



EuCheMS

NEWSLETTER

February 2010

EuCheMS General Assembly in Interlaken

Luis Oro, EuCheMS President, chaired the 2009 EuCheMS General Assembly hosted by the Swiss Chemical Society in Interlaken on 15 to 16 October, bringing together the Presidents and other representatives of the EuCheMS member societies and delegates from the scientific Divisions. Representatives of the Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (Treasurer Yonas Chebude), IUPAC (President Elect Nicole Moreau), the American Chemical Society (President Tom Lane) and associated organisations of EuCheMS – CEFIC, ECTN, CERC3, COST Chemistry, FECCIA, the European Physical Society – also made valuable contributions to the debates. Particularly appreciated were the presentations by Nicole Moreau on the plans for the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) 2011, Tom Lane on the resurgence of science in the United States, Yonas Chebude on the Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (see page 3) and Georg Frater on chemistry in Switzerland.

The significant achievements of the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN) were presented by Sergej Toews, Chair of the EYCN, a key role of which is to develop relations between young chemists and industry.

Topical issues were debated during breakout discussions on *European Chemistry Research and Funding* led by Dave Garner and Peter Kündig, *Sustainable Chemistry Education* led by Ilka Parchmann and Richard Pike, *IYC 2011* led by Igor Tkatchenko and Wolfram Koch, and *Enhancing recognition of EuCheMS* led by Franco de Angelis and Sergio Facchetti.

To promote more effective governance, the EuCheMS constitution will be amended to provide a smaller Executive Board. Morten Bjerrum, Henryk Koroniak, Viktor Milata and Jay Siegel will serve as members of the Board, having been elected following nomination by their member societies, and Fran-



At the General Assembly: Georg Frater, Luis Oro, Nicole Moreau, Yonas Chebude, Evelyn McEwan and Tom Lane (from left).

code Angelis will be Treasurer (see page 3).

At the conclusion of the General Assembly, Luis Oro recalled some of the significant EuCheMS achievements during the first year of his Presidency. He expressed his confidence in the increasing efforts of the Divisions, Working Parties and member societies in supporting EuCheMS in undertaking new effective actions. Whilst acknowledging that EuCheMS has come a long way in a short time as European association, he stressed the value of taking a strategic approach to future development. He highlighted progress in achieving key objectives aimed at

- strengthening the EuCheMS science base
- building a sustainable policy development activity
- encouraging professional development and networking
- promoting effective partnerships
- enhancing communication and recognition
- improving decision making in governance and finance.

Finally, Luis Oro thanked the Swiss Chemical Society for its generous hospitality.

Evelyn McEwan, McEwanE@rsc.org

Second global Helsinki Chemicals Forum

The second global Helsinki Chemicals Forum will be held on 20 to 21 May 2010. The Forum is inviting national and international authorities, companies and industry associations, international organisations, non-governmental bodies, human interest groups, and academia for an open dialogue to find and contribute to sustainable solutions for environmental problems and consumer concerns.

"The European Chemicals Agency (Echa) is delighted to be an active partner in the Helsinki Chemicals Forum," says Geert Dancet, Executive Director of the Agency states. "The Reach and Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulations will ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment from chemical substances across Europe – Echa and companies across Europe and beyond are working towards that right now. 2010 is a very important and busy year for us all as we prepare for two big deadlines – the registration of chemicals before 1 December 2010, and the notifications for classification and labelling one month later." The Echa's 4th Stakeholders' Day will take place the day before.

In 2010 the Helsinki Chemicals Forum will focus on four new, challenging themes related to chemicals policy and chemistry as a science:

- chemical regulation – global challenges
- chemical policies – emerging economies
- competitiveness – financial constraints
- green chemistry – solution provider?

