

# **Euroscience Open Forum, ESOF**

**Private foundations spearheading  
the effort to create a platform  
for European research**

Conference “Giving more for research in Europe”  
Brussels, 27/ 28 March 2006

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## „American scientists have discovered...“

(1-5 in 2600 German Google results)

**Knochen brechen wie Stahl** ... Menschliche Knochen reagieren auf mechanische Belastungen nicht wie spröde Keramiken, sondern eher wie Metalle. Das berichten **amerikanische Forscher** im Fachblatt Nature Materials  
[www.wissenschaft.de/wissen/news/203455](http://www.wissenschaft.de/wissen/news/203455)

**Rotwein enthält Anti-Krebs-Stoff** ... **Amerikanische Forscher** entdeckten, wie ein Inhaltstoff des Rotweins das Trans ... Menschen- und Rattenzellen beobachten, wie "Res" einen zentralen Schalter  
im...[www.ipn.at/txt/BKZ.htm](http://www.ipn.at/txt/BKZ.htm)

**Lebendige Minirechner** ... **Amerikanische Forscher** haben Bakterien dazu gebracht, sich wie kleine lebende Computer zu ... ihrem Experiment konnten die Forscher beobachten, wie sich ein anfänglich zufällig  
[www.wissenschaft.de/wissen/news/252869](http://www.wissenschaft.de/wissen/news/252869)

**Wie Arsen die Leukämie um die Ecke bringt** ... **Amerikanische Forscher** der John-Hopkins-Universität haben nun herausgefunden, wie sich das giftige ... Heisser als die Sonne - Forscher erzeugen drei Milliarden Grad Temperatur  
[www.shortnews.stern.de/shownews.cfm?id=507287+&u\\_id=74709](http://www.shortnews.stern.de/shownews.cfm?id=507287+&u_id=74709)

**Durchblutung: 'Verrückt nach Mary' ist gut fürs Herz** ... brachten nun **amerikanische Forscher**: Sie zeigten Freiwilligen Komödien wie "Verrückt nach Mary ... Das haben **amerikanische Wissenschaftler** bei Tests mit 20 Freiwilligen gezeigt  
[www.stern.de/wissenschaft/medizin/.../553514.html](http://www.stern.de/wissenschaft/medizin/.../553514.html)

## The AAAS-Meeting

- is an international science and technology extravaganza;
- has a range and impact that generates extensive news coverage and influences science professionals around the world;
- Its extraordinary intellectual smorgasbord makes it the year's most important gathering for the growing segment of the science and technology community interested in the interactions among disciplines and in the influence of science and technology on the human condition;
- in 2006 AAAS offered more than 200 symposia, plenary lectures, topical lectures, seminars, presidential tracks, and other sessions;
- approx. 3000 people attended the AAAS meeting in 2006

## Who is behind the AAAS meeting?

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

- founded in 1848
- international non-profit organization
- publishes the journal *Science*, as well as many scientific newsletters, books and reports,
- Eminent scientists (such as D. Baltimore) play key roles
- Subscription to the journal *Science* means membership of AAAS (120000 individual members and 268 institutions)

## Why we spearheaded ESOF

A European event like AAAS is a powerful tool to strengthen European science, because it will

- raise the visibility of European science internationally, inside and outside of the scientific community
- bring together scientists, science policy makers, journalists and the public
- and therefore help to establish strong European networks supporting the scientific community.

## How it all started

- The ESOF public/ private initiative developed almost spontaneously in March 2002 through common interest in a project, which was considered long overdue.
- Its founders were the grass roots scientists organisation Euroscience, Swedish research organisations and foundations, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Stifterverband from Germany.
- The initiative was driven by the enormous optimism and enthusiasm of an individual: Carl Johan Sundberg, a biomedical scientist from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.
- In 2002 there were very little funds, no strategy and no organisational structure in place

## The Euroscience Open Forum

The **first** Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF 2004) ever

- was held in 2004 in Stockholm (Sweden)
- with just under 2000 people attending.

