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Division of
Analytical Sciences

Conference Report

CHanalysis 2013

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Abstract: Two PhD students reflect on their experience and impressions of the latest CHanalysis 2013 conference, held at Beatenberg this past November.

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With the attendance of approximately 50 individuals from academia and industry, comprising of both novice and highly experienced researchers along with representatives of instrument manufacturers and the pharmaceutical industry, CHanalysis 2013 provided a great opportunity to meet people of diverse backgrounds, all with one common interest – the advancement of analytical sciences. Due to the relatively modest number of attendees, over a two-day period all participants had an opportunity to meet one another in an informal atmosphere. An evening plenary discussion featuring a panel of prominent speakers provided interesting insight into the future development of the field of analytical sciences as well as an evaluation of approaches that would enable fruitful collaborations between researchers in industry and academia.

Despite lasting only two days, the poster session and the three oral sections (focusing on imaging, characterization of nanomaterials and bioanalytics) provided a good overview of recent developments in various analytical fields. Although many presentations involved mass spectrometry-based analysis, included were investigations using fluorescence sensors and resonant X-ray emission spectroscopy, to name just a few. This diverse combination of analytical techniques allowed for interesting discussions for potential comparative studies. There were opportunities to discuss new applications of various developed data processing techniques for enhanced complex mixture analysis, as well as intellectually stimulating conversations that gave rise to new collaborations. By bringing a relatively small group of individuals together in an open setting as provided by CHanalysis, meaningful scientific interactions can take place, fostering new collaborations and inspiring ideas for future work. This important interchange is something that is often lost in larger conference settings and is one of CHanalysis' best strengths.



Konstantin O. Zhurov obtained his MChem in 2011 from the University of Oxford. He is currently completing his PhD in the laboratory of Prof. Y. O. Tsybin at EPFL with focus on crude oil analysis as well as elucidation of fragmentation mechanisms in mass spectrometry.



Theodora J. Stewart obtained her BA in Chemistry from Wellesley College in the USA and MSc in Biogeochemistry and Pollutant Dynamics from ETHZ. She is currently completing her PhD under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Laura Sigg and Dr. Renata Behra at Eawag in the department of Environmental Toxicology. Her work deals with understanding the link between distribution and biological effects of Pb in freshwater biofilms at levels spanning from community to intracellular responses.

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