

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 (Conférence 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.

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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.



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.

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Davide Croci: French for foreigners project leader and 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.

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