

**REPORT**

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF

**EUROPEAN  
SCIENTIFIC  
DIASPORAS  
IN  
NORTH AMERICA**

**WASHINGTON DC, USA 19 NOVEMBER 2015  
SPAIN ARTS & CULTURE CENTER**



**The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Scientific  
Diasporas initiative in North America was supported by:**

Delegation of the European Union to the USA

EURAXESS Links North America

Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)

Embassy of Spain in the USA

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# SETTING THE SCENE

Science in the 21st century is more than ever a global venture. International scientific collaboration is on the rise especially when and where it enables increased research efficiency and effectiveness and when it permits scientific challenges of a large scale and scope to be addressed. Thus, the scientific hubs of a multipolar scientific world are becoming more and more interconnected.

Scientists are driven by opportunities to raise the quality, speed and impact of their research and to advance their careers. They seek to work with the best people and in, or with, the best institutions globally, while often maintaining strong links with their places of origin over space and time. As they become more mobile and as their informal connections grow, different types of scientific communities and networks are created, influencing the way scientists interact and pursue their research and innovation agendas.

Such research communities - real or virtual - facilitate the extension from the local or national level to the global level in the way science is conducted. In the process, they mediate international collaboration and broaden research horizons. Yet little is understood about these diaspora networks and their dynamics.

From a European perspective, it is interesting to recognize such national communities of European scientists in North America and to understand the valuable role they play for their members as well as their potential to strengthen transatlantic S&T cooperation.

From the perspective of the communities themselves, it would seem to be beneficial for them to learn more about each other, their ways of working and of the potential for enhancing their utility and impact.

This 1st Annual Meeting of European Scientific Diasporas in North America aimed to explore such questions with a view to identifying more precisely how to enhance the benefits that can be derived from networking with existing and future networks of scientific diasporas in the U.S., as well as the type of concrete actions which could be taken to bring this about.



# WELCOMING REMARKS

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM

**Dr. James Gavigan**  
Minister-Counselor  
Head of the Science,  
Technology and Innovation Section  
Delegation of the European Union  
to the USA



In opening the meeting, James Gavigan recalled the background and genesis of the “European Scientific Diasporas in North America” initiative and the parties involved as well as setting out the broader context and specific aims for this first annual meeting.

The purpose of the first annual meeting was to discuss, explore and test how different existing national networks of European scientists together with others in the process of forming, can have a worthwhile exchange of information and practices with a view to best serving the European scientific community in North America and what they hope to achieve here. The intention was to demonstrate the benefit to the individual members and leaders of these national networks as well as added value at the overall aggregate level via the cooperative nature of the initiative. James suggested to consider in the discussion and in the on-going development of the initiative three complementary or nested scales of interest and action:

- At the micro scale, corresponding to various typologies of individual needs depending on factors such as career stage (early, mid or senior), sector (academic, public, business) or legal status (temporary resident, green card holder, citizenship, ...)
- At the meso scale, concerning those in the networks and embassies with direct or indirect roles in organizing or facilitating the activities of the network and the flow of information and contact with and between members as well as with external organizations in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere
- At the macro scale, relating to the policy level and the need to link, on one hand, policy priorities and actions regarding collaboration and exchange between the U.S. and EU, with, on the other hand, the reality on the ground of how such cooperation is mediated by people and organizations



# OPENING PANEL DISCUSSION: 'A SCIENTIST ABROAD: BEING A EUROPEAN SCIENTIST IN THE USA'

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

The flow of scientists and engineers from Europe to the USA has profoundly affected science and the careers of the scientists themselves. Scientific diasporas have made exceptional contributions to U.S. science. Foreign-born scientists and engineers make up 27.6% of U.S. doctorate holders, are disproportionately represented in the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering, and are among the most highly cited authors in their fields and the founders/chairs of biotechnology firms. But behind this impressive statistic lies the experience of each individual European scientist who first migrated to the USA and had to navigate a professional environment that was new and alien. At the same time as building up their U.S. careers many have tried to maintain and grow their professional ties to their home countries and institutions. The flow of scientists from the USA back to Europe is increasingly important to global science. This panel explored the experiences of European scientists in the USA. In this opening session the focus was on three main questions to panelists: (1) What is your experience with research in the U.S.? (2) Do you build and maintain your contacts with Europe, and if so how? and (3) How can we increase the flow of scientists including attracting more talent to Europe and show-casing the European Research Area?

## MODERATOR:

### Dr. Deborah Brosnan

Board Chairperson, Wild Geese  
Network of Irish Scientists (WGNIS)

## SPEAKERS:

### Dr. María José López Barragán

Microbiology Reviewer,  
U.S. Food and Drug  
Administration

### Dr. Alexia Daoust

Visiting Fellow  
National Institutes of  
Health (NIH)

### Dr. Dietrich

### Haubenberger

Clinical Neurologist,  
Staff Scientist, National  
Institutes of Health (NIH)

## SALIENT POINTS NOTED:

**1. When returning to Europe** after having spent time in the U.S., one can encounter very different attitudes to work. There tends to be more open and open-minded discussion and teamwork in the work place in the U.S. Those who have not had the experience of living and working in the U.S. or abroad elsewhere can be slow to adopt new ideas and changes.

**2. It is very important** for those planning to move to the U.S. for work experience or as post-docs to inform themselves in advance of all the potential working visa options. These aspects of moving to the U.S. can be overwhelming and confusing.

**3. Fellows and postdocs visiting the U.S.** should keep in contact with those in industry and in their area of expertise in their home country to facilitate a possible future move back home. This can entail returning occasionally to participate in relevant seminars and meetings to keep one's name in the circuit.

**4. The differences between raising a family** in the U.S. and in one's home country can be great and these need to be factored into plans to stay or return.

**5. The U.S. welcomes scientists** from abroad and encourages them to introduce new ideas and take risks in ways that are not common in Europe.

**6. The in-flow of Europeans to faculty** and other positions in the U.S., which has declined, compared to previous years due to the lowering of financial and other incentives, could be reversed by reinforcing international visits and exchange programs. ■



# ROUNDTABLE SESSION I: 'STAY IN TOUCH: STRATEGIES FOR KEEPING YOUR COMMUNITY UP TO DATE WITH CAREER AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES'

Various strategies for developing science and research-based communities into effective tools to obtain and disseminate information about funding and career options were discussed. Speakers stressed the importance of creating a self-sustaining community through local chapters and active involvement of the target audience, as the most effective way to ensure the flow of information within the community. Speakers described the positive effect which collaboration with other networks has on their own organizations. In the discussion, it was acknowledged that funding agencies can have a vested interest in supporting and collaborating with diaspora organizations as a means of reaching out to excellent and internationally mobile researchers.

## MODERATOR:

### Dr. Katarzyna Placek

Postdoctoral Fellow, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

### Rapporteur: Dorottya Nagy-Szakal,

MD, Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Columbia University Medical Center

## SPEAKERS:

### Dr. Edgar-John Vogt

Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow, advisory board member of GAIN - German Academic International Network

### Dr. Monica Veronesi

Executive Director, ISSNAF - Italian Scientists and Scholars of North America Foundation

### Dr. Elisavet Serti

Virologist, HBA-USA - Secretary, Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA

### Handan Uslu

MA in Communication, Culture & Technology from Georgetown University, Managing Director, TASSA - Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association

## NATIONAL NETWORKS FEATURED IN THIS SESSION:

### GAIN - German Academic International Network

([www.gain-network.org](http://www.gain-network.org))

is a network of German researchers and scientists working in the United States and Canada. GAIN is a joint initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service and the German Research Foundation. Nearly all research-performing organizations in Germany are part of the network as associated partners. A full-time executive director based in New York maintains a database, a website, and writes monthly newsletters. The director also organizes workshops, webinars, and a large annual meeting. At the heart of GAIN's operation are over 5000 members. They are organized in local chapters, which are operated by the members of the community. The central office consults with an advisory board of twelve researchers from all career stages and disciplines. The local chapters and board members frequently initiate events and suggest topics and speakers for workshops and conferences.

