

Science Week 2005

The 10th edition of the Science Week in Catalonia (SC'05) was held between 4 and 15 November 2005. It was a coordinated programme of about 360 science and technological events under the classic motto *Viu la Ciència!* (Live Science!). The activities, aimed at the general public, were carried out in about 60 locations, with the active participation of local associations and entities. Like the precedent editions, SC'05 was supported by the main entities integrating the Catalan System of Research and Innovation.

For the first time SC'05 adopted a main topic coinciding with the World Year of Physics. Nevertheless, the focus on this discipline was not exclusive, being present almost all branches of science and technology in the different events.

The impact of the Science Week on the media (press, TV, radio) was quite satisfactory, even doubling the previous years figures.

Science Week activities

OPEN DOORS DAYS

It included free guided visits to museums, research centres, institutes...

Especially interesting for public were the sessions of the Science Museum and the Aquarium (Barcelona) including a workshop about sharks; the Museum of Science and Technology (Terrassa); the Forest Technological Center (Solsona); the Volcano museum (Olot) with representations of the earthquake that destroyed the city in the XV century; the Station of Fauna (Valcalent) with their environmental education project about fauna and habitat; the Ebro Delta Park which showed the culture of rice and the delta colonization; and the Vision Center computer which allowed participation in practical sessions.

EXHIBITIONS

The most outstanding exhibitions this year were as follows:

1. Physics of the XXI Century (Girona)
2. Women and science (Barcelona)
3. Sun and energy (Lleida)
4. Identifying mushrooms (Vic)
5. Following the road of the Optical Telegraphy development (Girona)

6. The physics of aesthetics (Vendrell)
7. Research works from students (Barcelona)

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

A few examples are:

- ✓ Eureka! organised by the Port Museum of Tarragona
- ✓ The fish movements in water, organised by the Aquarium (Barcelona)
- ✓ Physics at hand, organised by the Tomàs Balvey Museum (Cardedeu)

CONFERENCES AND ROUND TABLES

Among the different topics included in the program there were some up-to-date ones, such as tsunamis, climate change, stem cells, alternative energy, Einstein or contemporary Physics.

CONTESTS



Poster, image of the Science Week. Traditionally the Science Week in Catalonia bases its image on a poster selected in a public contest. In this year's edition 60 originals were received and the winner was chosen by the Science Week Committee. The author was a girl from a secondary school in Barcelona. The image (at the top) appeared in all documents (programs, posters, newspapers, and website) advertising SC'05.

Alphabet Soup. Placed on both a newspaper and the SC'05 website, the contest was open to general public. Participation reached 400 people, of whom three obtained a digital camera after a raffle among the winners.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

It includes a variety of activities such as excursions, audiovisuals, films, outdoors activities, astronomical observations and so on.

This year there were a few original ones such as *“Walking with science and history: inventors and discoverers in Barcelona”*, organised by the Catalan Government; and *“Physics for intrepid ones: will you try it?”*, organised by the Catalan National Science and Technique Museum (mNACTEC).

SCIENTIFIC VOLUNTEERS

For the first time nearly 50 volunteers took part in the Catalan Science Week helping those institutions which had previously requested their collaboration. Selected through a personal interview at the FCRI, the volunteers gave their support to the participating institutions assisting visitors, giving information, controlling the correct development of the events, giving guidance, making surveys, disseminating the activity leaflets...

To become a scientific volunteer one had to be of age, have free time and, particularly, enjoy science.

The average age was 29, of whom 50% were students, 18% engineers, 14% pensioners and 9% from different sectors. Regarding the gender distribution, 65% were women, while the rest were men.

SCIENCE DAY AT SCHOOLS



Scientists go to school. The second edition of this initiative, organised jointly with the Department of Education of the Catalan Government, was held on 10 November. It involved 73 researchers who went to 73 schools throughout Catalonia to conduct an interactive session for secondary educational level, age 15-18, about science and technology. The aim was to awake the interest and curiosity of young people about science and technology and to consider them

as an option for their professional future. Some of the sessions performed were:

- ♣ How do astronauts live and what are the requirements to become an astronaut?
- ♣ Discovering that microbes are also friends
- ♣ How does climate change?
- ♣ What is artificial intelligence?

A total of 8,500 students attended the sessions encompassing all scientific and technical fields. Researchers shared with young people their experiences, the reasons why they had decided to follow a scientific career, their attainments and frustrations and, finally, their contributions to progress. The time to ask and answer questions was specifically scheduled.



Science Webs. Contest addressed to students of Primary and Secondary schools to stimulate their abilities, imagination and interest in modern technologies. Some of the awarded titles were:

High School:

- *Inhabitants of the horizon* by Yolanda Eito (girl)
- *Eutrofization: the transport disease* by Miguel Gomila (boy)

Obligatory secondary school:

- *Sciences step by step* by M. Dolors Monlleó (girl)
- *Green purifying plants* by Marta Solés (girl)

Primary school:

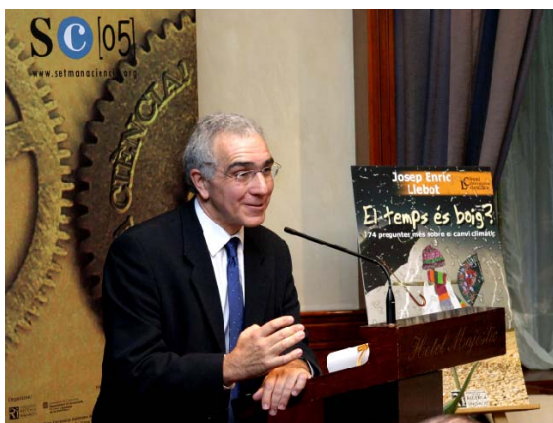
- *Birds of prey* by M. Immaculada Pujol (girl)
- *Annular Solar Eclipse* by Mercè Mas (girl)



Scientific Tales Contest. Initiative started in 2004. In this edition more than 150 originals were received from students of Secondary school. The awarded titles were:

- ✓ *The small milligram* by Alba Mestre (girl)
- ✓ *Public teletransporters services* by Marta Trujillo (girl)
- ✓ *A researcher's diary* by Gustavo Salazar (boy)

AWARDS



Scientific Literature Award. Annually since 1995 the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI) and Rubes Editorial present the Scientific Literature Award. It is awarded to the best unpublished novel or essay in the Catalan language, whose subject is based wholly or partially on situations, events or research from the past or the present in any branch of science. This year's award-winner is Josep Enric Llebot with his book *El temps és boig? i 74 preguntes més sobre el canvi climàtic* (*Is the weather*

mad? and 74 more questions about climate change).



FCRI Award. Since 1990, the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation has annually granted this award to outstanding researchers who have made a significant contribution to the development of science and technology in Catalonia. This year's award-winner was Ramon Gomis de Barbarà, specialist in Biomedicine, for his basic and clinic research work on diabetes.

