The Office for Science and Technology at the Consulate general of France in Los Angeles would like to wish everyone a happy August. In France, August is a time for many to relax and take a vacation. However, some researchers are still hard at work in their labs.

This month, we would like to invite you to view the full moon on August 10. The moon will be at its closest point to Earth in 2014. Also, don't forget to watch the Perseid Meteor Shower on August 12.

The first phase of the **Worldwide Innovation Challenge** launched by the French government in December 2013 finally came to a close. The talents of today - both in France and abroad - were encouraged to create the world of tomorrow regarding energy storage, recycling of metals, development of marine resources, plant proteins and plant chemistry, personalized medicine, the silver economy, or big data. 110 laureates were selected throughout Phase 1 of the process (Start-up Phase) and received financial support in the form of grants of up to €200,000 per project. Around 10% of the projects were submitted by non-French companies, and some of the laureates had previously benefited from support programs endorsed by the Office for Science and Technology of the Embassy of France in the US such as **Fruition Sciences**, a 2008 YEi (Young Entrepreneurs initiative) laureate based in California.

Phase 2 (Risk Reduction Phase) will start on September 1st, 2014, and will narrow down the number of projects that will receive support for further development.


Thank you for reading and bonnes vacances à tous!

**Kyle Costenbader, Science and Technology Intern**  
Viviane Chansavang, Deputy Attaché for Science and Technology  
Fabien Agenes, Attaché for Science and Technology

*To read the full version of the August 2014 newsletter, please scroll down. You can also register here to receive emails about events organized by the OST LA.*

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**SCIENCES IN THE US**

**LOCAL NEWS**

**July 02, 2014 : New Reprogramming Method Makes Better Stem Cells**

A team of researchers has shown for the first time that stem cells created using different methods produce differing cells. This replaces the embryonic stem cell approach, which has long faced ethical considerations. The goal is to tailor stem cells to replace worn-out or missing cells for every organ in the body.
July 14, 2014 : Acute Glaucoma Discovered to be an Inflammatory Disease

A team of researchers at UCSD and Sun Yatsen University in China have shown that acute glaucoma is an inflammatory disease. Vision loss is caused by high pressure in the eye starts an inflammatory mechanism similar to the response evoked by bacterial infections.

To access the full article:
http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/pressrelease/acute_glaucoma_discovered_to_be_an_inflammatory_disease

July 14, 2014 : Scientist uses breast cancer’s advance scouts to find disease’s vulnerabilities

USC Stem Cell Researcher Min Yu and Scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical school report how they isolated breast cancer cells from the seeds of metastasis, traveling to vital organs. If perfected, this technique could allow doctors to use cancer cells from patients to monitor progression of their diseases.

To access the full article:
http://news.usc.edu/65294/scientist-uses-breast-cancers-advance-scouts-to-find-diseases-vulnerabilities/

July 15, 2014 : USC Stem Cell Scientists Lay a Trap for Disease

USC Stem Cell scientists use a technique called TRAP to identify active genes in vital organs. This technique is useful for detecting early signs of diseases which will lead to quicker treatment and improved patient health.

To access the full article:
http://news.usc.edu/65684/usc-stem-cell-scientists-lay-a-trap-for-disease/

July 16, 2014 : Nanotechnology Targets Neurological Disorders

USC electrical engineer Kun Yue is devising an ambitious interdisciplinary plan to treat neurological disorders such as multiple sclerosis with nanotechnology. Yue’s first step to achieving this goal is to build an electrical circuit model of selected brain circuits.

To access the full article:
http://news.usc.edu/65690/nanotechnology-targets-neurological-disorders/

July 16, 2014 : One Injection Stops Diabetes in Its Tracks

In mice with the equivalent of type 2 diabetes in humans, a single injection of the protein FGF1 is enough to restore blood sugar levels to a healthy range for more than two days without the side effects of currently available drugs. This discovery could lead to a new generation of safer, more effective diabetes drugs.

