

Public Scientific Relation and Education

*Andrea Merli, Christine Gräfe, Jürgen Kirsten
Ludger Wöste, Christof Schütte, Volkhard Nordmeier*
Freie Universität Berlin

In the subproject „Public Scientific Relation and Education“ of the Sfb 450 we are preparing new didactical material with contents from modern molecular science and laser physics for schools, science centers, museum exhibitions. A special highlight last year was our second exhibition in the science museum „Palais de la découverte“ in Paris with the new topic „Captured in a trap, tools of the nanoworld“. Starting with the demonstration of different methods to capture small charged and uncharged particles, the museum visitors had the opportunities to discuss with scientists about recent topics and results from their research laboratories. In order to access a large interested public we are parallel developing a multimedia learning environment, a so called „Virtual Research Lab“. This new environment, based on video representations of laboratory situations, interactive screen experiments, commented photo series, etc. allows not only information about the current research topics, but also supports the learn effect by the individual control of the situation or experiment by the user. Additionally we are developing educational computer games for school children containing learning objects related to the research topic of Molecular Dynamics (MD). We offer workshops to school classes to train students and teachers to become designers and creators of “Educational Computer Games of MD”. Due to the game development process, students will internalize topics of molecular science. During the conference we present first examples of our new experiments, interactive software und computer games.