### ISSNAF - Italian Scientists and Scholars of North American Foundation ([www.issnaf.org](http://www.issnaf.org))

is an independent not-for-profit and non-governmental foundation the mission of which is to promote and facilitate scientific, academic and technological cooperation amongst Italian researchers and scholars active in North America and the world of research in Italy. Created in 2008 by 32 scientists and 4 Nobel prizes, ISSNAF now comprises about 4,000 Italian researchers and scholars that work and live in the United States and Canada. Through its network ISSNAF reaches over 300 centers of excellence in North America in all fields of research and academia, from hard sciences to the humanities. ISSNAF and the local Chapters work closely with the Consulates, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Italian Embassy and its Scientific Attaches in North America. In 2014/2015, thanks to its partners and sponsors, ISSNAF funded 40 high-education scholarships.

### HBA - Hellenic Bioscientific Association

([www.hbausa.org](http://www.hbausa.org))

promotes interaction and effective communication/cooperation between scientists in the U.S. and EU. The HBA distributes funding opportunities and provides information about grants and award opportunities in the area. The HBA also inspires short careers in the U.S. HBA organizes monthly and annual scientific meetings, even Pan-American meetings organized by the community. Additionally, they provide career advice and scientific career support through workshops. Newsletters about scientific achievements, funding opportunities, and awards are distributed by the group. HBA promotes interactions with academic institutes, national centers and collaborations in biomedical research.

### TASSA - Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association

([www.tassausa.org](http://www.tassausa.org))

extensively explained its outreach efforts, including but not limited to conducting a Conference every two years, establishing partnerships with universities and research institutions in Turkey, establishing a membership system that benefits the Turkish-American academics. TASSA has significantly developed its organizational structure, with an active editorial committee, technical committee, conference committee, Board of Members, and Executive Committee, allowing the organization to function in a sustainable manner. Currently, TASSA's outreach exceeds 6000 people with the bimonthly "the Bridge" newsletter. ■



# ROUNDTABLE SESSION II: “RESEARCH AND BUSINESS: FOSTERING CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND ENTREPRENEURS IN YOUR DIASPORA COMMUNITY”

The principal question the session addressed was: how can we stimulate closer cooperation between scientists and the private sector within diaspora networks? The session offered two perspectives on the collaboration between researchers and businesses – a science perspective (commercializing research) and a private sector perspective (boosting corporate research by working with academia & scientists turned entrepreneurs). The discussion touched upon different forms of collaboration between entrepreneurs and scientists and various models for strengthening the links between the two groups. The session also aimed to address how diaspora networks can facilitate partnerships (including joint startups) and create networking opportunities for entrepreneurs and scientists.

## MODERATOR:

### Dr. Borislav Dropulic

Chief Science Officer and General Manager, Lentigen Technology Inc

### Rapporteur: Dr. Steven Pavletic

Head, Graft-versus-Host Disease and Autoimmunity Section, NCI, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

## SPEAKERS:

### Dr. Canan Dagdeviren

Junior Fellow, Harvard University

### Dr. Frederic Badey

Senior Director, International Public Affair Coordination, Sanofi

### Dr. Teresa Gonzalo

CEO, Ambiox Biotech

## SALIENT POINTS NOTED:

The panel consisted of two small private sector scientists turned entrepreneurs, one senior representative of a large multinational pharmaceutical company and one physicist-innovator who is planning to translate her knowledge and new technology to industry.

**1. Sanofi serves as an example** of how a big pharmaceutical company can facilitate the transfer of science into successful businesses. Sanofi has five continental R&D hubs, invests 4.8 billion Euros annually in R&D and has clinical study units in more than 40 countries. It subscribes to innovation across networks and open science with global focus. It recognizes that each scientist belongs to multiple networks and diasporas at different stages of their career - their home country, the new country, the university community, new employer, or regional or global communities. Therefore, to engage the scientist's full potential to meet complex contemporary challenges the question to foster individual success should not be "what can the diaspora do for me?" but "what can I do for the diaspora?"

**2. Becoming a successful** scientist and innovator is not easy but is clearly confined to certain established pathways of academic scientific career progression. Transitioning from being a scientist to a startup company entrepreneur is a much less established pathway left to personal ingenuity and talents where no simple rules or prescriptions apply. The general advice is to have your vision and passion and stick to it relentlessly in spite of all adversities. Also - try to spend about 20% of your time searching for new sources of funding opportunities, whether from private investors or grant sources.

**3. The ongoing links** to one's own national or professional diaspora are maintained primarily in the forms of mentorship to those who want to start their own companies and bridge academic - business challenges. Today's internet age allows unsurpassable networking opportunities and vir-

tually erases distance, making the concept of a global diaspora real. Building trust and an excellent reputation is the key. Be honest about what you can do and then combine your inner passion with smart delegation and establishing good partnerships. Other ways of working with national diasporas include spending time visiting and working with teams in your home countries or abroad. Bringing industry representatives to universities and fostering direct face-to-face discussions on identifying opportunities is an effective way to instigate progress.

**4. Is an MBA degree necessary** for a scientist to succeed in the startup or corporate world? The general agreement is that having an MBA is by no means a condition to create a start-up but it definitely helps as a useful tool to speak the language of business and facilitate communication with key partners. For a business, many skill sets are needed but not everyone needs to know everything - each should stick to doing what he or she does best and if possible enjoys doing it. Ultimately the decision is personal and depends on priorities and interests. The best is to combine internal passion with great partnerships. ■



# SESSION III: ‘SHOW YOUR SKILLS: DEVELOP, TRAIN, AND PROFESSIONALIZE YOUR COMMUNITY’

The aim of this session was for Dr. Sharon Milgram to present her team’s approach to training and career orientation with the diverse community of postdoctoral fellows at the National Institutes of Health, as well as the strategies that the Office of Intramural Training Education is following to help the fellows during their transition from the fellowship to finding a job in different sectors of the health domain.

## **MODERATOR & RAPPORTEUR:**

### **Dr. Elisavet Serti**

Virologist, HBA-USA – Secretary, Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA

## **SPEAKER:**

### **Dr. Sharon L. Milgram**

Director, Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE), National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Dr. Sharon Milgram presented her office's approach to supporting, training and career advising the postdoctoral visiting fellows that are recruited to the NIH.

**Sharon built the office from scratch** and her vision was to build a central intramural training center that would bring all NIH institutes together. OITE has high-level support from Dr. Collins, the NIH Director, for training, career-mentoring and encouraging postdocs to develop their careers outside of their labs. Sharon's team takes a holistic approach to providing the resources for career development through the following core competencies: communication, grant writing, leadership and management, responsible conduct of research, teaching and mentoring and career orientation. They also offer workshops on government and science policy, dealing with conflict, working in a multicultural environment, negotiation and more. They also provide consultation for lab and mentor relationships, wellness counseling sessions, one-on-one career services and a career library with a wide variety of books for career orientation.

**One of main missions of her office** is to encourage fellows to gain awareness of their strengths but also of their career development needs and support them in following the career path that will make them happy. Every year, OITE organizes the NIH Career Symposium and highlights the diversity of career choices available to biomedical researchers, including panel discussions on industrial research and development, clinical research and medical affairs, business development and marketing, academia, science policy, technology transfer, science education and communication, consulting, science administration and management. Through OITE, the visiting fellows have the chance of a 3-month "detail opportunity", which is modified for non-American fellows so that they can get the experience of government work.

**Sharon emphasized the importance** of early career development for postdocs (if possible as soon as they arrive at the NIH) but also the importance of having career mentors and not only a science mentor in order to have a successful and fulfilling career. ■



# WRAP-UP SESSION AND NEXT STEPS: INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION WITH EU MEMBER STATES AND THE SESSIONS' RAPPORTEURS

3:00 PM – 3:50 PM

## MODERATOR:

**Dr. James Gavigan**  
Minister-Counselor  
Head of the Science,  
Technology and  
Innovation Section  
Delegation of the  
European Union to  
the USA

## SPEAKERS:

**Dr. Elisavet Serti**  
Virologist,  
HBA-USA – Secretary,  
Hellenic Bioscientific  
Association in the USA  
(rapporteur session III)

**Dr. Steven Pavletic**  
Head, Graft-versus-  
Host Disease and  
Autoimmunity  
Section, NCI,  
National Institutes  
of Health (NIH)  
(rapporteur session II)

**Dr. Dorottya  
Nagy-Szakal**  
Postdoctoral Fellow,  
Columbia University  
(rapporteur session I)

**Peter Kolesar**  
Trade and  
Innovation  
Counselor,  
Embassy of  
Slovakia in the USA

**Giulio Busulini**  
Scientific  
Attaché,  
Embassy of  
Italy in the USA

**Dr. Minh-Hà Pham**  
Counselor for  
Science and  
Technology,  
Embassy of  
France in the USA

The final session served to recapitulate and supplement the main points noted by the rapporteurs in the three previous thematic sessions.

