

# Academia Europaea

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## News, January 2009

NOTE NEW OFFICE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER

**Events now open for registration – Members and non members of the Academy**  
**You can register via the website, or if you need hard copies of forms and information contact Teresa McGovern at the AE office**

Date: **MARCH 26 – 29** Location: **Turin, Italy**  
Event: **“Diversification of Higher Education and the Academic Profession”**  
A HERCULES group symposium sponsored by the Compagnia di San Paolo.  
Organisers: Alessandro Cavalli and Ulrich teichler. **Registration open.** See [www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org) and [admin@acadeuro.org](mailto:admin@acadeuro.org)

Date: **MAY 22 – 23** Location: **Venice, Italy**  
Event: **Basic Ideas in Science: Number 3, “Causality”**  
Sponsored by the Tschira Foundation  
Organisers: Klaus Mainzer, Jürgen Mittelstrass and Jules Deutsch. **Registration open.** PLACES ARE RESTRICTED. See [www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org) for instructions

Date: **JUNE 4 – 6** Location: **Helsinki, Finland**  
Event: **“CONSTANTINE THE AFRICAN’S THEORICA PANTEGNI: TRANSMISSION OF GREEK MEDICAL TRADITION TO THE LATIN WEST VIA BYZANTIUM AND THE ARABIC WORLD”**  
Sponsored by the AE “New Initiatives Fund”, and the Gyllenburg Foundation  
Organisers: Heikki Solin and Mattia Haltia. **Registration open.** See [www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org)

### Advance notice of events

Event: **21<sup>st</sup> Annual conference of the Academia Europaea**  
Date: **SEPTEMBER 24 – 26** Location: **Naples, Italy**  
Title: **“Risks, Environment and Sustainable Development”**

Conference includes: At 17:30pm the Opening ceremony: Award of the ERASMUS Medal and Lecture for 2009: Introduction of the new members, elected in 2009 and the award of the 2009 Burgen Scholarships to young scholars. Full details and programme can be found on the website at [www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org). There will be a 3 day post conference geology field excursion to the Aeolian Islands, organised by the Earth Sciences Section: Open to all. Details will be posted on the website.

The event has a very interdisciplinary programme which should appeal top a broad range of members and non members.

Sections may organise small meetings and mini-symposia to coincide with the annual conference: Keep looking at the website for updates, or why not make a proposal to your section chair?

- **Announcing the 2009 Annual Business Meeting of members of the Academy.**  
This will take place at **15:30pm on 24<sup>th</sup> September in Naples.** This will be an important meeting for all members, as the trustees will seek approval for a change of the legal status of the Academia Europaea. Other agenda items will include: Reports from the President, Treasurer and Sections. Elections to Council.

Event: **“Topo –Europe 2009”**: organised by the Earth and Cosmic Sciences Section  
Organiser: Sierd Cloetingh  
Date: OCTOBER 15 – 17 **Location:** Heidelberg, Germany  
Sponsored by the Klaus Tschira Foundation

Event: **“From Information to Knowledge: From Knowledge to Wisdom”**  
A symposium organised by the HERCULES Group and sponsored by The Wenner Gren  
Foundations  
Organiser: Erik de Corte  
Date: NOVEMBER 5 – 7 **Location:** Stockholm, Sweden

#### **SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2008 – LAST APPEAL**

The Financial year of the Academia runs from April 1st 2008 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009. There is still time to pay your annual subscription for the current year. It is important that members try to pay something towards the operations and future development of the Academy. We rely entirely on donations. For exemptions, please contact the Executive Secretary. For ways to pay, please also contact the Executive Secretary.

The new subscriptions year (09/10) will start on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. All members eligible to pay a subscription will receive a letter and instructions during April.

