

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 with Johanna Joyce in 2018.



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.

The Skills for Scientists Team



Roeltje Maas

Clinical trials and Gender equality liaison officer

Roeltje is originally from the Netherlands. She obtained her MD degree from the Radboud University in the Netherlands in 2017. In between her bachelor and master of medicine, she worked at the University of California, San Francisco as a laboratory technician. Her M.Sc. thesis project took place at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm. In September 2017 she moved to Lausanne to start her PhD in the field of onco-immunology with a focus on brain tumors at the University of Lausanne. Having experience in working in the clinical and academic world, she finds it crucial to try and improve bridging both in order to boost patient health care. Therefore, she gladly joined Skills for Scientists (SFS) to set up events for scientists interested in more clinically translational research. Additionally, as SFS believes that science should be equally accessible for all, Roeltje, will work on creating open discussions on equality and inclusion for all minorities in science.



Andrea Vucicevic

Marketing and PhD Relations officer

Andrea originally comes from Serbia, with her birth place in Croatia. She graduated from the Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade, Serbia in Molecular Biology and Physiology with an orientation in applied genetics and subsequently defended her M.Sc. thesis on the topic of basocellular carcinoma. In September 2014, Andrea moved to Switzerland to undertake a PhD in the field of Molecular Microbiology at the University of Lausanne. Andrea has been actively involved in volunteer work, attending conferences, courses, and events, supporting and becoming a member of associations and contributing to NGO projects in Serbia, Switzerland and Africa, which gave her a great honour to interact with many people with different professional backgrounds and origins. Andrea realized that communication has a strong power to unify people and raise the probability of happiness and success. Her passion is to learn foreign languages and to express ideas through drawings. Joining the Skills for Scientists team is a privilege and chance to contribute to their mission on how to support the development of people in academia. She strongly believes that sharing fruitful thoughts leads to fruitful acts.

The Skills for Scientists Team



Davide Croci

French for foreigners

Project leader & strategic planning officer

Davide is originally from Ticino, the Italian part of Switzerland. He graduated from ETH Zürich with a Masters in Biology in 2015. He in addition undertook an internship for 6 months at a multinational pharmaceutical company prior moving to Lausanne to start his PhD thesis at the Faculty of Biology and Medicine, UNIL in 2016. Davide's passion for science and the experience he has gathered from living and studying in the different regions of Switzerland led him to acquire different points of view of how studies, a future career, and life/work balance can be approached. Davide has placed a lot of effort since his arrival in Lausanne in organizing French courses for the research community, together with being involved as a PhD student representative, and more recently as a member of Skills for Scientists (SFS). Davide feels that SFS reflects the way that a researcher should be supported and this convinced him to happily join the team where he continues to organize French courses and is involved in the strategic planning of the SFS events and networking programme.



Céline Godfroid

Social media communication

Science and society event manager

Céline is originally from Belgium and she graduated from University of Lausanne with a M.Sc. in Medical Biology in 2019. After finishing her Master's thesis project, she worked as a research assistant for one year prior starting a PhD in March 2020 in the field of onco-immunology, focusing on immune modulation and radiotherapy treatments for solid tumors.

Céline is convinced that scientific communication is of major importance to connect the scientific community to the wider public and make research outcomes accessible for all. She is also interested on the ethical questions raised by the rapid scientific advances that have been made in Life Sciences. Therefore, she happily joined Skills for Scientists (SFS) to organize events, where people will have the opportunity to meet and discuss on various Science and Society-related topics.

The Skills for Scientists Team



Daniela Cropp

Testimonials, Science and society event manager

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.



Hana Zdimerova

Communication and Industry liaison officer

Hana is originally from the Czech Republic and obtained her Immunology degree at the University of Glasgow in 2015. During her studies she did a one-year Master thesis at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, where she got hooked into the research of health and disease. Following this, Hana moved to Switzerland to start her PhD in the Institute of Experimental Immunology at the University of Zurich, which she completed in 2019. She then moved to Lausanne to join the Department of Oncology at the University of Lausanne as a post-doc.

Throughout Hana's studies, she has found great interest and love for immunology research. However, it was mostly throughout her travels that she has seen different cultures, beliefs, races and backgrounds. She believes that scientists hold a responsibility to the public and realizes the importance of science communication between academics, medical professionals, industry, peers and general public. She has joined Skills for Scientists to help trainees develop useful skills for their future careers, as well as participate in and help organize science events.

The Skills for Scientists Team

Former members



Dmitry Kopelyanskiy

Communication and events coordinator

Dmitry is originally from Russia. Having acquired an MD degree from Moscow State Medical University, he obtained research experience in Israel, a M.Sc. from Germany and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Switzerland where he developed a strong international and multicultural mindset. Dmitry's research and life experiences helped him to realize that science holds great power to unite people of different race, culture, social-economic background, political and religious beliefs. He believes that effective communication, collaboration and team work are the key qualities required for a successful science career. Helping others to develop soft skills, gain new knowledge and broaden their career horizons are his key objectives in his work for Skills for Scientists.

Updated June 2021