The **second** Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF 2006) is

- to be held in Munich at the Deutsches Museum
- from July 15th to 19th, 2006
- aims for 3000 participants.

## Who is behind ESOF?

- Euroscience provides a scientific backbone for this conference
- The Foundations bring in
  - science management expertise and
  - early risk capital.
- The earliest steps were to establish organisational and management structures for a period of two years.
  - A Steering Committee
  - a Programme Committee and
  - an Advisory Board were set up.

## The Euroscience Open Forum

ESOF's agenda is science driven:

Whereas the central Steering committee is composed of eminent scientists and science managers,

eminent scientists from all areas of research and from across Europe hold the majority in the Programme Committee.

## ESOF 2006 Programme Committee

Jean Patrick Connerade, UK (Chair), Carl Johann Sundberg, Sweden, Robert Erikson, Sweden, Wim Blockmans, Netherlands, Ortwin Renn, Germany, Jean Pierre Bourguignon, France, Donald Dingwell, Germany, Federico Mayor jr., Spain, Frans Willekens, Netherlands, Sir Colin Berry, UK, Marie Noelle Favier, France, Luigi Amado, Italy, Gail Cardew, UK, Quentin Cooper, UK, Rainer Gerold, Belgium, Margit Sutrop, Estonia, Laszlo Fazekas, Hungary, Howard Moore, Italy, Ingrid Wüning, Germany,

## How is the programme generated?

- The Programme Committee identifies scientific themes to trigger applications from the scientific community. These themes are rather broad and cover many areas in the Natural and Social Sciences and in the Humanities.
- A call for proposal is published
- The Programme Committee selects sessions on the basis of excellence („bottom-up“)
- In addition, the Programme Committee initiates sessions („top down“-approach)
- The majority of the more than 70 sessions are „bottom-up“ sessions

## ESOF 2006 Programme

ESOF 2006 will be opened by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Professor Horst Köhler.

The scientific programme of ESOF 2006 includes over 70 seminars, key-note speeches and workshops, amongst them 4 Nobel Laureates, such as last year's prize winner Theodor Hänsch from Germany, Linda Buck from the US and Jean-Marie Lehn from France.

Presentations will address

- cutting-edge research
- reviews
- science policy topics
- and science and society issues.

For up-to-date information consult: [www.esof2006.org](http://www.esof2006.org)

## ESOF 2006, Munich, 15 - 19 July 2006

was initiated by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Stifterverband, who provide

- management expertise
- approx. half of the total budget (more than 800.000€)

As in Sweden, ESOF 2006 is organised by a temporary project team. This team is run by WiD in Berlin.

The Champion is Wolfgang Heckl, an eminent physicist and now Director of the Deutsches Museum in Munich.

## ESOF 2006 Founding Partners

Bundesministerium für Forschung und Bildung

Deutsches Museum

Deutsche Telekom Stiftung

European Commission

European Science Foundation

Fritz Thyssen Stiftung

Johnson & Johnson

Stiftelsen Riksbanken Jubileumsfond

## Future of ESOF

**ESOF 2008** will be held in Barcelona.

The Champion will be Enric Banda,  
a former geophysicist and now a well known science manager.

## Recommendations for the future of ESOF

- Move away from temporary organising teams to a more continuous core organisational body.
- Find (a) strong permanent partner(s), such as *Nature*.
- Build up an endowment, to provide basic funding.
- Find the right balance between project-lead fundraising and donor-lead fundraising.
- Recruit only the best scientists from across Europe into the programme committee and allow for more top-down sessions.
- Develop and and maintain an ESOF Culture.
- Foster its existing relationships.

Welcome to

the

**Euroscience Open Forum 2006**

in

**Munich,**

**15-19 July 2006!**

View the exciting programme and register now  
at

[www.esof2006.org](http://www.esof2006.org)