Dear Members of Academia Europaea, friends and colleagues,

As the academic year quickly comes to a close, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) is pleased to send you its 2020 Summer Newsletter.

First, for those of you who have not done so already, we remind you to present a nomination for the second edition (Life and Health Sciences) of the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize, awarded by the Barcelona City Council in collaboration with the AE-BKH. Following the end of the state of alarm in Spain due to COVID-19, the final deadline for nominations has now been confirmed as: **July 31, 2020**.

We are also sending more information regarding the 32nd AE Annual Conference in Barcelona, which, as announced earlier, has been postponed until **19-22 October 2021**. In addition, we are excited to share news of the recently released **Barcelona Science Plan 2020-2023**, an initiative of the Barcelona City Council in which the AE-BKH collaborates.

Recent activities carried out by our Hub include the new **“Symbiotic Life”** documentary series, which was uploaded this spring for your viewing, and also the (on-line) 2020 edition of the summer programme, **“Barcelona Dialogue”**, an ongoing collaboration of the Hub with Northeastern University, Boston.

We wish you and your families and friends health and safety during these difficult times. Many thanks for your time and attention.

Cordially yours,

**Ricard Guerrero, Academic Director, AE-Barcelona Knowledge Hub**
1. BARCELONA HYPATIA EUROPEAN SCIENCE PRIZE

The call for nominations for the second edition of the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize (Life and Health Sciences), awarded by the Barcelona City Council in collaboration with the AE-BKH, will remain open until **July 31, 2020**. Following an extension of the original deadline due to COVID-19 and the state of alarm decreed in Spain, this new deadline has been announced accordingly on our website (see link below).

The Prize, in the amount of 30,000 euros, recognises an outstanding researcher who has achieved a career of excellence at the highest international level in Europe and has made a significant contribution toward different fields of knowledge, as well as a positive impact on society. The current edition of the Prize is devoted to research career focused on LHS. All information regarding prize criteria and procedures, including the Nomination Form, can be found on the AE-BKH’s website: [http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/hypatia-prize-second-edition-2019-2020/](http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/hypatia-prize-second-edition-2019-2020/).

Candidates for the Prize must be nominated by a Member of the Academia Europaea (MAE) (Nominator 1), from any Section, and must have the support of an additional MAE (Nominator 2), also from any Section. Nominator 1 can propose only one candidate. The two nominating MAEs must be from different countries. Although nominators must be MAEs, the candidate does NOT have to be a MAE, nor a native of a European country, but she/he must have developed her/his career mostly in Europe.

Any questions or comments on the Prize may be addressed to: Kimberly Katte, Hub Manager, at barcelona@acadeuro.org

2. NEXT AE ANNUAL CONFERENCE: BUILDING BRIDGES 2021

As previously announced, the next AE Annual Conference has been postponed until next year, thus we kindly ask you to mark the new dates of **19-22 October 2021** on your calendars.

During the Building Bridges 2021 conference, all new members elected in 2020 and in 2021 will be formally welcomed. The 2020 AE Erasmus Medal will be awarded to eminent mathematician Sir Roger Penrose, and the 2020 AE Gold Medal to Ole Petersen, made for his significant contributions to the AE since the academy first began in 1988. The Young Academy of Europe (YAE), for their part, will present the André Mischke YAE Prize 2020 for Science and Policy to Grant Hill-Cawthorne, Director of the UK Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (POST).

In addition to these delayed honours, at the Building Bridges 2021 conference, the third biennial International Adam Kondorosi AE Award for Advanced Research in Plant Sciences will be presented, as well as a further (2021) AE Erasmus Medal, following the close of the currently open call (closing date at the end of September 2020).
The 2021 Annual Conference will follow the weekly schedule of the two previous conferences held in Barcelona: Tuesday (Oct. 19), at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC), for various administrative meetings, including the Annual Business Meeting of Members. Wednesday (Oct. 20), at the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB), for Class sessions and the welcome to new AE Members and induction ceremony (those elected in 2020 and 2021). Thursday (Oct. 21), at the PRBB, for AE and YAE prize ceremonies and lectures, plus a varied programme of presentations by leading European scholars. And on Friday (Oct. 22), the traditional post-conference culture and geology field trip. In addition, on Wednesday evening, the President’s Dinner for new and current members will take place, which, like the field trip, is optional and requires the payment of a separate registration fee.

We look forward to seeing you in Barcelona in 2021.

3. "SYMBIOTIC LIFE" DOCUMENTARY SERIES

“Symbiotic Life” is a new AE-BKH documentary series, fruit of its partnership with Science into Images, a scientific dissemination project led by biologist and science filmmaker Rubén Duro, who is also the Hub’s webmaster and social media manager.

This initiative consists of several short documentaries on different examples, on a microscopic scale, of symbiotic relationships existing in nature, presented in a visually striking format. These videos present rarely seen images of microscopic organisms and are of great academic and research value.

