

General Assembly in Norway

The 2008 EuCheMS General Assembly took place in Stavanger, Norway, from 9 to 10 October. The General Assembly is the annual meeting of Presidents and other representatives of the EuCheMS member societies and delegates from the scientific Divisions. Representatives of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (Treasurer San H. Thang), of IUPAC (President Elect Nicole Moreau), CHEMRAWN (Chairman Leiv Sydnes), the American Chemical Society (President Bruce Bursten) and Associated Organisations of EuCheMS – CEFIC, the European Chemistry Thematic Network and the European Physical Society – played active roles.

In particular, Nicole Moreau spoke about the IUPAC initiative to ask UNESCO and the UN to declare 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry. 2001 will be the centenary of the Nobel prize awarded to Marie Curie, the first woman to receive such an award.

San Thang and Bruce Bursten expressed their enthusiasm in identifying opportunities for their organisations to work with EuCheMS. Giovanni Natile concluded the session devoted to presentations from the partner organisations by emphasizing that although its primary focus is Europe, EuCheMS wishes to be engaged with partner organisations across the world in addressing global issues.

The General Assembly was also the occasion for formally welcoming Annabel Holroyd from the Brussels office of IFOK, the consultancy which will take responsibility to further extend the established reputation of EuCheMS in Brussels.

The significant achievements of the European Young Chemist Network (EYCN), in particular the European Young Chemist Award celebrated during the EuCheMS Congress in Torino, were presented by Helena Laavi, representing the EYCN.

Topical issues were debated during the four Breakout Discussion Groups on “The future face of chemical research and related

funding” led by Dave Garner, “The European Chemist designation: what do member societies want and how can EuCheMS deliver?” led by Pavel Drasar and Sergio Facchetti, “Chemistry and energy: how to effectively follow up the EuCheMS report” led by Richard Pike, and finally “The EuCheMS networking scheme: how can national societies become better integrated within EuCheMS?” led by Franco De Angelis and Gerhard Karger.

At the conclusion of the General Assembly meeting, Giovanni Natile recalled some of the EuCheMS achievements during the three years of his Presidency. After obtaining its legal status and establishing an office in Brussels, EuCheMS appointed a policy consultant to promote its role as provider of chemical science information and policy views at the European level. Several policy issues have been addressed during this three year period, ranging from the energy challenge to the European Research Area.

Progress has also been made in developing science initiatives with the establishment of five new Divisions and Working Parties and the EuCheMS European Young Chemist Network.

In handing over the Presidency, Giovanni Natile recalled Luis Oro’s vision of “Creating a European identity among chemical societies” as a new challenge for the forthcoming three years.

Evelyn McEwan, McEwanE@rsc.org



Reto Battaglia, San Thang, Nicole Moreau, Giovanni Natile, Evelyn McEwan, Luis Oro, Bruce Bursten (from left).



Young chemists meet in Essen

Forging links between young chemists and others (either young or more experienced chemists from various fields, countries, academia or industry) is one important activity of the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN). EYCN aims to organise more events for young chemists. In keeping with this objective, a new project has been introduced to the EYCN agenda: a conference for young chemists where they present their work and learn from their fellow chemists more easily without the boundaries and communication difficulties that a regular conference can induce. The EYCN Conference is designed to take place together with a well established conference for young chemists organised by one of the member young chemist divisions. The 1st EYCN Conference will take place in Essen, Germany, on 11 to 14 March 2009, together with the 11th Spring Symposium of the GDCh Young Chemists Forum.

In addition to the scientific program of the conference, EYCN presents a four hour special satellite event on Saturday, March 14, which focuses on “Science meets business”, and contains topics like: how to write a good CV, how to apply for research or mobility grants, tips regarding preparation for an interview, and how to find the right employer. The presentations will be given by experienced lecturers from public organisations and industry. EYCN aims at expanding its network to new member societies of EuCheMS. The 4th EYCN Delegate Assembly will take place immediately before the conference on 10 to 11 March in Essen. We are looking forward to meeting all young chemists in Essen!

Cristina Todasca, omcris@yahoo.com

Csaba Janáky, janakycsaba@yahoo.com

www.jcf-fruehjahrssymposium.de

www.eycn.eu



The European Association
for Chemical and Molecular
Sciences

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Jirí Barek gave the Heyrovsky-Ilkovic-Nernst-Lecture 2008

Jirí Barek from Charles University in Prague was chosen to deliver the Heyrovsky-Ilkovic-Nernst-Lecture 2008. Barek is head of the Department of Analytical Chemistry and Scientific Secretary of UNESCO Laboratory of Environmental Electrochemistry at Charles University. The Czech, Slovak and German chemical societies initiated the Lecture in 2002 to encourage and foster interaction between research institutions in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany.

