



# CHEMISTRY in Europe

Newsletter for European Chemistry, published by EuCheMS

Issue #2018 – 2

## EDITORIAL



### Chemistry lessons for a non-chemist

While working at EuCheMS there were two questions people always asked me. “So, you represent chemicals, is that it?”, a question to which I promptly replied, “We represent chemists and chemistry, not chemicals”.

The other common question was “Are you learning a lot about chemistry?”, to which I simply answered, “Not really”.

Even though many brave chemists made great efforts to teach me the basics of the periodic table, covalent bonds, chromatography, or redox, the only things I managed to properly learn were the different fields of chemistry and the fact that chemistry is everywhere. When I first started at EuCheMS and people told me this, I thought it was an exaggeration but after spending just a few minutes with chemists it was clear that they were right.

Nonetheless, looking back at my time with EuCheMS, I have now come to realise that I have learned much more than this from observing chemists and their work.

Teamwork is essential. Researchers always rely on the work of teams, many of them multidisciplinary, this being the only way to properly solve the challenges we face as individuals and as a society. In order to work together, we must be open and transparent to others and their ideas and we have to communicate in a clear and precise manner.

With knowledge comes responsibility. Following several discussions on the issue of ethics in chemistry I have learned that the applications of science must be bound by the limits of ethics. Also, those who have the knowledge within a specific field have the duty to control its quality (e.g. peer-review) and its dissemination, namely through teaching.

Know how to mix things together. There are several agents in the field of the chemical sciences, from academia to industry, chemists from different geographical areas, policy makers with divergent interests, and so on.

Read the full editorial online: <https://bit.ly/2Kb7XyR>

*Bruno Vilela*

*Former EuCheMS Public Affairs Officer*

## FOCUS

### First European Chemistry Gold Medal awarded to Professor Ben Feringa

The very first [European Chemistry Gold Medal](#) has been awarded to Professor Ben Feringa for exceptional achievements in the field of chemistry in Europe.

Professor Feringa, a Dutch chemist who was awarded the 2016 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on the development of molecular machines together with Sir James Fraser Stoddart and Jean-Pierre Sauvage, will be presented with the Gold Medal during the [7th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress](#) in Liverpool this year, where he will also give a plenary lecture.





## POLICY

### Future Framework Programme (FP9): why it matters to you, and why it matters to science

You may well have noticed that over the last few weeks, EuCheMS has increasingly been referring to a certain Multi Financial Framework (MFF) of the European Union, as well as to Framework Programme 9, or FP9. Although this complicated sounding EU jargon may not mean much to you, or to work done in a lab, it is a subject of vital importance to us all.

The MFF will determine the way in which the EU budget is regulated, divided and spent from 2020 onwards – for a minimum of 5 years. The current MFF, covering the period 2014 – 2020, encompasses a whole set of

programmes: transport, energy and IT infrastructure (through the connecting Europe facility), education (Erasmus+), job opportunities for youth (Youth Employment Initiative), competitiveness of Europe's businesses (COSME), and crucially, research and innovation, through the well-known Horizon 2020. To put the value of these funding programmes into perspective, the entire budget for Horizon 2020 is €80 billion in current prices, and €70.2 billion in constant prices.

Our focus on the MFF and FP9 is easy enough to explain: it ultimately boils down to a conversation on where the money will go. And we want to ensure that science, research, and innovation are properly supported, funded and prioritised.

You can read the rest online: <https://bit.ly/2Ke8IMW>

*Alex Schiphorst*

*Science Communication and Policy Officer, EuCheMS*

## RESEARCH

### Professional development for Younger Chemists at the ABCChem conference

The 1<sup>st</sup> Atlantic Basin Chemistry Conference (ABCChem) took place in Cancun, Mexico, between the 23 and 26 of January 2018. Co-organised by chemical societies from across North and South America, Europe, and Africa, as well as with the notable participation of EuCheMS and the ACS (American Chemical Society), this conference provided an opportunity to bring chemists from around the Atlantic Basin area together to share ideas and initiate collaborations on multiple topics related to chemistry. The conference instigated discussions with over 150 oral and poster sessions along four tracks: Chemistry in Biology, Green Chemistry, Materials and Nano Chemistry, and Physical and Analytical Chemistry.

