



EuCheMS

November 2008

NEWSLETTER

Creating a European identity among chemical societies

Europe is growing together, but the European research landscape is changing, with growing socio-economic challenges and the impact of globalisation on science and technology requiring policy responses. In this context, the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS), was initiated in 2005 and legally established in March 2006. EuCheMS has made significant progress under the leadership of the Presidents Gábor Náray-Szabó and Giovanni Natile. The organisation currently includes 50 member societies, which in total represent some 150 000 individual chemists in academia, industry and government in over 35 countries across Europe.

As incoming president I should like to continue the efforts to create a European identity among the chemical societies, to increase the visibility of chemistry at the European level, and very specially to act as political voice towards European and international organisations. Within the enlarged EU it is very important that EuCheMS provides a point for discussion in order to influence EU government and politicians on the development of the European Research Area and the key role of chemistry as a central science. Chemistry has the tools and concepts to help answer some of the frontier questions arising in other disciplines. In other words, chemistry is the science of creativity, making enabling goals that most other sciences cannot hope to attain.

The EuCheMS Chemistry Congresses held in Budapest (2006) and Torino (2008), the future Nuremberg Congress in 2010 and the numerous European scientific meetings, sponsored events and initiatives carried out by EuCheMS Divisions and Working Parties are important catalysts for promoting European chemistry, and these deserve all our support.



EuCheMS President Luis A. Oro.

Moreover, EuCheMS should continue to promote educational, professional and ethical matters, including the designation European Chemist (EurChem) and attracting chemists in the early stages of their careers through the very successful European Young Chemists Network. We must be able to attract the most talented young people to the important chemistry research problems, such as energy and environmental issues.

I am sure that the initial Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS), founded in 1970 and now redefined as EuCheMS, has a rich past and a challenging and important future.

Luis A. Oro
EuCheMS President
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Promoting EuCheMS in Brussels

EuCheMS has appointed the company IFOK as its EU Policy Consultant, to further extend the established reputation of EuCheMS in Brussels. The arrangement will strengthen the ability of EuCheMS to provide decision makers and opinion formers with independent advice based on the best available scientific knowledge.

Annabel Holroyd at IFOK's Brussels office will be in charge of the day-to-day operation to achieve EuCheMS objectives. She will have support from other members of the extensive IFOK team in support of our objective to promote EuCheMS as a source of expertise and consensus on key European issues affecting chemical and molecular sciences. She will work with experts from EuCheMS Divisions and member societies to develop high quality position papers that will enable EuCheMS to operate in proactive and reactive modes, conveying chemical sciences issues in a timely manner.

Sustainable energy, water and food are current themes that will be further developed. EuCheMS member societies will continue to benefit from receiving regular and timely briefings on emerging legislation, regulation and initiatives that may impact on the chemical sciences, together with news updates on key issues. With experience of undertaking projects for a number of science bodies, for example the European Chemistry Thematic Network, Annabel Holroyd and the IFOK team will build on their expertise in working with the chemistry community. The EuCheMS Finance and Strategy Committee manages this important activity on behalf of EuCheMS.

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*Annabel Holroyd
from IFOK's
Brussels office.*



The European Association
for Chemical and Molecular
Sciences

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Martyn Poliakoff gave EuCheMS Lecture

Martyn Poliakoff gave the EuCheMS Lecture on "Multi-phase catalysis: Maximizing the opportunities for supercritical fluids in green chemistry" to an enthusiastic audience during the Opening Session at the EuCheMS Congress in Torino. Martyn Poliakoff is Professor of Chemistry at the University of Nottingham and Honorary Professor at Moscow State University. Current research interests involve supercritical fluids, with particular emphasis on green chemistry; he is also Chair of the Editorial Board of the journal *Green Chemistry*.

The Lecture honours outstanding achievements by European chemists, with the aim of enhancing the image of European chemistry and promoting scientific cooperation in Europe. Giovanni Natile, EuCheMS President, presented Martyn Poliakoff with a Swarovski owl and a certificate.

