

## MEETING REPORT

### Spring Meeting of the French Photochemistry Group (GFP) Paris, France, 18-19 May 2006

The French Photochemistry Group GFP organized its traditional biannual meeting (“Journées de Printemps 2006”) in Paris at the Ecole Supérieure de Physique et Chimie Industrielles (ESPCI). The organizing committee consisted of Edmond Amouyal (Chairman, Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau), Janine Cossy (ESPCI, Paris) and Anne Zehnacker (Laboratoire de Photophysique Moléculaire LPPM, Orsay).

Armand Lattes (President of the French Chemistry Society SFC) honoured us by his presence and opened this meeting. The first morning session was dedicated to the memory of Dominique Burget (Département de Photochimie Générale DPG, Mulhouse) who accidentally passed away in march 2006. This happened after an explosion –presumably of an ethylene tank- in another department of the Mulhouse chemistry engineering high school (ENSCMu). Xavier Allonas (Director of DPG, Mulhouse) gave an emotional account of the accident which completely destroyed his laboratory. The whole building has to be rebuilt.

The afternoon session of the first day was devoted to Françoise Lahmani (LPPM, CNRS, Orsay) who retired after a long and fruitful career in photochemistry and photophysics. Abderrazzak Douhal from Toledo (Spain) who has a longstanding collaboration with Françoise and her group gave a nice lecture on fast and ultrafast dynamics of a selected hydrogen-bonded system within a water nanopool. The other speakers were André Tramer who summarized Françoise’s career, Monique Martin (ENS, Paris), Claude Dedonder (LPPM, Orsay), Michel Mons (LFP, Saclay), and Laurent Nahon (SOLEIL, Saint-Aubin). Philippe Bréchnignac (Director of LPPM, Orsay) closed the first day’s afternoon session and invited all the participants to an informal reception.

The second afternoon session was dedicated to the memory of Jean Rigaudy (ESPCI, Paris) who disappeared on last December. He was, with the very much regretted Pierre Courtot, the initiator of these biannual GFP meetings, which in the beginning took place at ESPCI. Jacques Prost (Director of ESPCI) opened this nostalgic session in the presence of Mrs Françoise Rigaudy. His former students, his collaborators, friends and colleagues (Jean-Marie Aubry, Lille; Clotilde Ferroud, CNAM Paris; Janine Cossy, ESPCI Paris; Henri Bouas-Laurent, Bordeaux; Jean-Claude Gramain, Clermont-Ferrand; Thierry Patrice, Nantes and Charles Taniélian, Strasbourg) remembered Jean Rigaudy’s outstanding contribution in

photochemical synthesis, particularly his pioneering work on singlet oxygen (see EPA Newsletter, 49, 16-21, November 1993).

Following the spirit of these biannual meetings, the two morning sessions were reserved to young scientists coming from all over France (and Japan) and to their excellent contributions.

As usual, these “Journées” were a very open and informal gathering of scientists working in all areas of photochemistry and photophysics. Many subjects were covered by the various presentations: environmental photochemistry; photoreactivity in organized molecular systems; photomagnetism; photophysics and photochemistry in gaseous and condensed phase; application of photochemistry and photophysics in imaging; photobiology; photochemical synthesis; production, reactivity and use of singlet oxygen; photochemiotherapy.

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