

„ECC5 showcases high-level European chemistry research“

Helena Grennberg is chair of the scientific committee of the 5th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress (ECC5) which will take place in Istanbul in September 2014. She answers questions from the Newsletter team.

The plenary lecturers were recently published at the website. Tell us about them!

At present, we have six congress lecturers, one Turkish Chemical Society lecturer and the EuCheMS lecture award. The most well-known are the Nobel Laureates, Sir Venki Ramakrishnan of Cambridge, UK and Daniel Shechtman of Technion, Israel and Iowa SU, USA. We are particularly pleased to welcome them in 2014, which is the International Year of Crystallography. Both elegantly employ crystallography.

Donald Hilvert from Switzerland has a chemical biology perspective on molecular chemistry. Maurizio Prato from Italy is a pioneer of synthetic chemistry on fullerenes and other carbon nanostructures and their applications also outside the traditional materials area. Luis M. Liz-Marzan from Spain works on nanobioscience. Luisa De Cola from France is merging molecular chemistry with functional materials; she will moreover contribute to the European Young Chemists Network programme with a lecture on chocolate. Yusuf Yagci from Turkey has his main activities within polymer chemistry – synthesis as well as post-synthesis modifications and composites. Finally, Alexander J. B. Zehnder from Canada and Singapore brings the resource usage and societal perspective on in particular water and energy issues.

Most of the confirmed lecturers are active within Europe, in contrast to what has been the case in previous ECCs. Is this intentional?

It was expressed by the EuCheMS Executive Board that the ECC, being a European



Helena Grennberg

congress should showcase high-level chemistry research carried out in Europe. Although this is not mandatory, the excellent suggestions from the EuCheMS Divisions, Working Parties and the scientific committee lead to a quite European shortlist for the plenary lectures.

What is the next step for the scientific committee?

Topic conveners are in place; these are in charge of suggesting and inviting keynote lecturers and will later be in charge of planning their sessions. Moreover, I have invited the Divisions and Working Parties to run poster contests. The next step visible to the community will be to publish the names of the keynote speakers – the so far confirmed are excellent scientists. And of course to open the submission of abstracts.

When can we expect this?

When this Newsletter is published the programme information will be much more detailed than now, and the submission will be open. This will allow a more intense promotion – I hope all readers of the Newsletter will contribute, both in promotion, and of course by active congress participation!

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General Assembly 2013

The EuCheMS General Assembly (GA) 2013 on 23 to 25 October in Budapest was dedicated to important internal matters: a new constitution and elections for president-elect and the Executive Board were key items.

Ulrich Schubert, EuCheMS president, gave a comprehensive overview which emphasized the importance of the new constitution. Policy-related activities were presented by Nineta Majcen, secretary general, who invited representatives of EuCheMS member societies, Divisions and Working Parties to contribute whenever they find a certain policy activity relevant for their research. Livia Simon Sarkadi and Frederique Backaert completed the account of a successful year by presenting activities of EuCheMS Divisions and Working Parties and the European Young Chemists Network.

David Cole-Hamilton (see page 2) was elected as president-elect. The General Assembly elected as new members of the Executive Board: Boguslaw Buszewski, Michael Dröscher (see page 2), Pilar Goya, Ivanka Popovic, Livia Simon Sarkadi and Saskia van der Vies.

Two additional meetings took place in Budapest: the Executive Board meeting and the meeting of chairs of EuCheMS Divisions and Working Parties. Last, but not least, Wolfram Koch gave a talk on “Golden age of EuCheMS” on the occasion of the farewell to Luis Oro as the immediate EuCheMS past president (see page 3).

The Hungarian Chemical Society kindly hosted about seventy participants. Ulrich Schubert expressed sincere thanks on behalf of EuCheMS to its president, Livia Simon Sarkadi.

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Cutting the EuCheMS cake: David Cole-Hamilton (left) and Ulrich Schubert.



The EuCheMS Executive Board



The EuCheMS Newsletter introduces the EuCheMS Executive Board members. This issue starts with Michael Dröscher (Germany).

Dröscher is a polymer scientist with a PhD from the University of Mainz and a habilitation at the University of Freiburg. Combined with experience in industry of nearly 30 years, he feels fit to build the bridge between applied and basic science.

