



Mrs. Armelle Baldeyrou-Bailly



Born in 1977 in France, I lived in various french areas and in Nigeria, an anglophone country, during my childhood. After studying at ENS Paris (École Normale Supérieure) in Earth Sciences, I went to Strasbourg for my PhD thesis. This thesis focused on the thermodynamic equilibrium of phyllosilicates at low temperatures. The purpose of the thesis was to produce a new thermodynamic model for minerals of the phyllosilicate group, based upon new petrological experiments conducted in sealed autoclaves. Simultaneously, the results were confronted to data provided from drills from the Soultz-sous-Forêts Hot Dry Rock geothermal project in northern Alsace.

In addition to my scientific work, I trained in teaching and passed the competitive examination called “agrégation” in Biology and Earth sciences. Consequently, I taught Earth Sciences during my thesis to various students, from bachelor’s degree to master’s degree. Since 2003 I am a permanent teacher at EOST (École et Observatoire des Sciences de la Terre), within the University of Strasbourg. My primary focus is to train the future secondary education teachers in Earth Sciences.



Mrs. Mariangela Cardinale



I'm Italian and I moved to Karlsruhe (Germany) 16 years ago when I started to work for JRC in the research in the nuclear field.

I'm engineer specialised in the energy field. When I started at JRC Karlsruhe, I was busy with the characterization of nuclear spent fuel and I was in charge of ICP-MS measurements (Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer). I got used to work with tele manipulators in very special labs called "Hot cells" and in little micro labs called "gloveboxes". In 2018, after my maternity leave, I had the opportunity to join the EUSECTRA (European Nuclear Security Training Centre) in charge of building competences in nuclear security and providing trainings to the front-line officers, law enforcement experts and nuclear measurement experts.



Mr. Thierry Charitat



I am a physicist by training, specialising in the Physics of Soft Matter. Soft matter systems are omnipresent in our daily lives and the applications of soft matter are numerous, from food processing (foams, thickeners, emulsions, etc.) to biophysics, including cosmetics, biomaterials and medicines. I am a professor at the University of Strasbourg and I conduct my research at the Institut Charles Sadron, a CNRS laboratory, in the M3 team (Physics of Membranes and Soft Matter). My research focuses on the study of the physical properties of soft objects, such as polymers, colloids or lipid membranes, which I study both experimentally and theoretically. In recent years, the central part of my work has been the study of the physical properties of lipid membranes, in particular their structure, their fluctuations, their destabilisation by external fields and internal dynamics. These topics are at the interface between physics and biology. Finally, still in the spirit of understanding the macroscopic properties of dense matter at the microscopic level, I recently became interested in the elastic properties of a fibre system.

I teach various fields of physics, mainly at the third year of the Bachelor and Master levels. I am responsible for the Master of Physics, a physics course, by and for research, of about 140 students, which trains physicists with a broad general culture, with a specialisation in the last year in different fields of physics, ranging from astrophysics and particle physics to condensed matter physics and biophysics. I am also involved in the training of secondary school teachers through the preparation of the Agrégation de Physique-Chimie, option Physique.



Mr. Eddie Smigiel



Born in 1965, Strasbourg, I obtained a master degree in Physics in 1988 and my PhD in Physics in 1999 on X-Rays reflectometry. As an associate professor at INSA Strasbourg, my teaching is in the field of both fundamental and applied physics. I also teach Calculus at the Syracuse University. I run a YouTube channel with french speaking courses of applied physics with more than 1300 subscribers with an international audience, France of course but also Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and sub-saharian african countries. As a researcher, I have been working for 10 years on STEM didactics. Recently, I have introduced a course of quantum technologies at the bachelor level and I have been investigating the question of the possibility to teach quantum at the early stage, in high school. I have been working also as an expert in the Vice-President of Education Group at the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU).



Mr. Nicholas S. Foulkes



Born in 1963 in England, for my university education I studied at Oxford University. Here I obtained my BA and MA degrees in Zoology in 1985 and then went on to study for my DPhil Doctorate thesis in the field of human molecular genetics (The molecular biology of human G6PD deficiency) under the supervision of Professor Lucio Luzzatto. In 1989 for my postdoctoral training I moved to Strasbourg, France to work in the Institut de Génétique et de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire (IGBMC) in the laboratory of Paolo Sassone-Corsi. For the next 10 years I studied the control of gene transcription in the neuroendocrine system and thereby obtained a CNRS position. In 2000, I started my own independent laboratory at the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology in Tübingen, focusing on the regulation and function of the circadian clock using zebrafish as a genetic model. Then, in 2007 I took up my present position in Germany at the University of Heidelberg and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology as Professor in Cell Biology. My research still focuses on the molecular genetics of the circadian clock and follows a “comparative biology” approach involving diverse animal species and using a combination of interdisciplinary tools and methods. I am also Dean of the Biointerfaces International Graduate School at KIT and so am actively involved in the training of postgraduate students here at KIT.



