



CHEMISTRY in Europe

Newsletter for European Chemistry, published by EuChemS

EDITORIAL



European Chemistry Gold Medal

It is with great pleasure that I write to you about the European Chemistry Gold Medal Award. This new EuChemS award was founded in 2017, following a thorough review of the existing EuChemS awards in the autumn of 2016 and a unanimous decision by the Executive

Board in the spring of 2017. We decided to honour a scientist, working at a European-based Institution, who has made outstanding contributions to the field of Chemistry and who has significantly advanced our understanding of a particular chemistry discipline. I vividly remember the discussions and the many suggestions that were made during the board meeting. We also decided that this should not be a lifetime achievement award. As I had some experience with new awards (I founded the FEBS/EMBO Women in Science award), I was asked to write a draft proposal taking all the comments of the board members into account whilst our General Secretary, Nineta Hrastelj, was asked to find an artist for the design of the medal. While the nominations were arriving at our office, members of the International Award Committee were selected, and, in the autumn of 2017, they wrote their report for the EuChemS Executive Board.

And how proud we are that the first European Chemistry Gold Medal will be presented to Prof. Dr Bernard Feringa, an enormously gifted chemist. His scientific work reminds me of the science fiction story described by Isaac Asimov and his contemporaries in the book "Fantastic Voyage" (1966) about how four men and a woman are reduced to a microscopic fraction of their original size, sent in a miniaturised atomic sub through a dying man's carotid artery to destroy a blood clot in his brain. Science fiction is slowly becoming reality. The controlled molecular switches and UV powered molecular motors designed and developed by Ben Feringa and for which he was awarded the Nobel prize in 2016, are expected to have considerable implications in many chemical fields, molecular medicine and nanotechnology.

Read the full editorial online:

<http://www.euchems.eu/newsletters/chemistry-in-europe-2018-3/>

Saskia M. van der Vies

EuChemS Executive Board Member

FOCUS

EuChemS in Liverpool!

Heading to the EuChemS Chemistry Congress in Liverpool this August? The EuChemS Brussels Office will be running several sessions: Our own Science Communication and Policy Officer, Alex Schiphorst will be speaking alongside representatives from the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), the German Chemical Society (GDCh) and the American Chemical Society (ACS) for a *Global Chemist Communications Training Session*. EuChemS' General Secretary, Nineta Hrastelj, will be speaking alongside the Royal Society of Chemistry, the ECTN, and the American Chemical Society for a joint EuChemS-ACS panel discussion on 'Chemistry for Sustainable Goals'. Finally, Nineta Hrastelj will also share her knowledge, views and experience as a past evaluator of one of Europe's most successful funding programmes, the *Marie Skłodowska-Curie* actions. Join her for such invaluable input at the EuChemS European Young Chemists' Network week-long series of events and workshops at the EuChemS Chemistry Congress 2018 in Liverpool, UK.



POLICY

Scientific Advice: How can policymakers best access and manage it?

At a recent workshop on the role of storytelling in science communication, one of the speakers, a Member of the European Parliament, stated that unless a paper he was given had a QR code to scan, he would simply not read it. He explained that the QR code allowed him to easily access and share the document at any time. His remark was particularly noteworthy and led us to seriously reflect on what policymakers themselves are looking for, how they access and manage scientific knowledge as well as what scientists can do to ensure that their evidence and expertise is being accessed in a successful and efficient manner.

In July, EuChemS attended the EuroScience Open Forum in Toulouse, France, where we were selected to provide a poster. The subject chosen: 'scientific advice, and how to harvest it in the best way'.

We were therefore able to further develop our thoughts on this crucial issue and present them in a concise manner during the event.

The general view of scientific knowledge transfer is usually reflected in a linear manner: scientists are encouraged to share their knowledge, evidence, advice and expertise with decision-makers, so that the latter may make informed choices in their policymaking work. But this one-direction framework presents some very serious drawbacks. Not all knowledge is equally made, and not all sources of knowledge are capable of supporting successful transfers of knowledge.

