



# EuCheMS

## NEWSLETTER

November 2011

## EuCheMS has a new Secretary General

On August 1, Nineta Majcen took up her position as EuCheMS Secretary General, following her appointment by the EuCheMS Executive Board to succeed Evelyn McEwan on her retirement from the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). Nineta Majcen will be based in the EuCheMS office in Brussels and will also further develop EuCheMS EU policy issues which were previously supported by consultants.

Chemistry has been a fascination for Majcen since her childhood. This fascination led to a PhD in chemistry on the topic of analytical chemistry and chemometrics. She started her career at the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) as well as in chemical industry, through her involvement in applicative research in analytical chemistry and chemometrics. Later she expanded her interests towards metrology in chemistry at the national and European level. Nineta Majcen has a profound international experience starting with a student exchange in the UK during her secondary schooling and a doctoral research stay in Spain, which was not an obvious thing for citizens of Yugoslavia at that time.

Since 2000 she has been working either for or with the European Commission. She worked at the Joint Research Centre's Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements and as expert for DG Research and Innovation. She has been managing various activities, mainly on education, training and technical assistance, often with the emphasis on southeastern Europe. The European Commission expressed its appreciation for her work with two awards, for the contribution to the European Life Long Learning Training Network (TrainMiC) in 2005 and for support to the EU's Western Balkan Policy in 2006.

Currently, Majcen holds the Chair of the Editorial Board of the TrainMiC amongst



*Nineta Majcen took up her position on August 1.*



*EuCheMS President Luis Oro (left) and Treasurer Francesco De Angelis with Nineta Majcen (second from left) and Evelyn McEwan, who served as EuCheMS Secretary General for almost 20 years.*

other positions and is actively involved in the Euromaster Measurement Science in Chemistry network and EURACHEM working groups. She is a member of IUPAC and maintains close contacts with industry as well as accreditation and standardisation bodies. Finally, Nineta Majcen has more than 200 bibliographic references.

The EuCheMS Executive Board acknowledges the contributions of Evelyn McEwan and the RSC which hosted the EuCheMS Secretariat for many years. In the six years since its establishment as a legal non-profit association, EuCheMS has seen significant successes from its scientific activities and EU policy work and has developed a firm financial base. We are confident that Nineta Majcen will help EuCheMS to build on these achievements in the future.

*Luis Oro, EuCheMS President, oro@unizar.es*

## Exchange programme: Young chemists crossing borders

On the occasion of the International Year of Chemistry, European and American young chemists inaugurated an exchange programme that took place during the National Meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in Denver in August.

Six young chemists were chosen for their academic excellence and engagement within the community of chemical sciences to represent the new generation of European scientists: Caroline Bischof (Germany), Karola Gasteiger (Germany), Santiago Gomez Ruiz (Spain), Helena Laavi (Finland), Hannes Schleifer (Austria) and Ilya Vorotyntsev (Russia).

During their stay, the group participated in committee meetings of the Younger Chemists committee (YCC) of the ACS and attended lectures, seminars and workshops. Also, they were invited by ACS to present their research at poster sessions. As part of the social programme, the delegation attended scientific receptions, visited a pharmaceutical company and went hiking in the Colorado mountains.

We warmly congratulate our members, who not only got the opportunity to attend an international conference, but also got a glance of how research is done outside Europe. EYCN thanks Jens Breffke from YCC and other YCC and ACS representatives, who established this project. We invite you to check the pictures and impressions of this wonderful event on EYCN's Facebook site.

*Viviana Fluxa, viviana.fluxa@eycn.eu*



*Nancy Jackson (President of ACS) and Jens Breffke (YCC) with young scientists who were chosen for their engagement in chemistry to attend the ACS National Meeting in Denver.*



## Help for Japan

The Chemical Society of Japan has decided to implement a programme in order to help earthquake victims in the Tohoku region. The programme shall provide continuous mid- to long-term support for primary and secondary school students and support the chemistry centered science community as well. It will be conducted through contributions from the Society, and it has been decided to solicit donations to further enhance these activities.

The Nippon Science Support Network is a global initiative to coordinate international relief efforts in response to the earthquake disaster. A database has been established for research laboratories, universities, hospitals, science foundations and funding agencies to upload dedicated positions and stipend schemes that have been put in place for Japanese students, research fellows and scientific personnel.

More information at [www.chemistry.or.jp/csj-en/about/support-project-1106e.html](http://www.chemistry.or.jp/csj-en/about/support-project-1106e.html) and [www.nipponciencesupport.net](http://www.nipponciencesupport.net).

