

# Forthcoming events

December 2007 – May 2008

**Life Learning Center (Fondazione per le Biotecnologie), Turin, Italy**

**Training course for high-school science teachers and students**

The Life Learning Center organises one-day theoretical and laboratory courses for science teachers who would like to increase their knowledge of biotechnology and bioinformatics and bring modern biology into their classroom. The courses are free of charge, including printed materials and an activity booklet.

One-day practical laboratory courses are also available for high-school students. They cover biotechnology and bioinformatics topics and molecular biology techniques (PCR, digestion with restriction enzymes, gel electrophoresis). The students are guided by young scientists; after the hands-on laboratory work, the students can discuss the experiment with their teacher and the supervising scientists. These courses cost €5 per student, including printed materials.

All courses are run in Italian.

*More information: [www.llctorino.it](http://www.llctorino.it)*

*Contact: Enrica Favaro or Elena Spoldi ([divulgazione@fobiotech.org](mailto:divulgazione@fobiotech.org))*

4 December 2007 – 30 September 2008

**Explor@dome, Paris, France**

**Exhibition: Bougez Vert: the development of sustainable transport**

This exhibition invites pupils and teachers to address environmental questions related to transport. It offers an interactive and pleasant way to test their knowledge and develop an understanding of sustainable development. Among the many hands-on exhibits are the energy bike and interactive exhibits that produce hydrogen for a fuel cell or allow visitors to investigate different ways to move around a city.

Scientific and multimedia workshops are also available for children aged 7-14.

*More information: [www.exploradome.com](http://www.exploradome.com)*

*Contact: Eloise Soucours ([eloise@exploradome.com](mailto:eloise@exploradome.com))*

6-9 December 2007

**Cambridge University, UK**

**Training course: Physics update course**

This course for practising teachers of physics consists of a series of talks and workshops in which participants will:

- Hear about recent developments in physics and the applications of physics
- Try new practical techniques
- Find out about developments in physics education.

Cost: £70 (non-residential) or £130 (residential).

*Contact: Leila Solomon (+44 (0)20 7470 4821 or [leila.solomon@iop.org](mailto:leila.solomon@iop.org))*

Until 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 con-

cepts 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 students aged 14-16.

*More information: [www.iop.org](http://www.iop.org)*

Until 31 December 2007

**Poland**

**Competition: Astronomy in School**

Two websites, [www.astronomia.pl](http://www.astronomia.pl) and [www.interklasa.pl](http://www.interklasa.pl) together with *Fizyka w Szkole* magazine (*Physics in School*) have organized an astronomical contest for teachers in Poland.

Participants should prepare a series of lessons, an astronomy day at school or other event during which students learn about astronomy.

*More information: [www.astronomia.pl/konkursy](http://www.astronomia.pl/konkursy)*

Until 4 January 2008

**UK and rest of Europe**

**Competition: Planet SciCast Awards**

Why not encourage your students to enter this competition for short films of science demonstrations – or enter it yourself? Deadline: 4 January 2008. Competition entries must be from the UK, but – depending on demand – films from elsewhere in Europe may be included on the website. Email and ask.

*More information: [www.planet-scicast.com](http://www.planet-scicast.com)*

*Contact: [scicast@nesta.org.uk](mailto:scicast@nesta.org.uk)*

17-19 February 2008

**London, UK**

**Study course: Physics in Perspective**

Organised by the Institute of Physics (IOP), this study course for sixth form-

ers and college students consists of a series of 6 lectures. The course costs £20 per person for three days or £7 per day.

Contact: Leila Solomon (+44 (0)20 7470 4821 or [leila.solomon@iop.org](mailto:leila.solomon@iop.org))

Until 29 February 2008

#### Worldwide

##### Competition: Catch a Star

This international competition for school students is run by ESO (the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere) and the EAAE (European Association for Astronomy Education). Students can win a trip to visit the ESO Very Large Telescope on Cerro Paranal in Chile, and many other prizes. Choose from three different competition categories:

- **Catch a Star Researchers:** Select an astronomical object, such as a star, galaxy, comet, planet, moon, or nebula. Become astronomical detectives, forming teams to research your chosen object. Write an article about it, to learn and share some of its secrets. Projects must be written in English, and prizes are awarded by an international jury.
- **Catch a Star Adventurers:** As with Catch a Star Researchers, write about your chosen astronomical topic, but entries do not have to be written in English, and prizes are awarded by lottery.
- **Catch a Star Artists:** You can also take part by making a drawing or painting for the artwork competition. Prizes are awarded with the help of a public web-based vote.

