

EuCheMS

# EuCheMS

## NEWSLETTER

July 2010

## See you soon in Nürnberg!

On behalf of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) and myself personally, I invite you most warmly to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, to be held in Nürnberg, Germany, from 29 August to 2 September 2010.

Like the highly successful Congresses in Budapest in 2006 and Turin in 2008, this event will bring together scientists from industry, academia and government institutions from across Europe and around the world, making it *the* European showcase for chemical and molecular sciences.

The Congress will present the latest research in the core areas of chemistry, feature multidisciplinary programming, and highlight the impact of chemistry on society. The focus will be on major global challenges and the important contributions the chemical sciences make toward addressing these challenges. The scientific programme features seven main themes, each with sev-

eral contributing symposia, and will include plenary, keynote, and guest lecturers, talks and poster sessions. The Congress is being organised by the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh, German Chemical Society), which will also provide local support.

Young scientists, in particular graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, are very much encouraged to participate in the Congress and seize this unique opportunity for networking and cooperation.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> EuCheMS Chemistry Congress is Europe's chemistry highlight in 2010. I encourage you all to join in this unique event and look forward to welcoming you in Nürnberg!



Luis Oro  
EuCheMS President

It is our privilege and pleasure to cordially invite you to the 3<sup>rd</sup> EuCheMS Chemistry Congress. With Budapest in 2006 and Turin in 2008, these biennial Congresses are now well established as Europe's largest and most prominent chemistry showcase. With the slogan "Chemistry – The Creative Force" we emphasise the central role of basic and applied chemical research. We stress the impact of chemical research on the innovations and technologies that serve economic growth in a healthy global society.

Seven main themes, with three or four symposia each, form the core of the Congress: Innovative Materials; Resources and Environment; Supramolecular Systems; Catalysis; Molecular Life Sciences; Analysis, Manipulation, and Simulation; Advances in Organic and Inorganic Chemistry. The Congress constitutes an excellent opportunity to learn about trends and future prospects for the chemical sciences. It includes an exhibi-

tion at which companies, research institutions, and scientific organisations present their activities – networking at its best.

Nürnberg, at the heart of Europe, is the economic and cultural centre of northern Bavaria, one of the leading high-tech regions in Europe. The city with its medieval flair is simply a joy to visit.

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to all of you and look forward to seeing you at Nürnberg 2010!



François Diederich  
Chair of the  
Scientific Committee



Andreas Hirsch  
Co-Chair of the  
Scientific Committee

## From experiment to successful tradition

The idea of a large European chemistry conference was under discussion for many years. The concept was a congress to cover all aspects of chemistry, serve as a showcase for European chemistry and provide a central meeting place for colleagues throughout Europe and overseas. This concept began to be realised when the Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS) was transformed into EuCheMS, with strategic goals for strengthening European chemistry included on the agenda of the new organisation.

Hosting the first Congress was an experiment with the unknown, and as with all experiments, the outcome was unforeseeable. In the end, the Hungarian Chemical Society volunteered and hosted the first Congress in Budapest in 2006. The success of this first event surprised even the optimists: more than 2500 participants showed clearly that the time was long since ripe for a genuine European Chemistry Congress. Two years later the second Congress was hosted by the Società Chimica Italiana in Turin. Under the slogan „Chemistry: The Global Science“, more than 2000 chemists gathered at the Lingotto Conference Center, proving the Budapest success not to be a mere one-time phenomenon.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Nürnberg, "Chemistry: The Creative Force", the theme of this Newsletter, is soon to take place, and we have every reason to believe that the Congress success story will continue. In the beginning it was not easy to find EuCheMS member organisations willing to host the Congress, but this has completely changed. Several chemical societies bid to host the next two Congresses in 2012 and 2014, and only after presentations and a vote in the EuCheMS Executive Committee were Prague (2012) and Istanbul (2014) selected as future venues. And thus an ambitious experiment evolves into a successful tradition in European chemistry!

Wolfram Koch  
Executive Director GDCh



The European Association  
for Chemical and Molecular  
Sciences

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## Join in the Career Days

Young chemists, companies and research institutes are all invited to join in the EuCheMS Career Days. The Career Days are organised by the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN) and the Career Service of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh, German Chemical Society). They are open to all registered participants in the EuCheMS Congress. The Career Days begin Monday afternoon with an information event about research grants. Several funding organisations will present their programmes to support young scientists.