Karin Schmitz, [k.schmitz@gdch.de](mailto:k.schmitz@gdch.de)

## GDCh award winners

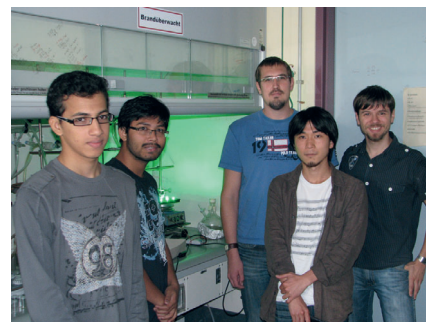
The two most prestigious awards of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) are the Otto-Hahn-Preis and the Karl-Ziegler-Preis, named after the Nobel laureates in Chemistry of 1944 and 1963, respectively. Both awards recognize outstanding achievements in chemistry and carry a monetary award of 50,000 Euro. This year the Otto-Hahn-Preis (which is a joint prize of the German Physical Society, the GDCh and the city of Frankfurt) has been awarded to Manfred Reetz from the Max-Planck-Institute for coal research in Mülheim for his creative work in synthetic organic chemistry. The award will be presented on 22 November in Frankfurt. The Karl-Ziegler-Preis of the Karl-Ziegler-Foundation, which is administered by the GDCh, has been awarded this year to Hans-Joachim Freund from the Fritz-Haber-Institute in Berlin. The award is in recognition of Freund's outstanding contributions to the understanding of heterogeneous catalysis and was presented on 4 September at the GDCh Chemistry Forum in Bremen.

Wolfram Koch, [w.koch@gdch.de](mailto:w.koch@gdch.de)

## Japan and Germany cooperate

Japan and Germany have a long-standing history of excellent scientific relations in chemistry, as shown by much bilateral collaboration between research groups and regular binational meetings such as the Japanese-German Catalysis & Synthesis symposium or the Akabori conference on peptide chemistry.

The events around the earthquakes in the north east of Japan in March 2011 provided an unexpected opportunity in difficult times to strengthen existing and create new cooperation. With the support of the major German funding agencies and organisations (among them the GDCh) as well as German chemical industry (BASF, Bayer-Schering, Wacker) more than 100 academic research groups from all areas of chemistry offered to host master and PhD students from Japan in three to six month research stays over the summer. To secure the required funds on the basis of DFG



Taisuke Matsuno from Japan joined the "green LED team" of the group of Oliver Reiser (Regensburg University) within the DFG Graduiertenkolleg on photocatalysis.

research programmes, joint projects between the German and Japanese groups needed to be agreed on, then submitted in a short research proposal together with a profile of the key persons involved.

Oliver Reiser

[Oliver.Reiser@chemie.uni-regensburg.de](mailto:Oliver.Reiser@chemie.uni-regensburg.de)

## First National Chemistry Congress launched in Hungary

The celebration of the International Year of Chemistry 2011 in Hungary included the launch of a new series of conferences. The Hungarian Chemical Society (HCS) held its First National Chemistry Congress on 22 to 25 May 2011 in the Liszt Ferenc Conference and Cultural Centre in Sopron. The aim of the conference was to enable Hungarian chemistry experts, chemists, engineers, chemistry teachers and university lecturers to overview various activities and results in a comprehensive way in the field of chemistry and discuss future tasks and objectives.

In the opening ceremony, Nicole Moreau and David Black (respectively President and Secretary General of the Executive Committee of IUPAC), Luis Oro and Ulrich Schubert (respectively present and future EuCheMS Presidents), and Anna Nagy (Spokesperson for the Hungarian Government) welcomed more than 450 participants of the conference, presided by József Pálincás (President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences).

Twelve internationally recognized scientists gave exciting plenary talks, including con-

tributions from Kurt Wüthrich (Switzerland), David Black (Australia), Luis Oro (Spain), Miklós Bodor and Attila Pavláth (USA). During the conference, oral and poster presentations summarized recent results in five topics: sustainable development and chemistry, learning and teaching of chemistry, chemistry for health, chemistry tomorrow – chemistry of the future, and chemistry and environment.

Agota Toth, HCS Correspondent

[atoth@chem.u-szeged.hu](mailto:atoth@chem.u-szeged.hu)

## Alfredo Sanz Medel gave EuCheMS Lecture in Belgrad

The EuCheMS Lecture was delivered by Alfredo Sanz Medel on "The Expanding Scope of Analytical Atomic Spectrometry: Isotopes, Elements, Molecules and Nanoparticles via Mass Spectrometry" on 13 September 2011 in Belgrade, Serbia, at the Euroanalysis conference. Alfredo Sanz Medel is Professor of Analytical Chemistry at the University of Oviedo, Spain.

ks

## First female GDCh President: Barbara Albert

At its constituent meeting during the GDCh Science Forum in Bremen on 6 September the newly elected GDCh Board unanimously chose Barbara Albert as the new President for the coming two years. As President, Barbara Albert will be supported by two Vice Presidents, Michael Dröscher, who is the current GDCh President, and François Diederich. Barbara Albert, whose term will begin on 1 January 2012 is the first woman to lead the GDCh or its predecessor organisations since the formation of the first German Chemical Society in 1867. Interestingly, this parallels the development in the Royal Society of Chemistry (see *EuCheMS Newsletter* September 2011), the Hungarian Chemical Society (see below) and the German Physical Society all of which have recently elected a woman President for the first time.