The five videos initially included -“Microbial Mats”, “Earliest Sex”, “Living Together”, “Living Biofilms” and “Beauty and the Beast”- are available for viewing on the AE-BKH “Barcelona-in-Action” channel on Vimeo.

You will find the link to these videos on our website: http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/bkhaction/vimeochannel/symbiotic-life/

4. BARCELONA SCIENCE PLAN 2020-2023, AN INITIATIVE OF THE BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL

The AE-BKH collaborates with one of its supporters, the Barcelona City Council, on the implementation of the recently released Barcelona Science Plan 2020-2023, a comprehensive science policy with the aim of projecting Barcelona as a European capital of science and innovation.

Developed by the Barcelona City Council in conjunction with representatives from Barcelona’s research and innovation ecosystem, the plan is built on four main axes:

1. Consolidating Barcelona as a European capital of science by improving the international visibility of its
universities and research centres and by forging alliances with key European cities and institutions.

2. Providing municipal support for research that helps develop innovative, fair and effective solutions to urban challenges.

3. Creating a science culture by and for citizens that encourages citizen participation in science and promotes access to science education and dissemination.

4. Fostering relationships among science, art, innovation and society, in order to cultivate creative synergies and promote knowledge transfer and innovation among a diverse range of stakeholders.

The plan lays out 15 specific objectives and 51 actions to be taken over the course of the next three years. [Link to the document](http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/PBC-2020-2023_ENG.pdf). The Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize, now in its second edition (see Section 1, above), represents one of those actions.

The AE-BKH looks forward to continuing to collaborate with the Barcelona City Council on additional actions within the framework of the plan.

The Barcelona Science Plan is managed by:

- Joan Subirats, Deputy Mayor of Culture, Education, Science and Community
- Lluís Ferrer, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Council
- Júlia Miralles de Imperial, Science and Universities Advisor
- Oriol Recasens, Science Assistant

For more information, please write to pladeciencia@bcn.cat.

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5. BARCELONA DIALOGUE 2020 ON-LINE SUMMER COURSE

In June, 2020 the AE-BKH completed the fourth edition of the summer course, “Barcelona Dialogue,” within the framework of its ongoing collaboration with Northeastern University (Boston, USA). The main goal of this summer programme is to provide students with an immersion-based learning experience in the art, architecture and history of Barcelona, hands-on workshops and cultural visits, and a unique dialog with local creators, designers, and entrepreneurs. Prof. Xavier Costa, MAE, serves as Faculty Advisor for the programme.

Current circumstances due to the coronavirus pandemic have enabled certain components of the 2020 edition to be moved on-line, opening up opportunities for exploring the use of technology to help the “Barcelona Dialogue” programme achieve its objectives. From mid-May to mid-June, ten students participated in the on-line course, learning about contemporary achievements in design, art and architecture in the Barcelona context. Over the course of the month-long course, students developed and presented their final research projects to their peers using videoconferencing technology.

The AE-BKH has devoted a new webpage to the summer programme, including the introductory sessions of the 2020 on-line edition, material from past editions and complementary resources. Please visit: [Link to the webpage](http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/barcelona-dialogue/)

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“Random Walks”, what’s in a name? In 1983, American physicist Howard C. Berg published his influential book Random Walks in Biology (Princeton Univ. Press), a book on the random motion of molecules, subcellular particles, or cells, which depend on such motion or are markedly affected by it. Berg used for his book a mathematical concept representing a stochastic or random process describing a succession of random steps on a mathematical plane. Of course, we humans are much more complex than simple molecules, subcellular particles, or bacteria, although while under lockdown due to COVID-19, it is possible that in some ways our behaviour is very similar to theirs. A “random walk” enables us to discover or find something without actively seeking it.

This is precisely what we propose with this section, to walk through our website and randomly discover what is hiding inside, thereby becoming more acquainted with the different activities organised by our Hub each year.

In our last newsletter, we began our random walk through our website in the AE-BKH Women’s Week section. Taking the next step, we now propose to enter the Barcelona Dialogue described in Section 5 of this newsletter. We are preparing the Disputatio of Barcelona 2020, which will be held in mid November, this year. Meanwhile, we invite you to visit the Disputatio of Barcelona 2019, entitled, “A New Humanism for the 21st Century? Specialisation vs. Generalisation.” The session was coordinated by Alexander Fidora (MAE, ICREA Research Professor, UAB), and the Disputantes were Maciej Lewenstein (MAE, ICREA Research Professor, ICFO), and Silvia De Bianchi (Ramón y Cajal Fellow at the UAB). The session can be viewed at http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/disputatio-barcelona/disputatio-barcelona-2019-2/. Finally we recommend you to read the letter that Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona, along with the mayors of Madrid, Berlin, Milan, Munich and Stockholm, sent to the EU urgently calling for increased funding for research and innovation. This initiative of the Barcelona Mayor has been seconded by many research and academic institutions in Spain and Europe. For more information: http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/barcelona-science-plan/

Once you’ve entered this section, you can follow your own random walk to other related places by following the links you will find. Have a pleasant walk (at random, of course).