Mr. Yannick Hirschberger



I grew up in Alsace and studied Physics at the University of Strasbourg. I've obtained my PhD on the topic of Ultrafast Magnetism. Then I've got a two years postdoctoral position at the University of Porto. From 2016 to 2019, I've worked as pedagogical coordinator and lecturer at the French-Azerbaijani University (UFAZ), at Baku, Azerbaijan. Since September 2019, I am a Physics professor at the Faculty of Physics and Engineering of Strasbourg.



Mr. Olivier Kassel



I graduated in 1992 as a pharmacist from the School of Pharmacy of Strasbourg, France (Faculté de Pharmacie, Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg I). Enthusiastic about the various research internships I took during my studies I then went for a short stay in Southampton (UK) as a Research Assistant in the Clinical Pharmacology of Prof. Martin K. Church, where I started to work on the role of mast cells in asthma. Back in Strasbourg I took a Postgraduate Degree in Pharmacology and Pharmacochimistry (Diplôme d'Études Approfondies or DEA). This led me to a PhD thesis, which I defended in 1999 in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology under the supervision of Dr Nelly Frossard. My thesis work was on the role of mast cell growth factors in asthma. This experience in cellular and molecular allergology raised my interest for molecular biology and for the regulation of gene expression. Supported by a fellowship from the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale – Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (INSERM-DFG) exchange program I joined the Institute of Toxicology and Genetics (now Institute of Biological and Chemical Systems) at the Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe (now Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) in 1999. Here I worked as a post-doc, first in the group of Prof. Andrew Cato, then in the group of Prof. Peter Herrlich, on the molecular mechanism of glucocorticoid action, for which I was awarded the 2002 Schoeller-Junkmann-Preiss of the German Endocrine Society. I continued my work on this topic as a project leader after I enrolled in the High Potential Program 2004 of the Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe (tenure position). In 2008 I established my own independent research group. My research interest has now moved towards the skeletal muscle system. We investigate the molecular mechanisms of muscle plasticity, in particular those at play during muscle growth and muscle regeneration. This work also entails the development of tools and methods to measure and manipulate specific molecules inside living cells. I am also involved in university teaching at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), which is to my mind an essential way to interest students in an academic research career.



Mr. Paul Klosen



Born in 1963 (the « Stone Age » for most of you) in Luxemburg, I went to school in Esch-sur-Alzette (GD of Luxemburg), before moving to Belgium to the University of Louvain to study Zoology, initially to try to become a researcher in Marine Biology. However, after obtaining my degree in Zoology, I moved to Neuroscience (still at the University of Louvain) and prepared a PhD thesis on the changes of the neuronal cytoskeleton during neurodegeneration. I then joined the “Collège de France” in Paris for post-doctoral research on the neuronal cytoskeleton during axonal regeneration.

In 1997, I was recruited at Strasbourg University as Assistant Professor. I started out teaching mainly Cell Biology and Zoology. Currently, as Associate Professor, I mainly teach the Evolution of Eucaryotes and in particular Animals, as well as Neuroendocrinology. I also returned to my first love, Marine Biology, by organizing a yearly Marine Biology field trip to Roscoff (Brittany) with students preparing the “Agrégation de l’Enseignement Supérieur”. Finally, since 2014, I also teach Neuroendocrinology at Mahidol University in Bangkok (Thailand), where I am a Visiting Professor.

My research activities at the University of Strasbourg include the study of melatonin receptors, as well as the involvement of sex steroids in brain plasticity. In more recent years I focused on the neuroendocrinology of reproduction in seasonally breeding rodents such as hamsters.



Mr. Sylvain Lodiot



Sylvain Lodiot completed French Scientific Preparatory Classes (classes préparatoires) which lead to French Engineering Schools (Grandes Ecoles). He then qualified as a Physics Engineer at the Grenoble INP institute of Engineering, University of Grenoble Alpes, France, in 1999, after having spent one year in the UK at Imperial College London.

He works for the European Space Agency in the Solar System & Exploration Missions Division which is part of the Mission Operations Department.

The division is in charge of flying most ESA deep space missions.

His key mission was the Rosetta mission for which he dedicated 12 years of his career. He became the Rosetta spacecraft operations manager early 2014, year which finally saw the approach and arrival of the spacecraft to Comet 67P Churyumov-Gerasimenko, the release of the Philae Lander from the Rosetta spacecraft and the Landing of Philae on the Comet.

Since then Sylvain worked on the Solar Orbiter mission, leading the operation preparation activities till launch in February 2020 and then the flight operations till end 2020.

Solar Orbiter is performing a close-up study of our Sun to better understand and predict its behavior.

He is since 2021 the HERA spacecraft operations manager. Planned to launch in October 2024, HERA will be the first spacecraft to rendezvous with a binary asteroid system and to examine the aftermath of the first kinetic impact test of asteroid deflection.