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Allan Jensen received Award for Service

Allan Astrup Jensen from Danish Chemical Society received the EuCheMS Award for Service in recognition of his significant contribution to European cooperation in chemistry and the environment. Giovanni Natile, EuCheMS President, presented the medal and certificate to Allan Jensen on 20 September 2008 at the end of the EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Torino where he served as convener of the greenhouse gases symposium.

The Award recognises the vital role played by Allan Jensen in developing EuCheMS activities in chemistry and the environment for over 25 years. Under the auspices of the EuCheMS Division of Chemistry and the Environment, Allan Jensen stimulated initiatives through member societies in over 30 countries in Europe and fostered contacts with the European Commission and other agencies on chemistry and the environment issues, including sustainable chemistry. As Division Chairman, he was instrumental in encouraging cooperation on environmental issues with other international organisations such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the International Standards Organisation.

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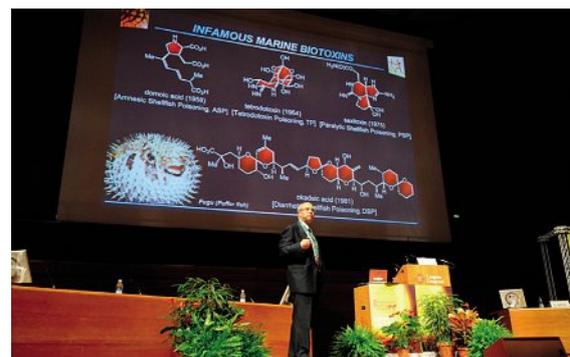
Chemistry as global science: the 2nd EuCheMS Congress

The 2nd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, under the heading "Chemistry, the global science", has confirmed the credibility of EuCheMS and the importance and relevance of this biennial meeting as a forum for chemists. The aim of the EuCheMS Chemistry Congresses, "made in Europe for the world", is to promote chemistry and molecular sciences at the cutting edge, to foster collaboration among scientists in research, industry and education, and to enhance the public image of chemistry.

In the amazing building of the first Fiat factory, conceived by its founder, Giovanni Agnelli, and renovated by Renzo Piano, this Congress gathered over 2000 participants coming not only from the 35 European countries represented in EuCheMS, but also from Africa, America, and Asia. It was particularly gratifying to witness the large number of younger participants who, as stressed by Martyn Poliakoff, recipient of the EuCheMS lectureship award 2008, represent the real force of European chemistry that will play a decisive role in mastering the emerging challenges. The intense mix of over 1300 posters, 40 exhibitor booths, and the many coffee points (Italian coffee!), Internet spots, and cosy corners for discussions provided many opportunities to exchange ideas and foster collaborations.

The scientific programme, coordinated by Nobel Laureate Hartmut Michel (Max Planck Institute of Biophysics, Frankfurt) and Igor Tkatchenko (University of Burgundy) and involving a panel of conveners, featured seven plenary and 14 keynote lectures. The selected 18 symposia were grouped in six topics, organised in such a way that participants found interest in several symposia. Overall, there were more than 300 oral presentations on five very busy days.

The local Organising Committee, masterly run by Lorenza Operti, also provided a wide social programme including several receptions, a cheese and wine party during a dedicated two-hour poster session, a con-



Opening Session: Kyriacos C. Nicolaou talked about „Molecules that changed the world“.



K. Berry Sharpless (left) and Peter Agre gave Plenary Lectures in Torino.

cert, and a gala dinner held at the historical venue of the Military Academy in the heart of Torino.

At the closing ceremony, EuCheMS President Giovanni Natile expressed the view that the continuing growth of EuCheMS as a global partner for chemistry in Europe and worldwide, is well on the way. Thus the message delivered in 2006 with the 1st EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Budapest and fully confirmed in Torino on the occasion of the 2nd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, will continue to be enhanced with the 3rd EuCheMS Congress to be held in Nuremberg, Germany, 29 August to 2 September 2010.

Igor Tkatchenko
Lorenza Operti
Giovanni Natile

Sustainable chemistry

“Chemical sciences are key to predicting the effect of climate change on global, national and regional water availability and quality, so as to inform adaptation and infrastructure planning”, said Richard Allan, speaking on behalf of EuCheMS to the GLOBE EU group of Members of the European Parliament (MEP).

