

## General Assembly: EuCheMS members met in Vienna



Participants of the EuCheMS General Assembly 2015 in Vienna.

The EuCheMS General Assembly and annual cluster of meetings took place in Vienna on 28 to 30 September. This three days of intensive gathering started with a meeting of chemists representing EuCheMS professional networks. Vivid discussion took place on mostly strategic topics as well as on the 6th European Chemistry Congress (ECC6) in Seville (see right), for which Peter Edwards, chair of the scientific committee at ECC6, kindly provided detailed input.

At the General Assembly EuCheMS members reinforced their commitment towards European chemistry and discussed new directions for the future. Discussion was introduced by the chairs of the strategic task groups which were set up following last year's strategic workshop.

The General Assembly also marked EuCheMS growth with the integration of three new supporting members: the Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology (IGB, see page 3), the European Federation of Managerial Staff in the Chemical and Allied Industries (FECCIA) and the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC), thus elevating the number of EuCheMS members to 46.

The EuCheMS working party on green and sustainable chemistry has now become a division and we thank Pietro Tundo (who will stand down as chair of the division and has been elected to the IUPAC

Bureau) for the hard work he has put into creating the division. Further, Philippe Garrigues and Pavel Drašar were elected to the Executive Board to serve for three years from 1 January 2016. Igor Tkatchenko and Ehud Keinan both finished their term in office at the end of 2015; they have both worked tirelessly for the EuCheMS Executive Board and we wish them all the very best in their new adventures. Ehud Keinan has been elected onto the IUPAC Bureau.

Invited talks were given by Reiner Salzer, European Chemistry Thematic Network, on the outcomes of the European employability survey for chemists and chemical engineers and by Robert Parker, RSC Chief Executive, on public attitudes towards chemistry. The fruitful and constructive meeting marathon was wrapped up by the Executive Board meeting, hosted by EuCheMS vice-president Ulrich Schubert.

EuCheMS thanks the General Assembly host, the Gesellschaft Österreichischer Chemiker (Austrian Chemical Society), especially Herbert Ipser and Erich Leitner. This year the General Assembly will take place in Seville, immediately before the 6th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in September 2016. Presentations from the General Assembly are available at [www.euchems.eu/about-us/general-assembly/4777-2/](http://www.euchems.eu/about-us/general-assembly/4777-2/).

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## Countdown for the EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Seville

The 6th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress will take place in Seville, Spain, on 11 to 15 September 2016. The call for abstracts is open. Guidelines, information for authors, submissions and important dates as well as the online submission form are available on the congress website. The online submission deadline for abstracts is 1 April 2016.

Topic conveners have been appointed. Thus, every topic is already assigned to a European convener specialised in the issue. More information at <http://euchems-seville2016.eu/topic-conveners>.

The registration is also open. Enjoy early bird discounts and get connected to all the news and updates with the Congress newsletter and review all services offered.

Outstanding speakers have confirmed their attendance. Ada Yonath, Richard Schrock, Aaron Ciechanover, Harold Kroto and Jean-Marie Lehn, five Nobel Laureates, will serve as plenary speakers. Other plenary lectures will be given by Avelino Corma, Spain's most awarded chemist, Roberta Sessoli, Janine Cossy and Gérard Férey, EuCheMS Lecture Award Winner 2014.

### Dates and deadlines

Abstract submission deadline : 1 April 2016

Abstract notification: 1 June 2016

Preliminary programme: 15 June 2016

Final programme: 29 July 2016

Early bird registration deadline: 1 April 2016

Regular registration deadline: 15 June 2016

Late registration deadline: 15 August 2016

Onsite registration start: 16 August 2016

<http://euchems-seville2016.eu>

**6<sup>th</sup> EuCheMS Chemistry Congress**

**SEVILLE Spain**  
11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Organized by ANQUE ASOCIACIÓN NACIONAL DE QUÍMICOS DE ESPAÑA

[www.euchems-seville2016.eu](http://www.euchems-seville2016.eu)



## History of chemistry

The 10th International Conference for the History of Chemistry (10ICHC) was held on 9 to 12 September 2015 at the University of Aveiro, Portugal. The event brought together more than 60 participants from 21 countries. Encouraging was the strong presence of the young generation, of new faces from countries that were not represented before and of colleagues from the EuCheMS division of chemical education.