Submission deadline:  
29 February 2008

More information:  
[www.eso.org/catchastar](http://www.eso.org/catchastar)

10-16 March 2008

#### Portugal

##### School activities: Brain Awareness Week – Get Connected

Brain Awareness Week is an international effort organized by the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives to increase public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research. During this week, school activities (visits to scientific laboratories, school visits by scientists, science lectures at schools) will be held all over Portugal, involving students from primary, middle and secondary schools.

More information:

<http://brainweek.dana.org> and  
[www.cienciaviva.pt/divulgacao/semanacerebro2007/home/](http://www.cienciaviva.pt/divulgacao/semanacerebro2007/home/)

Contact: [jomalva@fmed.uc.pt](mailto:jomalva@fmed.uc.pt)

12-14 March 2008

#### European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany

##### Training course: 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.

The three-day course is designed to enable the participating teachers to explore a range of activities, which they can practice in the lab and then take back to the classroom.

The course is open to 20 European high-school science teachers and is run in English. The course, including course materials, catering and accommodation, is free of charge; participants are expected to meet their own travel costs.

More information: [www.embl.de/ells](http://www.embl.de/ells)

Contact: [ells@embl.de](mailto:ells@embl.de)

By 31 March 2008

#### Worldwide

##### Competition: Medicines from Fungi

Why not get your students to enter the Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee's writing competition?

Patients often ask their doctor or pharmacist for information about the medicine they have been prescribed to treat their illness. They want to know how it is produced and how it works. There is a need for a range of information sheets for patients explaining the facts about different drugs.

Many of the medicines in common use today are produced by fungi. Imagine you are a medical writer and you have been asked to produce a factsheet about one drug of fungal origin. Your factsheet should be A4 in size, attractively illustrated and factually accurate.

More information:

[www.microbiologyonline.org.uk](http://www.microbiologyonline.org.uk)

Contact: [education@sgm.ac.uk](mailto:education@sgm.ac.uk)

By 31 March 2008

#### Worldwide

##### Competition: Plus new writers award

*Plus* magazine is again looking for the science writers of the future, who can make mathematics lively and interesting for a general audience. There are three categories in this writing competition: school students; university students; and the general public. In the first category, secondary-school and sixth-form students are invited to write a piece of up to 900 words about the life and/or work of any mathematician, living or dead.

The winning entries will be read by an international audience of over 200,000 in the June 2008 issue of *Plus*. There

are also prizes for the best submissions, including signed copies of popular science books and an Apple iPod. The closing date is 31 March 2008.

*More information:*  
<http://plus.maths.org/competition>

March – April 2008

#### **Five venues in the UK**

##### **Training course: Advanced physics revision roadshows**

The Institute of Physics advanced physics revision roadshows for students feature exciting experiments and interactive lectures summarising key information from the AS and A2 physics courses.

The courses cost £20 per student, and include revision lectures, student handbooks, lunch and refreshments. Accompanying teachers are free.

*More information:*  
<http://advancingphysics.iop.org>

*Contact: Anastasia Ireland*  
([Anastasia.ireland@iop.org](mailto:Anastasia.ireland@iop.org))

4-8 June 2008

#### **Cheltenham, UK**

##### **Cheltenham Science Festival**

At the 7th Cheltenham Science Festival, events for school students of all ages include many interactive workshops and activities which bring the science curriculum alive.