To access the full article:

July 17, 2014 : New Gene Discovered That Stops The Spread of Deadly Cancer

Scientists at the Salk Institute have identified a gene responsible for stopping the metastasis of lung cancer. When communication between genes LKB1 and DIXDC1 is disrupted, cancer cells metastasize via extracellular cues. This discovery explains why some tumors are more prone to spreading than others.

To access the full article:

July 22, 2014 : UCLA Researchers find mechanism that clears excess of a pancreatic protein linked with type 2 diabetes
A team of researchers at UCLA suggests that autophagy is not present to stop the accumulation of toxic proteins in the pancreas that lead to Type 2 diabetes. These toxic proteins are responsible for the destruction of beta cells, which store and release insulin. The study also suggests the process of autophagy as an important mechanism in preventing Alzheimer’s as well.

To access the full article:

July 28, 2014: Memory relies on astrocytes, the brain’s lesser known cells

Scientists published in a paper on July 28th that the astrocytes, although slower than neurons, provide the right environment for gamma waves that make the brain more likely to learn and change the strength of its neuronal connections.

To access the full article:

NATIONAL NEWS

July 4, 2014: NIH Scientists Find Six New Genetic Risk Factors for Parkinson’s

The discovery of 6 new genetic risk factors involved in Parkinson’s disease will play a role in understanding the multiple mechanisms of the disease.

To access the full article:

July 17, 2014: NIH Scientists Identify Gene Linked to Fatal Inflammatory Disease in Children

In a study comparing the DNA of parents to children affected by autoinflammatory diseases, scientists were able to identify a novel mutation in a gene that encodes a protein called STING—a signaling molecule that can trigger inflammation when over expressed.

To access the full article:

July 22, 2014: Schizophrenia’s Genetic Skyline Rising

In a new study over 108 chromosomal sites with inherited genetic variations were linked to schizophrenia. These discoveries provide clues to the molecular basis of the disorder and may be helpful in screening for preventative interventions.

To access the full article:

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SCIENCES IN FRANCE

July 04, 2014: Giant earthquakes help predict volcanic eruptions

Researchers at the Institut des Sciences de la Terre and the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, working in collaboration with Japanese researchers, have for the first time observed the response of Japanese volcanoes to seismic waves. Their conclusions, published in Science on July 4, 2014, reveal how earthquakes can impact volcanoes and should help to assess the risk of massive volcanic eruptions worldwide.

To access the full article:
July 11, 2014: Solar Energy - Ultrasound tracks odor representation in the brain

Researchers from the Institut Langevin and the Laboratoire Imagerie et Modelisation en Neurobiologie et Cancerologie used a new ultrasound imaging technique has provided the first ever in vivo visualization of activity in the brain during odor perception. This work opens new perspectives for both imagine and neurobiology.

To access the full article: http://www2.cnrs.fr/sites/en/fichier/cp_anglais.pdf

July 21, 2014: Satellite galaxies put astronomers in a spin

A team of researchers led by astronomers at the Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg has studied 380 galaxies. The scientists revealed that small satellite galaxies always move in rotating discs, a discovery not predicted by current models of structure formation in the universe.

To access the full article: http://www2.cnrs.fr/sites/en/fichier/press_release_satellite_galaxies_july_2014.pdf

MORE INFORMATION

NEXT MONTH’S EVENTS

Salk institute for Biological Studies

Post-Translational Regulation of Cell Signaling Symposium
August 05-08, 2014
Location: Conrad T. Presbys Auditorium
Hosts: Tony Hunter and Sara Courtneidge
Registration required

UCSD

Alzheimer’s Disease: Latest Developments in Diagnosis, Care, and Prevention
August 21, 2014 – 12:00pm - 1:00 pm
Location: Basic Science Bldg.
Featured Speaker: Dr. Murali, Duke University
More Information: http://www.salk.edu/events/scientific_seminars.html