Biographies have always been an important genre in the history of chemistry. The 10th International Conference for the History of Chemistry, entitled "Chemical biography in the 21st century", critically examined how the genre has evolved at a time where manuscript and typed documents are disappearing. The opening session featured Portuguese chemist Jorge Calado (Lisbon), followed by keynotes given by Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent (Paris) and Michael Gordin (Princeton).

The conference book is published in the internet on <http://10ichc-2015.web.ua.pt>.

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## Computational chemistry

The 10th European Conference on Computational Chemistry was held in Fulda, Germany, from 31 August to 4 September 2015. The conference attracted 144 participants from 29 countries and was jointly organised by the GDCh division Chemistry-Information-Computers and the Working Group of Theoretical Chemistry. The GDCh division awarded four young participants with a poster prize. The conference was accompanied by an exhibition on commercial software for drug design and material sciences.

Recent trends in computational chemistry and its impact on applied sciences were reflected in twelve sessions which covered a wide field from drug design to quantum mechanics. The conference successfully combined theoretical advances with innovative applications. The next European Conference on Computational Chemistry will be organised by the Catalan Chemical Society in Spain in 2017.

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## The EuCheMS Executive Board

The EuCheMS Newsletter introduces the EuCheMS Executive Board members. This issue goes on with Pavel Drašar (Czech Republic) and Antonio Laganà (Italy).

**Pavel Drašar**, Doctor of Science and Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, is a professor of organic chemistry at the Prague University of Chemistry and Technology. He is currently interested in the chemistry and biological activity of natural compounds and utilization of chiral natural compounds in self- and superassembly. He is co-author of 209 papers, over 25 patents and ten books. Drašar is registered as European Chemist (EuCheMS) and Chartered Chemist and Scientist (RSC, London). He serves as editorial board member, editor or reviewer in numerous scientific journals. Besides the position in the EuCheMS Executive Board he is the chair of the European Chemist Registration Board. He has also served in the European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN) as chair of the ECTN Label Committee for assessment of chemistry educational programmes and has been president of ECTN since 2015. He is vice-president of the Czech Chemical Society (CCS) for international contacts and collaborations and therefore represents the CCS in ChemPubSoc Europe.



**Antonio Laganà** is a professor of inorganic chemistry at the University of Perugia. After his degree in theoretical and computational chemistry he took up positions as postdoc at the University of Manchester (1977-78), visiting researcher at Caltech (1982) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (1987-90). Laganà works on high performance and distributed computing for virtual research communities and develops theoretical and computational methods for scattering and molecular dynamics. He has published more than 400 papers and authored ten books. Laganà chairs the EuCheMS division of computational chemistry, the virtual research community CMMST (chemistry, molecular & materials sciences and technologies) of the EGI (European grid infrastructure) Foundation and the homonymous Standing Committee of ECTN. He has chaired the COST chemistry technical committee (2003-2007) and directed the chemistry department of Perugia University (2002-13) and the Perugia University computer centre (1996-2001).



## National Chemistry Congress in Hungary

The Second National Chemistry Congress of the Hungarian Chemical Society (HCS) was held on 31 August to 2 September in Hajdúszoboszló. In addition the International Year of Light was celebrated.

Ferenc Joó (president of the chemistry section of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), György Horvai (chair of the Hungarian National Committee of IUPAC) and Livia Simon-Sarkadi (HCS president) welcomed the more than 260 participants, one third of which were graduate students and young scientists from five countries. One of the plenary lectures was held by EuCheMS president David Cole-Hamil-

ton. Other plenary talks were presented by representatives from industry, higher education and research centres of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Besides the eight plenary talks, 120 oral and 58 poster presentations summarized major achievements not only in traditional fields of chemistry, but also in pharmaceutical, chemical and food industry and diagnostics. The conference had a good balance of academic and industrial representatives, giving the opportunity to establish new contacts and also share experience with the younger generation.

