



EuCheMS

NEWSLETTER

February 2011

General Assembly 2010 in Bled



From left: Franco De Angelis (EuCheMS Treasurer), Evelyn McEwan (EuCheMS General Secretary), Luis Oro (EuCheMS President), Nicole Moreau (IUPAC President), Long Lu (General Secretary of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies).

Luis Oro, EuCheMS President, chaired the EuCheMS General Assembly hosted by the Slovenian Chemical Society in Bled, Slovenia, on 14 to 15 October. The 60 participants included the Presidents and other representatives of EuCheMS member societies, the Chairs of the EuCheMS Divisions and Working Parties and representatives of Associated Organisations and sister federations. Guests included Long Lu, General Secretary of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies, Nicole Moreau, President of IUPAC, Henryk Koroniak, President of ECTN, Ger Spork from CEFIC and Johanna Kowol-Santen from ERA-Chemistry, all of whom gave interesting presentations on current and future activities.

Luis Oro drew attention to the significant EuCheMS achievements during the year, in addressing the vision of being a single voice for chemical and molecular sciences in Europe presenting chemistry as an essential and indispensable provider of solutions to global challenges. He reported on the success of EuCheMS strategic objectives

- to enhance communication and recognition through the launch of the European Sustainable Chemistry Award and the opportunities presented by the International Year of Chemistry 2011,
- to promote effective partnerships, including working with the European Physical Society to co-organise the first European Energy Conference,

- to encourage professional development and networking, supporting the European Young Chemist Network activities,
- to build a sustainable policy development activity and influence European Commission activity with the help of Catherine Feore, EuCheMS Policy Development Manager,
- to strengthen the EuCheMS science base through another very successful EuCheMS Chemistry Congress and 27 sponsored events,
- to improve decision making in governance and finance through the re-constituted Executive Board.

Topical issues were debated:

- International Year of Chemistry 2011, led by David Phillips and Livia Sarkadi
- EU research funding, led by Henryk Koroniak and Catherine Feore
- EuCheMS Congresses, led by Wolfram Koch and Herbert Ipser
- Communication among EuCheMS member societies, led by Richard Pike and Helena Grennberg

At the end of the meeting Giovanni Natile, Societa Chimica Italiana, retired as Immediate Past President and Ulrich Schubert, Gesellschaft Österreichischer Chemiker, was welcomed as the new President Elect.

Evelyn McEwan, McEwanE@rsc.org

Ulrich Schubert is new President Elect of EuCheMS

Ulrich Schubert will succeed Luis Oro as President of EuCheMS in October 2011, following a vote by the EuCheMS General Assembly in Bled, Slovenia. Ulrich Schubert has served the scientific community as Vice President of the Gesellschaft Österreichischer Chemiker (GÖCH, Austrian Chemical Society) from 1998 to 2000 and as President from 2000 to 2004. During this period he initiated the first Austrian Chemistry Week. He is the head of the National Adhering Organisation of IUPAC in Austria. In recent years, he served in several review and evaluation panels of the EU, European Research Council, ERA-Chemistry and several European countries. He is currently a member of the Executive Board of the Austrian Science Funds (FWF), the Senate of the Austrian Christian Doppler Research Society (CDG) and the decision committee of the German Excellence Initiative.

Ulrich Schubert is Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at the Materials Chemistry Institute of Vienna University of Technology. His research interests are focused on inorganic-organic hybrid materials, ranging from precursor chemistry to applications-related issues. He also has a strong background in silicon and organometallic chemistry. He has supervised about 75 PhD students with eleven different nationalities; the scientific results of the group are documented in more than 450 articles, including several seminal reviews, and some books. He is member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the German Academy Leopoldina.

Further information at http://info.tuwien.ac.at/inorganic/staff/pers_schubert_e.php.



Ulrich Schubert.



