

**19 vědců. 4 kontinenty. Jedna velká otázka…**

**Kdo bude korunován vítězem mezinárodního FameLabu 2012?**

*Tento pátek, 15. června,19 vědců ze čtyř kontinentů se vypraví na The Times Cheltenham Science Festival, aby se utkali v mezinárodním finále nejlepší vědecko-popularizační soutěže – FameLab. Budou mít jen tři minuty na to, aby udělali dojem na porotce, mezi nimiž jsou Marcus Brigstocke, Kathy Sykes and Robert Llewellyn, ve snaze stát se mezinárodním šampiónem soutěže FameLab.*

***Mezinárodní FameLab na vědeckém festivalu v Cheltenhamu***

**Semifinále:** Středa 13. června / 18:00-19:30 a 20:30-22:00 / Experitent

**Finále:** Pátek 15. června / 18:00-19:30 / Winton Crucible

*Všechny akce se konají v okolí Cheltenhamské radnice, GL50 1QA*

*Podrobnější informace o festivalu a lístkách najdete na cheltenhamfestivals.com/science*

Rok 2012 uvidí rekordní počet vědců z celého světa přijíždějících na Chetenhamských vědecký festival na mezinárodní finále soutěže FameLab® - dítě Cheltenhamských festivalů. FameLab má za cíl najít mladé charismatické vědce, kteří inspirují lidi k tomu, aby se na svět dívali s novou perspektivou… a to jen ve třech minutách.

Šest let poté, co soutěž poprvé opustila Velkou Británii, se vrací do Cheltenhamu s 19 národními vítězi, kteří jsou připraveni předvést, co umí před milióny diváků v jejich mateřské zemi. Vědci ze čtyř kontinentů budou soutěžit o to, kdo bude nejzajímavější, dostupný a nejcharismatičtější popularizátor vědy na světě. Soutěž je organizována ve spolupráci s British Council a tento rok poprvé s NASA.

FameLab® se od svého zrození na Cheltenhamském vědeckém festivalu v roce 2004 rozrostl do jedné z předních vědecko-popularizačních soutěží na celém světě. Partnerství s British Council od roku 2007 zajistilo soutěž globální růst a v letošním mezinárodním finále se představí vítězové z Rakouska, Bulharska, Chorvatska, Kypru, České republiky, Egypta, Německa, Řecka, Hong Kongu, Izraele, Itálie, Litvy, Polska, Portugalska, Rumunska, Srbska, Švýcarska, Velké Británie a USA. Všichni soutěžící již dokázali svou vědeckou zdatnost a vybojovali své koruny jako národní vítězové tak, že byli hodnoceni podle tří zlatých pravidel FameLabu – obsah, jasnost a charisma.

Finalisté si vybrali široký okruh témat, které na jevišti objasní – od fenoménu početí po vůni hladu a vesmírný výzkum. Mezinárodní FameLab slibuje inspirující škálu vědeckých témat.

FameLab se stal tak populární na celém světě, že se počet zúčastněných zemí v posledních dvou letech zdvojnásobil. To znamená, že tento rok budou dvě semifinále – obě 13. června – a z nich bude vybráno deset soutěžících, kteří se utkají ve velkém finále v pátek 15. června.

V prvním semifinále se předvedou výherci z Bulharska, Chorvatska, Německa, Itálie, Litvy, Polska, Portugalska, Srbska, Švýcarska a USA. V druhém kole vystoupí vítězové z Rakouska, České republiky, Kypru, Egypta, Řecka, Hong Kongu, Izraele, Rumunska a Velké Británie. Z každého semifinále bude vybráno pět do finale.

Profesor Russell Foster, předseda cheltenhamského festival vědy a jeden z porotců řekl: “Z mého pohledu nebylo nikdy důležitější investovat do vědy a také informovat širokou nevědeckou společnost o vědeckém výzkumu. Soutěže jako je FameLab nám představují novou generaci vědců, kteří nejen řeší velké vědecké problémy, ale jsou také schopni komunikovat to, co dělají”. Dr Claire McNulty, Ředitelka vědy na Britské radě dodala: “Vědecké bádání je už dlouho celosvětovým snažením a teď toto rozšiřujeme taky popularizaci vědy; přinášíme nový zajímavý talent publikům z celého světa a spojujeme mladé vědce z různých kultur a pozadí, kteří mají jednu věc společnou – jejich nadšení pro vědu.”

