

The Skills for Scientists Team



Slavica Masina Co-founder

Slavica is originally from Australia and obtained her PhD in life sciences from the University of Technology, Sydney. After working as a scientific researcher for 10 years at the Faculty of Biology and Medicine (FBM), University of Lausanne she decided to change career direction and took up a position as scientific consultant and conference organiser for a foundation supporting rare diseases. Slavica returned to the FBM in 2012 where she was engaged by the Doctoral School to coordinate one of their PhD programmes and subsequently as a Project Manager to organise an international conference on doctoral education. Slavica gained further experience in doctoral education and transferable skills following an internship with the CUSO (Conference Universitaire De Suisse Occidentale). She successfully obtained a career coach certificate in 2016 and co-founded Skills for Scientists (SFS) with Johanna Joyce in 2018. The FBM engaged Slavica as Project Manager of SFS in 2020 and in addition, since 2021 she works for the Dean's office of the FBM as Project Manager for the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and as a Senior Lecturer for SFS.



Johanna Joyce Co-founder

Johanna is originally from Ireland and received her B.A. (Honours) in Genetics from Trinity College Dublin. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, England (1999), and subsequently moved to the USA for a postdoc at the University of California, San Francisco in Douglas Hanahan's lab. In late 2004, Johanna started her own lab as an Assistant Professor at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA, rising through the academic ranks to Full Professor in 2014. She was recruited to the University of Lausanne and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (Lausanne Branch) in 2016. Johanna has been actively involved in mentoring, training and teaching many students and postdocs, as well as mentoring junior faculty, and she is a frequent participant in career panels. Johanna believes that a critical component of training the next generation of scientists is to also prepare them for life as a fully rounded scientist. As competition for jobs in academia and industry, obtaining research funding etc. becomes increasingly more challenging, trainees need to broaden their skills to complement their research strengths and to be competitive in their next career steps. This was Johanna's motivation for co-founding 'Skills for Scientists' at UNIL with Slavica Masina in 2018.

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Daniela Cropp

Testimonials
Entrepreneurship

Daniela is originally from Germany and obtained her degree as a pharmacist from the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich in 2018. During her studies she spent half a year in Helsinki as an exchange research student where she worked in a multinational team. After an internship in the pharmaceutical industry in Lausanne, she decided to pursue her PhD in the field of Cancer and Immunology at the University of Lausanne. Daniela's experience of patient communication and care, by working in a pharmacy throughout her studies, made her realize how important the connection of Science and Society is in order to successfully implement new therapeutic strategies from bench side to the patient. Her mission is to facilitate the understanding about what academic and industrial research means and which hurdles, challenges and benefits it brings. Joining SFS gave her the platform to use her interdisciplinary skills and experience to make science understandable for everyone.



Laetitia Raux

Communication
Testimonials
Events

Laetitia, hailing from Switzerland with Brazilian and French heritage, is deeply committed to scientific inquiry. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Lausanne (UNIL) in 2022 and is currently pursuing a master's degree at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Epalinges. Her research project focuses on selenium's role in anti-tumor T-cell responses, bridging her academic pursuits with a keen interest in nutrition and health promotion. Beyond academia, Laetitia is passionate about education and serves as a language teacher at ALIM Institute in Lausanne, emphasizing effective communication in the realm of science. Additionally, she contributes to science outreach as a scientific mediator at UNIL, L'Éprouvette, conducting biology workshops for the public. Her global perspective and adaptability were honed during her tenure as an au pair in Darwin, Australia, showcasing her resourcefulness in diverse environments. Her unwavering commitment is to promote health and actively participate in pioneering discoveries in the field.

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Eléonore Wolters

Event and outreach coordinator

Eléonore, a Belgian national, earned her master's degree in biomedical sciences from Katholieke Universiteit van Leuven (KU Leuven) in 2022. Subsequently, she pursued a PhD in immunology at the University of Lausanne-CHUV. Throughout her academic journey, Eléonore showcased versatile engagement. For five years, she led as a scout's leader, refining her leadership, team player, and organizational skills. Moreover, she assumed leadership and communication roles as the team captain in an international scientific student competition. Motivated by her passion for immunology, Eléonore completed an 8-month post-master internship with an oncology group in Lausanne during her gap year. Following this, she spent three months traveling and volunteering in Central America, demonstrating her dedication to community service. Eléonore's varied experiences highlighted the importance of teamwork, effective communication, scientific outreach, and soft skills. She acknowledges the value of exploring interests beyond one's PhD field. Hence, in her capacity within SFS, Eléonore aims to organize need-targeted events, enhance community engagement, and represent SFS in external forums. Her mission underscores her commitment to fostering interdisciplinary curiosity, collaboration, and communication within academia.



Natalia Fluder

Industry liaison officer

Natalia, originally from Poland, has completed a BSc in biochemistry at Claude Bernard University Lyon 1 followed by a MSc specialized in Clinical Immunology at the University of Manchester, UK. After working as a research assistant in two translational research groups at the CHUV, she decided to pursue her curriculum with a PhD in the field of immunology at the University of Lausanne-CHUV. She dedicated the past three years of her doctorate to the study of the cellular metabolism of Natural Killer (NK) cells in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) patients and explored their therapeutic restoration at Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV). Her experience within different educational systems, multinational teams and diverse work environments ranging from academia to the clinic, highlighted the pivotal role of science communication, lay public engagement and connections, in science. This has motivated her involvement in external events management and transferable skills development, as an industry liaison officer within Skills for Scientists (SFS). In her capacity within SFS, Natalia aims to promote community engagement, professional network expansion and support a smooth transition of scientists from academia to industry.

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Updated March 2024

The Skills for Scientists Team

Former members



Dmitry Kopelyanskiy

Communication and
events coordinator



Davide Croci

French for foreigners
Project leader & strategic planning officer



Hana Zdimerova

Communication
Industry liaison officer



Pia Neubert

Promotion and event
management

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Natasha Szombathy

Promotion and event
management



Andrea Vucicevic

Marketing
PhD relations



Karin Schäuble

Industry liaison
Science communication



Lola Hänni

Webmaster
Graphist



Roeltje Maas

Equal
opportunities
PhD relations
and events

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Céline Godfroid
Social media communication
Entrepreneurship

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