*More information:*  
[www.cheltenhamfestivals.com](http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com)

*Contact: [science@cheltenhamfestivals.com](mailto:science@cheltenhamfestivals.com)*

5 June 2008

#### **Rugby School, Rugby, UK**

##### **Conference: 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Teachers of Physics in Schools and Colleges**

The day consists of three lectures (one each on research physics, physics education and both education and entertainment), plus a series of six parallel workshops and a discussion session. Dame Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell (who, as a research student, discovered the first radio pulsars) will speak

about astrophysics and Professor Peter Main (director of education and science at the Institute of Physics) will talk about the future of physics education in schools.

The meeting is open to teachers, teachers in training and technicians from all countries. It will cost £30 per person including lunch and refreshments (£15 for newly qualified teachers and trainee teachers).

*More information: [www.iop.org/activity/education/Events/Events%20for%20Teachers/Schools%20Physics%20Group/page\\_5736.html](http://www.iop.org/activity/education/Events/Events%20for%20Teachers/Schools%20Physics%20Group/page_5736.html)*

*Contact: Chris A Butlin*  
([ChrisAButlin@aol.com](mailto:ChrisAButlin@aol.com) or +44 (0)1904 607 169)

July-August 2008

#### **Andøya Rocket Range, Andenes, Norway**

##### **Student course: European Space Camp**

The European Space Camp is a summer camp in English for high-school students. Participants should be aged 17-20, interested in space and science, and have a background in physics and mathematics.

The participants spend a week doing technical experiments involved in a rocket campaign, working as real rocket scientists, learning how to exploit knowledge they already possess, and broadening their understanding of applied science. Working in groups, they have to use their creativity and learn to cooperate. The programme includes hands-on activities related to the rocket launch, lectures and social activities.

Participation in the European Space Camp is free, but participants must cover the cost of their own travel expenses.

*More information: [www.spacecamp.no](http://www.spacecamp.no)*  
*Contact: [contact@spacecamp.no](mailto:contact@spacecamp.no)*

9-11 July 2008

#### **European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany**

##### **Training course: ELLS LearningLAB**

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The course is open to 20 European high-school science teachers and is run in English. The course, including course materials, catering and accommodation, is free of charge; participants are expected to meet their own travel costs.

*More information: [www.embl.de/ells](http://www.embl.de/ells)*  
*Contact: [ells@embl.de](mailto:ells@embl.de)*

21-31 July 2008

#### **Davidson Institute of Science Education, Israel**

##### **Seminar: Schwartz Family International Leading Science Teachers' Seminar**

Are you a motivated secondary-school science teacher? Do you want to make a long-lasting impact? Do you want to help improve science education in schools?

At this 10-day seminar at the Weizmann Institute of Science, you will:

- Be exposed to cutting-edge research by top scientists
- Develop leadership in school science education
- Establish international collaborative initiatives with like-minded colleagues
- Improve your science teaching strategies.

All lectures will be in English.

*More information:*

[davidson.weizmann.ac.il/international](http://davidson.weizmann.ac.il/international)

Contact: Zahava Scherz

([zahava.scherz@weizmann.ac.il](mailto:zahava.scherz@weizmann.ac.il))

29 September – 1 October 2008

**European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany**

**Training course: 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.

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*More information:*

[www.embl.de/ells](http://www.embl.de/ells)

Contact: [ells@embl.de](mailto:ells@embl.de)

23-26 October 2008

**Berlin, Germany**

**Science teaching festival: National Science on Stage festival**

Science teachers are invited to submit proposals to participate in the first national Science on Stage festival in Berlin, organised by Science on Stage Germany and THINK ING. Three hundred teachers from Germany and other European countries will present teaching projects and experiments in a fair and discuss innovative methods in workshops. The festival programme also includes scientific talks, exhibitions at the science and research insti-

tutes in Berlin as well as on-stage performances.

All proposals should be submitted via the appropriate national steering committee. To find the national steering committee contact in your country, consult the international Science on Stage website. The deadline for proposals is 25 May 2008 and the working language is English.

*More information:*

[www.science-on-stage.de](http://www.science-on-stage.de)

Contact: [info@science-on-stage.de](mailto:info@science-on-stage.de)

*All year*

**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. Secondary-school students isolate plasmid DNA from bacterial cultures and digest it with restriction enzymes. The resulting DNA fragments are separated and visualised by gel electrophoresis.