You can read the rest online: <https://bit.ly/2JIVQxG>

*Victor Mougel*

*EYCN Networks Team Leader*

### Interview with Songrui Zhao, winner of the 2017 EUCYS EuCheMS Award: *A Research on Synthesis, Characterization and CO<sub>2</sub> Absorptive Character of Pyridinium-based Ionic Liquids*

Bruno Vilela (**BV**): First of all, I wish to congratulate you for winning EUCYS EuCheMS' award with your project research on synthesis characterisation and CO<sub>2</sub> absorptive character of pyridinium-based ionic liquids. Could you tell me a bit more about how this project began?

Songrui Zhao (**SZ**): When I was about ten, I heard about the Copenhagen Conference and the focus on carbon dioxide. I was curious from that age about how the gas led to political issues and so I increasingly became sensitive to the word 'carbon dioxide'....

You can read the rest online: <https://bit.ly/2JIVQxG>

## MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVES

## March for Science in Germany



On 14 April, several thousand people across some 20 German cities took to the streets to demonstrate for science. Together with the scientific societies of biologists, mathematicians, geologists and physicists, Germany's Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) supported the March for Science 2018. The joint call of the five societies can be found on the website. The societies invited their

more than 130,000 members to attend the March for Science and provided them with pin buttons, displaying the motto: "Science Bridges Cultures".

On one hand, the aim of the five societies was to demonstrate in the name of cosmopolitanism and hospitality. Scientists from the world over, who come to Germany for research and to learn, enrich our universities and research institutions. The second purpose was to emphasise the message that scientific facts are not negotiable as the basis of social discourse. Precise and careful sciences are essential for a modern society and must not be bent to suit populist theories.

You can read the rest online: <https://bit.ly/2Jo3xmN>

*Karin J. Schmitz*

*GDCh. Head of Public Relations Department*

## MEET...



Antonio Echavarren is President of the Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry. He is Group Leader at the Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ).



John Cassidy is President of the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland. He is Assistant Head of the School of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dublin Institute of Technology.



Nausicaa Orlandi, appointed member of the EuChemS Executive Board. She is President of the Consiglio Nazionale dei Chimici, the governmental institution representing Italian professional chemists.



Pekka Joensuu is the new President of the Finnish Chemical Society. He is a university lecturer at the Aalto University in Finland.



Ioannis Katsoyiannis, elected new Chair of the EuChemS Division of Chemistry and the Environment. He is assistant professor at the department of Chemistry of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.



Matthias Urmann is the new President of the German Chemical Society. He is Director External Innovations at Sanofi R&D Germany.



## NOTES

### EuCheMS Award for Service – call for nominations open!

The call for nominating who you believe should be awarded the EuCheMS Award for Service (<https://bit.ly/2HQBsrd>) is now open! Make sure to submit your nomination before 31 May 2018.

*The EuCheMS Award for Service acknowledges outstanding commitment with regard to fostering chemistry in Europe and the goals of EuCheMS. This can range from recognised services to EuCheMS, to activities in governmental, non-governmental or funding organisations, publicity-related activities, and more.*

### A message from the 7<sup>th</sup> EuCheMS Chemistry Congress 2018 sponsors

ACS is a global community of more than 150,000 chemistry professionals and students. The CAS team of highly trained scientists finds, collects and organises all publicly disclosed substance information, creating the world's most valuable collection of content. ACS Publications is a non-profit scholarly publisher of peer-reviewed journals, eBooks, and C&EN.