#### **INVITATION FOR NOMINATIONS AS TREASURER OF THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA**

Professor Peter Day FRS, has been the Honorary Treasurer for almost ten years. He has indicated his intention to retire at the Annual Business Meeting in Naples. **Any member** who wishes to be considered as a candidate for appointment to the post of Honorary Treasurer (pro bono), should send a brief formal letter of candidature addressed to the President of the Academia setting out their reasons. Professor Day will be pleased to respond to informal enquiries about the role of the Treasurer ([profpd@msn.com](mailto:profpd@msn.com))

#### **JOIN THE EDITORIAL AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP OF THE EUROPEAN REVIEW**

The Editor-in-chief – Theo D’Haen - would welcome contact with any members who would be interested in assisting him in the future development of the Journal of the Academia Europaea. Interested members should email him at [theo.dhaen@arts.kuleuven.be](mailto:theo.dhaen@arts.kuleuven.be)

The Cambridge University Press (C.U.P) are responsible for publication and mailing out the journal on our behalf. We have to pay for all of the members’ copies. It is important therefore, that your mailing address is correct. If you no longer require the journal, **please send back the mailing envelope that the issue comes in to the C.U.P** (not to the AE office) and include a short note that you wish to cancel your AE subscription to the journal.

#### **NEWS and REPORTS**

##### ○ **The 2008 ACADEMIA EUROPAEA RUSSIA PRIZES COMPETITION RESULTS**

**From:** V.P. Skulachev MAE, President, Russian Club of AE Members, [skulach@belozersky.msu.ru](mailto:skulach@belozersky.msu.ru)

The 15th contest for the European Academy Prizes for young Russian Researchers in Science and Humanities took place in Moscow on October 13, 2008.

This contest has been held since 1992 by the Russian Club of AE Members (V.P. Skulachev, chairman, A.A. Bogdanov, V.B. Braginskij, M.O. Chudakova, G.P. Georgiev, I.I. Moiseev, A.M. Nikishin, V.A. Sadovnichij and others) and is aimed at the support of the most talented young Russian researchers in all branches of Science and Humanities.

The format of the contest has been worked out by the Russian Club of AE Members and approved by the Council of Academia Europea. Any person under 33 years old with a number of scientific publications has an opportunity to participate. The reviewers come from both Russia and Europe. 15 contests have been held since 1992 and 339 people awarded.

In 2008 the event was sponsored by the Publishing House “MAIK-Nauka-Interperiodika” (N.G. Avanesov, Deputy Director) and Rosbusinessbank (N.V. Kocuba, Chairman of the Supervisory Board). 22 laureates were awarded money prizes (\$1000 each), medals and diplomas on October 28 at the ceremony held at the Moscow State University.

The 2008 laureates are:

**Mathematics/Mechanics:**

- **Denis I. Borisov**, 1978, Bashkir State Pedagogical University, “Elliptic operators with geometric, distant, non-self-adjoint and singular perturbations”, Ufa

**Physics:**

- **Victor V. Braguta**, 1977, Institute for High Energy Physics, “The Study of leading twist light cone wave functions of  $2S$  state charmonium mesons”, Protvino
- **Innokenty I. Novikov**, 1979, Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute RAS, “Optical waveguides based on one- and two-dimensional photonic band crystals for the creation of the coherent and spontaneous radiation semiconductor sources”, Saint-Petersburg
- **Vasily F. Sharipov**, 1983, Department of Physics, Saint Petersburg State University, “Anti-hydrogen atom and molecular systems containing it”, Saint-Petersburg

**Chemistry:**

- **Pavel A. Abramov**, 1985, A.V. Nikolaev Institute of Inorganic Chemistry SB RAS, “New approaches to synthesis of chalcogenide clusters of transition metals”, Novosibirsk
- **Artem L. Gushchin**, 1981, Nikolaev Institute of Inorganic Chemistry SB RAS, “Synthesis and reactivity of novel chalcogenide clusters of tantalum, molybdenum and tungsten”, Novosibirsk
- **Mikhail A. Kiskin**, 1980, N.S. Kurnakov Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry of RAS, “Magnetoactive manganese(II) and iron(II) polymeric pivalates: synthesis, structure, magnetic properties and chemical activity”, Moscow
- **Ekaterina A. Mainicheva**, 1984, Nikolaev Institute of Inorganic Chemistry SB RAS, “Supramolecular adducts of polynuclear metal aqua complexes with macrocyclic organic cavitated cucurbit[n]urils”, Novosibirsk
- **Ivan P. Pozdnyakov**, 1979, Institute of Chemical Kinetics and Combustion, “From photochemistry of model systems to photoprocesses in natural waters”, Novosibirsk