On Tuesday, potential employers and employees will have a chance to meet at the JobFair. Big name companies and distinguished research institutes will be at hand to answer questions about getting started and pursuing a career. Representatives of firms will give brief presentations of their companies and the career prospects they have to offer. Current job offerings at various companies and research institutes will be posted on bulletin boards. Several talks will take up the subject of employment and career. The CV clinic gives applicants a chance to have their English CVs checked by native speakers.

In order to prepare for career networking at the Congress, participating companies and research institutes can access the applications-in-brief of participants who have listed their profiles in a database in advance of the Congress. Representatives from companies and institutes can then schedule meetings with applicants to take place during the EuCheMS Chemistry Congress.

Karin Schmitz  
[www.gdch.de/careerdays](http://www.gdch.de/careerdays)



Venue of the Career Days: the Nürnberg Congress Center. (photo: NürnbergMesse)

## Top speakers whet your appetite

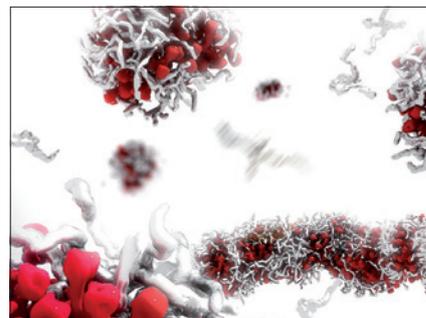
Thanks to positive resonance to the 2006 and 2008 Congresses in Budapest and Turin and the distinguished curriculum vitae of the scientific committee, we shall be enjoying an impressive panel of top speakers in Nürnberg. While the seven main topics give us a general idea of what to expect, a closer look at the Congress schedule will reveal high-level events throughout the entire four days, with special symposia organised by the EuCheMS divisions to delve even deeper into various sub-disciplines. Each of the seven main topics will be introduced by an eminent plenary speaker. Every main topic will host three or four symposia, with a total of 486 oral presentations, plus the special symposia plus an extensive poster session. Thus the plenary lectures represent only a small part of the overall programme, which will read like a virtual “who's who” of current-day chemistry.

For **Innovative Materials**, Klaus Müllen, director of the department for synthetic chemistry at the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz, will present new functional nanoparticles – based, for instance, on proteins or graphene molecules – that offer a broad range of applications such as gene transfection, catalysis, energy storage or sensing technologies.

Barbara Imperiali from the department of Chemistry and Biology at MIT will set the stage for **Molecular Life Sciences**. She will introduce multidisciplinary initiatives focusing on the development of probes for the study of complex biological systems.

**Supramolecular Chemistry** is headed by Bert Meijer from the Department for Molecular Science & Technology at the Eindhoven University of Technology. In his plenary lecture, he will discuss such questions as how far synthetic chemists can push self-assembly and how to gain control over the kinetic instabilities of the non-covalent structures made.

**Advances in Organic and Inorganic Chemistry**: Plenary speaker Lechoslaw Latos-Grazynski, head of Porphyrin Chemistry Re-



Picture: TU Eindhoven

*Supramolecular chemistry and self-assembly are headed by plenary speaker Bert Meijer.*

search at the University of Wrocław, will touch on aromaticity. By altering porphyrinoids, he creates structures that exhibit controlled switching between Möbius and Hückel  $p$ -delocalization modes.

**Analysis, Manipulation and Simulation**: Joshua Jortner of Tel Aviv University will focus on finite systems under extreme energetic and temporal conditions, thus transcending chemical dynamics in the direction of a driving of nuclear reactions in the form of table-top nuclear fusion and nucleosynthesis that is of astrophysical interest.

**Catalysis**, a key technology for the 21st century, is introduced by Hans-Joachim Freund, head of the chemical physics department at Fritz Haber Institute in Berlin. In an effort to understand the principles of the acceleration of chemical processes, he has increased the complexity of model systems towards supported nanoparticles resembling a real disperse metal catalyst.

