



April 2009

Dear Soft Matter Colleagues,

This month Softmatterworld.org reached **over 100 members** on the mailing list! This is great news! The entire purpose of softmatterworld.org is to be a networking tool for soft matter enthusiasts all around the world - the bigger the mailing list the better! So, 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.

In celebration of our ever growing mailing list we have decided to do things a bit different for this newsletter. From now on, every month, we will be featuring one group from our global research network in the [Latest Research](#) section along with one new publication.

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

- **Jan Lagerwall's Liquid Crystals and Composites Group**

- The Liquid Crystals and Composites Group led by [Dr. Jan Lagerwall](#) is based out of Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, in Halle (Saale), Germany. It covers a variety of research in the field of liquid crystals and contains two separate websites; [an educational site](#) aimed at informing students and young researchers on the basics of liquid crystals and a second which focuses solely on Dr. Lagerwall and his team's research. They are full of excellent links and resources, not too mention spectacular photos – some of which have just been added to our [Gallery](#) section! So check out Dr. Lagerwall's site in our [Latest Research](#) section or follow the link [here](#).

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

- **Cooking up a Smart Nanofluid**

- A team of Researchers from the University of Milan have discovered a specialized nanoparticle which forms a fluid that can be switched between two states with different thermal properties when floating in water.

- **Conference news:**

- The **GRC (Gordon Research Conferences)** is holding a **Liquid Crystals conference** at [Colby Sawyer College](#) in New Hampshire from **June 14th to 19th, 2009**. The-

Conference will address current issues in liquid crystal science, applications of **liquid crystals, and areas of biology and medicine in which liquid crystal concepts are important**. The coverage of the Conference will be extremely broad, ranging from the latest fundamental theories and experiments into the nature of liquid crystals to the cutting-edge work on the role liquid crystals play in biological systems. There will be a wide range of invited speakers representing every aspect from academia and industry. Registration is now open; visit the [GRC website](#) or the [Latest News](#) section for more information.

Don't forget that there are many soft matter conferences coming up these next few months in a variety of locations, the following still have **open registration** so apply while you can!

- **PSSM (Planer-Smoluchowski Soft Matter Workshop):** 22 June 2009
 - Registration open until **April 15, 2009**
- **I-CAMP:** 28 June - 29 July 2009
 - Registration open until **April 15, 2009**
- **Faraday Discussion 144: Multiscale Modeling of Soft Matter:** 20 - 22 July 2009
 - Early Registration open until **May 22, 2009**
 - Standard Registration open until **June 22, 2009**

- **Employment News:**

There are no new positions as of this month. However, there are still openings so check out the [Noticeboard](#) for more information.

- **Gallery:**

There have been some new additions to the Gallery. However, we still need your soft matter images! 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:**

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.

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Softmatterworld.org

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