



September 2009

Dear Soft Matter Colleagues,

The beginning of the 2009-2010 academic year has brought with it some great new conferences and programs taking place all around the world from Poland to Ohio! Also there are some excellent research groups that have been added to the world map (now in 3D!).

We would also like to continue encouraging members of the site to continue giving input and informing us about conferences, job openings and publications along with anything else Soft Matter related. Also, don't forget that the original email; [editor@softmatterworld.org](mailto:editor@softmatterworld.org) will not be working for a few more weeks. In the meantime, send all questions and requests to [editor.softmatterworld@gmail.com](mailto:editor.softmatterworld@gmail.com). Enjoy the September 2009 Newsletter.

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

**SoftSimu – The Mikko Karttunen Biological and Soft Matter Physics Research group at the University of Western Ontario**

SoftSimu is a young new biophysics and soft matter group led by Dr. Mikko Karttunen in the Department of Applied Maths in the University of [Western Ontario](#) in London (ON). The group's research is geared towards the interface between condensed matter physics, biology and biomedical sciences. Most of the research is conducted with large scale computer simulations combined with analytical studies. Currently the group is concentrating on problems related to multiscale modeling of biological systems, lipid membranes, pattern formation in reaction-diffusion systems, and computational methods. The webpage is full of different resources including Publications, Events and even Movie Downloads! So visit [SoftSimu](#) to see one of the more versatile and interactive research group pages in the SoftMatterWorld.org Research Network.

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

**'Watching' Processes in soft matter with SPM**

Researchers from the University of Sheffield discuss the fascinating progress of scanning probe microscopy technology and techniques over the past decade and its vital role in soft matter research. It was published in the latest July-August edition of Materials Today.

## **RSC Publishing releases ‘Membrane Biophysics’ themed issue**

Biomembranes are thermodynamic ensembles with interesting features beyond the scope of single molecules. The role of thermodynamic observables, susceptibilities, and how they are influenced by the thermodynamic variables is the most prominent topic of this themed issue on membrane biophysics. Visit the [Latest News](#) section to read more.

- **Conference News:**

The **5<sup>th</sup> International Liquid Crystal Elastomer Conference (ILCEC)** is being held in from the 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> of September at Kent State University, Ohio. The conference will bring together physicists, chemists, mathematicians, materials scientists and engineers active in the field of liquid crystal elastomers to discuss experimental, theoretical, and technical results in the field.

Two important conferences are being held in Poland this month; The first being the **18<sup>th</sup> Conference on Liquid Crystals in Augustow** from **September 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>**. It is being organized by LC groups from the **Institute of Applied Physics and Institute of Chemistry at the Military University of Technology**.

The second conference is the **22<sup>nd</sup> Marian Smoluchowski Symposium on Statistical Physics** in Zakopane from **September 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. This year’s 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.

- **Employment News:**

Track positions in **Experimental Condensed Matter Physics at Case Western University** are open! Visit the [Noticeboard](#) to read more.

- **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** section and you will be added.

I hope you enjoy browsing [softmatterworld.org](http://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](http://Softmatterworld.org)

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