Mezinárodní finále bude živě vysíláno na internetu na [www.famelab.org](http://www.famelab.org) a <http://www.britishcouncil.org/new/science/famelab-2011/>

Soutěž bude hodnocena mezinárodním panelem porotců, kteří jsou experty na popularizaci vědy. Mezi nimi jsou:

* **Kathy Sykes**, britzka fyzička, akademická pracovnice a moderátorka, physicist, academic and broadcaster, Profesorka Věd a Společnosti na univerzitě v Bristolu a co-ředitelka Cheltenhamského vědeckého festivalu;
* **Roger Highfield** Ředitel vnějších vztahů organizace Science Museum Group. Roger býval editorem časopisu New Scientist a vědeckým editorem novin The Daily. Roger napsal sedm knih a publikoval tisíce článků v novinách a časopisech.
* **George Zarkadakis**, řecký spisovatel, scénárista a vědecký žurnalista, který studoval systémové inženýrství na City University v Londýně a má PhD v oboru umělé inteligence.
* **Robert Llewellyn**, moderator seriálu Scrapheap Challenge kanálu Channel 4 a hvězda kultovního televizního seriálu Červený trpaslík, take pracoval jako scénárista a komik. Zároveň napsal několik biografií, scénářů a čtyři romány.
* **Marcus Brigstocke** britský komik h comedian, writor and actor who has become a regular voice on BBC Radio with an impressive list of TV and film credits including The Late Edition, Have I Got News For You and Love Actually.

Porotci udělí první, druhé a třetí místo. Výherce hlasu publika získá speciální cenu. Poprvé se tento rok udělí také velmi speciální cena – FameLabáci z celého světa budou sledovat finále na internetu a hlasováním udělí cenu Mezinárodních absolventů FameLabu.

**Poznámky pro editora**

**FameLab®** is an initiative of the Cheltenham Festivals in the UK. The British Council has license to deliver the competition in 20 countries overseas. NASA has license to deliver the competition in the USA.

**The Times Cheltenham Science Festival – 12-17 June 2012**

The Times Cheltenham Science Festival is a six-day celebration of science, engineering and the arts and is produced by Cheltenham Festivals. A rare opportunity for the public to come face-to-face with around 300 of the world's leading scientists and thinkers, the Festival annually issues in excess of 31,000 tickets whilst the free interactive Discover Zone and other free events and exhibitions attracts over 17,000 visitors. The six day Festival promises a mix of serious debate, live experiments and surprising discoveries all based at Cheltenham Town Hall.

**The British Council** creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We are a Royal Charter charity, established as the UK’s international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. Our 7000 staff in over 100 countries work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year through English, arts, education and society programmes. We earn over 75% of our annual turnover of nearly £700 million from services which customers pay for, education and development contracts we bid for and from partnerships. A UK Government grant provides the remaining 25%. We match every £1 of core public funding with over £3 earned in pursuit of our charitable purpose.

**2012 International Final Line-up** (in alphabetical order, by country) – attached

**Photos** of this year’s contestants and past international winners available upon request

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* **Gradi Gradev,** Communications Manager FameLab International, British Council, +359887 424210, [gradi.gradev@britishcouncil.bg](mailto:gradi.gradev@britishcouncil.bg) *(to arrange interviews with International FameLab network during the festival)*

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**2012 International Final Line-up** (in alphabetical order, by country)

*Austria*

**Didac Carmona** is a Biochemist. Born in Spain and researching in Austria, he is a truly European scientist. Didac is currently working in a research group on “Aging and Cell Death” at the Institute of Molecular Biosciences at the University of Graz. In explaining programmed cell death he has his suicidal cells shooting, stabbing and exploding themselves – for the greater good of the organism of course. His Styrian-mediterranean soul prefers tastets de bacallà to poppy seed cake, poetic sunshine to cold and football to skiing.

*Bulgaria*

**Boris Tzenov** is a paleobotanist at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences who once found a fossil of a ginseng leaf in Bulgaria - big news because the plant can only be found in China now. Besides sleuthing across millions of years and layers of fossil, Boris plays the guitar in an almost all-scientist rock band and was even nominated for the national Eurovision finals a couple of years ago!

*Croatia*

**Dubravka Stražić** is 22 years old. She was born in Vukovar, but lives in Zagreb where she's studying chemistry at the Faculty of Science in Zagreb. Her fields of interest are biochemistry and analytical chemistry. In her free time she learns French and plays squash. She likes thriller and horror movies and has itchy feet.

*Cyprus*

**Ioannis Karypides** is 25 years old and a Medical Laboratory Sciences graduate. Since graduating from the Institute of Medical care in Greece he has been working in private laboratories and presenting at Biomedical Science conferences and events in Cyprus. He likes Djing, playing darbuka, fishing, and motorbikes. Ioannis really loves talking about science and is exited to say that FameLab has been a part of his life for the past six months. He is looking forward to hearing and sharing new ideas as well as expanding his knowledge on science communication.

*Czech Republic*

**Jan Klusák** obtained his PhD in the field of material fatigue. He is currently working at the Institute of Physics of Materials of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Brno. He holds a research position investigating why, when and how fatigue and fracturing occurs in different materials. Other than his work he enjoys photography and table tennis.