Some points, which had been raised in the opening panel discussion were also recalled such as the increasing multiple/ transnational affiliations of scientists (e.g. as catered for by the EU's European Research Council grant scheme) or the idea that this European Scientific Diasporas initiative constitutes a quasi-super-structure complementary to the individual national networks. It was remarked however that any such superstructure or additional layer should not interfere adversely with the primarily bottom-up nature and individuality of national networks – i.e. they should not be stifled by a top-down approach. In this regard, it was suggested that the broader European initiative could provide a space for 'organized serendipity' around topics of real interest to scientists and researchers.

This session also provided the occasion for remarks on the initiative from three EU Member State science counselors each of who's national scientific diaspora networks are quite different from one to another – well established networks of different characteristics in the case of Italy; informal bottom-up networks in the case of France; and an emerging/ formative network involving both top-down and bottom-up efforts in the case of Slovakia. The purpose of these different perspectives was to ensure that the wide variety of network typologies be an explicit part of the discussion and so adequately taken into account in taking this initiative forward. ■



# CLOSING REMARKS

## SUMMARY BY:

**Viktoria Bodnarova**

EURAXESS Links North America  
Regional Representative

3:50 PM - 4:00 PM

The first annual meeting of European Scientific Diasporas proved to be successful with interesting panel discussions and roundtable sessions involving 22 speakers from 12 different countries and an active participation of eight European diaspora networks based in North America.

### Ten take-home messages were proposed:

- (1) Network to make and/or keep your contacts;
- (2) Find the right mentor/coach;
- (3) Stay connected to your communities;
- (4) Focus on brain empowering rather than on brain drain;
- (5) Try to be mobile - mobility creates excellence and always keep in mind that science is global;
- (6) European Scientific Diasporas are an asset and resource as well as a pool of talent;
- (7) Thrive for active participation in conferences, workshops, networking events in order to create partnerships;
- (8) Be honest with yourself and do what you love;
- (9) A postdoctoral fellow has several career options apart from academia after finishing his/her postdoctoral fellowship; and
- (10) Start planning your career path early and be aware of what is happening around you. - i.e. resources, opportunities, etc. ■

# POST-MEETING COMMENTS

(ADDITIONAL REMARKS PROVIDED IN WRITING  
BY SOME KEY STAKEHOLDERS AFTER THE EVENT)



**Monica Veronesi**

Executive Director, ISSNAF  
(Italian Scientists and Scholars of North  
America Foundation)

**Brain drain vs. brain empowering:** when talking about career and funding opportunities, often we come across the notion of “brain drain”. We need a mental shift. Brains don’t drain, they move. People usually go (for both personal and professional reasons) where they find opportunity to work on research that they believe will and can make a difference. Italian scientists abroad are a resource and an opportunity for Italy. We should better leverage their skills, abilities and work. While traveling, people create networks and relationships that don’t go away.

ISSNAF is a portal for mobility – a hub for Italian researchers - which supports our affiliates in developing their careers in the U.S. and returning to Italy (not only academic but also industry labs and opportunities at EU level).

Current programs are based on quantity more than quality: a change of approach is needed as well as the development of mechanisms to bring back the most qualified people based on meritocracy and mutual interest.

*“We need a mental shift. Brains don’t drain, they move. People usually go {...} where they find opportunity to work on research that they believe will and can make a difference.”*

**Global Science:** Science is not Italian, American or European. Science is Global. It is very important to exchange ideas, listen, and have the chance to share knowledge and discuss issues/opportunities among communities. In addition to discussion we need to find concrete ways to support each other and support better and more our researchers.

**Funding:** we have seen from the speeches and leaders gathered at the 1st annual meeting that all of our groups, foundations, associations are different, some bottom-up, others top-down, some supported by public funds, membership fees, others by private donations or a mix of the above. Regardless, we should all be in a position to be financially sustainable through different funding avenues, independently from good-hearted donors. In this way we can ensure a consistent and solid support to the careers, and mentoring of our young affiliates to whom we provide opportunities. For this reason we encourage to find more and better ways for funding institutions, not-for-profit organizations, foundations, associations and to support - not only research itself - but also

these ‘hubs’ that support researchers away from home with career mentoring, opportunities, networking, training, community services and more.

We think that it is crucial that we – the network of European Diasporas – work together in the future months to develop and draft a strategic joint document that assesses our needs and recommends a European approach to the European Commission in order to build a stronger and united community. The dialogue we started is extremely important and sensible. **The added value of sharing best practices and establishing a hub for European Diasporas is crucial to empower our researchers, networks and countries. ■**

**Dr. Elisavet Serti**

Secretary of HBA-USA (Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA)

**There is a large number of** Greek and Greek-American scientists in the USA working in the field of biomedical sciences, and many of them play a key role in the development of the field. At the same time, a large number of aspiring students are studying in Greek Universities and are seeking avenues of collaboration with foreign institutions to further their research. Collaboration and scientific outreach have been deemed imperative for the success of Greek research efforts, which are very important as innovation and discovery go hand-in-hand with economic recovery and development. The interactions between these two parties is essential to enable, initiate, grow and flourish collaboration that can lead to new discoveries and new directions that can help both sides to develop their vision.

*“Innovation and discovery go hand-in-hand with economic recovery and development.”*

Through the Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the United States (HBA-USA) we hope to bring the two sides in contact to spark and initiate long-term collaboration and exchange programs. Our mission is to enable and facilitate interactions among Greek biomedical scientists between Greece and the USA.

In the role of the general secretary of the HBA, I have formally represented the association and gave a presentation of the strategies to inform our members on grants, job opportunities, networking events, conferences and mentoring opportunities. I also discussed the HBA's Scholarship Program and Science Teaching Exchange Program between the United States and Greece, which promotes collaborations

between the two countries. I also emphasized the unique opportunity arising from the 1st EURAXESS Diaspora Meeting, which was to interact with other European Associations in the U.S. and to form a common strategy of **bringing all the European Scientific Diasporas together and to strengthen the transatlantic scientific cooperation.** ■

## Handan Uslu

Managing Director of TASSA (Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association)

**The European Scientific Diasporas** 1st Annual Meeting was a strategic opportunity for all parties involved, providing unique networking and collaboration opportunities.

A crucial function of TASSA is promoting the successes of Turkish American scholars and researchers to our community, and the broader public. As an extension of this mission, Turkish scholar Canan Dağdeviren was invited to the conference. Considering that Professor Dağdeviren's work focuses on building biocompatible devices for health solutions, she made a significant contribution to the discussion regarding bridging the gap between academia

*A crucial function of TASSA is promoting the successes of Turkish American scholars and researchers to our community, and the broader public.*

and the private sector.

**The diverse structure of the European Scientific Diasporas carries a huge potential to introduce improvement to scientists' lives.** As discussed during the conference, this mission can be achieved through increased collaboration between stakeholders, mainly academics, researchers, students, and the private sector.

Looking forward, **implementing sustainable online collaboration platforms will benefit European Scientific Diasporas.** Considering the logistical challenges the organization faces, establishing efficient means for online communication, and setting actionable goals will

assist us in our mission. Professionalism, diversity, and networks are European Scientific Diasporas' strategic assets, and we believe in the positive impact of the organization to all scientific communities. ■

**Dr. Steven Pavletic**

ACAP (Association of Croatian  
American Professionals)

**Looking at this 1st Annual Meeting** of European Scientific Diasporas, let me mainly assess the topic, which dealt with the links among scientists and entrepreneurs.