**Earth sciences:**

- **Roman V. Veselovskiy**, 1980, Geology Faculty, Moscow State University, “Some aspects of the Siberian platform paleotectonics at the Late Proterozoic and the state of the geomagnetic field at the Paleozoic-Mesozoic boundary”, Moscow
- **Elena A. Volkova**, 1978, Geology Faculty, Moscow State University, “Synthesis and properties of highly efficient oxide crystals for integrated optics of new generation”, Moscow
- **Andrey V. Korsakov**, 1974, Institute of Geology and Mineralogy SB RAS, “Peculiarities of mineral-forming processes under ultrahigh-pressure metamorphism”, Novosibirsk

**Biology:**

- **Marina V. Arkhipenko**, 1974, Moscow State University, “Role of protein-protein interactions in potexvirus genomic RNA translational activation”, Moscow
- **Mikhail S. Klenov**, 1979, Institute of Molecular Genetics RAS, “Dissection of short RNA-mediated silencing of transposable elements in *Drosophila*”, Moscow
- **Tatyana D. Kolesnikova**, 1978, Institute of Cytology and Genetics SB RAS, “Study of functional significance of *Drosophila melanogaster* SUUR protein and its fragments”, Novosibirsk

- **Sofya A. Kuznetsova**, 1974, Centre for Theoretical Problems in Physico-Chemical Pharmacology RAS, “A new generic method for the fluorescence "readout" of single redox enzymes activity”, Moscow
- **Maria M. Kurshakova**, 1980, Institute of Gene Biology RAS, “Investigation of the novel transcriptional factor E(y)2,”, Moscow
- **Alexey A. Pakhomov**, 1982, Shemyakin-Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry RAS, “Chemical reactions of the chromophore synthesis within red fluorescent proteins”, Moscow
- **Vladimir A. Trifonov**, 1974, Institute of Cytology and Genetics SB RAS, “Generation of painting probes by flow sorting and microdissection and their application in karyotype evolution studies”, Novosibirsk
- **Yulii V. Shidlovskii**, 1979, Institute of Gene Biology RAS, “Studying of mechanism of action of novel transcription factors in higher eukaryotes”, Moscow

#### Humanities:

- **Tatyana V. Bukina**, 1978, St. Petersburg University of Humanities and Social Sciences, “Reception studies and musicology in the epoch of postmodern: searching of compromise”, Saint-Petersburg
- **Sergey V. Lyubichankovsky**, 1979, Volga Region’s Branch of Institute of Russian History RAS, Orenburg State Pedagogical University, “The province administration and the problem of authority’s crisis in the late-imperial Russia (on materials of Ural region, 1892-1914)”, Orenburg

- **Membership Directory**

The 2008 Directory is available on our website. To save costs only a limited number are printed and available from the office on request. Members can access the full .pdf version through the website (members only page). Members can also access the new membership database online and edit their own content. **Follow the registration** instructions that are on the home page. The 2009 Directory will be made available in February.

- **Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008**

This can be downloaded from the website. Hard copy available, on request from the office

<b>OTHER PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST or from the publisher/authors</b>
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- **EASAC (The European Academies Science Advisory Council)** have recently published an expert report on “Combating the Threat of Zoonotic Infections”. It can also be downloaded from the ESAC website [www.easac.eu](http://www.easac.eu) All previous reports can be found on their website. The Academia Europaea representative on the Council is Prof. Brian Heap.
- **World Literature, World Culture.** Edited by K-M Simonsen and J Stougaard-Nielsen. Aarhus University Press. ISBN 978 87 7934 408 2 (2008)
- **“Fundamental Concepts in Computer Science”.** Erol Gelenbe and J-P Kahane. Advances in Computer Science and Engineering: Texts Vol. 3. Pub. World Scientific Publishing Co Pte Ltd, 5 Toh Tuck Link. Singapore 596224. (summer 2009)
- **“SEX IN AN AGE OF TECHNOLOGICAL REPRODUCTION ICSI and Taboos”** . Carl Djerassi. Publication Date: September 5, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-299-22790-6 Univ. Wisconsin Press.

