The team of the French Office for Science and Technology in Los Angeles hopes that you had an enjoyable fall season, and a Happy Thanksgiving. Over the course of this month, researchers have been hard at work investigating tiny drug pumps, and how fruit flies may lead us to the secret to the fountain of youth. These are just a couple of examples of the Science and Technology updates you will find in this newsletter.

Moreover, a number of calls for proposals have been coming through our office at the French Consulate in L.A. These include: A call for applications for the Chateaubriand Fellowship Science Program, for 2012-2013. This program is intended for American scientists at the doctorate level, wishing to conduct research in a French laboratory for a 4 to 10 month period, initiating or reinforcing collaborations, partnerships or joint projects by encouraging exchange. All disciplines in Sciences, Technology, and Health are eligible, and knowledge of French is not mandatory. The due date for these proposals is February 1, 2012. Additionally, the Partner University Fund (PUF) has also launched a call for projects, to promote innovative collaborations in research and education between France and America. These proposals, eligible for substantial funding, will be due February 6, 2012. Lastly, “ATIP/AVENIR”; a partnership between Inserm and CNRS, is having an open call for programs to allow young researchers to develop their own team and project (based on the French structure of research), and to promote the availability and use of laboratories for these young scientists. Applications are due December 12, 2011. Please reference our “Proposals & Events” section for more information, including websites and contact details.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate a Café des Sciences veteran, Ludovic Righetti of USC, who—with his team of two other engineers—recently won a best paper prize at a top international robot competition with their work: “Online movement adaptation based on previous sensor experience”, that was one of some 790 papers accepted — out of 2,541 submitted — at the 2011 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS 2011) held in San Francisco. More details can be found below. Congratulations to Ludovic Righetti, Peter Pastor and Mrinal Kalakrishnan!

Thank you and Bonne lecture!

Fabien Agenes, Scientific Attaché
Manon Lecomte, Deputy Scientific Attaché
Sara Chandler, Science and Technology Intern

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