The keynote speakers of the event are President Martti Ahtisaari, the 2008 Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and Paul J. Crutzen, the 1995 Winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

The Helsinki Chemicals Forum is being organised by the Chemicals Forum Association in co-operation with the European Commission, the European Chemicals Agency, the Finnish Government and partners, including the City of Helsinki, Greater Helsinki Promotion, the Chemical Industry Federation of Finland, and the University of Helsinki.

www.helsinkichemforum.eu



The European Association
for Chemical and Molecular
Sciences

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In memoriam Norman E. Borlaug

The plant scientist Norman Ernest Borlaug died on 10 September 2009, aged 95. He did more than anyone else in the 20th century to teach the world to feed itself. His work was credited with saving hundreds of millions of lives. He was widely described as the father of the broad agricultural movement called the Green Revolution. Borlaug's advances in plant breeding led to spectacular success in increasing food production in Latin America and Asia and brought him international acclaim. In 1970, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

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New element Copernicium

A joint IUPAC/IUPAP Working Party (IWP) has confirmed the discovery of the element with atomic number 112 and this by the collaboration of Sigurd Hofmann and his team from the GSI Center for Heavy Ion Research in Darmstadt, Germany. In accord with IUPAC procedures, the discoverers proposed a name, Copernicium, and symbol, Cn, for the element. This proposal lies within the long tradition of naming elements to honour famous men of science. The work of Nicolaus Copernicus (1473 to 1543) has been of exceptional influence on the philosophical and political thinking of mankind and on the rise of modern science based on experimental results. The Inorganic Chemistry Division recommended this proposal for acceptance.

<http://old.iupac.org>



Sigurd Hofmann from the GSI Center for Heavy Ion Research. (Photo: G. Otto, GSI)

Euroanalysis 2009 in Innsbruck

Euroanalysis has become one of the most important broad-spectrum analytical conferences covering all aspects of analytical sciences. It is held every two years in different European countries and is organised under the auspices of the EuCheMS Division of Analytical Chemistry (DAC). In September 2009 this conference was organised in Innsbruck by the Austrian Society of Analytical Chemistry (ASAC) with Wolfgang Buchberger and Wolfgang Lindner as chairmen.

The number of participants, about 700 analytical chemists from 53 countries, was as high as in previous conferences. Under the motto "The impact of Analytical Chemistry on Quality of Life", 130 lectures and 640 poster presentations resulted in a very attractive program which demonstrated the broad diversity of analytical sciences.

Euroanalysis 2009 was also selected as the perfect stage to honour scientists with ASAC's most prestigious awards. The Pregl Medal was awarded to Friedrich Lottspeich (Max-Planck-Institute of Biochemistry, Martinsried, Germany), and the Emich Plaque to Harald Fuchs (University Muenster, Germa-



Winners of the poster awards with the poster jury, chairpersons and sponsor.

ny). Furthermore, Wolfgang Lindner was presented with the Martin Gold Medal of the Chromatographic Society.

The Robert Kellner Lecture Award established by the EuCheMS Division of Analytical Chemistry and sponsored by Springer-Heidelberg in memory of the achievements of Robert Kellner was received by Boris Mizai-koff (University Ulm, Germany).

The preparations for Euroanalysis 2011 in Belgrade (Serbia) have already started in order to continue this successful series of conferences.

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Portrait: The Polish Chemical Society

The Polish Chemical Society was founded in 1919 after Poland regained independence. The first president was Leon Marchlewski, Professor of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. From 1921 the journal *Roczniki Chemii* was the organ of the Society, but in 1978 changed to English, becoming the *Polish Journal of Chemistry*. The journal was published until 2009 with an interruption during the war years 1939 to 1945.

During World War II any activity of the Society was forbidden by the occupying forces. Polish chemists took part in underground actions, mainly in underground teaching at universities. After the war 13 new local Departments and 30 specialized Sections began their work. To date 52 General Meetings of Polish chemists have been organised (in-

cluding four prewar meetings). The Society publishes articles in a monthly *Chemical News* and bimonthly in *Orbital*, the organisation news. The Society is a co-editor of the journal *Chemia Analityczna – Chemical Analysis*. The Lodz Department edits an internet issue on www.ptchem.lodz.pl and an international bulletin sent to other Societies. The Society is a coowner of *Chemistry - A European Journal*, *Physical Chemistry*, *Chemical Physics* and *ChemBioChem*. In 2010 the Society will take part in the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry* and *European Journal of Organic Chemistry*. The Polish Chemical Society is a EuCheMS member and has 3 000 members.

Roman Mierzecki, Polish Chemical Society
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New EuCheMS Executive members

The four newly elected members of the EuCheMS Executive and the new treasurer will take office in March.