<b>NEWS OF MEMBERS</b>
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- **Jaques Tits (MAE) receives the 2008 ABEL Prize:**

Le mathématicien français Jacques Tits a officiellement reçu des mains du Roi Harald de Norvège le prix Abel, récompense norvégienne couronnant des avancées dans le domaine des mathématiques. Ce prix, qu'il partage avec l'Américain John Griggs Thompson, lui avait été décerné le 27 mars dernier par l'Académie norvégienne des Sciences pour «leurs découvertes fondamentales en algèbre». Cette nouvelle récompense pour un scientifique français fait suite à une série de nombreuses distinctions : prix Abel en 2003 pour Jean-Pierre Serre, médaille Fields en 2006 pour Wendelin Werner, prix Clay en 2008 pour Claire Voisin, et prix Crafoord en 2008 pour

Maxim Kontsevitch. Elle confirme, pour Valérie Pécresse, «l'excellence de la recherche française en mathématiques

The French mathematician Jacques Tits officially received from the hands of King Harald of Norway the Abel Prize, Norwegian crown reward progress in the field of mathematics. This award, which he shares with the American John Griggs Thompson, had been awarded on March 27 by the Norwegian Academy of Science for "their discoveries in algebra."

This new award for a French scientist followed a series of many distinctions: Abel Prize in 2003 for Jean-Pierre Serre, Fields Medal in 2006 to Wendelin Werner, prizes Clay in 2008 to Claire Voisin and Crafoord prize in 2008 for Maxim Kontsevitch .

- **Dario DiFrancesco (MAE). Awarded the 2008 Grand Prix Scientifique of the Fondation Lefoulon-Delalande- Institut de France,**

a prestigious prize awarded once a year by the French Academy of Sciences for achievements in the cardiovascular field. Some information on the prize can be found at: [http://www.institut-de-france.fr/minisite/grands\\_prix\\_2008/1097\\_faites\\_connaissance\\_avec\\_les\\_huit\\_laureats\\_des\\_sept\\_grands\\_prix.html](http://www.institut-de-france.fr/minisite/grands_prix_2008/1097_faites_connaissance_avec_les_huit_laureats_des_sept_grands_prix.html)

The Prize awarded in Paris (11th June) was for the work leading to the discovery of the "pacemaker" ("funny") ion channels (back in 1979, in Oxford while working in Denis Noble's group) and the way this discovery has led to the development of therapeutic interventions, among which the drug ivabradine, presently prescribed as a therapy against chronic angina.

- **Thomas Henzinger (MAE),**

to be President of the newly founded Austrian elite Institute for Science and Technology near Vienna <http://derstandard.at/?url=/?id=1227287832259>

## PROFILES 2009

This new “update” is an opportunity to hear from the officers and members of Council of the Academia Europaea.

We are starting with the Vice President – **Sierd Cloetingh** who was elected in 2008 and took up his post at the AGM in Liverpool in September.

Sierd Cloetingh is the Royal Netherlands Academy Professor of Earth Sciences at VU University Amsterdam. He has published more than 250 papers in international peer-reviewed journals and has supervised some 55 PhD students of 18 different nationalities. He has served the Earth Science community in various functions, including as President of the European Geophysical Society. He is currently the President of the International Lithosphere Programme, Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal “Global and Planetary Change” and Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the European Large Scale Collaborative Research Programme (EUROCORES) TOPO-EUROPE. (see events list)

Sierd has received honorary doctorates from four European universities and numerous honors and awards, including the Stephan Mueller Medal of the European Geosciences Union, Fellow and Honorary Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the Geological Society of America and the Leopold von Buch Medal of the German Geological Society. He is member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and Foreign member of the Royal Norwegian Academy of Sciences, the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences, the Heidelberg Academy and the Bavarian Academy. In 2006 he was distinguished as Chevalier de Legion d’Honneur for his contributions to science and European scientific cooperation in research and education.

Sierd was elected member of Academia Europaea in 1994 and served Academia Europaea as Chair of the Earth and Marine and Earth and Cosmic Sciences Sections.

In 2008 he was elected by the Council as Vice-President of Academia Europaea.

### **Sierd’s personal “vision for the future”:**

I have great admiration for those who, in 1988, founded Academia Europaea. In this context of course Sir Arnold Burgen should be mentioned, as well as those who joined him in building a truly pan-European

platform for scientists of different backgrounds. This is what makes Academia Europaea unique: a blend of sciences and humanities and nationalities in a bottom-up organization responding to challenges in a dynamic European setting. The greatest asset of Academia Europaea is probably its membership: Academia Europaea is what they make out of it.

