



EuCheMS

NEWSLETTER

November 2010

EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Nürnberg: Building on success

Some 2500 chemists from over 60 countries came together in Nürnberg from 29 August to 2 September to celebrate their science as “the creative force” and to continue the success story which has started in Budapest 2006 and Torino 2008. The congress format is now well established within the scientific community.

Housed in the Congress Centre Nürnberg, the congress saw an ambitious and wide ranging lecture programme. Chairmen François Diederich and Andreas Hirsch had coordinated a tightly packed programme consisting of seven plenaries, around 180 invited talks and 370 oral presentations – all in all more than 180 hours of science and science related topics as research funding, job related self understanding of chemists and ethics of chemical education.

The plenary lectures:

From biological systems to nuclear fusion

With an almost completely filled Frankenhalle, the opening ceremony of the congress was the first highlight and a perfect start. On offer was an entertaining mixture of welcome addresses, award ceremonies and two plenary lectures: Barbara Imperiali (Cambridge, MA) introduced molecular probes to improve our understanding of biological systems. Klaus Müllen (Mainz) presented chemistry at the interface to ma-

terials and emphasized the need for new compounds with controlled functions.

The remaining five plenary lecturers – all of which were very well received – formed the cornerstones of the remaining four congress days. EuCheMS lecturer Michael Grätzel (Lausanne) shared his vision of a photochemistry driven energy supply with the audience. Bert Meijer (Eindhoven) touched on fundamental questions on chirality while introducing his polymeric and dendritic molecular architectures. Hans-Joachim Freund (Berlin) showed how catalysts can be visualized. Lechoslaw Latos-Grazynski (Wroclaw) impressed organic and inorganic chemists alike bringing metal-locenes into play while dealing with new concepts on aromaticity. For Joshua Jortner (Tel Aviv) nuclear fusion is the ultimate energy source and well worth investigating.

Posters, awards and a living molecule

More than 1400 posters were on display throughout the whole congress with a well received “beer and pretzel” poster session and intense discussions all night long. For the youngsters there was also the winners’ symposium of the Reaxys PhD Prize and the finalists’ round of the European Young Chemist Award. In addition to technical presentations in the chemistry areas meeting attendees had the chance to participate in the



Tabletop football with congress chairman François Diederich (second from left).



Exhibition with chemical companies, research organisations and publishing houses.



Frankenhalle during the opening ceremony.



Congress assistants at the counters.



Poster session and intense discussions.



Congress concert at St. Sebald.



Reaxys PhD Prize winners Robert Phipps, Hiroyuki Miyamura and Thomas Maimone (front row from left) with Phil Mestecky (Elsevier).



The European Association
for Chemical and Molecular
Sciences

2



CV check by recruiting experts from industry.

Career Days in Nürnberg: CV checks and more

Two days with lectures, CV checks, career advice and a jobfair marked the Career Days, organised by the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN) and GDCh's Career Service.

A varied mixture of 14 companies, funding organisations, civil service and other organisations participated in the jobfair on 31 August. Representatives from several funding organisations presented their programmes to support young scientists either to come to Germany or to go abroad.

Companies presented themselves with lectures and booths and answered questions about getting started and pursuing a career. "It's a stimulating atmosphere", said one of the human resources managers. "The young people are very interested and ask a lot of details about our company". Julia Rasche from Contact Singapore, whose aim is to attract people to work, invest and live in Singapore, said: "It's the first time we have been to a chemist's job-fair. And it is really worth it."

Young scientists from all over the world appreciated the possibility to talk with company's representatives and to learn more about grants and funding programmes. Many PhD students or postdocs had their CV checked by recruiting experts from different companies and the RSC's Careers Service and received helpful tips how to improve their CV.

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BASF booth at the job fair.

Career Days organised by the GDCh Career Service together with EYCN (see left).

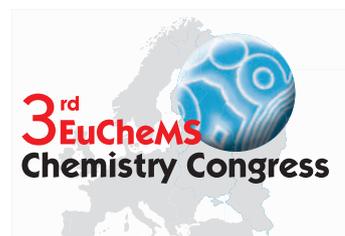
The congress also included an exhibition with 38 booths of chemical companies, research organisations and publishing houses. The so-called vendor seminars organised by the sponsors and supporters of the congress, enjoyed great visibility and traffic even during lunch.

The congress concert and the congress party showed the best of two worlds. While being serious and more contemplative in St. Sebalds church on Monday, the stadium event on Wednesday saw sporting activities, "molecule building on the green" and fulminant fireworks.

On Thursday, the closing ceremony started off with the ceremony for the European



Perfect shot: Congress chairman
Andreas Hirsch.



Young Chemist Award. Nicolai Cramer (Zürich) and Sophie Carencu (Paris) received prizes for their excellent presentations. After closing remarks by GDCh president Michael Dröscher, EuCheMS president Luis Oro and Pavel Drasar, chairman for the 4th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, thanked the organisers for their excellent work and invited the participants to the 4th congress in Prague 2012.

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Pavel Drasar, chairman for the 4th EuCheMS
Chemistry Congress, invited the participants
to the next EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in
Prague 2012.



The living EuCheMS heptacene molecule. (All photos: Bischof & Broehl, Nürnberg)

Congratulations: Awards presented in Nürnberg



Angelika Niebler, Member of the European Parliament, presented the **European Sustainable Chemistry Award** to **Matthias Beller** (Leibniz-Institute for Catalysis in Rostock, Germany). The award was recently launched by EuCheMS and has been awarded to Beller for his exceptional contributions to homogenous catalysis and its application to eco-compatible processes.