Franco De Angelis, Past President of the Società Chimica Italiana (SCI), will become EuCheMS Treasurer in March. He has represented the SCI at the EuCheMS General Assembly since 2005 and has served as a member of the EuCheMS Finance and Strategy Committee. Currently Professor at the University of L'Aquila, he is a member of the Professional Order of Chemists (Italy) and represents the SCI on the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association.



Morten Bjerrum is Past President of the Danish Chemical Society, during which time he represented the Society at meetings of the EuCheMS General Assembly. Currently Professor in Bioinorganic Chemistry at the University of Copenhagen, he has also been a delegate to the EuCheMS Division of Chemistry in Life Sciences and a member of the Danish National Committee for Chemistry.



Henryk Koroniak is a member of the Polish Chemical Society and of the Council of Sciences at the Ministry of Science and



Higher Education, having previously served as an elected member of the Polish State Committee for Scientific Research. He is also a member of the Committee of Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences. Currently Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, he is also President of the European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN).

Viktor Milata is a member and Past President of the Slovak Chemical Society and a member of the Czech Chemical Society. He has represented the Society at the EuCheMS General Assembly. Currently Professor at the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology, Slovak Technical University, he is also a member of the EuCheMS Working Party on Green and Sustainable Chemistry.



Jay Siegel is a member of the Swiss Chemical Society and, as the Chair of the EuCheMS Division of Organic Chemistry, he is currently an *ex officio* member of the EuCheMS Executive. He is Professor and co-Director of the Organic Chemistry Institute, University of Zurich. He chairs the European Research Council PE5 Panel for Young Investigator Grants and is a member of the Swiss Academy of Sciences.



The Federation of African Societies of Chemistry

The Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (FASC) was established in 2006 with the aim of advancing the chemical sciences in Africa. It promotes networking among African chemical societies and with sister international and regional societies, as well as seeking involvement in international and regional initiatives that promote sustainable development in Africa.

FASC is pleased to have played a major role in securing the designation of 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry (IYC), putting the proclamation through the Unesco Executive Board and the UN General Assembly. FASC is now encouraging mem-

ber chemical societies across Africa to propose activities to celebrate IYC in their respective countries. The third FASC Congress will be held in January 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa, with the aim of generating enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry, key to Africa's future.

FASC also participated in launching the Pan African Chemistry Network (PACN), an RSC initiative launched in 2007 with the support of Syngenta and which currently has hubs in Nairobi and Addis Ababa. PACN has provided generous support for FASC.

Yonas Chebude, FASC Treasurer
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2010 European Young Chemist Award

Under the patronage of EuCheMS, the chemical societies of Italy and Germany (SCI and GDCh) and the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN), the 2010 European Young Chemist Award is intended to showcase and recognize the excellent research being carried out by young scientists working in chemical sciences. The award will be presented at the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Nürnberg, Germany and is sponsored by the SCI. The procedure follows in the tradition of the 2006 and 2008 European Young Chemists Awards, held in Budapest and Torino during the European Chemistry Congresses.

A specific call for applying for consideration for this award will be presented soon on www.euchems-congress2010.org.

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GDCh Foundation Prizes: Call for nominations

Applications are invited for the Manecke Scholarship of the Georg Manecke Foundation and the Grohe Prize of the Klaus Grohe Foundation, both administered by the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh). In 2010 the Georg Manecke Foundation will award a Scholarship of 8000 Euro to a doctoral student or postdoctoral scientist, preferably from Central or Eastern Europe. Georg Manecke was one of the pioneers in polymer chemistry. His widow established the Georg Manecke Foundation to support younger scientists working in polymer science. Klaus Grohe developed highly effective antibiotics. He and his wife Eva established the Klaus Grohe Prize for Medicinal Chemistry to be awarded to outstanding young scientists in the field of medicinal chemistry and drug research. Proposals should consist of a letter of support of the nomination (self-nominations are welcome), a curriculum vitae, and a list of publications. Nominations must be submitted to Barbara Köhler (GDCh) by no later than 15 March.