Dröscher also brings in experience from national organisations, where he was chair of the Bunsen Society and president of the GDCh. On the international level he was a member of the IUPAC bureau and chair of the Committee of Chemistry and Industry. During his industrial career, Dröscher was also very active in the Cefic community, where he learned the ways of Brussels politics.

Dröscher is the manager of the chemical cluster of North Rhine-Westphalia, strengthening the network of industry, academia and local government. The cluster is linked to the European Network of Chemical Regions. As initiator of the physical chemistry task force (now a division) Dröscher understands the structures of the organisation. His aim is to support EuCheMS to strengthen its voice on the European level.

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Platform for drug discovery

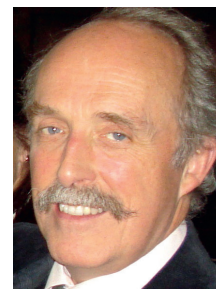
The European Lead Factory (ELF) is a pan-European platform for drug discovery, organised in an Innovative Medicines Initiative supported public private partnership (PPP). Comprising a collection of half a million compounds, ELF offers researchers in academia, small and medium-sized enterprises and patient organisations an opportunity to advance medical research. ELF is initiated by a consortium of 30 partners including seven big pharmaceutical companies. This PPP creates unprecedented opportunities for the discovery of new medicines by providing public partners with an industry-like discovery platform. ELF launched its crowd sourcing web portal for all chemists that want to contribute.

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New EuCheMS president-elect

David Cole-Hamilton will succeed Ulrich Schubert as president of EuCheMS. Cole-Hamilton has been president of the chemistry section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, chair of the chemistry panel of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, editor of the *Journal of the Chemical Society, Dalton Transactions*, a member of the council of the Royal Society of Chemistry and is president of its Dalton Division. He is the UK representative of the Organometallic Division of EuCheMS and ran the 20th EuCheMS Conference on Organometallic Chemistry in July 2013.

Cole-Hamilton believes that in EuCheMS the UK should be at the centre helping make the policy. He is impressed by the progress EuCheMS has made and hopes to use his presidency to improve the finances. He is particular keen to see EuCheMS being used by the European Commission and Parliament for advice on matters to do with chemistry. He wishes to build the EuCheMS Chemistry Congress to rival the ACS meet-



David Cole-Hamilton

ing, and he is especially impressed by the European Young Chemists Network.

Cole-Hamilton's main research interests are in organometallic chemistry. Following degrees at Edinburgh University, he worked as a postdoc and temporary lecturer. His independent career started as a lecturer, then senior lecturer at Liverpool University before moving in 1985 to become Irvine Professor of Chemistry at the University of St. Andrews. He will shortly retire from this position and plans to devote significant time to achieving his aspirations for EuCheMS.

Policy News

Sustainable chemistry event in the European Parliament

On 13 November 2013, EuCheMS hosted an event in the European Parliament entitled "Sustainable Chemistry: Supporting Research, Innovation and Competitiveness in Europe". The meeting was organised in collaboration with the European Parliament Intergroup on "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development". The aim was to raise awareness on sustainable chemistry and its ability to respond to society's challenges and also to show some examples on how chemistry provides sustainable solutions to global changes. Sustainable chemistry has a crucial role to play in achieving the goals of Europe 2020, especially in the flagship initiatives Innovation Union, Resource-Efficient Europe and Industrial Policy. The meeting was chaired by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines (Member of the European Par-

liament, MEP) and attended by a large audience of MEPs, European Commission and Parliament officials, representatives from industry and other interested parties. Ulrich Schubert, EuCheMS president, explained the role of chemistry as a key for a more sustainable future. Renzo Tomellini, Directorate General (DG) Research and Innovation, and Bjorn Hansen, DG Environment, discussed the role of sustainable chemistry in Horizon 2020, the role of European legislation in the protection of the environment and the role of green chemistry. Marc Taillefer, team leader at the Institut Charles Gerhardt and winner of the European Sustainable Chemistry Award, and Katalin Barta, assistant professor of green chemistry and catalysis at the Stratingh Institute for Chemistry presented the challenges and needs of research in chemistry for sustainable development.