*Egypt*

**Ramy Kotb** is a 4th year student at the faculty of engineering in Alexandria University, studying electric power and automatic control. Ramy always had passion for physics and how it is at the core of every useful thing in our lives including electricity, this inspired him to be an electric engineer. Ramy believes that FameLab is an opportunity to make a dream come true and show people a new way to look at science.

*Germany*

**Timo Sieber** obtained his Doctor of Science in 2008 at the Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hygiene at the University of Regensburg. He now works as a researcher in the department for molecular cancer therapy at the University Medical Center in Hamburg-Eppendorf. Timo’s research concentrates on viruses and on how they can help us treat cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.

*Greece*

**Dimitris Tsibidas** is a physicist at the University of Athens and his main interest is in space missions. In addition, he is an actor, and has been involved in TV, theatre, film and has lent his voice to animated characters. He also works as an external editor for a computer and technology magazine. He has the curiosity of the explorer! He told us that the arts and the sciences in Famelab intersect. The art of broadcasting and animating encourages someone to learn and wonder – he is truly thrilled to represent Greece in the International Finals.

*Hong Kong*

**Colin Tsang** is currently studying for his Bachelor Degree of Science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. His interests are mainly in human physiology and ecology. He likes to watch National Geographic to understand more about the mysteries of nature. Being a photographer, he loves travelling around the world taking pictures of wildlife. He also loves sharing ideas and views related to science with friends.

*Israel*

**Yael Grossman** from Israel is an MSc student at Tel-Aviv University. She has been fascinated by computers since she was three, tinkering with her dad's IBM XT. While most people use computers to answer questions, Yael is trying to teach them how to ask. She plays the violin, holds a black belt in karate and is passionate about English literature, making this opportunity especially thrilling.

*Italy*

**Riccaro Guidi** is a medical scientist. He writes a scientific blog covering everything from the daily PhD student troubles to the Open Access movement in academia. Generally, Riccardo enrolls into anything that has to do with science especially if it's sufficiently out of the ordinary: from crowdfunding his research project to organising a medical conference with "experience designers". From time to time, he also tortures his flatmates (an architect and a medical students) with scientific tales. In his “spare time”, Riccardo is doing a PhD at Karolinksa Institutet (Stockholm - Sweden) where he works to answer the question: "why are some bacteria infections predisposed to cancer?"

*Lithuania*

**Jurgita Kazlauskė** is a Doctor of Chemical Engineering, Master of Pharmacy and Lecturer at Kaunas Technological university.

*Poland*

**Monika Koperska** works at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, south Poland. Her research is in preservation chemistry, which aims conserve cultural artefacts, from artworks to books. Monika’s PhD focuses on stopping the spontaneous destruction of silk, and she uses Wawel banners from the 16th and 17th century as an example. Monika calls herself a "spectroscopist" - she deliberately “ages” objects in order to, later on, study them with help from a spectroscope and to use the knowledge gained to preserve objects that were ageing in a natural way.

*Portugal*

**Filipa Oliveira** holds a degree and an MA on Teaching Physics and is currently studying towards a PhD on Science Teaching (focus on Physics) at the Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Coimbra. She works in the Education Department of the Science Museum at the University of Coimbra, developing, preparing and delivering educational activities in several areas and addressing several different audiences. Filipa has also participated and developed several activities around Portugal related to the teaching and promotion of science, in particular related to Physics.

*Romania*

**Alina Ciolan** is an undergraduate student in Material Science and Engineering at the University in Bucharest. She studies shape memory alloys which form “an exciting branch of materials science”. Alina charmed the judges, suggestively proving to the jury and the public that the area of shape memory alloys’ applications is growing especially in the field of medicine and how research in her field can help save lives.

*Serbia*

**Milivoje Krvavac** is PhD student and teaching assistent at the Department of Biology and Ecology at the Faculty of Sciences in Novi Sad. His experiments are conducted in the tropical forests of Sri Lanka, where he explores endangered species of amphibians. He is also a successful photographer and documentary maker. Milivoje's hobbies include skuba-diving, shopping at the green market and long strolls along Novi Sad river banks.

*Switzerland*

**Bechara Saab** is a Post-doc researcher at the Brain Research Institute, UZH|ETH Zurich. His research investigates molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying the motivation to explore, and the links between curiosity and learning, and curiosity and mental illness. Bechara also likes skiing, surfing and playing guitar.

*UK*

**Andrew Steele** recently completed his PhD at Oxford University. At the regional final Andrew described how human activity is making clouds whiter and at the final, Andrew impressed the panel and captivated the audience with his pitch on quantum mechanics and how it can help us to understand the world around us, right down to the colour of carrots.

*USA*

**Brendan Mullan** is a nordic-skiing, science-writing, outreach-practicing PhD student in astronomy at Penn State. He studies how galaxies collide and form stars in their interstellar wreckage. Brendan likes his beer dark, but his conversation light. Where the categories of science communication, pop culture, and early-90's nostalgia intersect in life’s Venn diagram, Brendan is there.