What can public initiatives as this one by the European Commission do to develop better public-private relationships among diaspora communities? The clear preferred objective is to pursue development of public-private funds to use available monies most efficiently and meet each party's concerns. It is clear that private investors have stronger potential to invest much larger sums in projects of interest but they are clearly more risk averse and operate on a much shorter timeline. On the other hand, public funding has the potential to address more high risk and high gain projects

*The goal should be to facilitate large-scale meetings to bring together companies and the universities to nurture culture of entrepreneurship and to create a better ecosystem for such joint endeavors.*

and can afford to operate on a longer timeline. Therefore, while the metrics of success in industry is very clear, on the public side it's still a matter of debate.

The goal should be to facilitate large-scale meetings to bring together companies and the universities to nurture culture of entrepreneurship and to create a better ecosystem for such joint endeavors. It is clear that in Europe challenges to engage private investments are much greater and this problem is also rooted in the need of building entrepreneurial culture at the academic institutions in vast majority of countries. The small business NIH grants are a successful example of what the government can do to use public money to foster private initiatives.

As a conclusion - what the European Commission can do is to give as much as possible momentum to initiatives that build strong and sustainable mechanisms for networking (meetings, databases) and education by establishing better mechanisms to access available information on scholarships and increase funding for such programs. **It is clear by this meeting that the interest for such global European focused approach exists. ■**

## Wild Geese Network of Irish Scientists (WGNIS)

**The Wild Geese Network of Irish Scientists (WGNIS)** is a professional network enabling connection, communication and collaboration of the Irish scientific, technological and engineering diaspora. The Network harnesses their knowledge, experience and success, providing a comprehensive database. Highlighting the depth and breadth of the diaspora, our membership includes both senior and early career professionals from academia, pharma, as well as the energy and biotechnology sectors. The Network has a worldwide reach and welcomes as member's individuals with a professional interest in the intersection of science, technology and engineering. Recognizing the importance of promoting bilateral partnerships as a mechanism to stimulate innovative research, the Network provides information on funding

*The importance of a strong mentoring program is critical in establishing both long-term scientific collaborations as well as short-term connections while getting set up in a new country and culture.*

and employment opportunities for members seeking to establish new innovative research projects, as well as members in Ireland seeking research opportunities abroad.

Of utmost importance to the Network is the enhancement and development of a mentoring platform. This was a key take-away for the network from the Annual Meeting and one the board of directors is looking to develop and enhance in the coming year. A strong mentoring forum will allow members access to valuable personal experiences and shared first-hand information between established career and academic scientists and new research students, post-docs and emigrants. **The importance of a strong mentoring program is critical in establishing both long-term scientific col-**

**laborations as well as short-term connections while getting set up in a new country and culture.** This importance was highlighted by all European representation at the Annual Meeting and is something the WGNIS is committed to exploring further in order to enhance connection and communication among its membership.

The Network looks forward to working with EURAXESS in the coming year and to collaborate with the other European Scientific Diaspora groups to brainstorm and share ideas of best practice on mentoring in order to enhance our Network and better serve the membership. ■

**Dr. Gerrit Roessler**

Program Director, GAIN (German Academic International Network)

**Internationally mobile researchers** form the core of research and innovation on a global scale. The exchange of ideas, knowledge, and scientific cultures is the motor from which all research communities benefit greatly. Alas, it is these researchers in particular who are confronted with obstacles and challenges, which their colleagues, who remained in the same research system throughout, do not necessarily share. Mobility, in that sense, can lead to a loss of productivity. But it can also be a chance to grow as a researcher and serve as a multiplier for ideas, concepts, and research cultures.

Whether researchers want to start careers abroad, support the next generation in or return to their home country, networks like GAIN and the other European scientific communities represented at this meeting can provide

*Regardless of whether or not a community receives public funding, membership dues, or no funding at all, the ultimate goal must be to fund a self-sustaining structure that does not depend on only a few active leaders.*

essential services to accomplish these goals. Only through exchange between these communities - with their great diversity in structure, funding, and objectives - can we optimize the quality of professional development for us as facilitators and managers as well as for the researchers and community members themselves.

Regardless of whether or not a community receives public funding, membership dues, or no funding at all, the ultimate goal must be to fund a self-sustaining structure that does not depend on only a few active leaders. Especially for networks geared toward mobility and early-career support, such leaders change frequently. A bottom-up organization can help make transitions easy and ensures the longevity of the program, independent of the avail-

ability of outside funding.

Funding institutions, be they publicly or privately funded, ought to consider adopting policies that support not only research but also the researchers themselves. Specifically where networking, career development, and professional training can be affected, such support reaps considerable and tangible benefits for the quality of research and the health of the scientific community as a whole.

Lastly, **support for research communities on an international scale allows researchers to break free of the limitations funding on a national scale tends to impose on them.** In that sense, globally mobile and collaborative research is a form of diplomacy. Networks, such as they are described here, function as think tanks for research policy on both levels. ■

## Giulio Busulini

Scientific Attaché, Embassy of Italy in the USA

**The EU Member States** have different approaches to support the scientific networks of their researchers working in the United States. Some of these networks are driven by national government initiatives, while others are sustained by the researchers themselves, sometimes structured as nonprofit organizations.

Italy has several different self-organized communities operating all over the United States. Among them, ISSNAF (Italian Scientists & Scholars in North America Foundation) has a national relevance; it is a self-sustaining nonprofit organization that can count on a nation-wide distribution with local (about 10) and thematic chapters (5 - mainly in life sciences). Other smaller organizations (sometimes only spontaneous communities organized under a common Facebook or LinkedIn group) are located in major cities such as Washington DC, New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Miami. All together, these organizations could aggregate around 10,000 Italian scientists (first generation), who are operating in the United States.

These scientists represent an asset of great value for Italy. They are a significant gateway not only as links to our own national scientific community but also aiming at reinforcing and

*These scientists represent an asset of great value for Italy. They are a significant gateway not only as links to our own national scientific community but also aiming at reinforcing and building a stronger collaboration with the U.S.*

building a stronger collaboration with the U.S. Equally looking at these organizations with great interest are Italian companies.

In order to function in such a fragmented and vital context, I believe it is very important to support these different communities with the following building blocks that could also be shared among the other European Scientific Diasporas:

- **Sustainability**, in order to leverage the learning curve of running these organizations, identify services to the community that are cost effective and of interest for successful fundraising campaigns. The 'growing as an organization' could be a key element that should be taken into consideration.
- **Knowledge sharing** of best practices (and mistakes) that can be used as common asset / guidelines for existing and future organizations. Learning from each other: together in their diversity and being more European together.

What should we as embassies expect?

- To be an active and supportive actor for scientific communities (national diasporas) in order to identify different profiles and to understand their needs.

- To work on possible Joint Data analysis of the phenomena and to look for common metrics that could help the locally-based government representative identify targeted programs to support these networks.
- To facilitate service sharing among the different networks (representing other EU Member States) and exchange successful format to replicate easily among the different stakeholders (in primes with Embassies / Consulates) branding common series of initiatives.
- Building the base for a common 'Who's Who' of European scientists in the US.
- To collect and facilitate among the Diasporas best practices and benchmarking analyses. Identify recommendations for the home capital (Policy advocacy).
- To support the Diasporas to have better connections with U.S. stakeholders such as U.S. Federal agencies (DOS, NSF), nonprofit organizations (AAAS), scientific societies, etc.
- To stimulate the private sector (U.S. and Member State based industries) to support initiatives organized by the Diasporas: building an inclusive and sustainable rationale for companies that could be easily implemented. ■

**Dr. Minh-Hà Pham**

Counsellor for Science and Technology,  
Embassy of France in the USA

**The French scientific diaspora** in the United States is only partly organized and in a rather decentralized way. Indeed, U.S. Alumni Associations do exist, but only for “Grandes Ecoles” such as the Ecole Polytechnique, Ecole Centrale and Science Po. The Paristech Alumni association, which gathers Alumni from French Engineering “Grandes Ecoles,” is quite active in organizing networking events for its members. Another initiative of note is the Association of French PhDs and Postdocs at NIH, which regularly participates in events organized by the Embassy of France. On the other hand, scientists from French Universities or Research institutions, although well established in the American Higher Education and Research ecosystem, are rarely organized, which while exemplifying their adoption into the system, makes them difficult to identify and to collaborate with.