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Oro retires from the Executive Board

At the General Assembly in Budapest Luis Oro completed his six years in the presidential succession on the EuCheMS Executive Board. Oro became EuCheMS president in 2008 and immediate past president in 2011. As vision for his presidency he chose „Creating a European identity among chemical societies“, a task which is at the very heart of EuCheMS. His term of office followed this vision and was characterized by two major goals: the development and execution of the EuCheMS strategy 2009 to 2013 and to establish EuCheMS as an independent organisation based in Brussels.

The EuCheMS strategy rests on six pillars, all of which were addressed successfully during Oro's presidency: strengthening the science base, substantiating policy development events in Brussels, encouraging professional development and networking, promoting partnerships, enhancing communication and recognition, and improving decision making in governance and finance. An additional item in Oro's term of office



Luis Oro

was a change in the constitution which led to a more effective governance structure. The professionalism of the EuCheMS office was further enhanced by the appointment of Nineta Majcen as secretary general in the final year of Oro's presidency.

During a ceremony at the General Assembly dinner EuCheMS president Ulrich Schubert expressed his thanks to Luis Oro for his achievements to enhance EuCheMS' role as the voice of the chemical and molecular sciences in Europe.

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Public consultation on Groundwater Directive

In July 2013, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the revision of Annexes I and II of the Groundwater Directive. Article 10 of the Directive requires the Commission to review Annexes I and II every six years and come forward with legislative proposals, if appropriate. The objective of the consultation was to gather views for the first review of the Annexes concerning groundwater quality standards and the threshold values for pollutants and indicators of pollution. EuCheMS submitted its contribution based on the input from EuCheMS Divisions and member societies. Public consultations are part of the activities of European Institutions throughout the legislative process. Responding to a public consultation is important in order to make sure that all opinions and expertise

are taken into account during the formulation of policy.

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Meeting funding agencies

On 12 November 2013, EuCheMS hosted a meeting with representatives of the funding agencies. The aim was to discuss the needs of scientists and the role of funding agencies as well as the revitalisation of the spirit of the European Research Area Chemistry Network and the former Chairpersons and Directors of European Research Councils' Chemistry Committees (CERC3). Ulrich Schubert, EuCheMS president, proposed EuCheMS as a platform of discussion between the funding agencies and the scientists. The meeting and Schubert's proposal were warmly welcomed by the participants. Further meetings are planned for 2014. *sm*

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Chemical Sciences and Society Symposium in Tokyo

“Efficient Utilization of Elements” was the topic of the 5th Chemical Sciences and Society Symposium (CS3) from 16 to 19 September 2013 in Tokyo, Japan. Thirty eminent scientists from the US, China, Japan, the UK and Germany discussed future issues related to the efficient use or substitution of critical elements, including new materials for energy purposes and the development of new catalysts free of noble metals. The CS3 think tanks identify important contributions from chemistry which help to overcome global and societal future challenges. As in previous years results will be summarized in a white paper. Next CS3 is scheduled for Spring 2015 in Germany.

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EuCheMS prize for young scientists to Mari Liis Pedak

In September 2013, Mari Liis Pedak, Estonia, was awarded the EuCheMS special prize for chemistry on the occasion of the 25th European Union Contest for Young Scientist (EUCYS) in Prague. Pedak won with a project on the analysis of aquatic humic substances.

The contest is an initiative of the European Commission to promote interchange between young scientists and guiding them towards a future career. For the third time EuCheMS has awarded the special prize for chemistry at the EUCYS to encourage young creative curious minds. The European Commission expressed its appreciation to EuCheMS and invited it to take part at EUCYS 2014 in Warsaw.

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Nineta Majcen (left) and awardee Mari Liis Pedak.