The mission is part of the AIDA partnership with NASA, with the NASA DART impactor currently on its way to the binary system with a targeted impact of the minor-planet moon Dimorphos end September 2022.



Mrs. Aline Maise-François



I'm a chemist currently holding a position of assistant professor in the faculty of chemistry of the university of Strasbourg.

I began my post-bac studies in Besançon (University of Franche-Comté) to pursue them in Strasbourg (master and PhD in chemistry). During my studies I had the opportunity to move through different cities of Europe (York-UK, Bonn-DE, Neuchâtel-CH, Oxford-UK).

My research interests concern the fields of organometallic chemistry, coordination chemistry and catalysis and some of the compounds we work on can find applications in the fight against cancer or as catalysts for polymerization.

I'm involved in the teaching for bachelor students in Strasbourg and I'm interested in relations with industry being responsible of a professional bachelor specialized in synthetical chemistry. I'm also involved in the creation and development of UFAZ (Franco-Azerbaijani University) with the responsibility of a chemical engineering bachelor.

I'm always enthusiastic with the diffusion of science and I'm very happy to have contacts with college and high-school students to share my knowledge and try chemistry experimentations with them...



Mr. Guy Rautmann



Guy Rautmann obtained a « Doctorat d'Etat » in 1985 for research conducted in the laboratory of Professor Pierre Chambon of the Faculté de Médecines, Louis Pasteur University of Strasbourg, France. After holding several positions in the private sector, starting in the biotechnology field and later in a major global pharmaceutical company, he joined the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and HealthCare (EDQM) of the Council of Europe in 1995. He served as Scientific Officer in expert groups elaborating monographs of the European Pharmacopoeia, as Study Director in the Biological section of the EDQM laboratory and more recently had taken over as Secretary to the European Committee on Blood Transfusion of the Council of Europe until his retirement last year. He is currently a member of the World Health Organization Advisory Group on Blood Regulation, Availability and Safety.



Mrs. Alice Seibert



I studied chemistry at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and received my doctorate at the Institute of Nuclear Chemistry working on a topic dealing with chemical aspects during the final disposal of nuclear waste and spent fuel. After my doctorate, I continued this topic at the University of Mainz and later on at the Institute for Nuclear Disposal of the Research Center Karlsruhe (now Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT-INE)). After a scholarship at the Joint Research Center Karlsruhe (JRC Karlsruhe) in the field of surface sciences and spent fuel corrosion, I changed to WAK GmbH Karlsruhe (former reprocessing plant, today named KTE) taking over an activity to scientifically advise on ongoing waste management activities and decommissioning operations at obsolete nuclear facilities. In addition I was involved in the accreditation of the company's (radio-)analytical laboratory. Since the end of 2013, I have been an official of the European Commission at JRC Karlsruhe. Currently, I am mainly involved in research projects in the field of nuclear safety and nuclear disposal. Another aspect of my work is the input to policy developments and evaluations in the form of scientific/technical advise.



Mr. Octavian S. Vălu



I am Romanian and living in Germany for the past 13 years. I have a degree in chemistry and physics and a Master's degree in chemistry with the thesis "Fuels for molten salt type Generation IV nuclear reactors". The experimental part of the thesis was performed in JRC Karlsruhe, in the Materials Research unit with a traineeship of 11 months. From September 2010 until August 2013 I worked as a grantholder in the same unit, where I performed measurements regarding the thermodynamic properties of nuclear materials, especially the high-temperature behaviour of the actinide oxides. This work resulted in several publications scientific journals. I have a PhD in Materials Science with the thesis "Thermodynamic properties of the actinide oxides solid solutions" obtained at Technical University of Delft, the Netherlands.

Between 2009 and 2013, I gained experience, first as a trainee and then as a grantholder, in the department of Materials Research at the "Institute for Transuranium elements" in Karlsruhe, Germany. I learned about nuclear fuel cycle, synthesis and characterisation of nuclear materials and performed high temperature investigations. During this period, I carried out thermodynamic measurements on nuclear materials but also I was operating various instruments dedicated for high-temperature investigations like ovens, calorimeters, lasers.

For the past 8 years, I have been increasing my knowledge and expanding my experience in the nuclear domain. From 2014 to 2021, I worked as an inspector-analyst in the Nuclear Safeguards and Forensics unit of Directorate G – Nuclear Safety and Security, European Commission, JRC Karlsruhe. In my daily work, I performed non-destructive analysis at the Euratom on-site laboratories of La Hague (France) and Sellafield (UK), as well at the Karlsruhe site.

From May 2021, I am working as nuclear scientist for the Nuclear Fuel safety unit, European Commission, JRC Karlsruhe. My responsibilities include synthesis and characterisation of physical and chemical properties of actinide compounds and materials.