Faced with this situation, three years ago the Office for Science and Technology launched an initiative to identify and bring together French scientific alumni, through a Networking Event in Science and Technology (NEST), aimed at building a database of French scientists around the U.S. (confirmed scientists

*At the Office for Science and Technology we intend to work at identifying the different initiatives and at establishing a link with our Embassy.*

to PhD students) that our Attachés may meet in the course of their work. Using this informal approach, we succeeded in gathering roughly 300 contacts. While this is not an exhaustive list, it is a motivated group of alumni doing their best to enhance French-American scientific links and ready to help if needed.

More generally, the French government has recently launched a Higher Education and Research initiative that will be developed in the U.S. in 2016, called “Plateforme France-Alumni,” a virtual platform that gathers people who have had a training experience in the French education system. It is expected that these French Alumni, predominantly American citizens, will register and then create communities on the Platform, including one for scientists.

At the Office for Science and Technology we intend to work at identifying the different initiatives and at establishing a link with our Embassy. Our analysis is that there are two different Diasporas to address:

■ Young scientists (mainly PhD and Postdocs) whose main concern is to find job opportunities, preferentially in France or in Europe:

they need us. To help them our Office needs to work at better identifying their Associations and establish regular contact to inform them on the existing programs – in the U.S. and in France - that can support them finding a job, not necessarily only in Academia, but also in companies, administrations, Ministries, etc.

■ Senior scientists with permanent positions in U.S. Universities or Research institutions: we need them, since they can help us identify the right American partners, to welcome French students or to send American students to France.

Our main interest in coordinating with Diasporas from different European countries is to exchange best practices in coordinating a scientific diaspora, allow members of our diaspora to meet with other European young scientists and give them the opportunity to interact with officials from the United States or European countries (NSF, NIH, EU Delegation, Embassies) and with leaders from European companies. ■

**Dr. Ana Elorza**

Science Coordinator, Embassy of Spain  
in the USA

**In March 2014, a small group of Spanish** scientists launched ECUSA (Association of Spanish Scientists in the U.S.) to promote the role of science, technology and their role as professional scientists in our society.

ECUSA aims to spread and exhibit the high impact work developed by the community of Spanish science and technology professionals in the U.S., expand their career opportunities, mobility and integration into local communities. ECUSA also aims to educate, inspire and train new generations of scientists and innovators.

For this purpose, they have established a network of scientists in the U.S. to facilitate the integration of newcomers, the exchange of ideas and experiences, the interaction between disciplines and with related professional areas, including public and private sector. So far, more than 750 members have been enlisted. More than 60 scientific events (webinars, talks, workshops, annual meeting, etc.) have been organized in these two years.

*ECUSA also aims to educate, inspire and train new generations of scientists and innovators.*

The First Joint Meeting of Spanish Scientists in the U.S. in September 2015, inaugurated by His Majesty the King Felipe VI at Georgetown University, was the culmination of a fruitful and intense collaboration with ECUSA. This joint scientific meeting has been possible thanks to firm commitment of several institutions, public and private, including the Embassy of Spain and the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT), a public entity that depends the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, through the Secretariat of State for Research, Development and Innovation, working closely with ECUSA.

The support we give to the Communities of Spanish researchers abroad is framed in one of the priority actions of FECYT: support for the internationalization of science. Our goal is to reinforce the image of Spain as a country of science and, of course, to give visibility to the Spanish scientists working outside our borders. All of them are an instrument of great power for scientific relations between different countries and facilitate a space of common relationship.

**The European Scientific Diasporas Initiative is a gateway to establishing new international projects with European participation,** to incorporate into the international S&T system more Spanish and international researchers of talent and showcase our talent and capacities abroad.

Scientific research is, by tradition, an international activity. Exposure to other ways of working, other ways of organization and other methods ensures optimal professional growth. In addition, **only through collaboration, coordination and cooperation among countries we can give response to the challenges we face in our societies.**

Thanks to all the organizers and collaborators and, of course, to the rapporteurs and speakers, for having made this journey a reality. ■

**Peter Kolesar**

Trade and Innovation Counselor, Embassy of Slovakia in the USA

*EURAXESS can serve as a great European platform for a so-called micro-management of this European Scientific Diasporas initiative.*

1. The EU diaspora efforts are complementary to our national diaspora efforts, not regarded as a replacement. It is essential to elevate the diaspora discussions to the EU level as the EU is borderless in Europe and it's about time to start working on this also in the U.S. I don't think we, as European nations, are competitors in attracting scientists back home. Our goal is to attract scientists back to Europe although it is not the only way we can leverage their knowledge. We can connect them to projects with our Trans-Atlantic networks and connections without forcing them to go back to Europe, which can sometimes be unrealistic. We should encourage brain circulation rather than focusing solely on physical return of the talent home.
2. Expanding the network not only by scientists but also by entrepreneurs and managers – high achievers. As an example, one success story connecting researchers and

entrepreneurs, which occurred within the two years of existence of our diaspora called VISION: a joint Slovak-U.S. start-up for cancer diagnosis was established as a direct result of our diaspora efforts and received investment from a Slovak venture capital fund, whose representatives got to know the scientists at one of our networking events. It would not have been possible without the connections between academia and industry. Mingling scientists and entrepreneurs within the network is good for the diaspora.

3. Focus on the bottom-up demand and on creating a framework in which the diaspora members get the opportunity to network, to meet and something good will happen, something nice will come out of it (“guided serendipity”). Too much of the top-down approach, too much institutionalization is not the right way to embrace this initiative. We should be cautious not to scare away the

potential researchers as diaspora members with a ‘superstructure’. EURAXESS can serve as a great European platform for a so-called micro-management of this European Scientific Diasporas initiative.

4. Policy level - it makes sense to work together as European diasporas, exchange experience, best practices, how they are organized, what type of activities they do and how they work. Regional initiatives (such as Visegrad Group's We4Startups) can also serve as a model how to create ‘coalitions of the willing’ with effective collaboration, i.e. smaller groups of like-minded countries working on specific projects. ■



# SPEAKERS



**Viktoria BODNAROVA**

Regional Representative, EURAXESS  
Links North America, Washington, DC

As of 2013 Ms. Bodnarova is working as the EURAXESS Links Regional Representative for North America (USA and Canada), informing the community of researchers of all scientific domains (over 5700 members) about the funding and career opportunities the European Research Area has to offer and being their first contact point before their move to Europe. Viktoria graduated from the Metropolitan University in Prague, Czech Republic in 2008 having completed a Master's degree in International Relations and European studies. Right after her studies she started working at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic as a project manager and a national coordinator of the Czech EURAXESS Network.



**James GAVIGAN**

EU Delegation to the USA, Washington, DC

James has been an official of the European Commission since 1990. Since September 2012, he has been Minister-Counsellor and Head of the Science, Technology and Innovation section at the European Union's Delegation to the United States of America in Washington DC. His main role is to facilitate scientific cooperation between the EU and the US at both government-agency and stakeholder levels. Current priorities include marine/ Arctic sciences, materials, health and transportation research as well as innovation-related aspects of other EU-US areas of policy dialogue - e.g. the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. He also oversees cooperation between US-based EU Member State Science Counsellors, undertakes outreach and promotional activities as well as fulfilling regular Counsellor duties. James has a doctoral degree in physics from Trinity College Dublin, and a master's in public administration from the University of Warwick.



**Deborah BROSANAN**

Brosnan Center, Arlington, VA

Deborah Brosnan PhD is president of the Brosnan Center, a company that solves environmental problems using science-based solutions in the USA and globally. She is also Professor at Virginia Tech in the Global Change Center and Biology Dept. She received her B.Sc in Zoology and Botany and M.Sc in Fisheries Science in Galway Ireland and moved to the USA for her Ph.D. in marine ecology. She is both an environmental entrepreneur and a published academic scientist. Her work focuses on the intersection of science and policy involving endangered species, ecosystems, and natural disasters. She has a special interest in island nations and marine issues, and maintains a center in the Caribbean.



**María José López Barragán**

Microbiology Reviewer, U.S. Food and Drug Admin., Washington, DC

María José obtained a PhD degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Complutense University in Madrid (Spain) with special emphasis in Environmental Microbiology. After a short postdoctoral training at Coimbra University (Portugal) awarded by the Federation of European Microbiological Societies, she joined the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD as a Visiting Fellow to perform research in Malaria Genomics. After five years at NIH, María José accepted a Principal Scientist position at GlaxoSmithKline Inc., Madrid (Spain) to contribute to the discovery of new antimalarial drugs. María José returned to the U.S. in 2014 to join GeneDx Inc., a company specialized in genetic testing for rare hereditary disorders in Gaithersburg, MD. She is currently working at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a Microbiology Reviewer at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.