BASF creates chemistry for a sustainable future. Approximately 115,000 employees work on contributing to the success of customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. BASF's portfolio is organised into five segments: Chemicals, Performance Products, Functional Materials & Solutions, Agricultural Solutions and Oil & Gas.



### Dr Capriotti is awarded the EuCheMS Lecture Award

Doctor Anna Laura Capriotti has been awarded the EuCheMS Lecture Award 2017. Awarded on a yearly basis, the Lecture Award aims to reward the significant achievements of a junior scientist. Moreover, the winner is given the opportunity of giving a lecture at a major EuCheMS event. Dr Capriotti was commended for her significant contributions to the field of analytical chemistry and separation science.

### New law enforcement on data protection – new administrative measures at EuCheMS.

After a two-year transition period, the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) approved on 14 April 2016 will be enforced on 25 May 2018. The regulation, aimed at harmonising the right to data protection and privacy within the EU, provides a comprehensive legal framework for processing personal data. It also addresses the exportation of personal data outside the EU. The GDPR replaces Directive 95/46/EC.

EuCheMS internal management already complies to a high extent with the new standards set by the regulation. A few new measures are currently being implemented so that EuCheMS fully adheres to the GDPR. This includes, amongst others, appointing a Data Protection Officer responsible for data protection matters at EuCheMS, drafting the data register - a book of procedures related to data treatment...

You can read more online: <https://bit.ly/2HZ70Jg>

Marta Kucza  
 EuCheMS Administrative Assistant

## CALENDAR

### Bunsentagung 2018 – 117<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry

10 – 12 May 2018

Hannover, Germany

Website: <http://bit.ly/2HmGlif>

### SETAC 2018: Session on substitution of hazardous chemicals

13 – 17 May

Rome, Italy

Website: <https://rome.setac.org/>

### 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Synthesis and Applications of Isotopes and Isotopically Labelled Compounds

4 – 7 June

Prague, Czech Republic

Website: <http://www.iis-prague2018.cz/>

### “Attilio Corbella” International Summer School on Organic Synthesis (ISOS 2018)

10 – 14 June

Gargnano, Italy

Website: <http://corbellasummerschool.unimi.it/>

### The International Symposium on Inorganic and Environmental Materials 2018 (ISIEM2018)

17 – 26 June

Ghent, Belgium

Website: <http://www.isiem2018.org/>

### 7<sup>th</sup> EuCheMS Chemistry Congress

26 – 30 August

Liverpool, UK

Website: <https://www.euchems2018.org/>

### EuCheMS 2018 General Assembly, Liverpool:

Friday 24 August 2018:

12:00 – 18:00 – Executive Board Meeting (for Executive Board Members only)

Saturday 25 August 2018:

09:00 – 12:00 – Executive Board Meeting (for Executive Board Members only)

14:00 – 18:00 – General Assembly (closed session)

Sunday 26 August 2018:

09:00 – 10:00 – General Assembly (open session)

10:30 – 12:30 – Chairs of Professional Networks Meeting

## FUNNY



## COLOPHON

**Chemistry in Europe (CiE)** is the EuCheMS quarterly newsletter mainly intended for an audience of chemists. Its objective is to inform the community about research in Europe, to provide updates from EuCheMS Member Organisations, and to investigate the latest policy-related developments.

### Editorial Board:

David Cole-Hamilton, Willem de Lange, Pavel Drašar, Pilar Goya, Nineta Hrastelj (Chair), Marta Kucza, Torsten John, Alex Schiphorst (Coordinator), Karin Schmitz, Cristina Todasca.

### Communication Advisors

Jon Edwards  
Adam Brownsell

### Copyright Notice

Chemistry in Europe is published by EuCheMS under a Creative Commons license. EuCheMS permits others to copy, distribute or display this content if EuCheMS is referred as its sources.

**7<sup>th</sup> EuCheMS**  
Chemistry Congress

ACC LIVERPOOL, UK  
26–30 August 2018



Molecular frontiers and global challenges