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www.gdch.de/gdch/eps/ausschr/stiftungspreise_2009.htm



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Conference on chemistry for life sciences in Germany

The 3rd European Conference on Chemistry for Life Sciences (ECCLS) under the umbrella of EuCheMS took place in Frankfurt from 2 to 5 September 2009. It was organised by the Division Biochemistry (Chairman Arne Skerra) of the GDCh. Around 280 participants from 25 countries attended the conference, covering ten topics ranging from chemical biology through bioorganic chemistry to structural biology. The format included five plenaries, 48 invited lectures, and 138 posters of which 18 were selected for short presentations.

Discussion centred on the huge potential of chemistry for solving our future needs. The main focus was on health but also aspects of energy and food duly received attention in line with their rising importance. The topics were: chemical biology, molecular recognition and biocatalysis, medicinal chemistry and neurochemistry, analytical biochemistry and proteomics, industrial biochemistry, nucleic acid chemistry, proteins for diagnostics and therapy, bioorganic chemistry, structural biology and glycochemistry.

An abstract book including the whole program is available as electronic PDF file. The posters were of high standard and the audience was enthusiastically present till the end of the conference at Saturday noon, having enjoyed the Frankfurt night on Friday, based on apples from drink to menu. On conclusion of this successful bio-chemical meeting Andras Perczel from Hungary announced that the 4th ECCLS will take place in Budapest from 31 August to 3 September 2011.

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RSC-GDCh Lecture

Alois Fürstner, winner of the Alexander Todd-Hans Krebs Lectureship in chemical sciences 2009, gave his lecture on *Cheap and expensive ways to catalyse C-C bond formation* at a symposium on organometallic compounds and C-C bond formation held at the RSC Chemistry Centre in Burlington House, London, in November. Alois Fürstner is Director of the Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung, Mülheim. eme

Events

14 – 19 March 2010, Bamberg, Germany

EUICHEM 2010 Conference on Molten Salts and Ionic Liquids, <http://events.dechema.de/en/euichem2010>

23 – 25 March 2010, Munich, Germany

Analytica Conference 2010
www.gdch.de/analytica2010

19 – 23 April 2010, Barcelona, Spain

European Energy Conference, www.e2c-2010.org

6 – 10 June 2010, Belgrade, Serbia

Second Regional Symposium on Electrochemistry (South-East), <http://rse-see.net>

7 – 11 June 2010, Stockholm, Sweden

FORMULA VI
www.chemsoc.se/sidor/KK/formulaVI/index.htm

13 – 16 June 2010, Oviedo, Spain

7th International Congress of ANQUE, Integral Water Cycle: Present and Future, www.anque2010.org

20 – 24 June 2010, Budapest, Hungary

Pigments in Food: Chemical, Biological and Technological Aspects, www.foodpigments2010.mke.org.hu

28 June – 2 July 2010, Bologna, Italy

EUICHEM Conference on Organic Free Radicals
www.isof.cnr.it/biofreeradicals/Euichem.html

30 June – 3 July 2010, Ravenna, Italy

Chemistry for Cultural Heritage (CHEMCH)
rocco.mazzeo@unibo.it

4 – 9 July 2010, Crakow, Poland

10th European Conference on Research In Chemistry Education (ECRICE), <http://ecrice2010.ap.krakow.pl>

11 – 16 July 2010, Glasgow, Scotland

Macro2010: 43rd IUPAC World Polymer Congress
www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/Macro2010/

11 – 15 July 2010, Perugia, Italy

International Symposium Perugia, Fluorine Days (PFD 2010), www.perugiafluorinedays.it

29 August – 2 September 2010, Nürnberg, Germany

3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress: Chemistry – the Creative Force, www.euchems-congress2010.org

Nürnberg: Call for Papers

More than 130 hours of lectures – that is what participants of the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Nürnberg 2010 can expect. While seven plenary and 132 invited speakers have already confirmed their participation, online submission for papers is now open. The organisers allow at least 220 oral and more than 1000 poster presentations. All contributions will result in a congress that will engage scientists, build on global partnerships. gk

www.euchems-congress2010.org/abstracts.htm

Sustainable Chemistry Award

Applications are invited for the first Award, a prize of 10000 Euro. Individuals or teams of up to three persons who make significant contributions to sustainable development by applying green and sustainable chemistry are eligible. The Award is designed to recognise innovation that delivers clear improvements in the sustainable production and use of chemicals and chemical products. The deadline for online applications is 15 February 2010. eme

www.euchems.org/ESCA

EuCheMS Newsletter

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