Hosted by its President, Anders Wijkman MEP, the meeting at the European Parliament on 10 September heard from Peter Gammeltoft, Directorate General Environment, who illustrated climate change issues underpinning the Commission’s thinking in the implementation phase of the Water Framework Directive and preparation for a White Paper on adaptation to climate change.

Richard Allan, Chief Scientist at Scottish Water, presented the EuCheMS report “Sustainable chemistry: the role of the chemical sciences” which lists eight challenges for the chemical sciences. Developing advanced water treatment technologies, widening



Photo: Siemens

the adoption of the principles green chemistry and designing chemicals that are highly effective, reusable and recyclable are some of the key areas addressed in the report.

Partnerships with industry will be essential in helping EU government bodies to find solutions. David Russell from Dow presented a Dow Europe project for reusing waste water. Luis A. Oro, EuCheMS President Elect, and Evelyn McEwan, EuCheMS General Secretary, also attended the meeting.

Evelyn McEwan

www.euchems.org/News/index

New WP on Physical Chemistry

Physical chemistry is clearly among the core areas of chemistry and should have its platform on European level. Together with colleagues and supported by the Executive Committee, Michael Dröscher has taken on the task to start a Working Party (WP) which represents all fields of physical chemistry and is aimed at eventually growing into a Division. Colleagues across Europe have agreed to contribute to the WP.

One theme of the new WP could be the discussion of roadmaps for research to voice the ideas of physical chemistry for research funding on European level. Other topics are education, research cooperation, and conferences. Thus a physical chemistry session on the EuCheMS Congress 2010 in Nuremberg is planned. Another aim is to strengthen interaction between science and industry. For further information please contact Michael Dröscher.

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Revitalized WP on Conservation of the Cultural Heritage

Many chemists are employed at cultural institutions, such as museums, or at institutions teaching in conservation. In recent years numerous papers regarding chemical techniques on cultural heritage have been published. Modern spectroscopic methods have proven to be successful in conservation science, for example in identification of artists’ pigments. The increasing focus on chemistry and cultural heritage gives chemists the opportunity of obtaining funds from new sources and getting involved in international projects, such as EPISCON (European Ph.D. in Science for Conservation). Due to this increasing interest, EuCheMS has decided to revitalize the Working Party on Conservation of the Cultural Heritage. It will act as a forum providing networks, meetings and conferences. Interested chemists should contact their respective chemical society.

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Excellent young chemists

The European Young Chemist Award 2008 was presented in Torino during the 2nd EuCheMS Congress. The award was fully funded by the Italian Chemical Society (SCI) and was aimed to show the excellent research being carried out by young scientists. It was chaired by Bruno Pignataro (SCI), and co-chaired by Csaba Janáky, Cristina Todasca, Emma Dunphy, Jens Breffke, and Juan Luis Delgado as delegates of the European Young Chemists Network. About 90 applications were received by scientists from 30 different countries. About half of the applications were evaluated at a top level by the Symposia Chairs of the Torino Congress or by recognized scientific experts, and 15 finalists were selected. The finalists each delivered a talk during the competition session in Torino in front of a jury comprising Dave Garner (RSC), Angela Agostiano (SCI), Christian Remenyi (GDCh), which selected the following winners:

- Gold medal (1800 Euro): Fabio Arnesano for work entitled “Copper-triggered aggregation of Ubiquitin”.
- Silver medal ex-equo (800 Euro each): Leonard J. Prins (“Catalyst discovery using dynamic chemistry”) and Ali Tavassoli (“Inhibition of HIV budding by a genetically selected cyclic peptide”).
- Gold medal at PhD level (800 Euro): Guillermo Mínguez Espallargas (“Porous material behaviour in a non-porous material: Gas uptake of small molecules involving multiple structural changes”).
- Silver medal at PhD level ex-equo (600 Euro each): Gustavo Fernández (“Self-organisation of electroactive materials”) and Viktoria H. Gessner (“Alpha-lithiated methylamines as powerful building blocks”).

Bruno Pignataro, bruno.pignataro@unipa.it



Guillermo Mínguez Espallargas received the Gold medal at PhD level.