The committee for Istanbul

The EuCheMS Newsletter introduces the scientific committee of the 5th European Chemistry Congress (ECC) 2014 in Istanbul. This issue goes on with Francisco J. Pérez Trujillo. Pérez Trujillo is full professor of materials science and engineering at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain). He has Bachelor and Master degrees in chemistry, materials science and nuclear engineering with honors and a PhD in chemistry. Pérez Trujillo has been director of the Surface Engineering Laboratory at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid since 2000. His research activities are focused on high temperature surface engineering of metallic materials in the area of coatings and oxidation aspects. Another research activity is in the field of high temperature corrosion of nano-materials and coatings for energy applications. Pérez Trujillo represents the Asociación Nacional de Químicos de España, which will host the 6th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Sevilla in 2016.

Isoprenoids in Prague 2014

The 22nd Conference on Isoprenoids will take place in Prague on 7 to 10 September 2014. As EuCheMS event it is the rebirth of the famous Conference on Isoprenoids that was established originally as the Polish-Czech forum of natural products chemists by Marian Kocór, Vaclav Cerný, Vlastimil Herout and their co-workers. The conference fulfilled an important role in integrating European chemists and became quickly known as one of the pioneering channels in the 1960s and 1970s that surmounted the Iron Curtain, which restricted contacts between chemists on either side of this barrier. The conference evolved into a forum that brought "isoprenoid folk" together. The present conference will take place several days after the 5th EuCheMS Congress in Istanbul, so that the attendees will have an economical way to attend it and extend their visit to Europe. EuCheMS and IUPAC granted their sponsorship to the conference, which emphasizes the rebirth of the conference from the originally Czech-Polish bilateral meeting into a conference with truly international character.

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www.vscht.cz/lam/isoprenoids/Isoprenoids.htm

Events 2014

- 2 – 7 February 2014, Bressanaone, Italy**
European Winter School on Physical Organic Chemistry, www.chimica.unipd.it/wispoc/pubblica
- 27 – 28 February 2014, Blankenberge, Belgium**
12th Chemistry Conference for Young Scientists (ChemCYS 2014), www.chemcys.be
- 1 – 3 April 2014, Munich, Germany**
Analytica Conference 2014
www.gdch.de/analyticaconf2014
- 29 – 31 May 2014, Hamburg, Germany**
113th Annual German Conference on Physical Chemistry, www.bunsen.de/bunsentagung2014
- 11 – 15 June 2014, Malmö, Sweden**
15th International Conference on Electroanalysis
<http://eseac2014.com>
- 15 – 19 June 2014, Gargnano, Italy**
International Summer School on Organic Synthesis A. Corbella, www.corbellasummerschool.unimi.it
- 23 – 28 June 2014, Uppsala, Sweden**
18th International Symposium on Bioluminescence and Chemiluminescence, www-conference.slu.se/isbc2014
- 29 June – 4 July 2014, Prague, Czech Republic**
EUCHEM Conference on Organic Free Radicals
www.uochb.cz/web/structure/1259.html

6 – 10 July 2014, Tallinn, Estonia

EUCHEM 2014 Conference on Molten Salts and Ionic liquids, <http://euchem2014.ttu.ee>

31 August – 4 September 2014, Istanbul, Turkey

5th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress
www.euchems-istanbul2014.org

7 – 10 September 2014, Prague, Czech Republic

22nd Conference on Isoprenoids
www.vscht.cz/lam/isoprenoids/Isoprenoids.htm

7 – 11 September 2014, Lisbon, Portugal

EFMC-ISMC 2014 – 23rd International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry

21 – 25 September 2014, Ischia, Italy

Ischia Advanced School of Organic Chemistry
www.iasoc.it/home

Events 2015

5 – 9 July 2015, Bratislava, Slovakia

21st European Conference on Organometallic Chemistry, www.eucomcxi.eu

22 – 25 September 2015, Leipzig, Germany

15th EuCheMS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment, www.icce2015.org

International School on Organometallic Chemistry in Italy

The IX International School on Organometallic Chemistry (Isoc) was held in Camerino, Italy from 30 August to 3 September 2013, organised by the University of Camerino and the Interdivisional Group of Organometallic Chemistry of the Italian Chemical Society. From 2013 onwards Isoc is also sponsored by the EuCheMS Organometallic Chemistry Divi-

sion. Isoc brings early stage researchers from both university and industry together with distinguished European scientists, thus increasing the transfer of knowledge between different countries and generations. 138 young researchers from 24 countries attended Isoc 2013.

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