



August 2009

Dear Soft Matter Colleagues,

After a long hiatus, Soft Matter World is back up and running again just as before! Despite being down for 3 months, there is still a lot of great new material to start the Academic Year.

Because the site had to be rebuilt, make sure to check the Global Map that your group is still listed. Also, the original email; editor@softmatterworld.org will not be working for a few more weeks. So in the meantime, send all questions and requests to editor.softmatterworld@gmail.com. Enjoy the Newsletter, and make sure to pass the word and encourage fellow researchers and enthusiasts to sign up with the mailing list.

- **This Month's Featured Research Group:**

Rudi Podgornik's Research Group at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Rudi Podgornik is no ordinary name in the Soft Matter world, with over a 100 published papers and receiving the highest prize for scientific excellence in Slovenia in 1999- the Zois Award, he has pushed the boundaries of research in biophysics and soft matter. His research group is based out of University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, covering a whole variety of fields including the physics of soft matter, the physics of coulomb fluids, macromolecular interactions (in particular the Lifshitz theory of dispersion interaction) the physics of membranes, polymers and polyelectrolytes and most notably the physics of DNA. He is the head of the research program "Biophysics of polymers, membranes, gels, colloids and cells" which you can read more about at the Slovene Agency for Research and Development (SICRIS) website. His web page contains some stunning images and excellent descriptions of Prof. Podgornik's research interests, so visit the [Latest Research](#) section or follow the link to his site [here](#) to learn more!

- **This Month's Highlighted Research:**

Self-organization of curved living polymers: FtsZ protein filaments

Spanish Researchers present Monte Carlo simulations for a two-dimensional lattice model that mimics the interactions between filament forming proteins.

- **Conference News:**

The **GRC (Gordon Research Conferences)** is hosting **'Soft Meets Biology'** a **conference on Soft Condensed Matter Physics** at Colby Sawyer College in New Hampshire from **August 9th to 14th, 2009**. The conference will exploit and advance fruitful synergies between condensed matter physics and quantitative biology. It will feature a wide range of topics, potentially including *in vivo* and *in vitro* rheology of biological materials, single molecule biophysics, biological applications of microfluidics, the physics of viruses, physical aspects of molecular evolution and gene expression, the physics of biological materials and the motility of biological organisms. Topics in traditional soft matter that might interest biologists and biological topics that might appeal to soft condensed matter scientists will be included as well. Visit the **GRC website** or the **Latest News** section for more information.

The **22nd Marian Smoluchowski Symposium on Statistical Physics** is to be held in Zakopane, Poland from **September 12th to 17th, 2009**. To the 2009 meeting is entitled **"Selforganization and randomness"** and will cover the statistical physics of a number of different topics ranging from random networks to complex dynamics and relaxation all with application to soft matter and biological systems. Visit the website to see the invited speakers and program to follow this vital event.

- **Employment News:**

In the past three months most of the available positions closed. Contribute to the site by sending in any positions that are currently open!

- **Soft Matter Network:**

The **Global Research Network** is now in 3D! Check out the new map and if you or a colleague have a research group and would like to be added to the map, just fill out the form in **Global Research Network** and you will be added.

I hope you enjoy browsing softmatterworld.org and come back soon - please let us know if you have any suggestions for improving the site.

Linda S. Hirst and Adam Ossowski
Softmatterworld.org

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