

“Wow” congress at the WOW Convention Center in Istanbul

The Turkish Chemical Society led by Mehmet Mahramanlioglu and supported by the conference organisers headed by Cem Tunçel showed splendid hospitality to the 1200 delegates from 35 countries in five continents at the 5th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress (ECC5) held at the WOW Convention Center in Istanbul from 31st August to 4th September. The congress was exceptionally well organised and we were made to feel extremely welcome in the city where Europe meets Asia and many cultures mix.

We were treated to a positive feast of chemistry put together by the scientific committee under Helena Grennberg (see right). It started with the remarkable revelation that structures of proteins in their natural state can now be measured at the atomic level by electron microscopy. We heard about exquisite control of nanostructure, how CO₂ can be used as a sustainable feedstock to make a range of important chemicals, how spinal cord injuries can potentially be repaired using carbon nanotubes and about the enormous importance of water to every aspect of life, especially food production. We learnt about highly efficient new synthetic methods for a wide variety of important and complicated molecules, the photoinitiation of a number of polymers and how to make designer enzymes by directed evolution. The conference finished with a talk on light emission from molecular assemblies, which included a material where the colour of light emitted changes from yellow to blue on simple grinding – and this was just in the outstanding plenary lectures. There were a series of symposia on all aspects of chemistry and a very well attended programme put on by the European Young Chemists Network (see page 2). Lectures in the Young Chemists' symposium covered also things



Networking in Istanbul.

such as how to prepare a presentation, how to avoid pitfalls in written English – and chocolate. There was also an awards symposium for younger chemists with prizes offered by both Italian Chemical Societies.

In two vibrant poster sessions nearly 800 posters were discussed; about 40 were also presented in flash poster presentations during the themed symposia. Several prizes were awarded as a result of these sessions.

An innovation in this meeting, capitalising on the presence of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (FACS) Executive Board were the Bosphorus Sessions where the opportunity was taken for symposia involving members of the Turkish Chemical Society, FACS and EuCheMS to discuss not only science but also education and organisation. The European Research Council, which funds fundamental research in Europe, gave important information to the participants as did the Joint Research Centres of the European Commission, with whom EuCheMS is developing close ties.

We were also entertained with a social programme which started with a welcoming reception and a performance by “3 Basses” and finished with a sumptuous social dinner in the Flower Passage near Taksim Square. All in all, the 5th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress was a great success and we extend our warmest thanks to our Turkish hosts for their wonderful hospitality.

David Cole-Hamilton, djc@st-andrews.ac.uk

“Very pleased with Istanbul”

The day after the closing ceremony, we find Helena Grennberg, chair of the scientific committee of the 5th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, back at Uppsala University in Sweden.

Helena, how are you today?

I am relaxing and very pleased with the five days. Istanbul was the result of hard work by all involved in setting the stage for the meeting – I appreciated finally meeting all face to face – and generosity from all participants in sharing their science.

Can you give a personal highlight?

Only one? We enjoyed about 800 posters, more than 300 contributed and 80 invited orals in ten parallel tracks. We had ten excellent plenary speakers and a very good presence of participants; my general observation was of nicely filled parallel sessions. And then the awards for top posters given by the divisions and working parties, the coffee breaks, the Turkish Chemical Society welcome with concert and reception, the Career Networking Reception by GDCh career services and the Flower Passage social dinner – impossible to choose!

Task completed, what will you do now?

I have started clearing the Istanbul corner, sorting out what to discard, what might be of interest to Peter Edwards, scientific chair of ECC6, and what I will keep. Excavating the printouts pile will be interesting: mid-August early proofs of the programme booklet, July notes on planning of the sessions, a thick June layer and the wide base of early suggestions. Reporting done, I need to catch up with Uppsala work and, with the luck amulet I got when visiting Istanbul in 2011 still intact, I may start on a new challenge, now in sports. hg/kjs



Mehmet Mahramanlioglu and Helena Grennberg.



Barry Trost (right) received the GDCh August-Wilhelm-von-Hofmann-Denkünze from GDCh President Thomas Geelhaar.

ECC5: Opening ceremony with many renowned scientists

“Istanbul is the literal and geographic symbol for Europe and Asia,” stated EuCheMS President Ulrich Schubert in his welcome address at the opening ceremony of the 5th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress (ECC5). “With participants from Europe, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa the congress also adopts an important bridging function between the respective chemical communities,” he added. Directly after the opening ceremony and the first plenary lecture of the congress given by Nobel laureate Sir Venki Ramakrishnan five eminent scientists were awarded: Luis Oro who served EuCheMS for six years as President Elect, President and Past President received the EuCheMS Award for Service. Walter Leitner and Jürgen Klankermayer from the Institute of Technical and Macromolecular Chemistry at the RWTH Aachen, Germany, received the European Sustainable Chemistry Award. Francesco Sannicolò, Department of Organic and Industrial Chemistry at the University of Milan, was awarded the Raffaele Piria Gold Medal from the Italian Chemical Society, and Barry Trost from Stanford University received the GDCh August-Wilhelm-von-Hofmann-Denkünze for his lifetime achievement in organic and organometallic chemistry. The laudatio was given by Paul Knochel from Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich as video message.

