



December 2009

Dear Soft Matter Colleagues,

Happy Holidays! A new year is around the corner which will mark the one year anniversary of the Soft Matter World Newsletter. It has been a great year thanks to all of your contributions. We now boast over 60 research groups in the global network and the mailing list contains nearly 200 members! So keep up the good work. The Newsletter is due for a major makeover for the New Year, so if you have any contributions that you would like to see in the January 2010 Newsletter don't hesitate to email them to the editor (editor.softmatterworld@gmail.com).

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

[Self Assembly in Soft Matter, Memorial University, Newfoundland and Labrador](#)

This month's featured research group from the Softmatterworld Global Research network is the Self Assembly in Soft Matter research group based out of Memorial University located in Newfoundland, Canada. Their research interests include but are not limited to; colloids in electric fields, diffusion and dynamics, patterned materials and lipid vesicles and colloid/liquid crystal mixtures. You can read more about their research and most recent publications at their website in the Latest Research section.

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

[Orientationally correlated colloidal polycrystals without long-range positional order](#)

This month we present an article written by researchers straight from the Soft Matter Global Network; Wenceslao Gonzalez-Vinas from University of Navarra and Anand Yethiraj from Memorial University (and colleagues). They report on the local and global structure of spin-coated colloidal crystals via laser diffraction measurements and scanning electron and atomic force microscopies. This article has some great images so be sure to support the soft matter world network by reading up on this one.

[Nanofiber-supported phospholipid bilayers](#)

Researchers create functional nanofiber networks which mimic the chemical and mechanical environment provided by human cell's natural actin network, a step towards fabricating artificial cells.

- **Conference news:**

A workshop on **Emerging Interfaces at the University of Surrey** is being held on January 6-7, 2010. The workshop intends to showcase recent developments in the evolution of interfacial structures in various media, including elastic crystals, fluids, and granular materials. Visit the [website](#) to read more.

Dynamics Days 2010: International Conference on Chaos and Nonlinear Dynamics is being held at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL from **January 4-7 2010**. Dynamics Days is an annual conference on chaos and nonlinear dynamics. Sessions will cover a broad range of topics, including granular materials, time series analysis, non-equilibrium statistical physics, pattern formation, self-organization, and fluid dynamics.

Visit the website or the [Latest News](#) section to read more.

- **Employment News:**

Tenured Professor of Physics Position is open at the University of California, Merced open to both theorists and experimentalists. Completed online applications should be received by **February 1, 2010**.

Two new Postdoctoral positions in Germany and France are available

Visit the [Noticeboard](#) to read more.

- **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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