such as forced quarantine, which helped to control the outbreak of SARS in Asia, be acceptable in countries such as the UK?
- What are the roles and obligations of parents, schools, school-food providers and the government in tackling childhood obesity?
- Should people who smoke or drink excessively be entitled to fewer resources from the public health-care system, or should they be asked for increased contributions?
- Fortification of foodstuffs such as flour and margarine has been accepted for some time. Why does the fluoridation of water meet with such resistance?

You might decide to pick one topic for a lesson – the consultation paper includes lots of information to use with a class. Your students' views will certainly be heard, as all responses will be considered by the Nuffield Council. The deadline for responses is 15 September 2006.

More information:

www.nuffieldbioethics.org

20-25 August 2006

University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

GIREP Conference

GIREP conferences aim to bring together physicists, physics educators and physics teachers from all levels of education to discuss issues in physics education and physics education research. The biannual conferences have developed into major events

with over 300 participants from all continents except Antarctica.

The theme of this year's conference is 'modelling in physics and physics education', and guides the morning lecture sessions and some workshops.

The parallel paper, poster, symposium, and workshop sessions may focus on other themes in physics education such as physics curricula, laboratory equipment, teacher education and professional development, assessment, the use of ICT in physics education, and teaching physics for engineering or medicine.

More information:

www.girep2006.nl

Contact: Ton Ellermeijer

(ellermei@science.uva.nl) or Ed van den Berg (eberg@science.uva.nl)

4-9 September 2006

Braga, Portugal

3rd International Conference on Hands-on Science

The 3rd International Conference and Symposium on Hands-on Science offers those involved in science education an opportunity to exchange experience on syllabus and policy matters, social factors and the learning of science, and other issues related to science education, concentrating on the increased use of hands-on experiments in the classroom.

The contact seminar, 'Building bridges: Towards an Improved Science Education', will promote the discussion and preparation of new Comenius 1 and Comenius 2 school projects.

More information:

www.hsci.info/hsci2006/index.html

Contact: sasa.divjak@fri.uni-lj.si

8 September 2006

Universität Kassel, Germany
Englischsprachiger Biologie-
unterricht an deutschen Schulen
(English-language biology lessons in
German schools)

Biology teachers who teach in English are invited to a free workshop organised by the Verband deutscher Biologen and the Hessian Vereinigung für bilinguale Schulen. English-language teaching materials will be developed in small working groups and presented to all participants. Teachers from outside Germany are warmly welcome.

More information:

www.vdbiol.de

Contact: Matthias Bohn

(mbohnde@aol.com)

22-24 September 2006

Wolfsburg, Germany
'Teaching Science in Europe'
conference

At the conclusion of the biennial European exchange process for developing teaching concepts and materials in science education, the publication 'Teaching Science in Europe' will be presented.

More information:

www.science-on-stage.de

Contact and registration:

info@science-on-stage.de

27-29 September 2006

EMBL Heidelberg, Germany
ELLS LearningLAB

The European Learning Laboratory for the Life Sciences (ELLS) is an education facility to bring secondary school teachers into the research lab for a unique hands-on encounter with state-of-the-art molecular biology techniques. ELLS also gives scientists a chance to work with teachers, helping to bridge the widening gap between research and schools.

Teachers are invited to join this workshop (theme to be arranged; the working language will be English).

More information: www.embl.de/ELLS

Contact: ells@embl.de

October 2006

At-Bristol, Bristol, UK
Dynamic engineering course for
gifted and talented youth

How do engineers design objects that move? How do you apply science from the natural world to solve complex problems? Students will design and build their own creatures using animation, modelling and specialist software, while learning all about the design and engineering process of dynamic modelling in this fun and hands-on five-day course. Get your students enthused about science and engineering, while gaining invaluable skills yourself as part of your own continued professional development. Places are available free to groups of four students aged 12-14 and their teachers during October half-term 2006.

More information: www.at-bristol.org.uk

Contact: edel.fletcher@at-bristol.org.uk

3-4 November 2006

EMBL Heidelberg, Germany
7th EMBL/EMBO Joint Conference
2006: Genes, Brain/Mind and
Behaviour

This conference will consider the current – and future – uses of new neurological knowledge and technologies. What are the consequences when biochemical solutions to behavioural problems such as depression, addiction, or eating disorders take precedence over attempts to repair the social environment or defective interpersonal relations? How do we avert the risk of psychopharmacology being abused for neurochemical enhancement?

Although new knowledge coming out of the neurosciences has an enormous potential benefit, treating or manipulating the mind also has important social, legal and bioethical implications. These are some of the main issues that will form the basis of this conference.

More information:

www.embl.de/aboutus/sciencesociety/conferences/2006/scope06.html

Contact: halldor.stefansson@embl.de or andrew.moore@embo.org

Throughout 2006

Europe-wide
Marine photography competition

By sharing the enthusiasm of scientific discovery and the beauty of the sea, Marine Genomics Europe wishes to raise awareness among European citizens of the value of science and the need to protect our marine heritage. In a photography competition, underwater images will be publicly exhibited during 2006 in a travelling exhibition at aquaria, museums and schools. Schools, science museums and others are invited to host the exhibition.

More information:

www.marine-genomics-europe.org

Contact: barbier@sb-roscoff.fr

Date by arrangement

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, conducted in German or English (on request) and have a maximum of 20 participants.

More information: www.schullabor.ch

Contact: gesche.standke@novartis.com

If you organise events or competitions that would be of interest to European science teachers and 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.