The workshops are for secondary-school students who already have the necessary theoretical background and are over 17 years of age. The workshops are free of charge, are in German or English (on request), and have a maximum of 20 participants. Teachers are invited to get in touch to arrange a workshop for their class.

*More information:* [www.schullabor.ch](http://www.schullabor.ch)

Contact: Gesche Standke

([gesche.standke@novartis.com](mailto:gesche.standke@novartis.com))

*All year*

**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](http://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](http://www.mcsuk.org/mcsaction/education/cool+seas+roadshow)

Contact: Angus Bloomfield

([angus.bloomfield@mcsuk.org](mailto:angus.bloomfield@mcsuk.org))

*All year*

**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](http://www.sciencelearningcentres.org.uk)

Contact: [enquiries@national.slcs.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@national.slcs.ac.uk)

All year

**Glasgow Science Centre, Glasgow, UK**

**Free teacher visits**

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

More information:

[www.glasgowsciencecentre.org](http://www.glasgowsciencecentre.org)

Contact +44 (0)871 540 1003

All year

**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 its lively travelling 'Science Circus'. Science Circus activities consist of amazing live science shows and interactive exhibits delivered at your venue.

More information:

[www.glasgowsciencecentre.org](http://www.glasgowsciencecentre.org)

Contact +44 (0)871 540 1004

All year

**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:

[www.darwincentre.com](http://www.darwincentre.com)

Contact: Marten Lewis

([M.B.Lewis@pembrokeshire.ac.uk](mailto:M.B.Lewis@pembrokeshire.ac.uk))

All year

**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) and costs £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:

[www.darwincentre.com](http://www.darwincentre.com)

Contact: Marten Lewis

([M.B.Lewis@pembrokeshire.ac.uk](mailto:M.B.Lewis@pembrokeshire.ac.uk))

All year

**Paris-Montagne, Paris, France**

**Science Academy**

Throughout the year, Paris-Montagne runs an outreach programme in all Parisian suburbs. The programme is for high-school students interested in sciences but not confident enough to enrol in undergraduate studies, due to social and cultural hindrances. The organisation offers personal tutoring and the possibility to discover the world of research by meeting researchers in various fields and by carrying out their own research in real laboratories during their holidays (300 expected in April 2008). The most dedicated participants in the programme are offered the chance to take part in a summer camp during the Paris-Montagne science festival (July 2008). This year's summer camp will have an international dimension, with some of our students taking part in partner programmes in Hungary, Croatia and Serbia.

More information:

[www.scienceacademie.org](http://www.scienceacademie.org) or

[www.paris-montagne.org](http://www.paris-montagne.org)

All year

**Portugal**

**School visits: MIT professors go to Portuguese secondary schools**

Ciência Viva is organising short talks by MIT professors in Portuguese secondary schools, as part of a cooperation (MIT-Portugal) between MIT and Portuguese universities in the areas of bioengineering, sustainable energy and transport systems. The students have direct contact to MIT professors and can discuss their ideas and ask questions about these important engineering areas.

Schools are selected based on their motivation for participating in the programme and on the projects they have developed in the areas of science and engineering.

More information:

[www.cienciaviva.pt/divulgacao/mit](http://www.cienciaviva.pt/divulgacao/mit)

Contact: [mit@cienciaviva.pt](mailto:mit@cienciaviva.pt)

All year

**INTECH, Hands-on Interactive Science and Discovery Centre, Winchester UK**

**Free teacher visits**

Teachers are invited to visit INTECH, the hands-on interactive science and discovery centre, free of charge or to attend a teacher preview session to discover what is available for school visits and workshops.

More information: [www.intech-uk.com](http://www.intech-uk.com)

Contact: Angela Ryde-Weller

([AngelaRydeWeller@intech-uk.com](mailto:AngelaRydeWeller@intech-uk.com))

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**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, price, language, website and contact email address to [editor@scienceinschool.org](mailto:editor@scienceinschool.org)**