Giovanni Natile retires from EuCheMS Executive

The EuCheMS General Assembly 2010 in Slovenia acknowledged the contribution of Giovanni Natile, President Elect 2004/2005, President 2005 to 2008 and Immediate Past President until 2010. Giovanni Natile steered EuCheMS through the challenge of becoming a legal entity registered in Belgium and funded by its member societies. His Presidency marked a period during which EuCheMS gained recognition as a voice for chemical and molecular sciences.

Natile chaired the EuCheMS launch event at the European Parliament in 2006 bringing together representatives of the Parliament and the Commission with guests from the key European organisations involved in chemical sciences. With his support EuCheMS, having signed a declaration on sustainable development, played a prominent role in developing policy, holding meetings in Brussels to publicise reports on energy and sustainable water. Natile presided over the first two EuCheMS Congresses, building on the strengths of EuCheMS scientific Divisions. With his encouragement the Divisions broadened their scope to embrace organic and inorganic chemistry, sustainable chemistry and chemistry and energy. He supported the creation of the European Young Chemists Network and the launch of the European Young Chemist Award. He led EuCheMS in strengthening links with sister organisations, including CEFIC and the European Physical Society. As Immediate Past President, he chaired the task group on governance which led to a more effective EuCheMS governance structure.

Evelyn McEwan, McEwanE@rsc.org

New Executive Board members

Four new members were appointed to the EuCheMS Executive Board: Livia Simon Sarkadi (Hungarian Chemical Society, Chair of the Division of Food Chemistry), Helena Grennberg (Swedish Chemical Society, Chair of the Division of Organometallic Chemistry), Sergio Facchetti (Consiglio Nazionale dei Chimici), Carlos Negro Álvarez (Asociación Nacional de Químicos de España). *eme*

FP 7 evaluation: EuCheMS response

EuCheMS has submitted a response to the mid-term evaluation on the performance of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The evaluation allows the Commission to make proposals for adaptation and changes in FP7. EuCheMS emphasised that in order to compete at a global level, the chemical sciences must be of the highest level. EuCheMS welcomed the Commission's recognition of the need for simplification and outlined three broad principles:

- Simplification must be allowed for the end users (industry, SMEs, researchers). Ideas such as 'lump sum' grants should be verified with potential end users before introducing them.
- EuCheMS strongly advocates a science-based, not a results-centred approach. The most inventive and cutting edge research is usually the most unpredictable and ultimately also the most enduring.
- A reduction in bureaucracy and a decision to take a trust-based and risk-tolerant approach is needed. The usual accounting and management principles and practi-

ces of the beneficiary should be accepted. EuCheMS also called for greater harmonisation between different instruments, clearer terminology as well as simplified application and payment procedures. EuCheMS underlined the importance of supporting excellence in basic research and welcomed the creation of the European Research Council under FP7. However, more chemistry-related panels and more chemistry expertise involved in evaluation of proposals is needed.

A communication on FP8 is expected in February 2011, an official stakeholder consultation will be launched in March 2011, closing in June. The Financial Perspectives are expected mid-2011 with a full proposal for FP8 being launched in December 2011. The Brussels office will closely monitor all developments in FP8, EuCheMS partners can follow these developments through the Brussels News Updates. A full version of the EuCheMS response to the FP7 mid-term evaluation is available at www.euchems.org.

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Young Investigator's workshop

The 2nd Young Investigator's workshop took place on 27 to 29 August at the Institute of Organic Chemistry of Regensburg University, Germany. This European network meeting was sponsored by the Organic Division of EuCheMS, and 28 young investigators from 17 different countries participated. The workshop was organised in eight sessions focused on different topics that spanned all areas of organic chemistry including bioorganic and medicinal chemistry, catalysis, natural products, oxidation and aspects of green chemistry, supramolecular chemistry and ligand design.

During this workshop it became clear that organic chemistry is a fascinating and continually rising area of research for young European scientists. The lectures presented showed that organic chemistry has an important role to play in combination with



Young chemists from 17 countries met in Regensburg.

computational and theoretical chemistry, biology and material science. The meeting provided an exceptional opportunity for young scientists to interact with each other, and exceeded their expectations.