**Resources and Environment** will be the forum for debate of scientific developments to cope with problems such as climate change and food supply. Michael Grätzel, head of the Laboratory of Photonics and Interfaces of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, will speak about his low-cost thin-film solar cell. These Grätzel cells will promote the acceptance of renewable energy technologies.

Gerhard Karger  
[www.euchems-congress2010.org/scientific.htm](http://www.euchems-congress2010.org/scientific.htm)

## Congress Concert and Party

The gala opening of the Congress takes place on Sunday 29 August. On Monday 30 August the scientific programme itself begins. By the end of that first exciting day, you will surely have discovered much that is new to you. Let it all sink in while you enjoy an evening on Sebalder Platz in downtown Nürnberg, where the Congress Concert will be held at St. Sebald, the unusually beautiful 750-year-old cathedral with its splendid organ. The event starts at 20:00 and lasts about an hour. Tickets cost only 10 Euro.

On Wednesday 1 September, the conference will move to an unusual setting: the VIP area of the easyCredit-Stadion (stadium) in Nürnberg, formerly the Frankenstadion, one of the Fifa world cup 2006 venues. The players' entrance of the stadium is open to Congress party-goers for the "C<sub>60</sub>-Party: Chemistry meets Soccer" starting at 19:00. There will be a champagne reception and, later on, a buffet with typical Franconian cuisine and international food.



Photo: Stadion Nürnberg

The easyCredit stadium.



Logo: Benjamin Gebhardt

Entertainment will include "human tabletop football" and goal-shooting. Music lovers will appreciate the acoustic trio Red Pack (saxophone, guitar, bass, vocals), which will explore the history of pop and jazz music and will also play requests à la carte. Then there are the chemical experiments transmitted to the stadium video screen. And a special chemical late-night surprise! (Hint... it has to do with molecules... wait and see!)

At the all-inclusive price for the whole evening of only 48 Euro for students or 58 Euro for regular participants, this is a real bargain in pleasure and entertainment!

Barbara Köhler, Gerhard Karger  
[www.euchems-congress2010.org/social.htm](http://www.euchems-congress2010.org/social.htm)

## Notable sponsors and supporters

At the end of 2008, when financial markets collapsed, a new ghost emerged to haunt Europe: financial crisis. Now, a year-and-a-half later, we still feel the impact of the crisis and its aftermath. Nevertheless, it was this crisis that convinced industry of the value of scientific congresses like the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress – especially in times of crisis. A proven sponsoring concept and the flexibility for tailor-made solutions have resulted in a list of notable sponsors, such as BASF, Wiley-VCH, Evonik and Roche (for a full list, please visit web-

site). The Congress also enjoys the support of companies like Bayer and Wacker and institutions like the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie (FCI). Finally, the media – *Nachrichten aus der Chemie*, *academics.de*, *CHEManager*, among others – have successfully convinced both familiar and new partners of the benefits of the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress.

David Eckensberger  
[www.euchems-congress2010.org/sponsexhib.htm](http://www.euchems-congress2010.org/sponsexhib.htm)

## Awards to be presented in Nürnberg

The **European Sustainable Chemistry Award**, endowed to the amount of 10 000 Euro, was recently launched by EuCheMS to raise the profile of sustainable chemistry and spur innovation and competitiveness. It will be presented at the opening ceremony of the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress on 29 August.

[www.euchems.org/ESCA/index.asp](http://www.euchems.org/ESCA/index.asp)

For the first time in its history the GDCh **August Wilhelm von Hofmann Denkmünze**, a medal of gold, has been awarded to an Asian scientist. In Nürnberg C. N. R. Rao, professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research in Bangalore, India, will receive this award, which the GDCh has created to recognize foreign outstanding scientists.

[www.gdch.de/gdch/eps/preise/awvh\\_dm.htm](http://www.gdch.de/gdch/eps/preise/awvh_dm.htm)

For the third time, the **European Young Chemist Awards** – one gold and two silver medals – will be bestowed upon the prize winners at the Congress closing ceremony on 2 September. These awards, sponsored by the Italian Chemical Society, are intended to highlight the excellent research being conducted by young scientists in the chemical sciences.