**Alexia DAOUST**

Visiting Fellow, NIH, Bethesda, MD

Alexia Daoust grew up in France and developed an early interest in neurobiology and molecular imaging studies. She first got a B.S. in animal physiology / physiopathology and in biochemistry. After a very interesting experience as a research assistant in a neuropharmacology lab, she continued her studies by doing a M.S. in neuroscience. She ended her graduation by a PhD in Biophysics at the Grenoble Neuroscience Institute in France.

Alexia Daoust is currently a visiting fellow at the NIH. She is working on the development of new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) methodologies for assessment in neurodegenerative diseases.



**Dietrich HAUBENBERGER**

Clinical Neurologist, Staff Scientist, NIH, Bethesda, MD

Dr. Dietrich Haubenger is Director of the Clinical Trials Unit at the NINDS Intramural Research Program in Bethesda, MD. Before his recruitment to NINDS in July 2014, he received his medical degree as well as training as neurologist at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria, followed by a tenure track position to become Associate Professor of Neurology in 2014. Dr. Haubenger's research focuses on the area of movement disorders, where he is an expert in tremor disorders. From 2008-2011, Dr. Haubenger completed a research fellowship at NINDS under Dr. Mark Hallett, conducting IND-regulated clinical trials in patients with Essential Tremor. In addition to his responsibilities at NINDS, Dr. Haubenger is currently serving as fellow at the Division of Neurology Products, CDER, FDA.



**Andrzej S. NOWAK**

Professor and Chair, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

Dr. Nowak is Professor and Department Chair of Civil Engineering at Auburn University, after 25 years at the University of Michigan and 8 years at the University of Nebraska. He received his MS and Ph.D. from the Warsaw University of Technology in Poland. His area of expertise is structural reliability and bridge engineering, and major research accomplishments include the development of a reliability-based calibration procedure for calculation of load and resistance factors. In the area of materials, Dr. Nowak has developed a design guide for self-consolidating concrete (SCC), including field applications. Prof. Nowak received the ASCE Moisseiff Award, IFIP WG 7.5 Award, Bene Merentibus Medal, Kasimir Gzowski Medal from the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, and Officer's Order of Polonia Restituta from the President of Poland.



**Katarzyna PLACEK**

Postdoctoral Fellow, NIH, Bethesda, MD

Katarzyna Placek, PhD is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda. The main focus of her research are epigenetic mechanisms that underlay development of CD4+ T lymphocytes and immune system homeostasis.

Dr. Placek obtained her PhD degree in Immunology from University of Paris 7 Denis Diderot, France in 2010.

During her PhD training she was conducting studies on regulation of human CD4+ T helper cell differentiation in Immunoregulation Unit of Pasteur Institute in Paris, France. Dr Placek earned the European Master of Genetics degree at Paris 7 Denis Diderot University in France. During that period she was awarded the European Community Erasmus-Socrates Scholarship and the Scientific Scholarship of Conseil Regional Ile-de-France.



**Dorottya NAGY-SZAKAL**

Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY

After graduating from the most renowned medical school in Budapest (Hungary), Dr. Nagy-Szakal started her Ph.D. training in a prominent laboratory with opportunities to conduct basic and clinical research. Most of her research work involved pediatric gastroenterology and nephrology. The following year, she joined a research program of Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital and Children Nutrition Research Center (Houston, TX, USA). She was fortunate in taking active part in a study, which developed from a bench-side research to a bed-side clinical trial, providing fecal bacterial transplantation for pediatric patients with recurrent *Clostridium difficile* infection and ulcerative colitis. Currently, she is holding a research scientific position at Columbia University (NY, USA), working at the Center for Infection and Immunity. Her major role at the center is pathogen discovery and identification; bioinformatics; phylogenetic analysis and understanding the nature of mammalian gut microbiome.



**Edgar-John VOGT**

Advisory board member of GAIN, Bethesda, MD

Edgar-John Vogt is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Laboratory of Cellular and Developmental Biology at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. He received his PhD in Biology at the University of Bielefeld, Germany, in 2010. Before coming to the NIH, he was a postdoc at the Leibniz Institute for Primate Research in Goettingen from 2010 to 2012. He became a member of the GAIN (German Academic International Network) advisory board in 2014.



**Monica VERONESI**

Executive Director of ISSNAF,  
Los Angeles, CA

Monica Veronesi has over 20 years experience in management positions and as advisor in: strategic and political communications, institutional relations, crisis and reputation management and campaign management. Prior to joining ISSNAF (Italian Scientists and Scholars of North America Foundation) as the Foundation's Executive Director, Monica worked as an Executive at Burson-Marsteller (a leading global Public Relation firm part of the WPP Group) based out of Europe, Middle East and Africa's HQ in Brussels and was part of the firm's Global New Business team. In her role she lead the EMEA new business development, worked with International Crisis Management Teams and trained senior management in media relations/public speaking/crisis management; advised key global clients at the World Economic Forum (Davos, Switzerland), and ran key accounts for the firm.



**Elisavet SERTI**

Secretary of the Hellenic Bioscientific Association (HBA-USA), Bethesda, MD

Dr. Serti received her B.S. in Biology from the University of Patras, Greece and her MSc in Clinical Biochemistry from the University of Athens, Greece. She completed her PhD in Epidemiology and Virology at the Medical School of Athens and conducted basic research on Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) capsid protein at the Hellenic Pasteur Institute. In 2011, she joined the Immunology Section of Liver Diseases Branch of NIDDK conducting translational research on the innate immunity during chronic HCV infection and after effective antiviral therapy. During her Post-Doctoral fellowship she was awarded with the Salzmann award for Virology, the NIDDK Nancy Nossal Grant writing award and the NIH FARE award for Research Excellence. As a member of the NIH Ebola Response team, she was awarded with the 2015 NIH Director's award.



**Handan USLU**

Managing Director of TASSA

Handan graduated from Koç University, Istanbul with a double-major in Mechanical Engineering and Economics, and completed her Master's at Georgetown University's Communication, Culture & Technology program. During her undergraduate studies, she founded KUGlobalAid and organized international development trips to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tunisia, and Eastern Turkey. In 2014, she went to Syria with the grant she received from the "Georgetown International Relations Association" to implement the "Refugee Film Forum." She worked as a consultant to NGOs in Turkey about digital presence and outreach. Her community building and social impact work continues as the current Managing Director of the Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association (TASSA).



**Boro DROPULIC**

Chief Science Officer & General Manager,  
Lentigen Technology Inc

Dr. Boro Dropulić, Ph.D., M.B.A is the Chief Science Officer and General Manager of Lentigen Technology Inc (LTI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Miltenyi Biotec GmbH. Prior to LTI, Dr. Dropulic founded Lentigen Corporation in December 2004 and served as its Chief Scientific Officer and President. Previously, he was the Founder and Chief Scientific Officer at VIRxSYS Corporation, where he successfully led a multidisciplinary team to initiate and complete the first lentiviral vector clinical trial in humans. Prior to that, Dr. Dropulic was an Instructor and Adjunct Assistant Professor at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he was the first to develop an HIV-based vector targeted to inhibit the replication of the HIV/AIDS virus. He was previously a Fogarty Fellow at the National Institutes of Health, where he worked on developing transgenic animals using embryonic stem cell technology, understanding molecular aspects of HIV replication and gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.



**Steven PAVLETIC**

NCI, NIH, Bethesda, MD

Steven Z. Pavletic, MD is a Senior Clinician, Clinical Investigator and Head of the Graft-versus-Host and Autoimmunity Section in the Experimental Transplantation and Immunology Branch of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the Georgetown University, Lombardi Cancer Center in Washington DC. Dr. Pavletic received his medical degree and internal medicine training from the Zagreb University School of Medicine in Croatia. He completed clinical and research fellowship in bone marrow transplantation in the Clinical Research Division of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the Oncology Division of the University Washington Medical School, Seattle, Washington. Dr. Pavletic has undertaken training in internal medicine and oncology/hematology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska where he was also the Director of the Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation until 2002.