The final evaluation was very positive. All participants acknowledged the financial support provided by the Organic Division of EuCheMS and the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh, Liebig Vereinigung), and thank Sabine Amslinger and Kirsten Zeitler for the perfect organisation of the event.

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Conference on women chemists

The contribution of women to the development of chemical science has always been significant since Marie Skłodowska Curie, as the first woman, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911. A EuCheMS Conference on women chemists and innovation organised by Livia Simon Sarkadi (Division on Food Chemistry) and Éva Vámos (Working Party on the History of Chemistry) was held in Hungary in October 2010 in connection with the International Year of Chemistry 2011. It aimed to overview the role of women chemists in Europe focusing on the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. It also celebrated the first doctoral diploma in chemistry issued to Laura Kovács in 1910 in Hungary.

The conference was supported by the Visegrád Fund, EuCheMS, MOL-TVK Hunga-

ry, L'Oréal Foundation for Women and Science and the publishing house Wiley VCH. More than 70 participants from eight countries from academe and industry gathered to give a historical overview and present recent results achieved by women with a special session to young scientists. Six presentations were selected to receive special awards from the best oral lectures and poster presentations in this special session.

During the conference, not only the past and the present were discussed but also it gave a unique opportunity to exchange scientific ideas, inspire new research, and establish new contacts for closer cooperation. In the round table discussion there was no doubt that this forum should be continued.

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Activities of the Division of Computational Chemistry

In 2010 the main event of the Division of Computational Chemistry (DCC) was the biennial meeting, the European Conference on Computational Chemistry (EUCCO-CC), which took place in Lund, Sweden, in August and attracted more than 170 participants from 24 countries. The conference as a tribute to the increasing importance of computational chemistry was co-organised with the Swedish Chemical Society and the University of Lund.

Only recently the Computational Chemistry Working Party has become the EuCheMS Division of Computational Chemistry (DCC). Gratitude goes to Gábor Naray-Szabó, Fernando Fernandes, Tore Brinck and other members, whose continuous effort to organise the computational chemistry community led to this acknowledgement by EuCheMS. By becoming a Division the possibility (and obligation) has now been offered to extend the activities to the full breadth of a formal branch of the European Society and to multiply its actions.

As a matter of fact, computational chemistry, like other computational disciplines, is nowadays prompted by the European

union, see for example the INFRA 2011 call, to develop a strategy aimed at implementing computing infrastructures and E-science environments dealing not only with scientific progress but also with its application to social and economical activities.

Taking first the field of education, a clear example of these activities is the case of the Eurolabels promoted by the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association. The establishment of a consortial Master in Theoretical Chemistry and Computational Modeling (TCCM) has been promoted and advocated by the DCC. The importance of this is underlined by the fact that the same Master, though in a form restricted to seven partners, has been awarded an Erasmus Mundus Grant and is in the process to being extended to the Doctoral level. Other initiatives being carried out by members of the ECTN association and relevant to the activities of the DCC are those addressed to the development of virtual campuses and electronic self assessment test in chemistry.

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Traditional celebration: The first graduates of the Euromaster "Measurement Science in Chemistry". (photo: JRC-IRMM)

First graduates of Euromaster in Measurement Science

In October 2010, the first group of 32 students received their European Diploma Supplements (EDS) linked to the Euromaster "Measurement Science in Chemistry" at the Joint Research Center's Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (JRC-IRMM) in Geel, Belgium. Chemical and bio-analytical measurements set the foundations for critical decisions throughout society. Nevertheless, most students in Europe graduating in chemistry enter the job market lacking appropriate knowledge and competence about quality assurance in this area. For this reason the JRC-IRMM, whose mission it is to promote a common and reliable European measurement system in support of EU policies, has fostered since 2005 the creation of such a consortium. It is currently composed of nine universities located in seven European countries and new members may apply. It was awarded the Euromaster quality label in 2008 by the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association.

The consortium members also systematically exchange experience on how to improve the way they teach analytical sciences. Active learning and project based learning play an important role in this context especially during the student summer schools and during the "winter gathering" when lecturers meet.