Often overlooked, is the fact that a majority of scientists do not have the skills, the training or the time to effectively communicate with decision-makers...

You can read the rest online: <https://bit.ly/2ul7myf>

Alex Schiphorst

Science Communication and Policy Officer, EuChemS

RESEARCH

"Chemistry across Europe" – a webpage for chemistry students and graduates

In 1999, the Bologna Declaration was signed by the education ministers from 29 countries to ensure comparability in the standards and quality of higher education qualifications and to increase mobility within Europe. Almost 20 years later, moving to another country still presents a considerable challenge for most students and graduates. A lot of information has to be gathered before one can get started. This can be tedious, especially if one has not yet made a final decision about which country to choose.

The European Young Chemists' Network (EYCN) therefore decided to use and share the knowledge of their delegates from more than 20 countries to provide a clearly structured and accessible webpage for chemists interested in moving to another European country

You can read the rest online: <https://bit.ly/2JIVQxG>

Victor Mougél

EYCN Networks Team Leader

The Role of Chemistry in the Energy Transition

*"The time will arrive when the industry of Europe will cease to find those natural resources, so necessary for it. [...] Will man, then, return to the power of water and wind? Or will he emigrate where the most powerful source of heat sends its rays to all? History will show what will come."*¹

These words were written by Professor Augustin Mouchot, way back in... 1873! At the 1878 Paris World's Fair, Mouchot won a Gold Medal for his revolutionary solar powered engine. His works and his words would however soon be forgotten as coal, and not much later natural oil and gas, turned out to be much more abundant than initially thought and feared.

In the 21st Century, mankind is still addicted to fossil fuels...

You can read the rest online: <https://bit.ly/2LLaBvC>

Willem de Lange, EuChemS Division of Chemistry and the Environment, Secretary

MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVES

EuChemS Members' anniversary celebrations

At the 7th EuChemS Chemistry Congress we will have the pleasure of celebrating and commemorating the 100th, 125th, and 150th anniversaries of nine EuChemS member societies that will fall or fell in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

In 2019, the Estonian Chemical Society, the Finnish Chemical Society, the Polish Chemical Society and the Romanian Chemical Society (all founded in 1919) will be celebrating their 100th anniversaries. The German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry (founded in 1894) will celebrate its 125th anniversary. In 2018, the Norwegian Chemical Society (founded in 1893) will be celebrating its 125th anniversary, and the Mendeleev Russian Chemical Society and the Swedish Chemical Society in Lund (both founded in 1868) will celebrate their 150th anniversaries. And finally, the GDCh (founded in 1867) commemorated its 150th anniversary in a splendid ceremony in Berlin in 2017. We look very much forward to celebrating all of these anniversaries, as well as the 100th anniversary of IUPAC in 2019 during the welcome reception of the Congress.

MEET...



José Luis Pérez Pavón is the President of the Spanish Society of Analytical Chemistry. He is a Professor of Analytical Chemistry at the University of Salamanca in Spain.



Benoit Champagne is the President of the Walloon Royal Society of Chemistry. He is a Professor at the University of Namur in Belgium.

NOTES

EuChemS Award for Service Historical Landmarks Award

The EuChemS Award for Service 2018 has been awarded to Franco De Angelis, Sergio Facchetti and Reiner Salzer. The award is a symbol of the EuChemS community's recognition of the outstanding passion, commitment and success that describes the work done by these three exceptional professors.

We asked them three short questions...

You can read the interviews online here:

<https://bit.ly/2JSfd1e>

Chemistry is an integral part of the Cultural Heritage of Europe. To better showcase this often-overlooked fact, EuChemS launched the Historical Landmarks Award, which will celebrate a historical landmark with a fundamental role in the development of chemistry and European unity and cooperation. Following the recommendations of the Landmark Selection Committee, chaired by Brigitte Van Tiggelen, and the decision of the EuChemS Executive Board, two awards will be given out.

You can read the full article online:

<https://bit.ly/2JSfd1e>