The Scripps Research Institute

Probing and Perturbing Biological Processes with Smart Probes, Reactions and Assemblies
August 05, 2014 – 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Location: MBB2N - The Committee Lecture Hall
Featured Speaker: Oliver Seitz, Ph.D., Professor, Laboratory of Bioorganic Synthesis, Department of Chemistry, Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany

Nuclear Organization and Polycomb Chromatin Domains
August 14, 2014 – 3:30pm-4:30pm
Location: BCC1 – W.M. Keck Foundation Amphitheater
Featured Speaker: Ivan Raska, D.Sc., Professor, Chairman of the Institute of Cellular Biology & Pathology, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic

Chemical Synthesis of Secondary Metabolites
August 25, 2014 – 1:00pm - 2:00pm
The International Exhibition of Innovation and Competitiveness – 16-18 September 2014 – Toulouse, France

The first international cross-cutting forum dedicated to generic technologies and their applications

From September 16 to 18, 2014, the first edition of the Innovation Connecting Show will bring together more than 700 international exhibitors of breakthrough innovations and an expected 20,000 visitors at the Parc des Expositions in Toulouse. As a “technopolis” of knowledge, the “Pink City” will raise the banner of international competitiveness, imagining key generic technologies meeting application challenges.

The Innovation Connecting Show promotes tomorrow’s breakthrough technologies, which are the key element of competitiveness and growth for businesses. ICS is a place for “product”, “service” and “process” innovations to meet with their future application markets. As such, it aims to promote pioneering partnerships and transfers between sectors, through the development and demonstration of key generic technologies - a global market expected to grow 8% by 2015 – reaching 1 trillion euros.

By extension, the ICS will be a vector of synergies between pioneering businesses, training and research centers, territorial institutions, the French state, Europe and large international institutions. Centralized into 14 sectors, these pioneering businesses and their private and institutional partners will be grouped by business clusters, and by French and international clusters. The 20,000 visitors expected during the show will be able to discover them in one of the 400 booths. 1,000 global innovation leaders invited to the event from all around the globe.

More information: www.ics-show.com

INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR PROPOSALS – SCHOLARSHIPS

Please consult Le Fil de Marianne for further information on international calls and job offers. http://www.france-science.org/Fil-de-Marianne-lettre-d.html

IN FRENCH

Les bulletins électroniques
Les articles et les rapports produits par les activités de veille scientifique menées par les Missions Scientifiques et Technologiques dans 40 zones géographiques sont accessibles gratuitement via les Bulletins Electroniques. Ils sont édités par l’Agence pour la Diffusion de l’Information Technologique (ADIT), sur une base mensuelle ou hebdomadaire.

Le Fil de Marianne
Le Fil de Marianne est une publication hebdomadaire des bureaux de l’INSERM et du CNRS aux Etats-Unis. Il offre une information détaillée sur les évolutions de la politique de recherche française, les appels d’offres et les manifestations scientifiques en France. L’abonnement est gratuit.

La Mission pour la Science et la Technologie du Consulat Général de France à Los Angeles
Des informations sur le rôle de notre service au sein de la Mission pour la Science et la technologie (MS&T) peuvent être trouvées sur le site du Consulat Général de France à Los Angeles. Le planning des événements à venir ainsi que nos coordonnées et nos activités, sont également disponibles en ligne.

IN ENGLISH

The Office for Science and Technology of the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles
Information about the OST LA’s missions and activities can be found here.

We value your feedback. Please send us your comments and suggestions at deputy-sdv.la@ambascience-usa.org.
Please also subscribe to the following newsletters for more information on the activities of the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles:

**FRENCH CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Subscribe to the monthly French arts and culture newsletter to receive information about shows, exhibitions and much more, by sending an email to: culture@consulfrance-losangeles.org

**FILM & TV OFFICE**

Subscribe to the monthly French Film and TV newsletter to receive information about projections and events, by sending an email to: frenchfilminla@consulfrance-losangeles.org