**Canan DAGDEVIREN**

Junior Fellow, Harvard University,  
Boston, MA

Canan obtained her B.Sc. in Physics Engineering from Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey. She was awarded with full-scholarship throughout her M.Sc. studies in Materials Science and Engineering at Sabanci University in Istanbul. As being the top of the list in her field to be entitled to a Fulbright Doctoral Fellow, which was given for the first time in Turkey in 2009, she pursued her Ph.D. in Material Science and Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Dagdeviren is currently a postdoctoral research associate in The David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research of MIT, working with Prof. Robert Langer. Dr. Dagdeviren holds 2 patents, 20 journal papers, and over 30 international awards including Forbes 30 Under 30 list in Science: Young Scientists Who Are Changing the World, MIT Technology Review Innovators under 35 (Inventor Category).



**Frédéric BADEY**

Senior Director, Sanofi, Washington, DC

Frédéric Badey joined sanofi-aventis in May 2008 as Director for International Affairs within the Institutional & Professional Relations department before joining the US affiliate as Director, Global Institutional Relations. In January 2011, Frederic was promoted Senior Director, International Public Affairs Coordination, reporting to Sanofi's Presidence France. In his capacity, Frédéric is responsible for the coordination, between countries and between businesses, of Sanofi's public affairs efforts. He represents Sanofi in various international focused organizations (IMF, World Bank, OECD/BIAC) and diplomatic representations to the United States. One other aspect of his task is to help French Life Sciences SMEs developing abroad. In addition, Frédéric serves as a representative of Fondation Sanofi Espoir to the United States. In 2014, he was designated Fondation Sanofi Espoir's Main Representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



**Teresa GONZALO**

CEO, Ambiox Biotech, Dallas, TX

Teresa is an entrepreneurial scientist specialized in generating business projects from scientific developments and the management and financing of these projects. With a strong background in biotechnology and co-author of patents, she holds a PhD in Nanomedicine from University of Groningen, the Netherlands, and an MBA in Management of Biotechnology. She was CEO and co-founder of Ambiox Biotech, one of the leaders in Spain in the application of dendrimers for different fields, cosmetic, agricultural biotechnology companies, etc. Our biggest breakthrough is the development of a product for the prevention of AIDS. For her career, Teresa was awarded the MIT TR35 Innovator of the Year award by Technology Review of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She was chosen among the Top 100 women leaders in Spain in the entrepreneurial and innovative category in 2012-2013 and selected as Woman of the Year by the magazine Scientific entrepreneurial Woman Today. Teresa currently works with venture capital firms, institutions and companies' accelerators with the aim of promoting Spanish technology companies that want to enter to the US market.



**Sharon MILGRAM**

Director, NIH, Bethesda, MD

Dr. Sharon Milgram received a BS degree in Physical Therapy from Temple University in 1984 and a PhD in Cell Biology from Emory University in 1991. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at The Johns Hopkins University before joining the faculty at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1994. At UNC, Dr. Milgram rose to the rank of Full Professor with Tenure in the Department of Cell & Developmental Biology. Her research was supported by grants from the NIH, NSF, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and American Heart Association. In 2007 Dr. Milgram joined the National Institutes of Health, Office of the Director as the Director of the Office of Intramural Training and Education. There she directs a trans-NIH Office dedicated to the career advancement of over 5000 trainees, ranging from high school and college students to postdoctoral and clinical fellows.



**Giulio Busulini**

Scientific Attaché  
Embassy of Italy in the USA

Giulio Busulini is a Scientific Attaché' at the Embassy of Italy since 2010. He mainly covers the innovation and applied research portfolio as ICT, Cybersecurity and other scientific sectors as Earth sciences and advanced materials. He is also working in fundamental research (6.1 to 6.3)\* with US Defense agencies.

\*The Department of Defense funds long-term research and the budget activities 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3, are categories representing basic research, applied research and advanced technology development, respectively.



**Peter KOLESAR**

Trade and Innovation Counselor,  
Embassy of Slovakia in the USA

Peter Kolesar is the Trade and Innovation Counselor at the Embassy of Slovakia in Washington, D.C. He focuses on supporting Slovak startups in the US and promoting innovation collaboration between Slovakia and the US. He has helped create a network of Slovak professionals in the US active in science, research and entrepreneurship. He previously served as a Commercial Counselor at the Slovak Embassy in Tel Aviv. Prior to moving to foreign service he worked as a Senior Consultant at Candole Partners, a CEE public policy and regulatory consulting firm, where he advised FT Global 500 clients out of the Bratislava office.



**Minh-Hà PHAM**

Counselor for Science and Technology,  
Embassy of France in the USA

Dr. Minh-Hà Pham was appointed Counselor for Science and Technology at the Embassy of France in the United States in Washington, DC on September 1, 2013. After coordinating scientific cooperation for the Asia-Pacific Region for the French National Center for Scientific Research (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, CNRS), she served as Director of the European Research and International Cooperation Office (DERCI) in charge of implementing the European and international policy of CNRS. Dr. Pham also participates in the European Union EXPERTS Program for cooperation with Asia. Dr. Pham's scientific background is in neurobiology and the risk assessment of GMOs and pesticides on beneficial insects. She graduated from the Institut National Agronomique de Paris-Grignon (now AgroParisTech). She obtained her PhD in neuroscience at Pierre et Marie Curie University (Paris 6) in 1983, her Habilitation in 1992 and she is a Senior Scientist at CNRS.

# ORGANIZERS



## **EURAXESS Links North America**

Funded by the European Commission, the objective of the EURAXESS Links North America initiative is to actively promote Europe as an attractive and open place for researchers and innovators. It provides a great networking platform mainly for European researchers working in North America but also North American researchers/innovators with the potential of moving to Europe. Membership is free.

<http://northamerica.euraxess.org>



## **Delegation of the European Union to the United States**

The Delegation of the European Union in Washington, DC, represents the EU in the United States, and works in close coordination with the Embassies and Consulates of the 28 EU Member States. The Science, Technology and Innovation Section in the EU Delegation monitors and analyses U.S. political, economic and regulatory developments in the areas of Research and Innovation and facilitates both strategic high level and bottom-up transatlantic S&T cooperation. It works closely with the U.S. Administration, Congress, research universities, national laboratories, high tech industry and the US-based EU Member States Science Counselors, liaising on all matters with EU Headquarters in Brussels.

[www.EUintheUS.org](http://www.EUintheUS.org)



## **ECUSA** (Spanish Scientists in the USA)

ECUSA is a non-profit association of Science professionals with affinity to Spain and the USA. The objectives are: to establish a network for the interaction of scientists in the USA; to increase the social awareness of Science and technology by bringing together scientists and the general community; to create a formal body for scientists that can serve as point of contact for Spanish and American institutions. Founded in Washington, DC in 2014, it has additional 4 chapters in Boston, New York City, San Francisco and Midwest.

[www.ecusa.es](http://www.ecusa.es)



## **GAIN** (German Academic International Network)

GAIN is a publicly funded joint initiative of the most renowned names in German research and science: the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the German Research Foundation (DFG). Since its beginnings in 2003, the German Academic International Network (GAIN) has supported German researchers and scientists in North America. With workshops, annual conventions (since 2001), newsletters, and a comprehensive website provide information our members can stay up to date with the latest developments in the German research landscape.

[www.gain-network.org](http://www.gain-network.org)



## **ISSNAF** (Italian Scientists and Scholars of North America Foundation)

ISSNAF is an independent not-for-profit and non-governmental foundation the mission of which is to promote and facilitate scientific, academic and technological cooperation amongst Italian researchers and scholars active in North America and the world of research in Italy. Created in 2008 by 32 scientists and 4 Nobel prizes, ISSNAF now comprises about 4,000 Italian researchers and scholars that work and live in the United States and Canada. Through its network ISSNAF reaches over 300 centers of excellence in North America in all fields of research and academia, from hard sciences to the humanities.

[www.issnaf.org](http://www.issnaf.org)



## **VISIoN** (Virtual Slovak Incubator)

Initiated by the Slovak Embassy in Washington DC, VISIoN is the LinkedIn network of Slovak scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs in the United States or with special ties to Slovakia and the USA.