Winners of the **European Young Chemist Award** with finalists and jury. The award was sponsored by the Italian Chemical Society (see also page 4).

C. N. R. Rao (Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research in Bangalore, India) is the first scientist from Asia who received the **August Wilhelm von Hofmann Denkmünze**, a medal of gold donated by the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh).



Luisa Torsi (University of Bari "Aldo Moro", Italy), has received the **Heinrich Emanuel Merck Award** for analytical sciences. This was the first time that the renowned award has been granted to a lady scientist. Luisa Torsi has investigated organic semiconducting chemical sensors based on organic thin-film field effect transistors.



Elsevier presented the **Reaxys PhD Prize** (see photo on page 1) to **Robert Phipps** (University of Cambridge, UK), **Hiroyuki Miyamura** (University of Tokyo) and **Thomas Maimone** (MIT).

Michael Grätzel gave EuCheMS Lecture: Learning from photosynthesis

Michael Grätzel from the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) delivered the EuCheMS Lecture on molecular photovoltaics and mesoscopic solar cells at the EuCheMS Chemistry Congress on 30 August.

Michael Grätzel's lecture introduced the congress session on resources and environment (energy research, water and food for an increasing population, environmental analytical sciences). Grätzel directs the EPFL Laboratory of Photonics and Interfaces. He pioneered research on energy and electron transfer reactions in mesoscopic materials and their application in solar energy conversion systems, optoelectronic devices and lithium ion batteries. Learning from the concepts used by green plants, Michael Grätzel's team has developed a molecular photovoltaic device whose overall efficiency for solar energy conversion to electricity has presently attained 12.3%.

The EuCheMS Lecture honours outstanding achievements by a European chemist. It also serves to enhance the image of European chemistry and to promote scientific cooperation in Europe. It rotates among EuCheMS member societies and is delivered at a scientific event outside the lecturer's own country.

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EuCheMS lecturer Michael Grätzel talked about solar energy conversion using the concepts of green plants.





4

Chemical organisations issue calendar for International Year of Chemistry 2011

In view of the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) 2011, the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN), and two sections of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh), namely the German JungChemikerForum (JCF) and the Society for Chemistry and Economics (VCW), have decided to jointly contribute to the IYC 2011 by producing a calendar representing chemistry in everyday life.

To this end, the organisers announced an international picture contest during March and June 2010. Twelve of overall more than 180 pictures have been selected by a jury, containing the president of the GDCh and the chairpersons of EYCN, JCF and VCW. The winners were rewarded at the EuCheMS Congress in Nürnberg with a share of the total prize money of 3000 Euro. The winning pictures have been included in the calendar, which can now be purchased. The revenue from sales of the calendar will be spent on activities across of the contributing organisations during the year 2011. These activities will set the target on bringing chemistry to the public and will show that everything is really just chemistry.

The calendar can be ordered via www.eycn.eu, via the web shop of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (va.gdch.de/gdch_shop/shop.asp) or by e-mail to calendar@jungchemikerforum.de. The prize of the calendar is 10 Euro inclusive VAT, exclusive shipping costs.

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Everything is chemistry: The calendar for the International Year of Chemistry 2011 can be ordered now.

Events

11 – 14 April 2011, Manchester University, UK

EuCheMS Inorganic Chemistry Conference (EICC-1)
www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/EICC1

31 August – 3 September 2011, Budapest, Hungary

4th European Conference on Chemistry for Life Sciences (4th ECCLS), www.4eccls.mke.org.hu

4 – 8 September 2011, Granada, Spain

5th EuCheMS Conference on Nitrogen Ligands
www.ugr.es/local/nligands

11 – 15 September 2011, Belgrade, Serbia

Euroanalysis XVI, www.euroanalysis2011.rs

EYCN's activities in Nürnberg

Since the formation of the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN), our motto has been "You have the chance to do anything, you can achieve everything you want!". This is why EYCN was created: To support and encourage young professionals on their future careers.

The 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, a European wide event attended by over 1100 young chemists, gave us an excellent opportunity to spread the word about EYCN and to connect young scientists. Our programme focused on creative activities to enlarge the opportunities of young chemists and help in their professional development, as well as just provide a meeting place for young scientists and young ideas.

In cooperation with the Career Service of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) and GDCh's Young Chemists Division (JCF) we held a three-day programme englobing the wide options' palette that a career in chemistry has to offer under Career Days (see page 2). One of the events was "Science meets business" where chemical companies – Evonik, Merck and BASF – presented examples from



Members of the European Young Chemists Network.

innovative ideas to successful concepts within their organisations.

To highlight the International Year of Chemistry 2011, EYCN came up with the "Everything is chemistry" competition (see left). The winners were presented in a ceremony held on Wednesday afternoon.

Another award given in this 3rd EuCheMS congress was the European Young Chemist Award, sponsored by the Italian Chemical Society (SCI) and organised in association with EuCheMS, EYCN and SCI. High level and innovative researchers participated and the final candidates had the opportunity to present their projects to a jury. The winners were announced in the closing ceremony on Thursday afternoon.

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EuCheMS Newsletter



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Layout: Jürgen Bugler, Frankfurt am Main
Production: *Nachrichten aus der Chemie*

Publisher: Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker on behalf of EuCheMS
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