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## EuCheMS award for Czech student

Michaela Kajšová, a young and enthusiastic student, won the EuCheMS special prize of the 2015 European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS). She was honoured for her study on the effect of cholesterol on biological membranes. Despite her responsibilities as a finishing high school student, she followed her scientific curiosity and developed a two-year research project whose results will soon be published.

When Michaela Kajšová received the prize she was in her first very busy weeks of her medicine degree, but EuCheMS managed to get some of her time for an interview where her passion for chemistry and talent as a natural communicator were more than evident. When asked if there was any message she would like to leave to younger people, she said: "I really appreciate the EUCYS EuCheMS special prize and it is a great motivation for the future, but young students participating in such competitions should not think too much about winning. It is more about interacting with



*EuCheMS general secretary Nineta Majcen (left) congratulates Michaela Kajšová.*

people, learning how to present your research, and meeting new people and opportunities. The scientists and judges I have met were very humble and kind people who really inspired me to pursue research. It is amazing that all this started just because of an extra-curricular activity."

The complete interview is published on [www.euchems.eu/?p=5435](http://www.euchems.eu/?p=5435).

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## New presidents for the SCF and the EuCheMS Organic Division

Gilberte Chambaud has been elected president of the Société Chimique de France (SCF) for the period 2016 to 2018. She is the first woman to serve as president of SCF.



Chambaud is emeritus professor at the Université Paris-Est Marne la Vallée in the laboratory "Modelling and Multi-Scale Simulation". She received her PhD in theoretical chemistry from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie/Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, in 1982. From 2006 to 2011, she was scientific director of the CNRS Institute of Chemistry. There she was in charge of the organisation of the institutional research strategy in chemistry in ca. 180 French academic chemistry laboratories. Gilberte Chambaud was the president of the SCF division for education and training (2000 to 2004) and vice-president of the SCF (2012 to 2015).

Véronique Gouverneur

was elected president of the EuCheMS Organic Division in July 2015. She received her PhD in chemistry from Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium in 1991. After spending three years at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, USA, she took up her first academic position at the Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, France. In 1998 she moved to England with a lectureship at the University of Oxford. In 2008 she became professor in chemistry and since then is also holding a tutorial fellowship at Merton College in Oxford. Gouverneur works on fluorine chemistry with a focus on medicinal applications. She received numerous awards including the 2015 ACS Award for Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry. She is a member of various academic and editorial boards and coordinates the EU project RADIOMI.



## New supporting member of EuCheMS: Fraunhofer IGB

EuCheMS welcomes the Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology (Fraunhofer IGB) as new supporting member. Fraunhofer IGB is one of 66 institutes and research units of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. Based in Germany, Fraunhofer is Europe's leading organisation for applied research.

Fraunhofer IGB develops and optimizes processes and products in the fields of medicine, pharmacy, chemistry, the environment and energy. The institute combines the highest scientific standards with professional expertise, always with a view to economic efficiency and sustainability. Fraunhofer IGB offers complete solutions from the laboratory to the pilot scale. The constructive interplay of the various disciplines at the institute opens up new approaches in areas such as medical engineering, nanotechnology, industrial biotechnology and environmental technology.

Fraunhofer IGB is aiming at the development of biotechnological processes for the production of chemicals and fuels from renewable resources, biogenic residues or microalgae and the coupling of these with chemical processes. The Fraunhofer Center for Chemical-Biotechnological Processes (Fraunhofer CBP) in Leuna offers the Fraunhofer IGB new ways of transferring the use of renewable raw materials to an industrial scale.

Another field of action is functional surfaces and materials. By the decoupling of volume and surface properties of materials through interfacial process engineering, new possibilities arise for the manufacture of products based on sustainable raw materials.

