



January 2009

Dear Soft Matter Colleagues,

Happy New Year! and welcome to Soft Matter World, the website for the soft matter community.

Each month I will be sending you this brief e-mail version of our [softmatterworld.org](http://www.softmatterworld.org) newsletter highlighting the latest content on the site. I hope that you will encourage your students and colleagues to take a look at our site and register with our mailing list. We have now made this much easier by adding a new registration form in the '[Contacts](#)' section.

- **This month's research highlights:**

[New Liquid Crystal Materials Facility provides free samples of new LC materials to researchers.](#)

A group of researchers at Kent State University launch a new service providing free liquid crystal materials.

(<http://www.softmatterworld.org/news/index.html>)

[Polymers strut their stuff under the spotlight.](#)

Chemists in Japan have created light-driven polymer films that walk like inchworms and move like robotic arms.

(<http://www.softmatterworld.org/research/>)

[The inner life of mesoorganisms.](#)

Todd Squires from UCSB writes for Physics about microfluidics in plants

(<http://www.softmatterworld.org/research/>)

- **Conference News:**

Apply now to attend **Faraday Discussion 144: Multi-Scale Modeling of Soft Matter**. This conference will be held at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands from 20-22nd July 2009.

(<http://www.softmatterworld.org/news/index.html>)

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.

(<http://www.eu-softcomp.net/news>)

(http://www.ioppublishing.com/Conferences/Forthcoming_Institute_Conferences/biosoftmatter/index.html)

- **Employment News:**

Now is the time to apply for summer undergraduate internships. There are many undergraduate research opportunities now accepting applications across the US. Check out our **Notice Board** for details.

Positions are open at HP Labs in the UK for graduate students and postdocs.

(<http://www.softmatterworld.org/noticeboard/>)

- **Soft Matter Network:**

By clicking on our **Google Map feature** you can 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 please contact us as editor@softmatterworld.org

(<http://www.softmatterworld.org/network/>)

I hope you will find our content interesting - please let me know if you have suggestions for improving the site.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Linda S. Hirst and Adam Ossowski
Softmatterworld.org

*If you would not like to receive this e-mail newsletter please send a reply to editor@softmatterworld.org with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.