[www.linkedin.com/groups/4896709](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/4896709)



### **HBA- USA** (Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA)

Since December 2006 HBA-USA has been registered as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. An advisory committee, which consists of exceptional Professors is cooperating with the Board of Directors in order to establish a strong association that will improve the interaction between the Greek scientific community's members. It has more than 500 members across all the states of USA and is aimed to promote and facilitate interactions between scientists of Hellenic origin in the USA and with universities in Greece.

[www.hbausa.org](http://www.hbausa.org)



### **TASSA** (Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association)

TASSA is an independent, non-profit and non-political organization established in June 2004 in Washington, DC. TASSA's mission is to promote educational, scientific and technological cooperation between the USA and Turkey and to facilitate the advancement of science in Turkey and the USA through scientific exchange, educational programs and increased networking.

[www.tassausa.org](http://www.tassausa.org)



### **WGNIS** (Wild Geese Network of Irish Scientists)

WGNIS is an All-Ireland Professional Network enabling connection, communication and collaboration of the Irish scientific, technological and engineering Diaspora. The Network has a worldwide reach and welcomes as members individuals with an abiding and professional interest in the intersection of science, technology and engineering with policy, research and development.

[www.wildgeesenetwork.org](http://www.wildgeesenetwork.org)



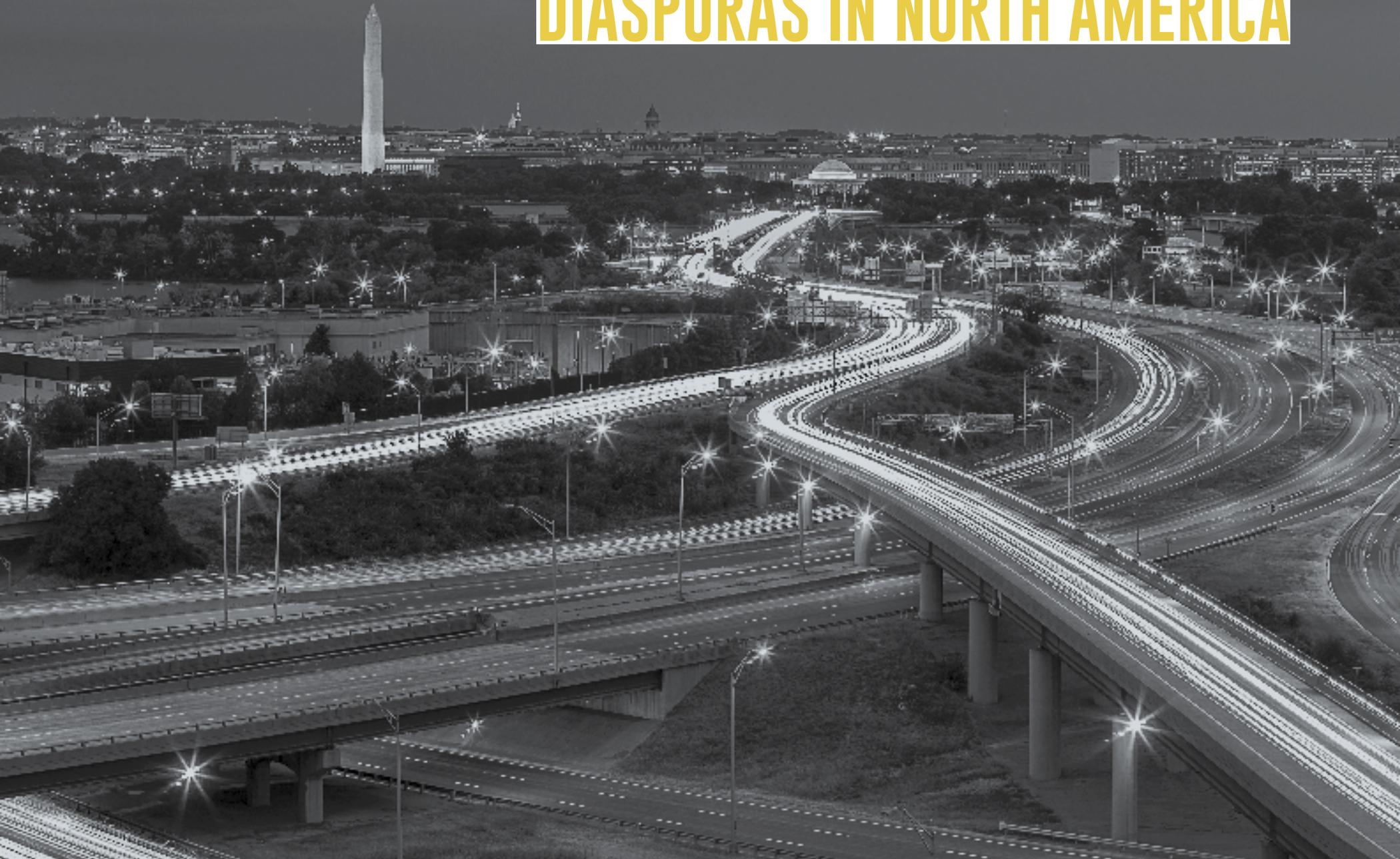
### **fr@nih** (French Fellows at the NIH)

Fr@NIH is a group of French and francophone scientists working at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the greater Washington DC area (Bethesda, Baltimore, and Frederick). The organization is independent of the NIH and provides information to help post-docs who are working at the NIH and living in the greater Washington area.

[www.sites.google.com/site/frenchnih](http://www.sites.google.com/site/frenchnih)



# EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC DIASPORAS IN NORTH AMERICA



## MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



### AUSTRIA

- Austrian scientists and scholars in the USA, Canada and Mexico  
[www.ascina.at](http://www.ascina.at)
- Research and Innovation Network Austria  
[www.ostaustria.org/rina](http://www.ostaustria.org/rina)



### BELGIUM

- Belgian American Network  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/6672974](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/6672974)
- Belgian Business Network North America  
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2053341/profile>



### FRANCE

- fr@nih  
[www.sites.google.com/site/frenchnih](http://www.sites.google.com/site/frenchnih)
- Networking Event in Science & Technology  
<http://nest.france-science.org>



### GERMANY

- American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation  
[www.americanfriends-of-avh.org](http://www.americanfriends-of-avh.org)
- German Academic International Network  
[www.gain-network.org](http://www.gain-network.org)
- German Scholars Organization  
[www.gsonet.org](http://www.gsonet.org)



### GREECE

- Federation of Hellenic Medical Societies of North America  
[www.hellenicmedical.com](http://www.hellenicmedical.com)
- Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA  
[www.hbausa.org](http://www.hbausa.org)
- The Hellenic Medical Society of New York  
[www.hmsny.org](http://www.hmsny.org)
- Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia  
[www.hmsphl.com](http://www.hmsphl.com)



### HUNGARY

- Neumann Society  
[www.neumannsociety.org](http://www.neumannsociety.org)
- New York Hungarian  
[www.nymtt.org](http://www.nymtt.org)



### IRELAND

- Wild Geese Network of Irish Scientists  
[www.wildgeesenetwork.org](http://www.wildgeesenetwork.org)



### ITALY

- Italian Scientists and Scholars of North America Foundation  
[www.issnaf.org](http://www.issnaf.org)



### POLAND

- Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America  
[www.piasa.org](http://www.piasa.org)



### PORTUGAL

- Portuguese-American Postgraduate Society  
[www.papsonline.org](http://www.papsonline.org)



### SLOVAKIA

- VISIoN - Virtual Slovak Incubator  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/4896709](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/4896709)



### SLOVENIA

- American Slovenian Education Foundation (ASEF)  
[www.ase-fund.org](http://www.ase-fund.org)
- Association of Slovenes Educated Abroad / Drustvo v tujini izobrazenih Slovencev (ASEA/VTIS)  
[www.drustvovtis.si](http://www.drustvovtis.si)



### SPAIN

- Españoles Científicos en USA (Spanish Scientists in the USA)  
[www.ecusa.es](http://www.ecusa.es)

## ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES TO HORIZON 2020



### TURKEY

- Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association  
[www.tassausa.org](http://www.tassausa.org)