The consortium contributes to invigorating and innovating analytical sciences in Europe. Any contributions are welcome.

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New book pays tribute to women in chemistry

A book on European women in chemistry is one of EuCheMS' contributions to the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) 2011. The aim of the book, published by Wiley VCH publishing house is to celebrate the role of women in chemistry and is a tribute to all European women in chemistry. The book is edited by Jan Apotheker (Royal Dutch Chemical Society) and Livia Simon Sarkadi (Hungary, EuCheMS Executive Board Member and Chair of Food Chemistry Division of EuCheMS).

The editorial panel comprised 14 writers proposed by the Working Party on the History of Chemistry and Presidents of EuCheMS Member Societies. The panel members were Brigitte Bischof (Austria), Brigitte van Tiggelen (Belgium), Pekka Pyykkö (Finland), Danielle Fauque (France), Sally Horrocks (UK), Maria Rentetzi (Greece), Renate Strohmeier, Katharina Al-Shamery and Annette Vogt (Germany), Éva Vámos (Hungary), Miriam Focaccia and Marco Ciardi (Italy), Marianne Offereins and Mineke Bosch (The Netherlands).

A series of 50 portraits of European female chemists active in many areas across the centuries have been produced following suggestions from Member Societies. These include Marie Skłodowska Curie, the first woman scientist to be awarded the Nobel Prize in 1911 (the centenary of this award being one of the reasons that 2011 was chosen for IYC). Nicole Moreau (IUPAC President) has written a preface to the book. The editors and publisher hope that all European chemists, male or female, young or not-so-young, will enjoy this important and exciting book.

Livia Simon Sarkadi, sarkadi@mail.bme.hu

Ordering address: Wiley-VCH, Customer Service, Boschstr. 12, D-69469 Weinheim, E-Mail: service@wiley.com

Events

3 – 5 April 2011, Torun, Poland

Monitoring and analysis of water: Chromatographic methods for determination of ionic substances
www.chem.uni.torun.pl/~pinez/jon/jon2_eng.html

11 – 14 April 2011, Manchester, UK

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

28 – 30 April 2011, Modena, Italy

The Culture of Responsibility: Ethic, Chemistry and the Environment, www.mochim2011.unimore.it

1 – 6 May 2011, Brunnen, Switzerland

Burgenstock Conference
www.stereochemistry-burgenstock.ch

9 – 11 Mai 2011, Skanör-Falsterbo, Öresund, Sweden

Chemometrics' Epistemology in Systems Biology
www.systemsbiology.se

3 – 7 July 2011, Sussex, UK

6th International Symposium on Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry, www.ISMSC2011.org

6 – 8 July 2011, Gdansk, Poland

Euro Food Chem XVI – Translating food chemistry to health benefits, www.eurofoodchemxvi.eu

10 – 15 July 2011, Crete, Greece

European Symposium of Organic Chemistry (ESOC 2011), www.esoc2011.com

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

4ECCLS in Budapest

The 4th European Conference on Chemistry for Life Sciences, a biennial EuCheMS Conference will be held between 31 August and 3 September 2011 at the Eötvös University in Budapest, Hungary. The scientific programme covers all aspects of chemistry in life sciences from artificial photosynthesis and bioinspired organocatalysis to bio-nanotechnology and metals in medicine. A tutorial course in biology will also be offered for non-specialists. *Agota Toth*
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Views on chemicals industry

EuCheMS has submitted its views on the implementation of the recommendations of the High Level Group on the European chemicals

industry. EuCheMS is uniquely positioned to provide insight, analysis, expertise and foresight in the creation of a roadmap, and help identify critical gaps in knowledge and research that are limiting technological progress. The EuCheMS submission also drew attention to the opportunities provided by the International Year of Chemistry and to the initiative European Sustainable Chemistry Award launched in 2010. www.euchems.org/News

IYC 2011 in Switzerland

The Swiss Chemical Society together with several partners has launched the Swiss website containing information about activities relevant to the International Year of Chemistry.

www.chemistry2011.ch

EuCheMS Newsletter



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