

6th Annual *Science in the House* Exhibition

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The *Science in the House* media exhibition was held on Friday 29th September 2017 at 5:00 pm in the main foyer of the Parliament Building in Valletta. The event opened with a personal brief welcome followed by an opening address by Prof. Alex Felice, Chairman of the *Science in the City/European Researchers' Night* consortium and followed by Prof. Joseph Cilia, Rector's Delegate of the University of Malta. This year short oral speeches were also contributed from four researchers: Dr Maria Briguglio, Dr Ruben Gatt, Prof. Ing. Cyril Spiteri Staines and Prof. Neville Vassallo. They presented an overview of research they will be conducting with funds awarded by the University of Malta. The inauguration closed with an address by the Hon. Anglu Farrugia M.P., Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malta. After 6:00 pm the Parliament Building was opened to the general public for viewing until midnight. An interactive exhibition allowing the general public to use microscopes was also on display (Figure 1).

Various research projects not limited to the Faculties of ICT, Science, Medicine and Surgery, and Health Sciences from the University of Malta were on display (Figure 2). Twenty posters were showcased on five four-sided display panels. The topics included microbial degradation of plastics, online hate speech, non-invasive analysis of cultural heritage sites, face image enhancement technology, cystic fibrosis research, algorithm development of subatomic particle detection, photovoltaics, Maltese Human genome, stroke research with animals models, limestone geological dating, quantum communication technologies, exploration of groundwater beneath the sea, and blood analysis using electromagnetic fields. There were also poster contributions from the Malta Life Science Park, the University Research Trust (RIDT), the Malta Medicines Authority, and Malta College of Arts Science and Technology (MCAST) on the mapping of ecosystems by Mario Balzan.



Figure 1: A mother with her two boys viewing through a microscope in Parliament. In the background is Dr Shawn Baldacchino, a researcher in the Department of Pathology at the University of Malta, who set-up the interactive microscope exhibition.

This year's event also showcased a cross-section of early career researchers (Figure 3). Nine biographical posters were on display of local scholars from the University of Malta. Highlighted in the collection were Dr Ing Marc Anthony Azzopardi, Dr Owen Falzon, Dr Elisa Seria, Dr Ian P. Cassar, Dr Ruben Gatt, Dr Rebecca Dalli Gonzi, Dr Lourdes Farrugia, Dr Melissa Formosa and Dr Shawn Baldacchino.

Science in the House is organised by the Malta Chamber of Scientists, the University Research Trust (RIDT) and the *European Researchers' Night – Science in the City* consortium. The consortium is supported by the European Commission's Research and Innovation Framework Programme Horizon 2020 (H2020, 2014–2020) by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. The event is organised by the University of Malta, the Malta Chamber of Scientists and the Research Trust of the

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Figure 2: The media exhibition at the main entrance of the Parliament Building before the commencement of the 6th annual *Science in the House* exhibition on 29th September 2017.

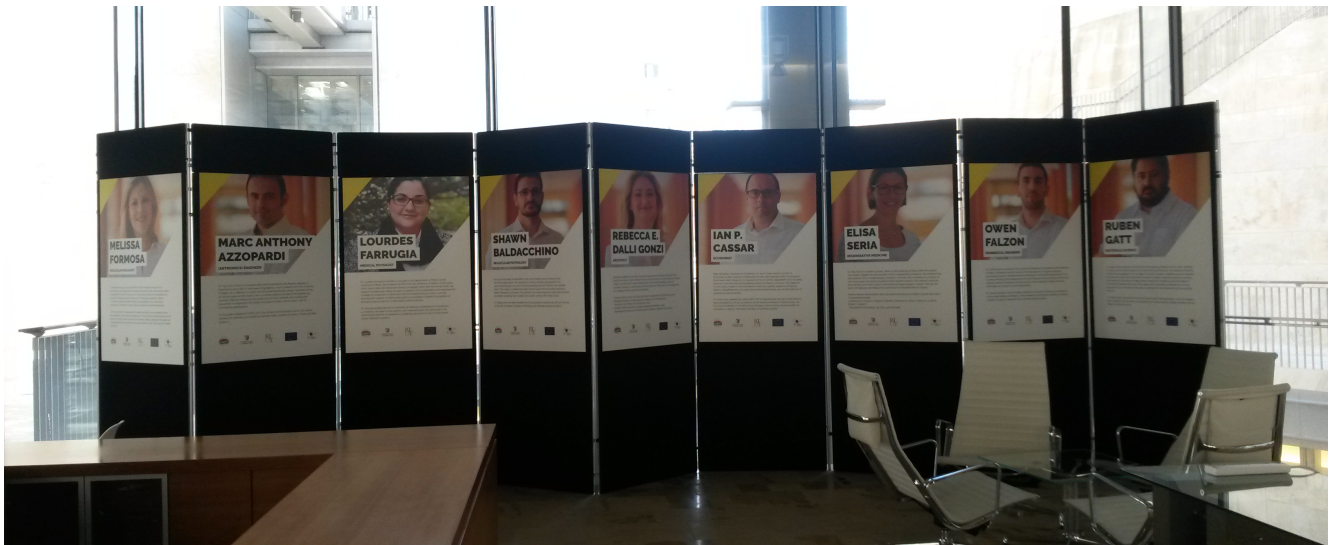


Figure 3: Biography posters of nine early career researchers at the *Science in the House* exhibition.

University of Malta, in partnership with the Ministry for Education and Employment, Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation, Jugs Malta, Studio 7, MEUSAC, MCST, Esplora, Valetta Local Council, Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology, PBS, BPC International, Notte Bianca, Spazju Kreativ, Pjazza Teatru Rjal, the AquaBioTech

Group, the Central Bank of Malta, Wasteserv and a number of other partners. The festival has been recognised by EFFE International Jury to receive the EFFE Label 2017–2018. The programme can be viewed on www.scienceinthecity.org.mt or follow the festival on Facebook for regular updates: www.facebook.com/ScienceInTheCityMalta.

2017 *Science in the House* Posters by Title and Contributing Researchers/Partners

Contributors are from the University of Malta unless otherwise stated.

1. The Dielectric Properties of Blood – Prof. Charles Sammut, Prof. Pierre Schembri-Wismayer, Dr Lourdes Farrugia, Julian Bonello; Saqib Salahuddin, Martin O'Holloran and Emily Porter (National University of Ireland, Galway).
2. The Malta NGSProject – Dr Stephanie Bezzina Wettinger, Dr Rosienne Farrugia, Dr Ritienne Attard, Francesca Borg Carbott, Dr Philip Dingli, Dr Tiziana Felice, Dr Karen Cassar, Adrian Pleven, Dr Valerie Said Conti and Prof Josanne Vassallo.
3. Finding Groundwater Beneath the Sea – Prof. Aaron Micallef, Prof. JoAnn Cassar, Adrian Mifsud, Adam Gauci; Dr Marion Jegen (GEOMAR, Germany), Prof Mark Person (New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, USA) and Dr Joshu Mountjoy (NIWA, New Zealand).
4. Quantum Islands – Dr André Xuereb; Sören Wengerowsky, Siddarth Joshi and Dr Rupert Ursin (University of Vienna and IQOQI); Davide Calonico and Alberto Mura (INRIM, Italy); Roderick Cassar (Melita Ltd).
5. The Maltese Human Genome Project – Prof. Alex E. Felice, Dr Joseph Borg, Dr Lidia Ryabova, Joanna Vella, Laura Grech, Malcolm Pace, Dr Nikolai Pace, Dr Graziella Zahra, Mark Briffa, Rebecca Borg, Dr Jerry Lu (Genomics Co. Ltd); Dr Rade Drmanac and Dr Brock Peters (Complete Genomics) and Prof. Sjaak Philipsen (Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands).
6. *L*-Lactate Protects the Brain from Stroke – Prof. Mario Valentino, Jasmine Vella, Christian Zammit, Ing. Robert Zammit; Prof. Robert Fern (University of Plymouth).
7. Maltese Limestone as a Window into Ancient Climates – Ray Zammit, Prof. Aaron Micallef; Prof. Caroline H. Lear and Prof. Paul N. Pearson (Cardiff University).
8. Photovoltaic Research – Prof. Luciano Mule Stagno, Dr Ing. Maurizio Fenech, Bonnie Attard, Ryan Bugeja and Mark Anthony Callus.
9. Finding Subatomic Particles – Dr Gianluca Valentino, Dr Johann A. Briffa; Dr Marian Ivanov (GSI), Dr Kai Schweda (University of Heidelberg), Dr Giacinto de Cataldo (CERN and INFN Bari) and Dr Giacomo Volpe (University of Bari).
10. Structural Bioinformatics in Disease – Prof. Gary J. Hunter, Prof. Therese Hunter, Dr Maria Cristina D'Adamo, Prof. Mauro Pessia, Dr Rosalin Bonetta, Marita Vella and Brandon Seychell.
11. Glutamate and Aspirin in Cellular Life and Death – Prof. Rena Balzan, Dr Gianluca Farrugia and Maria Azzopardi.
12. A New Therapy for Cystic Fibrosis? – Dr Maria Cristina D'Adamo, Prof. Mauro Pessia.
13. Face Image Enhancement from CCTV Images – Dr Reuben Farrugia, Prof. Kenneth Camilleri and Amped Software.
14. Revealing the Buried Past by Non-invasive Analysis – Dr Sebastiano D'Amico, Prof. Pauline Galea and Daniela Farrugia.
15. Understanding Online Hate Speech – Dr Stavros Assimakopoulos, Dr Albert Gatt, Rebecca Vella Muskat, Dr Colin Calleja, Dr Barbara Baschiera.
16. The Microbial Degradation of Plastics – Dr Gabrielle Zammit, Dr Daniel Vella, Prof. Joseph Grima, Megan Borg and Andrea Farrugia.
17. Malta Medicines Authority – Partners include University of Malta, Malta Enterprise, Malta Life Sciences Park, EU Network Training Centre, European Medicines Regulatory Network and the EU Innovation Network.
18. Malta Life Sciences Park – BioDNA Laboratory Services Ltd, SUNLAB Group Ltd, BuiltinMT.
19. Research, Innovation and Development Trust (RIDT)
20. Measuring Nature's Benefits – Dr Mario Balzan (MCAST Water Research and Training Centre).