Jirí Barek gave three lectures at German universities. The first one on new electrode materials for environmental electroanalysis was presented in Regensburg, followed by a lecture in Rostock on voltammetric and amperometric determination of chemical carcinogens, and a lecture in Dresden on possibilities and limitations of modern electroanalytical techniques.

Discussions followed all three talks and resulted in suggestions to further strengthen existing cooperation in electroanalytical chemistry, namely by signing ERASMUS exchange program agreements for students and staff members of involved Czech and German institutions.

Wolfram Koch and Barbara Koehler from the GDCh headquarter in Frankfurt, Germany, are thanked for their kind support.

Pavel Drašar
Pavel.Drasar@vscht.cz



Otto S. Wolfbeis (right), University of Regensburg, presents the lecture certificate to Jirí Berek from Charles University in Prague.

Science on Stage: Spectacular science lessons

For a few days, Berlin's Urania transformed into a spectacular fair of science teaching and learning that clearly countered the impression of many students that science lessons are generally dull and abstract. From 23 to 26 October 2008, 230 teachers and teacher educators from 21 European countries participated in the Science on Stage Festival under the auspices of the European Commission. The visitors enjoyed science shows, lectures, workshops and tried out experiments themselves.

Many presenters used the combination of daily-life materials with modern research techniques to show the fascination of sciences for all age groups, including some surprising new "technologies" such as the "latex engine", which finally received the audience award. A jury awarded three additional prizes to each of the categories chemistry, physics and biology, donated by the European associations of chemistry (EuChemS), biology (ECBA) and physics (EPS).

The prize for the best chemistry project, the Special Award of EuChemS, was



Chemistry lesson with Harry Potter.
(Photo: W. Gollup, Science on stage)

awarded to Franz Steiger from Kantonschule Luzern in Switzerland. His project "Metals in motion" can be highly recommended to chemistry teachers. The other highlighted projects in chemistry were entitled "Hands-on' experiments to boost motivation and cognition" and "Are non-formal education initiatives always beneficial?".

Ilka Parchmann
ilka.parchmann@uni-oldenburg.de
www.science-on-stage.de

Lectures and lab work: Bristol chemists worked with students

A team of four Bristol chemists worked with over 300 French students in Bobigny and Paris in October 2008. The Bristol ChemLabS Outreach engagement was co-sponsored by the British Council. The students in four schools ranged in age from primary to pre-university, and attended lecture demonstrations and practical workshops appropriate to their age. Lecture demonstrations centred on the chemistry of the atmosphere were given in each of the four schools.

In July 2008, the Bristol-Trinity College Dublin organised a chemistry summer school for more than 60 students from the UK, Malta and Ireland. The 16- and 17-year-old students were engaged in a very full schedule of practical work and lectures. The practical work during two and a half days of lab work included the extraction of caffeine from tea leaves, the

preparation of paracetamol and benzocaine and the analysis of aspirin.

The students had the opportunity to practice a number of techniques such as suction filtration, vacuum distillation and reflux, and also to run infrared spectra, thin layer chromatography plates and melting points. They had the chance to work closely with a large number of postgraduate chemists during the week.

A wide range of lectures were given during the summer school, for example on scanning electron microscopy, the chemistry of toothpaste or extremophile chemistry. Mike Davies-Coleman, the Head of Chemistry at Rhodes University, South Africa, gave a lecture entitled "Sponges, sea squirts and other strange places to look for new medicines".

Tim G. Harrison, t.g.harrison@bristol.ac.uk

Division portrait: Chemistry in Life Sciences

The Division of Chemistry in Life Sciences was established in October 2005, after a few years of preliminary activity as a Discussion Group. The Division currently has delegates from 22 national member societies of EuCheMS, and is chaired by Ivano Bertini, University of Florence. Henryk Kozłowski, University of Wrocław, will take office on 1 January 2009.

The Division aims at inspiring and coordinating the scientific activities in Life Sciences. It has established a tradition in conference and school organisation, in particular giving rise to the biennial meetings of the Division, the European Conferences on Chemistry for Life Sciences.

