



February 2009

Dear Soft Matter Colleagues,

It has been a busy month for Softmatterworld.org. There have been quite a few additions to the world map, and the new form for the mailing list has brought some new members to the softmatterworld.org community.

Please continue to encourage your students and colleagues to take a look at our site and register with the mailing list in the [Contacts](#) section.

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

- **Food Structure and Functionality: A Soft Matter Perspective**

- European researchers describe the structure of various foods through the perspective of recent advances in soft condensed matter physics.

- Raffaele Mezzenga, one of the authors, is currently accepting applications for a Post-Doctoral position in polymer physics. To apply, go to the softmatterworld.org [Notice Board](#).

- **Nematic Colloids Entangled by Topological Defects**

- Physicists from The [University of Ljubljana](#) report on recently discovered colloidal binding, where particles are entangled by disclination loops.

- You can learn more about soft matter research in Slovenia and Slobodan Žumer's group using our [world map](#)!

- **Conference News:**

The 10th **European Conference on Liquid Crystals (ECLC)** will take place on April 19 - 24th, 2009 in Colmar, France, located in the picturesque Alsace wine country. The conference will cover all major topics in Liquid Crystals Science and Technology, as well as related topics in Biology and Soft Materials.

Registration and online abstract submissions are open! Take advantage to attend a world renowned conference in a unique and beautiful location.

An IOP conference on **Biological and Soft Matter** will be taking place at the University of Warwick, UK.

This conference, organized by the **Institute of physics** will take place from 6th-8th April 2009 and will focus on the continuum of scientific problems that extend from equilibrium soft matter to non-equilibrium soft matter to biological systems and, ultimately, biology as a non-equilibrium system realised in soft matter.

- **Employment News:**

Two new positions are open and posted on the [Notice Board!](#)

The International Helmholtz Research School offers research fellowships at Jülich Research Center, Germany

Home to some of the best scientists and research equipment in the world, The Jülich Research Center is accepting applicants in the Biophysics and Softmatter (BioSoft) Department. Next applications are due February 19th.

Post-Doc Position in Polymer Physics Group in Fribourg, Switzerland

A 2 year position for a Postdoctoral Research Assistant is available in the field of polymer physics, specifically self-assembly of block copolymers containing mesogenic rod blocks.

- **Gallery:**

We need your soft matter images to add to the [Gallery!](#) If you have any that you would like featured on the site please [email the editor](#) (editor@softmatterworld.org) and attach your file (RGB image, maximum 800px on the long edge at 72dpi) with a suitable description, your name and the year the image was produced.

- **Soft Matter Network:**

Find out where researchers all over the world are doing soft matter research! Browse the different groups for opportunities and Network with new colleagues. If you or a colleague have a research group and would like to be added to the map visit the [Global Research Network](#) section on the website or email the editor.

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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