



# REFLECTIONS

SPRINGER NATURE JOURNALS EDITORIAL, OFFICE



AUGUST 2016

# MEHENDI

On 25 June 2016, our JEO team, led by Ramya Balu, had organized a Mehendi competition. Everyone was enthusiastic about participating in the event. Some wanted to play the part of the artist and others were interested in being the canvas.

I think of myself as a good designer, but I've never had the experience of sharing my mehendi designs. This made me both nervous and excited for the event. The day before the event, Anandhi Shankar, my partner for the event, searched for different mehendi designs on the internet that we could try for the event.

The contenders began very leisurely but picked up speed as the event went on. Our colleagues Neeraj Poduval and Sathish Srinivasan helped the participants with supplies throughout. After an hour, a few participants had finished their work while the others were applying finishing touches. The time taken by each participant was recorded as well.

We had a photo session after the event with the participants showcasing the completed designs in various angles and poses. We took a few group photos of the participants as well. The designs were judged based on their intricacy along with the time the participants took.

Congratulations to the winners of "Miss. Designer 2016"! Swathi Alagesan and Divya Nagarajan.

Preethi Vijayakumar  
Journal Editor, SPS

The Mehendi Mela at SPS was a very memorable occasion for me. As a new employee I was excited to hear about it. Usually mehendi is applied during auspicious family rituals as it stands for our tradition and culture. It is believed to create a deep bond between people and also to bring luck to the person it adorns. Here at SPS we wish our colleagues nothing but good luck.

The day was infused with a festive spirit. I was a sightseer for this event and I did not miss the opportunity to tease my friends as I roamed around. Although it was a competition, it seemed much more like a fun activity that also happened to be a fantastic celebration for our colleagues' extraordinary talents as they etched out awe inspiring designs.

It is important to pause and enjoy these moments during our daily routine. It helps bring us closer and helps create personal relationships, very important things in a corporate working environment. Thank you to organizers for making this event a grand success.

Arun Santhosh  
Journal Editor, SPS

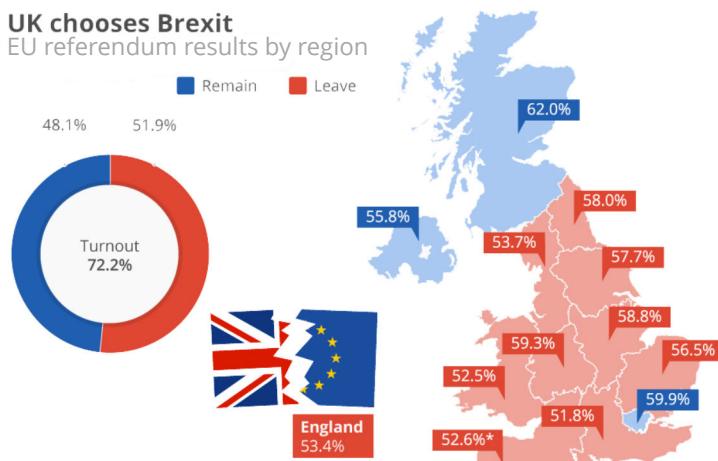




## The Movers and Shakers in Immigration and short term Impact on SPS

In an ever-changing global environment, the significance of complying with immigration laws has reached an all-time high. Immigration is now not only a part of the elite "make it or break it" list of factors for a company when entering new markets, but also a major deciding factor for employers while making crucial decisions regarding workforce planning.

Employers these days are in a constant state of flux because of the complexity and uncertainty of immigration laws and procedures as well as the penalties associated with their non-compliance.



The historic "Brexit" decision — the separation of the UK from the EU — came about by the people of the UK voting in a referendum to leave the EU. The referendum was held on 23 June 2016 and it was passed with a 52% vote in favor of the separation.

Brexit is going to create a ripple effect in all government policies. The concerns raised by employees, employers and private individuals were primarily on the position of existing EU migrants in the UK and of UK citizens living and working in Europe. Europeans and UK nationals can still travel to and remain in their respective host nations until the formal separation occurs, and the earliest that can happen is two years after the Prime Minister invokes Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty — the only mechanism by which a country can leave the EU.

A vote to leave the UK brings about a new immigration debate and policy setting. The focus will be on two areas:

- Policies during the transitional period of separation from the EU - It has been indicated that the European nationals currently living and working in the UK would be allowed to remain and that status quo will probably be honored.
- The immigration policy after exit from the EU - Supporters of Brexit have suggested the use of the Australian points-based system, or a new UK immigration policy, shaped and examined by the MAC, may evolve.

From an Indian immigration perspective, work-related visa restrictions have already resulted in a fall in the number of Indian students studying in British universities over the past few years. According to a recent survey, 48% Indian students reported that they would find the UK less attractive if the UK were to leave the EU. UK is also likely to make its immigration laws stricter to secure more jobs for its own citizens.

The Indian IT industry may also have to modify its strategy considering that Brexit is likely to hamper the ease of mobility of labor across the EU. At SPS, we have small impact due to GBP depreciation and this may affect our top and bottom-line and we hope this will be for a short term.