From my own observation, I can witness that subsequent Presidents and their Boards, assisted by a very capable and efficient office, headed now by David Coates, have actively promoted many new initiatives from the sections and from the membership.

The sections are the core of the organizational structure of the Academia Europaea. I am very pleased with the energy that a number of recently elected Section Chairs put in efforts to strengthen their sections and are actively searching with their section committee for scientific excellence in their field to be elected as member of AE.

Ole Petersen is doing a very dedicated effort as Chair of the Nominations committee to pursue a transparent and high-level election process.

The decision to appoint Section Chairs as members of the Council has been an excellent one, adding a lot to the internal cohesion of Academia Europaea, enhancing the affectivity of the Council considerably.

For the Earth Sciences, Academia Europaea has served right from the beginning as a key platform to discuss and launch new research initiatives. The Earth and Marine Sciences Section was founded by the late Stephan Mueller, also the founder of the European Geophysical Society and later Chairs were Enric Banda who served Europe later on as Secretary General of the European Science Foundation and André Berger, also former President of the European Geophysical Society. Earth Sciences is by its very nature trespassing national borders and Academia Europaea was, therefore, the perfect platform, the more as it is at the same time provided the links with other fields so important for execution of multidisciplinary research programmes. To give an example, the new EUROCORES TOPO-EUROPE, with allocated funding of 15M€ and creating research opportunities for 60 young researchers is an outgrowth of conferences organized with financial support from the Academia Europaea's new initiatives fund such as the one held in 2006 in the Villa Bosch in Heidelberg at the Klaus Tschira Foundation (and again in 2009).

I know that also other sections, such as the Physics section are engaged in exploring different scenarios for Europe's energy agenda and it's there were my successor as section Chair of Earth and Cosmic Sciences, Don Dingwell would like to see his section actively engaged.

The forthcoming Annual Meeting in Naples with an important component of science addressing fundamental and societal aspects of energy and natural hazards embedded in a rich cultural and archeological setting promises to be very interesting to the membership in the broadest sense.

The Council and Board consider the Annual Meeting as a very important element in the functioning of the Academia Europaea. These meetings with their high quality, such as again illustrated by the recent Liverpool Meeting, have the potential to attract a larger audience. Following very positive experience with the panel session on slavery organized by Piet Emmer last year, also this year, a panel session now on the topic on migration waves out of Southern Italy, will be included in the programme.

In response to demands from various components of the membership, the Earth and Cosmic Sciences Section together with the local organizers will prepare pre-and post conference excursions blending geology, archaeology and culture.

The above illustrates a significant momentum in the activities of Academia Europaea. A lot has been accomplished over the last twenty years and the vision of the founders is more valid than ever.

I see my role as Vice-President very much as building on the strong points of Academia Europaea and consolidating AE to make it a very robust organization. It must be realized that the potential of the

Academia Europaea requires and deserves a stable financial base and it is here that the new President Lars Walløe will make a special effort to enforce this base. Another priority I strongly agree on with Lars, is the need to continue, as initiated by Past-President Jürgen Mittelstrass, to encourage actively the pursuit of new membership to make sure that in the years to come Academia Europaea will be increasingly recognized as **the** European Academy of Sciences by the world outside Academia Europaea. In doing so, I will also seek further partnership with national academies and research councils both at a national and European level.

I look forward to cooperate with Lars, the other members of the Board and the office in this venture.

Sierd

**NOTE on information and communications**

Please look at the AE Website [www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org). There you can find out about elections and nominations: meetings and also the archives of past events. You will also find the 'Directories', annual reports and contacts for the chairs and committee members of Sections and of the Board and Council.

We will be increasingly using the web as the principle vehicle of dissemination of information and contact with members. Future issues of the newsletters such as this one, will be mailed out with the European Review and also published online (the official 'Tree' issues) with email alerts for individual downloading. However, we recognise that not all members use the web or email regularly and so, all documents, reports and information will be available in printed form – on request only. Certain categories of member will continue to receive hard copy information.

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**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT and database DETAILS (online, or using the form below)**

**If any of your contact details have recently changed please do let us know:**

Title (Prof. , Dr. etc.):  
Family Name (Use CAPITAL letters):

First Name:

Telephone:  
Fax:  
E-mail address:

Mail/Postal address: