

**The (IM)2 Newsletter**  
The (IM)2-ICSI exchange program has new opportunities.  
A new European project: MAIA.

Inside this year's meeting of the (IM)2 International Scientific and Industrial Advisory Boards.

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# The (IM)2 Newsletter

Every month the (IM)2 Newsletter brings you the latest and hottest scientific and administrative news about the (IM)2 NCCR and related topics

## ICSI Fellowships

The International Computer Science Institute (ICSI, [www.icsi.berkeley.edu](http://www.icsi.berkeley.edu)) is an independent nonprofit research institute, located in downtown Berkeley. It is closely affiliated with the Computer Science Division of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department (EECS) of the University of California at Berkeley.



## Research Areas

In the framework of the ongoing (IM)2-ICSI exchange program, ICSI has again opened a number of visitor fellowship positions for 2004 and 2005. These positions are open to postdocs and PhD students working within (IM)2, as well as to outstanding undergraduate students who are strongly motivated to work in the above research areas. More specifically, research interests should fit one of (IM)2 and ICSI's key areas of research, such as:

- New developments, applications or technology research concerning speech processing, and in particular robust speech recognition (e.g., for distributed speech recognition from cell phones and PDAs);
- Spoken language interaction in meetings (both analysis of interaction and of the spoken language properties);
- Computational linguistics, including algorithm and corpus development (such as semantic role annotation);
- Ubiquitous Computing, with particular emphasis on interfaces (e.g., speech).

Finally, candidates must have a proficiency in spoken and written English, to facilitate interaction in a multinational project team.

## How to apply

Interested candidates should complete the form at [www.im2.ch/e/exchange.html](http://www.im2.ch/e/exchange.html) and return it to [jean-albert.ferrez@im2.ch](mailto:jean-albert.ferrez@im2.ch). They can also contact Prof. Hervé Bourlard ([boulevard@idiap.ch](mailto:boulevard@idiap.ch)) for additional information.

Decisions will be taken on the basis of

- Quality of the proposed research and match with current IM2 and ICSI research activities;
- CV, especially as it reflects the scientific excellence and the ability to contribute substantially to the proposed project;
- Available resources.

**Applications by female scientists are highly encouraged and will be favored.**

## Financial terms

For PhD students and postdocs, financial terms will be based on standard Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) recommendations. For undergraduate students, internship funding will typically cover living expenses, but not salary. Living expenses will typically be around 2,000 US\$/month.

The selected candidates will also receive, upon the acceptance at ICSI of a travel expense report (including the airline receipt), a travel expenses reimbursement (a round trip air fare ticket in economy class, from their home locations to San Francisco, USA) up to 1,000 US\$.

## New EC project: MAIA

A second round of projects have been accepted in the 6th framework program (FP6). Despite being less relevant to (IM)2 this time, since the "Multimodal Interfaces" strategic objective was not part of the call, it once again gave an opportunity for some (IM)2 partners to strengthen their research area and integrate at the European level.

«Non-Invasive Brain Interaction with Robots – Mental Augmentation through Determination of Intended Action» (MAIA) is a *Specific Targeted Research or Innovation Project* (STREP) submitted by Dr José del R. Millán and featuring IDIAP as the main contractor and coordinator, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (B), University Hospital of Geneva's Functional Brain Mapping Lab (CH), Fondazione Santa Lucia - I.R.C.C.S. (I) and Helsinki University of Technology (FI). The proposal has been favorably evaluated (very good to excellent on all criteria) and will receive a financial contribution of more than 2 million Euros for a duration of 3 years.



It should be noted that MAIA will be one of the first projects accepted after the new agreement between Switzerland and the EC has entered in force. This has of course two major impacts:

- IDIAP can fully play the role of coordinator in MAIA, without having to outsource some of the related duties as has been the case with AMI.
- Swiss partners will now be funded directly from the EC, thus eliminating the extra administrative work and budget cuts imposed by the OFES.

MAIA is an important step forward for research activities in the field of Brain Computer Interfaces, currently funded by (IM)2 within the Multimodal Integration IP with partners IDIAP, HUG, UniGe and CSEM.

## Events

### Workshop on HCI 18.3.04

(IM)2.MDM organizes an internal workshop on Human Computer Interaction within (IM)2, see [issco-www.unige.ch/projects/im2/mdm](http://issco-www.unige.ch/projects/im2/mdm) for full details.

### First International Workshop on Multimodal Interaction and Related Machine Learning Algorithms 21–23.6.04

The first Workshop on Multimodal Interaction and Related Machine Learning Algorithms, a joint initiative of the AMI, PASCAL, (IM)2 and M4 projects, will be held in Martigny and organized by IDIAP on June 21–23. See Newsletter issue 22 for more details or [www.idiap.ch/events/workshop-mlmi04](http://www.idiap.ch/events/workshop-mlmi04) for the latest news. Deadline for submission: **15 April 2004**.

### (IM)2 Summer Institute 24–25.6.04

Immediately following the joint workshop, (IM)2 will have its annual Summer Institute.

## The 2004 (IM)2 Scientific and Industrial Advisory Boards Meeting

The second joint meeting of the (IM)2 Scientific and Industrial Advisory Boards took place in Martigny on February 12 and 13, 2004.

The Board members are:

- Prof. Maurice Bellanger,  
C.N.A.M.;
- Dr Aldo Bussien,  
Vice President of engineering,  
Logitech SA;
- Dr Jordan Cohen,  
VoiceSignal Technologies Inc.;
- Prof. Renato De Mori,  
Université d'Avignon;
- Prof. Edward Delp\*,  
Purdue University;
- Prof. Stephen Emmott,  
Director of University Relations,  
Microsoft Research;
- Dr Kari-Pekka Estola\*,  
Nokia Research Center;
- Prof. Bernd Girod\*,  
Stanford University;
- Prof. Julia Hirschberg,  
Columbia University and AT&T Labs;
- Prof. Thomas Huang\*,  
University of Illinois;
- Prof. Fred Jelinek,  
Johns Hopkins University;
- Prof. Joseph Kittler,  
University of Surrey;
- Dr Tom Malzbender,  
Hewlett-Packard Laboratories;
- Dr Christophe Meier,  
CCSO.

\* These members could unfortunately not attend this year's meeting.



The two day meeting started with a general presentation of the NCCR, its objectives, and its achievements since last year's visit, followed by presentations of the eight Individual Projects (IP) by each IP Head. A poster session allowed board members to interact with more than 50 PhD students and postdocs. The second day hosted a discussion between Board members and IP heads, chaired by Board member Jordan Cohen.



Women in Science: IP Head Prof. Susan Armstrong (left) with Board member Prof. Julia Hirschberg (right).

The discussion focused on the following themes:

- scientific achievements,
- objective measures for evaluation,
- internal project selection process,
- intellectual property rights (IPR) issues,
- technology transfer,
- collaboration models,
- retention and development of talents,
- advancement of women,
- missing competencies,
- format for next year's visit.

The outcome of the discussion as well as recommendations from the Boards will appear in a written report.



The NCCR management would like to thank again all Board members for their time and advice, as well as all participants of the poster session. The third annual meeting of the (IM)2 Scientific and Industrial Advisory Boards will take place in Martigny on February 10 and 11, 2005.