## Article by

# Dr. C. Barry Carter



C. Barry Carter has a B.A., M.A. and Sc.D. from Cambridge, an M.Sc. from Imperial College, and a D. Phil. From Oxford. He has taught at Cornell University (12 yrs), at the U of MN (16 yrs) and at UConn (9 yrs). He is a CINT Distinguished Affiliate Scientist at Sandia. Among his awards are a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Senior Humboldt Award, and the ACerS Outstanding Educator Award. He is a Fellow of AAAS, ACerS, MRS, MSA and RMS. He was the 1997 President of MSA, the 2011-14 President of IFSM, and is the co-author of two Springer textbooks and is the Editor-in-Chief of JMSC. More at [www.CBarryCarter.com](http://www.CBarryCarter.com)

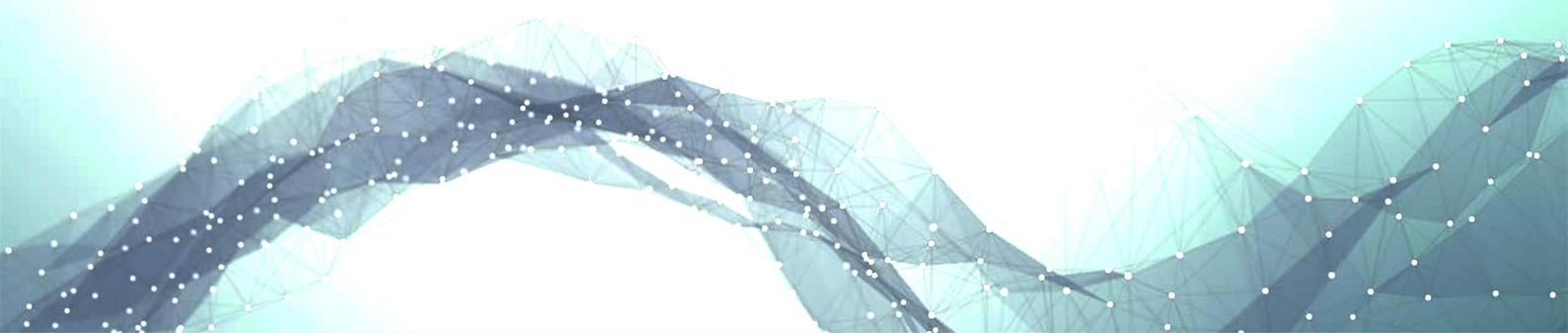
Today, scientists spend less and less time working on science. Even in academia, the most valued activity often appears to be writing proposals in order to obtain money—as long as you’re successful, of course! The other valued activities might cynically be regarded as keeping the students happy and helping the School to raise money. It is assumed that you will publish papers since this shows that you have done something with previous funding that you received, and are therefore likely to do so again, so it enhances the chance of success. In some research institutions, the researchers might devote one third of their time to writing proposals.

One professor I know wrote more than 50 proposals in 2 years! At this stage of my career, my main interests and activities are completely different. I enjoy helping students to learn, I continue to explore how information and understanding is transferred (that’s the journal and my textbooks), and I appreciate the opportunities I have to mentor others. Materials Science fascinates me, as does Electron Microscopy, so it’s not surprising that these are the topics that I spend my time on.

When I started working with the Journal of Materials Science, the Editorial staff shipped a box of manuscripts from the USA to the UK every week. Papers might take 18 months to be published, and the Journal had an Impact Factor of under 0.8. Today, the JEO gets the papers to me within a couple of days, the best will be published within 6 weeks, the Impact Factor is over 2.3, and the number of submissions has tripled! I have a wonderful team of Editors working with me; I think each one would say that they have learnt so much by being one of our Editors. Each one knows the name of our super colleague in the JEO. Each one knows that I value her/his opinion.

The journal has a new look this year because our young Editors—our neo-Millennial Editors—said we looked old fashioned! So, with the journal, I pursue my interests, and learn at the same time!

Dr. C. Barry Carter,  
University of Connecticut, USA  
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Materials Science



# JEO'S FIRST EMPLOYEE

8 years with JEO



Everyone working with SPS knows that I am the first employee at SPS JEO. But, I was the first coordinator at SPS JEO when the team was started in 2008, the first employee who was hired for the JEO team was Ms. Saraswathi Ramasamy. Born in a small town in Tuticorin, she was educated at Holy Cross Convent and graduated from the University of Madras. She is the first graduate in her family and she has a great passion for reading and writing. Her excellent interpersonal skills helped her to get her first job in SPS JEO in July 2008 and she was indeed hired by Dr. Win Sutanto who was the project coordinator. Right from day one in the company, she has always been one of the most trusted, reliable and efficient colleagues to work with. She is always a 'YES' attitude team player and although now a Shift Coordinator she does not hesitate to play the role of an employee when her team requires help. She handles Springer's largest journal with 6000+ submissions, JMSC for the past eight years and I have received enormous appreciations from the journal community for her steadfast and constant support to the journal. Very few colleagues take their job as a challenge every day and Saraswathi has always been one amongst them. She currently heads a team of 14 members with about 210 journals and I can always be assured that the journals are in the safe hands despite her own editorial work in Springer's largest journal. She is also one of the co-editors of the "Reflections" magazine and her contributions to the other extracurricular activities in the team have always been commendable.

