

Conference Call

Japan). Four further posters were given Honorable Mention certificates, reflecting the high standard of the presentations.

During the conference, Ingmar Persson retired from the chairmanship of the International Steering Committee. To honor his chairmanship (2001–2018), he was presented with a bottle of Tokaji wine, vintage 2001, at the conference banquet. Professor Persson is replaced by Toshio Yamaguchi, whose mandate will expire in 2025. The next ICSC, the 36th, will be held in 2019 in Xining, China. The organizers gave a presentation and demonstrated that all the necessary preparations are well underway. The International Steering Committee selected Cartagena, Columbia to organize the 37th ICSC in 2021, which will see the ICSC return to its customary biennial timing.

Beyond the busy scientific schedule, the conference was rich in social events. The opening ceremony was held in the Szeged Town Hall, sponsored by the City Council. An organ concert was organized at the famous Votive Church one evening. Conference excursions included a visit to the National Memorial Park and outdoor village museum in Ópusztaszer. The closing banquet included a wine tasting, featuring local winemaker, Sándor Somodi.

Thus, the 35th ICSC was successful on several fronts: high quality science and interesting social programs. Special thanks go to the organisers from the Hungarian Chemical Society (especially Beáta Androssits, Beatrix Schenker, and Eszter Körtvélyessy) and to the contributing members of the Materials and Solution Structure Research Group (MASOST) at Szeged: Csilla Dudás, Eszter Orbán, Dr. Bence Kutus, Szilveszter Ziegenheim, and Ákos Buckó.

We look forward to meeting again in Xining, in 2019!

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Organometallic Chemistry and Challenges in CO₂ Activation and Utilization

by Luca Gonsalvi, Alessandro Mordini, and Maurizio Peruzzini

The **XXVIII International Conference on Organometallic Chemistry** (ICOMC 2018) was held in Florence, Italy, from 15–20 July 2018. ICOMC 2018 is the 28th edition of a series biennial events that came back to Italy after exactly 30 years (Torino 1988), and was organized



Ben L. Feringa's Plenary Lecture, Thursday 19 July 2018

by the Institute of Chemistry of Organometallic Compounds (ICCOM) of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR). The Organizing Committee was formed by the Chair Dr. Maurizio Peruzzini (CNR Research Director), the Co-chair Dr. Alessandro Mordini (CNR Research Director), and the Scientific Secretary, Dr. Luca Gonsalvi (CNR Senior Researcher). A Professional Conference Organizer (PCO), Adria Congrex s.r.l., was in charge of the overall management and logistics of the event, including the official ICOMC 2018 website (www.icomc2018.com). More than 30 ICCOM students and staff personnel, including full-time researchers, also gave valuable contributions before and during the event.

The Conference venue was the Florence Congress & Exhibition Center, located in a beautiful park in the historical city center; the venue was in close proximity to Santa Maria Novella church and a nearby railway station. The ambitious goal of the 2018 edition was to be one of the main meeting points for scientists active in various fields of organometallic chemistry worldwide for the year, attracting both inorganic and organic chemists due to the interdisciplinary nature of this research area. The scientific program was organized as lecture and poster parallel sessions, focusing on the most recent scientific advances in key and emerging areas of organometallic chemistry including:

- asymmetric synthesis by organometallics
- bio-organometallic and medicinal chemistry
- clusters, coordination polymers, and metal-organic frameworks (MOFs)

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Venue park and welcome cocktail on Sunday 15 July 2018

- early, late transition metal and f-block organometallics
- green chemistry and catalysis
- main group organometallic synthesis
- mechanisms, structure and bonding, calculations
- polymerisations, materials, and nanomaterials
- supramolecular chemistry and molecular machines

One of the parallel lecture sessions was reserved on Thursday and Friday to the works of the XIII Conference of the Interdivisional Group of Organometallic Chemistry of The Italian Chemical Society (Co.G.I.C.O. 2018).



Congress and Exhibition Centre Auditorium during ICOMC 2018.

ICOMC 2018 saw the participation of more than 950 attendees from 45 countries worldwide. The audience included staff academics (475), industrial and commercial participants (23), student participants (381), retired academics (7), accompanying persons (33), and Local Organizing Committee (> 30). A significant overall female participation was reached (26 %). The largest delegations came from Japan, Germany, UK, China, South Korea, Spain, and France.

During the five full days of scientific works, 10 plenary, 36 keynote and 72 invited lectures were presented, together with 203 oral communications and 60 flash presentations. Ben L. Feringa of the University of Groningen, Netherlands, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry for 2016, gave an inspiring plenary lecture, one of the many presentations on research activity from distinguished scientists. The other Plenary Lecture speakers, who kindly accepted our invitation, were chosen as the most outstanding experts in various fields of organometallic chemistry, such as Matthias Beller (LIKAT Rostock, Germany), Christian Bruneau (CNRS-University Rennes I, France), Luisa De Cola (University of Strasbourg, France), Paul J. Dyson (EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland), John F. Hartwig (UC Berkeley, USA), Zhaomin Hou (RIKEN Tokyo, Japan), David Milstein (Weizmann Institute Rehovot, Israel), Roberta Sessoli (University of Florence, Italy), and Shuli You (State Key Laboratory of Organometallic Chemistry Shanghai, PRC).