The 3rd European Conference on Chemistry for Life Sciences (ECCLS) will be held in Frankfurt, Germany, on 2 to 5 September 2009 following the GDCh conference "Chemistry for a better life" from 30 August to 2 September in Frankfurt. This conference is an activity of the EuCheMS Discussion Group in Chemistry for Life Sciences



and the Biochemistry Division of the GDCh. With the motto "Linking chemistry with biological activity" it will focus on understanding and exploiting the molecular mechanisms of life. The conference is the third in a series – after Rimini (2005) and Wrocław (2007) – and intends to bring together scientists in biochemistry and other related disciplines from Europe and all over the world. Today, biochemistry is a highly interdisciplinary field with links to physics, biology, medicine and analytical chemistry and the conference programme will reflect the scientific progress in a wide area.

Paola Turano, Arne Skerra
<http://clsc.stud.wchuwr.pl>
www.gdch.de/3ecclsc
www.euchems.org/Divisions

Organic chemistry events

In September 2008, the EuCheMS Division of Organic Chemistry convened a popular Organic Catalysis symposium at the EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Torino. Under the sponsorship of the RSC journal *Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry*, poster prizes were awarded to Lee Challinor of Imperial College London and Matthias Welker of the University of Nottingham. The Division is already involved in preparations for the 2010 Congress in Nuremberg and anticipates Prague in 2012.

Organic chemistry in Europe has a long tradition of conferences, workshops, and schools, which predates the Division and EuCheMS in general. The Division sponsors a select subset of these events and thereby expands the scope of EuCheMS associated events on organic chemistry. Events in 2009 include:

- Winter School on Physical Organic Chemistry (WISPOC), 1 to 9 February in Bressanone, Italy
 - EuCheMS Conference on Stereochemistry (Buergenstock Meeting), 17 to 22 May in Brunnen, Switzerland
 - European Symposium on Organic Chemistry (ESOC), 12 to 16 July in Prague, Czech Republic
 - European Symposium on Organic Reactivity (ESOR), 6 to 11 September in Haifa, Israel
- Broad participation by young Europeans is important. To bolster this, the Organic Division plans a special workshop for young independent investigators in Liblice, Czech Republic, in association with ESOC 2009.

Jay Siegel, jss@oci.uzh.ch
www.euchems.org/Divisions

Summit of central Europe chemical societies

The presidents of seven chemical societies (Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia) met at the Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic, on 31 August to 1 September 2008. This second meeting followed the first summit three years ago and was aimed at evaluating the chemical societies' activities and to discuss the further expansion of cooperation in Central Europe.

The presidents stressed that chemical societies are the place to combine science, education, industry and governmental bodies to lead through cooperation to renovation. All societies focus on the support of student exchange, lectures for younger chemists, bilateral cooperation, membership in international organisations (EuCheMS, ECTN, IUPAC), organising of conferences etc.

It was further pointed out that activities in science, R&D and education might benefit by close cooperation with industry. An excellent example was presented by Klaus R. Bischoff from Merck, Germany, who showed his company's collaboration with universities world-wide as a very efficient win-win situation.

The national chemical journals are fundamental to the flow of information, both within societies and for the external public. There was general acceptance for using the national language for publication. Financial resources are a severe problem for these journals, and these require both more sponsorship and adoption of E-versions.

The presidents also discussed the role of national chemical societies in the European quality labels Eurobachelor, Euromaster, and EurChem. All three were regarded as aiming to retain and standardize the education level and further development in the face of a general decline in knowledge levels. Discussion also touched on the popularization of chemistry. Major tasks for the International Year of Chemistry in 2011 would be involvement of government in primary and secondary education, popularization of chemistry, training of school teachers and Chemistry Olympics.

Františka Pavlíková
frantiska.pavlikova@camyanpharma.cz



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Stockholm



photo: Friedberg, fotolia

EuCheMS ICCE 2009

The 12th EuCheMS International Conference on Chemicals and the Environment (ICCE) will be held in Stockholm on 14 to 17 June 2009 with particular emphasis on emerging issues in all areas of science related to chemicals and the environment. The topics will be addressed in a set of separate sessions covering specific chemical issues with an interdisciplinary approach.

Pre-sessions will be held on 14 June, prior to the opening of conference. ICCE 2009 will include sessions on analytical methodology, atmospheric chemistry, sustainable chemistry, inorganic environmental chemistry and organic environmental chemistry, all represented with sessions each day of the conference. In addition single sessions are devoted to chemical environmental toxicology, chemistry in art and monument conservation and in-silico tools in chemical risk assessment.