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*Research at Fraunhofer IGB, the new member of EuCheMS. (photo: Fraunhofer IGB)*



## EuroFoodChem: a European perspective on food chemistry

The EuroFoodChem Congress is a biennial appointment for food chemists worldwide. This year's conference was organised by the Institute of Food Science, Technology and Nutrition of the Spanish National Research Council. It took place on 13 to 16 October in Madrid with Juana Frias as chair. The success of the event was confirmed by more than 400 participants from 55 countries, involving 24 plenary and keynote sessions, 40 oral presentations and 387 poster presentations.

EuroFoodChem XVIII gathered experts from academia, research centres, administration and regulatory bodies as well as from food industry. Debates were held about the latest scientific advances collected in the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020, helping to establish international collaboration for upcoming proposals. A special session was dedicated to young researchers: Marco Arlorio, chair of the EuCheMS food chemistry division, emphasized their innovative and intellectual initiatives that constituted a major stimulus for the success of this conference.

The main topics were: chemical composition of food and chemical changes induced by processing and storage, bioactive food constituents and functions, functional food, risk and benefits evaluation of food components, food safety, the chemistry behind sensorial flavour and textural properties, detection techniques for food quality assessment and the exploitation of agri-food co-products and wastes. Several European projects were represented and the European Association for Food Safety organised a session on food safety in collaboration with JRC-EU and EuCheMS.

The next EuroFoodChem will be organised by Livia Simon Sarkadi in Budapest in 2017.

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Meeting of the EuCheMS food chemistry division.

## Events 2016

**31 January – 5 February 2016, Bressanone, Italy**  
10th European Winter School on Physical Organic Chemistry, [www.chimica.unipd.it/wispoc/pubblica](http://www.chimica.unipd.it/wispoc/pubblica)

**18 – 20 February 2016, Florence, Italy**  
ENERCHEM-1 (Chemistry of Renewable Energies) [www.enerchem-1.it](http://www.enerchem-1.it)

**16 – 18 March 2016, Blankenberge, Belgium**  
13th Chemistry Conference for Young Scientists – ChemCYS 2016, [www.chemcys.be](http://www.chemcys.be)

**26 – 29 April 2016, Guimarães, Portugal**  
1st European Young Chemists Meeting (1st EYChem) <http://5pychem.eventos.chemistry.pt>

**3 – 8 July 2016, Vienna, Austria**  
16th Conference on Molten Salts and Ionic Liquids [www.euchem2016.org](http://www.euchem2016.org)

**3 – 6 July 2016, Torun, Poland**  
18th International Symposium on Advances in

Extraction Technologies & 22nd International Symposium on Separation Sciences [www.extech-iss2016.pl](http://www.extech-iss2016.pl)

**4 – 7 September 2016, Minsk, Belarus**  
23rd Conference of Isoprenoids

**7 – 10 September 2016, Barcelona, Spain**  
ECRICE – European Conference on Research in Chemical Education, <http://ecrice2016.com>

**11 – 15 September 2016, Seville, Spain**  
6th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress <http://euchems-seville2016.eu>

## Events 2017

**2 – 5 July 2017, Copenhagen, Denmark**  
4th EuCheMS Inorganic Chemistry Conference [www.eicc-4.dk](http://www.eicc-4.dk)

## Programmatic symposium on ethics in chemistry

Thirteen members and supporters of the idea of the EuCheMS working party on ethics in chemistry from seven countries came together in Frankfurt, Germany, on 25 and 26 September 2015 to exchange views, discuss the administrative structure and to identify topics for future activities.

The working party was founded in autumn 2011 and started with a few loosely connected enthusiasts but soon grew to a present total of about 30 members and observers from twelve countries. During the working party's symposium at the 4th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Prague 2012, it became obvious that more needs to be done to consolidate the working party. At the recent

Frankfurt Symposium the participants decided to establish a five-membered steering group to distribute tasks onto more shoulders. Following the "The Hague Ethical Guidelines" (<http://bit.ly/1jaLOSd>) defined by an international panel of experts in September at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, our assistance in the implementation of ethics courses within science programmes at universities should be top priority. In conjunction with the symposium, the theatre play by Roald Hoffmann "Was Euch gehört" ("Something that belongs to you") was presented in Darmstadt and Frankfurt.

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