The two posters sessions also gathered a large interest and participation, especially from the young scientists and students attending, with a total of more than 500 posters being shown. The Symposium **Challenges**

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in CO₂ Activation and Utilization, supported by IUPAC under the New Directions in Chemistry (NDC) scheme, was organized as a full-day session of ICOMC 2018 on Monday, receiving good interest and attendance. The Session focused on the latest developments in CO₂ utilization by reduction and addition processes, and many state-of-the-art results were shown by the invited and selected speakers. Keynote lectures were given by Thibault Cantat (CEA Saclay, France) and Yuichiro Himeda (AIST Tsukuba, Japan). This area of research was also well represented in the poster sessions. Similarly, a symposium was organized on Tuesday addressing the area of *Photovoltaics and Photoactivated Chemical Processes*. For this event, a keynote lecture was delivered by Curtis Berlinguette (UBC Vancouver, Canada). During the breaks, the organizers often received enthusiastic comments by many participants on the choice and variety of the scientific program and research areas represented during ICOMC 2018.

IUPAC support included the participation of a Young Lecturer and four Young Scientists showing either poster or flash presentations. On the opening day, Pietro Tundo (IUPAC Representative, Italy) gave an overview talk on the structure and current activities of IUPAC.

To make the Florence experience memorable from more than just a scientific point of view, a welcome cocktail was offered in the venue park on the opening day and a banquet was organized on Thursday evening in the adjacent Fortezza da Basso, the old Medici family fortress now used as tourist site and exhibition center. Accompanying persons were offered a choice of guided tours in Florence taking place during three of the five days of conference works. As is tradition, Wednesday afternoon was kept free from programming to allow the participants either to enjoy Florence at their own leisure or to join an excursion to the towns of San Gimignano or Chianti Area and Monteriggioni walled town. All these side events were highly praised by the participants.

The next edition of ICOMC will be held in Shanghai, China, in July 2020, co-chaired by Shuli You and Yong Tang, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. This will certainly be another milestone event and an occasion to meet colleagues and establish new collaborations and friendships, as we trust happened during ICOMC 2018 in Florence.

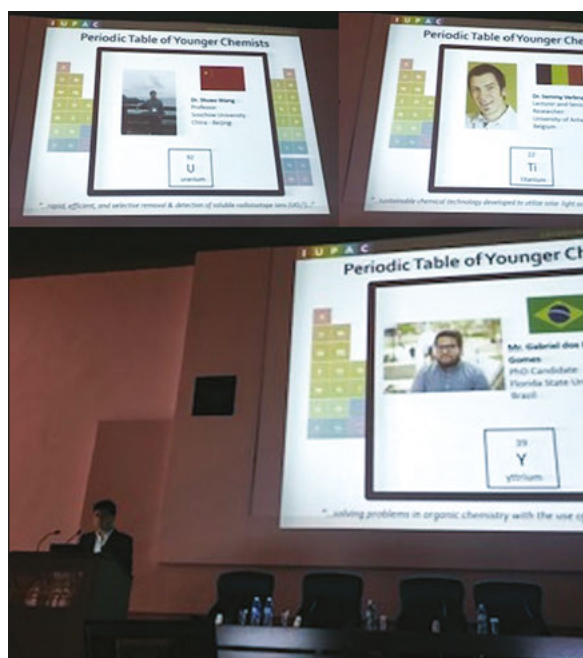
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Congreso Latino Americano de Química

by Javier Garcia Martinez

CLAQ (Congreso Latino Americano de Química) is the main chemistry meeting in Latin America. It is held every two years, in combination with the General Assembly of the Federation of the American Chemistry Societies. The most recent one was held in La Habana, Cuba, 8-12 October 2018. Over 1 000 people attended this major meeting in the Palacio de Congresos de La Habana. There was a significant participation of young people from the region, especially Cuba, and the scientific program was very good with outstanding plenary speakers, including Jean-Pierre Sauvage (Nobel Laureate, University of Strasbourg, France), Benjamin G. Davis (University of Oxford, UK), Wolfram Sander (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany) and Alessandro Gandini (Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil).

IUPAC was present in the Opening Ceremony and was given the opportunity to address all the participants. I had the honor, as its representative to Latin America, to present IUPAC mission, structure, and activities, focusing on what we are organizing for the IUPAC centenary and the 2019 International Year of the Periodic Table (IYPT). I also announced the next four winners of the Periodic Table of Younger Chemists



Javier Garcia Martinez announces four new additions to The Periodic Table of Younger Chemists during his address to the conference participants at the Congreso Latino Americano de Química.