The opening ceremony ended with a humorous concert by the “3 Basses” and was then followed by a welcome reception for all participants on invitation of the Turkish Chemical Society.

Hans-Georg Weinig, h.weinig@gdch.de

Young chemists in Istanbul

This past September, the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN) delivered a full programme of transferable skills specifically designed by and for young chemists during the 5th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Istanbul.

The programme “Creating a successful career” contained lectures about scientific oral and writing skills, personal branding and career development. In addition, workshops on CV design, leadership and research funding in Germany were held. These were extremely well received by the conference participants and by the members of the scientific committee.

Following on from the success story of the 4th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Prague, a social programme including a career networking reception, organised with the career services of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (German Chemical Society), created the ideal opportunity for young chemists to connect with Human Resources managers from different chemical companies such as BASF, Bayer and TCI Europe and publishing houses such as the

Royal Society of Chemistry, Wiley and the American Chemical Society. This was a great opportunity for young chemists to find information on the different options available to chemists. It was particularly enjoyed by the four American young chemists who attended the conference as part of the Young Chemists Crossing Borders exchange programme.

The EYCN programme finished on a high with Luisa De Cola, University of Strasbourg, introducing the fascinating chemistry of chocolate to a full room with, of course, complementary samples of different kinds of chocolates from all over Europe.

Thanks to the continued successes of the EYCN Career Days, the first steps for another edition during the 6th EuCheMS Chemistry Conference in Seville in 2016 have already been taken. For more updates on EYCN projects and pictures of our events in Istanbul, please visit our website (www.eycn.eu) and facebook page (www.facebook.com/eycn.eu).

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Workshop for young chemists in Istanbul: the EYCN programme was again a great success.

Soccer builds bonds between Hungarian chemists

In March 2014, the Hungarian Chemical Society organised the 5th National Indoor Six-a-Side Football Tournament for chemists at the University of Debrecen. Eight teams, five from universities and three from chemical companies, participated in the tournament.

Exciting and spectacular games led to the team of the Tisza Chemical Group winning the first prize for the fifth successive time. At the medal ceremony the participants all agreed to meeting again next year at the same date.

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

New President of the Royal Society of Chemistry

Dominic Tildesley took over as President of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) from Lesley Yellowlees this summer. He is a world-leading expert in large-scale computational modelling and simulation, with a wealth of experience across both academia and industry.

Tildesley is currently Director of the European Center for Atomic and Molecular Computation (CECAM) at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland and co-chair of the UK's e-Infrastructure Leadership Group with the Science Minister.

Tildesley's wide-ranging career has taken him from academic research in the US to lectureships in the UK, to senior positions in research and development at consumer goods giant Unilever, and back to academia at CECAM, where his role is to promote research into applying powerful computational methods.



Dominic Tildesley.

During his time in office, Tildesley intends to apply his academic and industrial experience to expand the Royal Society of Chemistry's support for the chemical sciences industry and to forge stronger collaborations between academia and industry. He also intends to follow firmly in his predecessor's footsteps by continuing to champion diversity in the chemical sciences.

Annika Grandison, RSC, grandisona@rsc.org

The EuCheMS Executive Board

The EuCheMS Newsletter introduces the EuCheMS Executive Board members. This issue goes on with Sergio Facchetti (Italy).

Sergio Facchetti received his chemistry degree at Pavia University, Italy, and specialized in radiochemistry. He served as a European Official at the Joint Research Center in Ispra and was coordinator of many research programmes, including the Isotopic Lead Experiment to determine the automotive lead contribution to lead in human blood and the Seveso incident including dioxin impact on environment and humans. He was also responsible for the Joint Research Center's activities for the Environmental European Agency of Copenhagen. Facchetti has organised diverse congresses, post-master schools on civil protection and Eurocourses. He also founded two divisions of the Italian Chemical Society, of which he acted as vice-president. Since 1968 he has taught at Sassari, Pavia and Milan universities.

Facchetti has been awarded five gold medals and two certificates of appreciation for scientific services from Ghent University and

the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Facchetti's aim as member of the EuCheMS Executive Board is to improve EuCheMS cooperation with member societies and to facilitate the collaboration between chemists from different countries through strengthening the award of the European Chemist (EurChem) designation and the adoption of the professional electronic card.