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JCF Spring meeting with EYCN conference 2009

A conference for young scientists will be organised by the German Jungchemikerforum (JCF) and the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN) from 11 to 14 March 2009 in Essen, Germany. Opportunities will be available for oral and poster presentations. The best presentations will be awarded by the scientific committee. The programme will feature plenary lectures by Nobel Laureate Robert Huber (Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Martinsried), Alfred Oberholz (Evonik Industries, Essen), and Mario Thevis (Institute for Preventive Doping Research, Köln).

The JCF programme will be expanded by the integrated EYCN satellite event, which will deal with the interface between science and further required skills, for example, for research management. Jens-Uwe Meyer, trainer and book author will explain how to develop patents out of ideas. Travel grants are available for participants from outside Germany.

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Csaba Janáky, janakycsaba@yahoo.com
www.jcf-fruehjahrensymposium.de

Swiss foundation promotes sciences in society

The Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) recently created the SCS Foundation, to promote chemistry and sciences in society. At the beginning, the foundation will focus on the young and on teaching in schools. As in some other industrialized countries, science has become increasingly unpopular in Switzerland and struggles against the image of being hard to understand. While institutional reforms in the secondary school system are under way, SCS sees the need of additional measures, e. g. prizes for innovative teaching methods.

The SCS foundation was created in August 2008. A high level board could be assembled, with Richard Ernst, Nobel laureate 1991, Georg Fráter, SCS President, Jacques Weber, former Rector of the University of Geneva, Rudolf Wehrli, former President of the Swiss Society of Chemical Industries, and Jürg Witmer, Chairman of Clariant and Givaudan.

Lukas Weber, weber@scg.ch

Events

15 – 18 March 2009, Heidelberg, Germany

Frontiers in Medicinal Chemistry, Joint German-Swiss Meeting on Medicinal Chemistry
www.gdch.de/vas/tagungen/tg/5339.htm

13 – 15 May 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

6th Chemical Reactions in Food
www.carolina.cz/crfvi

14 – 17 June 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

12th International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment
www.chemsoc.se/sidor/KK/icce2009.htm

5 – 8 July 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

EuroFoodChem XV, www.eurofoodchemxv.life.ku.dk

2 – 7 August, Glasgow, UK

IUPAC Congress: Chemistry solutions,
www.iupac2009.org

1 – 4 September 2009, Villa Monasterio, Como, Italy

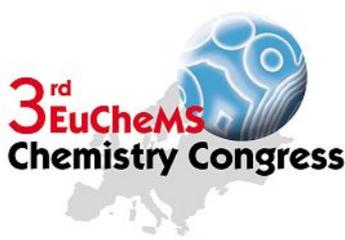
Italic 5 – Science & Technology of Biomasses: Advances and challenges from forest and agricultural biomasses to high added value products, processes and materials.

3 – 5 September 2009, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

3rd European Conference on Chemistry in Life Sciences, www.gdch.de/3ecclsc

6 – 10 September 2009, Innsbruck, Austria

EuroAnalysis 2009, www.euroanalysis2009.at



Belousov-Zhabotinski and the Chemistry Congress 2010

An artist's impression of a Belousov-Zhabotinski-reaction pattern was chosen as the central graphical element to visualize the motto of the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Nuremberg 2010: "Chemistry – the creative force". According to the GDCh congress team, the logo will hopefully soon become a sight to behold and a powerful tool to attract the attention of chemists Europe- and worldwide alike. After having fixed topics and proposals for symposi-

a conveners for Nuremberg with the EuCheMS executive committee in Torino, chairmen Francois Diederich and Andreas Hirsch take action in finalizing a team of opinion leaders working on the scientific content.

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www.euchems-congress2010.org

IUPAC Congress 2009

Hosted by the RSC, the IUPAC Congress 2009 from 2 to 7 August in Glasgow will highlight the importance of innovation in chemistry with a programme of over 50 symposia across seven themes. The five-day event will include a poster session and scientific exhibition plus satellite events to enhance networking. Discounted registration rates for members of EuCheMS member societies will be available next year.

Dave Garner, www.iupac2009.org

EuCheMS Newsletter

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