I take this opportunity to thank her for all her great work at the JEO and wish her many more years of happiness and joy working for the JEO team.

Saraswathi, you have miles to go with us and reach greater heights. Thanks for being a part of this great journey all these eight years. As you say always, it is awesomatic for all of us to work with you at the JEO.

**Sivakani Jayaprakash**  
JEO Manager, SPS



JEO

BEST  
PERFORMER

2015

Scientific Publishing Services Pvt Ltd

*Best Performer  
Awards 2015*

Congrats to Ramya being selected as the best performer of 2015 by SPS.

Ramya Thulasingam is working for one of my journals 'Journal of Nephrology'. Ramya Thulasingam is very capable in managing the affairs of this journal. Her efficiency and professionalism is key in the successful daily life of this journal. It is wonderful working with Ramya.

**Claudia Schiffers, Implementation Manager, Heidelberg**

Ramya is working as JEOA for one of my journals, AOMI. I had only two cases escalated in the last three years for this journal. Apart from that I have not had any contact with AOMI editors. But since no news is good news, I strongly take this as a sign for the good relationship between her and the journal editors as a best performer. Ramya, keep up the good work in making this journal happy.

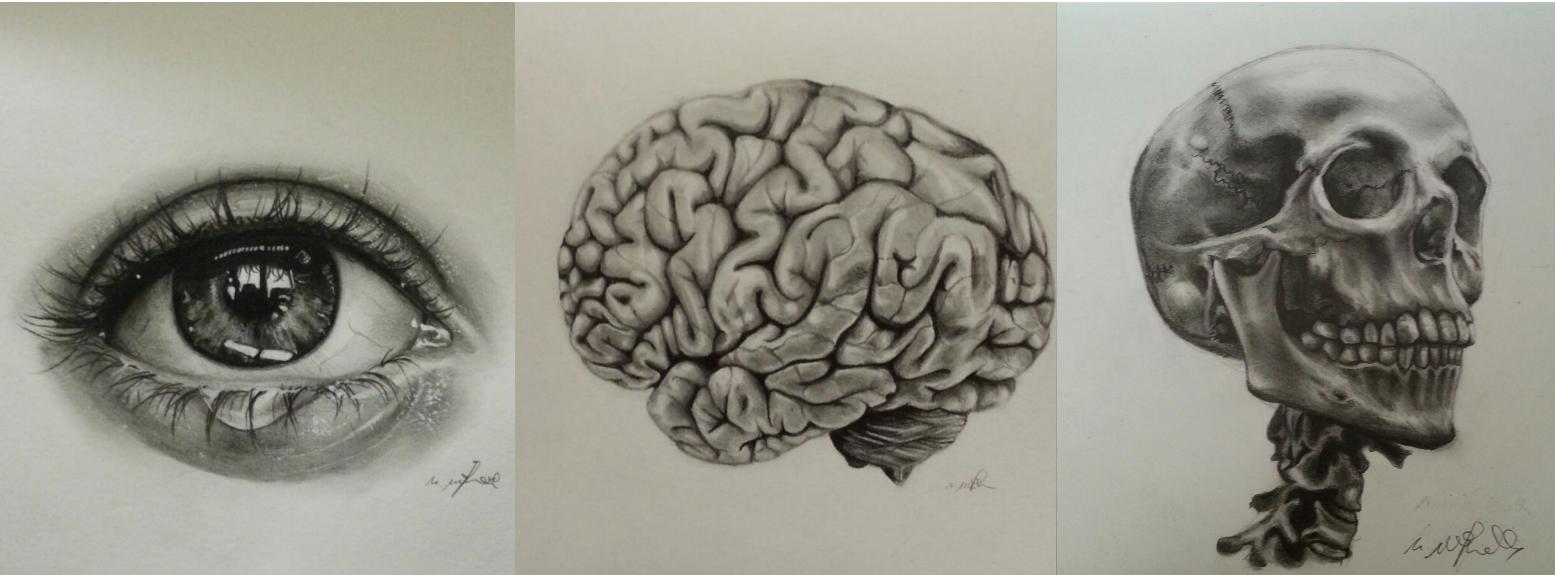
**Uwe Schwab, JEO Manager, Heidelberg**

Congratulations on this achievement Ramya! Your contribution and your optimistic approach are being appreciated very much. Keep up the good work and be proud of yourself!

**Judy Pieren, JEO Manager, Dordrecht**

# TALENT

Mahila Muthuvel, Toronto  
Ayshwarya Ganesh's Cousin



## CREATIVE CORNER



This time it was Renuka team's turn to explore and have fun on the notice board.