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Brussels Update (monthly):

www.euchems.eu/news/euchems-brussels-news-update.html

EuCheMS Newsletter (four times a year)

www.euchems.eu/news/euchems-newsletter.html

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New KNCV chairman

Kees de Gooijer was appointed chairman of the Royal Dutch Chemical Society (KNCV) in May 2014. After an MSc degree in Food Science, de Gooijer started to work in the IT sector. From 1988 he worked at Wageningen University (WU). Besides research in the field of animal cell technology, he was responsible for the curriculum of bioprocess engineering. From 1999 he was director of the Educational Institute of Technology and Nutrition of WU. From 2000 until 2003 he was director of the State Institute of Food Safety. After this, he was appointed general director of the Agro-technology and Food Sciences Group of WU Research. Since October 2006 de Gooijer has been Managing Director of Food & Nutrition Delta. Besides all this, he had several positions in boards and advisory committees (B-Basic, Institute for Sustainable Process Technology, Yes Bank in India, AFMnet in Canada, BF3 Ltd, Syntens Noord-Oost, Schuttelaar & Partners Ltd, editorial boards in life sciences). He has been a board member of the Royal Dutch Chemical Society since May 2012. *KNCV*

Chemists on stamps

On the occasion of the XVI Congress of Italian Chemists, held in Reggio Calabria in May, a philatelic exhibition was published. It includes stamps commemorating renowned chemists such as Giulio Natta, Amedeo Avogadro, Justus von Liebig and Antoine Laurent Lavoisier. A special postcard is dedicated to Raffaele Piria born in Scilla in 1814. He is known not only for synthesizing salicylic acid as the raw material for aspirin, but also as the father of Italian chemistry. He was professor at Pisa university. Many renowned chemists came from his laboratory including Stanislao Cannizzaro whose intuitions prompted Dmitri Mendeleev to draw up the periodic table of elements. *SF*



6th Young Investigator's Workshop in Cyprus



Participants from 21 nations.

The 6th Young Investigator's Workshop took place on August 28 to 30 at Larnaca, Cyprus. 24 young investigators from three continents, representing 21 different nations, 22 academic institutions and two chemical companies participated in this international meeting. The event covered a wide spectrum of topics spanning the frontiers of organic chemistry: total synthesis of natural products, organocatalysis, transition metal catalysis, materials, new reactive intermediates, bioorganic and medicinal chemistry, new chemical space and computations.

The caliber of the science and the warm tenor of the interactions made this workshop a unique and exceptional opportunity for emerging leaders of organic chemistry from around the world to create friendships, collaborate, share scientific discoveries, experiences and achievements. The dynamic discussions and the combined achievements of the participants exuded the vibrancy of organic chemistry and revealed emerging new frontiers, creative approaches to challenges and future international scientific leaders.

We deeply thank Nikos Chronakis (University of Cyprus), Savvas Georgiades (University of Cyprus) and Ilan Marek (Technion) for organising the event and hosting the participants. We gratefully acknowledge financial support provided by the Organic Division of EuCheMS, Thieme, Wiley, Boehringer Ingelheim, Janssen, Bruker, eHeterocycles, University of Cyprus and the city of Larnaca.

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Events 2015

14 – 16 May 2015, Bochum, Germany

114th General Assembly of the German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry

www.bunsen.de/en/bunsentagung2015

20 – 22 May 2015, Karlsruhe, Germany

Energy Science Technology Conference 2015

www.est-conference.com/en/home/homepage.jsp

5 – 9 July 2015, Bratislava, Slovakia

21st European Conference on Organometallic

Chemistry, www.eucomcxi.eu

14 – 17 July 2015, Mezzocorona, Italy

In Vino Analytica Scientia 2015

<http://eventi.fmach.it/IVAS2015>

23 – 26 August 2015, Vienna, Austria

15th European Conference on Solid State Chemistry

6 – 10 September 2015, Bordeaux, France

EuroAnalysis 2015, www.euroanalysis2015.com

20 – 24 September 2015, Kalamata, Greece

9th International Conference on Instrumental

Methods of Analysis: Modern Trends and

Applications, www.ima2015.teikal.gr

22 – 25 September 2015, Leipzig, Germany

15th EuCheMS International Conference on

Chemistry and the Environment, www.icce2015.org

14 – 16 October 2015, Madrid, Spain

Euro Food Chem XVIII

www.ictan.csic.es/eurofoodchem2015

Euro Food Chem 2015 in Madrid

Food chemists are invited to attend the Euro Food Chem XVIII, to be held in Madrid, Spain, on 14 to 16 October 2015. The congress is hosted by the EuCheMS Division of Food Chemistry and the Institute of Food Science, Technology and Nutrition in Madrid.

The Euro Food Chem XVIII congress will bring together experts from academia, administration and industries to debate the latest scientific advances in the field of food chemistry. The focus of the conference will be on

- bioactive food constituents and functions,
- functional foods,
- chemical changes

induced by processing and storage,

- risks/benefits evaluation of food components,
- novel and rapid detection techniques for food quality assessment,
- chemistry behind sensorial, flavour and textural properties, as well as
- exploitation of agri-food co-products.

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www.ictan.csic.es/eurofoodchem2015



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