The ICCE 2009 venue is Stockholm University and the conference will take place just prior to the Swedish Midsummer – the best time in Sweden.

Ulrika Örn, ulrika@chemsoc.se

Åke Bergman, ake.bergman@mk.su.se
www.chemsoc.se/sidor/KK/icce2009.htm

History of Chemistry Conference

The EuCheMS Working Party on the History of Chemistry will hold its biennial History of Chemistry Conference in Sopron (Hungary) on 2 to 5 August 2009. The conference will focus on the uses of chemistry (and alchemy), which covers both the practical uses and the cultural consumption of chemistry. The conference is organised by the Working Party and the Hungarian Chemical Society. It is aimed at facilitating communication between historically interested chemists and historians of chemistry from all over Europe.

Agota Toth, atoth@chem.u-szeged.hu

Events

11 – 14 March 2009, Essen, Germany

JCF Spring Symposium 2009 and EYCN Satellite Event
www.jcf-fruehjahrssymposium.de/2009

13 – 15 May 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

6th Chemical Reactions in Foods,
www.carolina.cz/crfvi

17 – 22 May 2009, Brunnen, Switzerland

EUCHEM Conference on Stereochemistry (Buergenstock Conference)
www.stereochemistry-buergenstock.ch

14 – 17 June 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

12th International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment
www.chemsoc.se/sidor/KK/icce2009.htm

22 – 25 June 2009, Göteborg, Sweden

XVIII EuCheMS Conference on Organometallic Chemistry
www.chemsoc.se/sidor/KK/comc18/index.htm

5 – 8 July 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

EuroFoodChem XV: Food for the Future
www.eurofoodchemxv.life.ku.dk

12 – 16 July 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

European Symposium on Organic Chemistry (ESOC)
www.esoc2009.com

2 – 5 August 2009, Sopron, Hungary

7th International Conference on the History of Chemistry, www.chemhist2009.mke.org.hu/

2 – 7 August 2009, Glasgow, UK

IUPAC Congress – Chemistry Solutions
www.iupac2009.org

1 – 4 September 2009, Como, Italy

Italic 5 – Science & Technology of Biomasses: Advances and Challenges from forest and agricultural biomasses to high added value products processes and materials.

3 – 5 September 2009, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

3rd European Conference on Chemistry in Life Sciences, www.gdch.de/3ecclsc

6 – 10 September 2009, Innsbruck, Austria

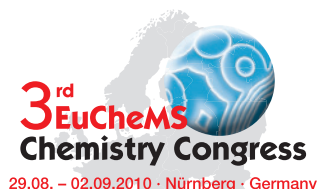
EuroAnalysis 2009, www.euroanalysis2009.at

6 – 11 September 2009, Haifa, Israel

European Symposium on Organic Reactivity (ESOR)
www.congress.co.il/esor09

See you in Nuremberg!

While the 2nd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Torino was still in full swing, marketing activities for the consecutive Congress in Nuremberg 2010 were already well under way: GDCh staff and members of the GDCh Young Chemists Forum were busily distributing leaflets and cards for a prize draw with the chance to win one of five free tickets for Nuremberg. In the course of the closing ceremony, GDCh's Holger Bengts put the audience in the right mood for the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Con-



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www.euchems-congress2010.org

gress by giving an outline of the scientific programme and presenting touristic highlights in Nuremberg and the Nuremberg area.

Gerhard Karger, g.karger@gdch.de
www.euchems-congress2010.org

EuCheMS Newsletter

Newsletter coordinator: Karin Schmitz

Please send all correspondence and manuscripts to k.schmitz@gdch.de

Editors: Wolfram Koch (responsible), Uta Neubauer, Frankfurt am Main

Advisory board: Reto Battaglia (Switzerland), Claudine Buess Herman (Belgium), Pavel Drasar (Czech Republic), Roger Fenwick (UK), Philippe Garrigues (France), Wolfram Koch (Germany), Minos Leontidis (Cyprus), Evelyn McEwan (EuCheMS Secretariat) and Giovanni Natile (Italy).

Layout: Jürgen Bugler, Frankfurt am Main

Production: *Nachrichten aus der Chemie*

Publisher: Gesellschaft Deutscher

Chemiker on behalf of EuCheMS
 Postfach 900440, D-60444 Frankfurt am Main
euchems@gdch.de

EuCheMS General Secretary:

Evelyn McEwan, c/o RSC, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BA, UK
secretariat@euchems.org
www.euchems.org

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AISBL-Registered office: Avenue E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4, B-1160 Brussels