[www.scigiovani.it/modules.php?name=EuYoungChemAward2010](http://www.scigiovani.it/modules.php?name=EuYoungChemAward2010)

The **Heinrich Emanuel Merck Award**, in the amount of 15 000 Euro, was donated by Merck, Darmstadt, to promote analytical science. The 10th Heinrich Emanuel Merck Award ceremony will be held in the course of the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress.

[www.merck.de/en/company/innovation/HEM\\_Award.html](http://www.merck.de/en/company/innovation/HEM_Award.html)

The **Reaxys PhD Prize**, donated by the makers of the Reaxys Database, Elsevier, will be awarded for original and innovative research in organic, organometallic and inorganic chemistry. Three prize winners will receive a check for 2000 US-Dollar each and will be invited to present their research at the Winners' Symposium during the EuCheMS Chemistry Congress.

<http://prize.reaxys.com>



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## View the Congress Blog

To keep informed on recent research and news regarding the Congress (travel grants, updates on registration, etc.) please visit our blog. Have a look and leave a comment!

[www.euchems2010.wordpress.com](http://www.euchems2010.wordpress.com)

## Read the Congress Newsletter

A newsletter keeps you informed about the EuCheMS Congress – facts, news and updates. To register for the newsletter please go to [www.euchems-congress2010.org/downloads.htm](http://www.euchems-congress2010.org/downloads.htm)

## Accommodation

Whether you prefer the historic Old Town or the trade fair / airport vicinity, Nürnberg has a hotel to suit your taste and budget. Nürnberg Convention and Tourist Office offers accommodation in a variety of hotels.

[www.euchems-congress2010.org/accommod.htm](http://www.euchems-congress2010.org/accommod.htm)

## Registration

You can register online 24 hours a day. Up to 20 July, standard fees apply: 500 Euro for members of EuCheMS societies, 230 Euro for student members or PhD-candidate members of EuCheMS societies (age limit 35), or 250 Euro for a one-day ticket (members of EuCheMS societies).

[www.euchems-congress2010.org/registration.htm](http://www.euchems-congress2010.org/registration.htm)

## Latest News

Concerning the participation, the congress organisers have reached their first interim target: As of 25 May more than 1450 scientists already registered for the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress. About 1700 abstracts have been submitted, which are to be evaluated by the Scientific Committee, chaired by François Diederich and Andreas Hirsch.



Old Town of Nürnberg. (photo: NürnbergMesse)

# Informing the public: the Congress and chemistry's social impact

Normally a scientific congress about chemistry is of little interest to the general public. But in the case of the EuCheMS Congress not only chemists from all over Europe but the German – and especially the Bavarian – person in the street is to be made aware of this most important European chemistry congress. The public is generally coming to view chemistry more as a trouble-shooter than a trouble-maker. The GDCh is encouraging this trend by informing the media in a series of advance press releases and a press conference at the opening of the Congress not only about scientific highlights but also about the impact of chemistry on human society.

Two special events are to attract public attention in Nürnberg. A barge called the MS Wissenschaft (MV Science) will proceed up the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal to Nürnberg, where it will moor from 1 to 5 September. The ship contains an exhibition and experiments on scientific energy research. That energy research calls for considerable chemical knowledge and expertise is no news to chemists but often comes as a surprise to the public. The ship will offer a good opportunity especially for younger people to learn about the close connection between energy and chemistry. Another mobile source of information for the public will be the Fraunhofer-Truck. On two levels 25 Fraunhofer In-



Inside the ship MS Wissenschaft: experiments on energy research. (photo: Ilja C. Hendel/Wissenschaft im Dialog)

stitutes will present exciting innovations in energy research and a number of interesting exhibits. You may ask why both barge and truck will highlight energy topics. One reason is that the German Minister of Education and Research has declared the "Future of Energy" to be the theme of the Year of Science 2010.

Renate Hoer

[www.wissenschaft-im-dialog.de/projekte/ms-wissenschaft.html](http://www.wissenschaft-im-dialog.de/projekte/ms-wissenschaft.html) (in German)  
[www.fraunhofer.de/en/index.jsp](http://www.fraunhofer.de/en/index.jsp)

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