Barbara Albert is a full professor for inorganic solid state chemistry and Dean of the chemistry department at the Technical University Darmstadt. She has been a member of the GDCh Board since 2008, one of the two Vice Presidents in 2010 and 2011 and was the chairperson of the GDCh division on solid state chemistry and materials research from 2006 until 2010.



Among the priorities for her presidency Barbara Albert lists in particular the support for younger as well as female chemists and to enhance the general public consciousness and understanding of the important role of basic research.

*Wolfram Koch, w.koch@gdch.de*

## First female HCS President: Livia Simon Sarkadi

On June 10 in Budapest at the General Assembly of the Hungarian Chemical Society (HCS) Livia Simon Sarkadi (Budapest University of Technology and Economics) was elected as the first female president of the Hungarian Chemical Society. She will succeed Péter Mátyus (Semmelweis University). Attila Kovács (Tisza Chemical Group PLC) will serve further as General Secretary while György Liptay (Budapest University of Technology and Economics) and Tamás Kiss (University of Szeged) will work as Vice Presidents.

Livia Simon Sarkadi has been a member of HCS since 1988. She is not only involved in various committees of HCS but also participates extensively in activities of international organisations. She is currently the Chair of the Food Chemistry Division and is a Member of the Executive Board of *EuCheMS*. She has a DC degree in chemistry, and works as an associate professor at the Department of Applied Bio-



technology and Food Science of Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Her research interests include the investigation of biologically active components and their relation to food quality and safety. Her results are summarized in more than 250 scientific publications.

*Agota Toth, HCS Correspondent  
atoth@chem.u-szeged.hu*

## IUPAC General Assembly

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) convened its 46th General Assembly and 43rd World Chemistry Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 27 July to 5 August 2011.

President Nicole Moreau welcomed the Council Delegates and Observers and delivered her President's State of the Union address, highlighting the fact that this was an especially busy year for IUPAC due to the concurrent International Year of Chemistry 2011. The Report of the Treasurer and the Finance Committee stated that the finances of the Union are stable, even in light of the worldwide economic decline in the past few years.

Nicole Moreau will complete her two-year term as President at the end of 2011 and will remain the Past-President and a Bureau Member for two additional years. Kazuyuki Tatsumi, Vice President and President-Elect, will become President on 1 January 2012. David Black will retire as Secretary General.

In the election of the new Union Officers and Bureau Members for the 2012/2013 biennium Mark Cesa (USA) was elected as Vice President and will assume the office of Vice President and President-Elect on 1 January 2012. On 1 January 2014 he will become President. As Secretary General René Deplanque (Germany) was elected. John Corish was re-elected as Treasurer for a second four-year term. Ram Lamba (Puerto Rico), Natalia Tarasova (Russia), Javier García-Martínez (Spain) and Christopher Brett (Portugal) were elected as Members of the Bureau. Natalia Tarasova (Russia), Stanislaw Penczek (Poland) and Qifeng Zhou (China) were elected as Members of the Executive Committee for 2012/2013.

*Terry Renner, Executive Director, IUPAC  
secretariat@iupac.org*

## New *EuCheMS* website

*EuCheMS* is developing a new website, to be hosted by FIZ Chemie. Additional features include a calendar of events and discussion forums as useful tools for Divisions and Working Parties. *EuCheMS* thanks RSC for its generous support in maintaining the *EuCheMS* website at [www.euchems.eu](http://www.euchems.eu) for many years. *eme*

## EuroFoodChem conference took place in Poland

The EuroFoodChem XVI conference in July entitled "Translating food chemistry into health benefits" stressed the significant role of science and technology of food in our daily life.

For the first time in its 30-year history, the flagship conference of the Food Chemistry Division of EuCheMS took place in Poland (Gdańsk). It was co-organised by the chemical faculty of Gdańsk University of Technology (GUT) and the Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Olsztyn with the support from the European REFRESH project.

The event attracted nearly 300 participants from 33 countries who attended five sessions with plenary lectures and oral presentations complemented with two poster sessions, two workshops and a number of exhibitions. The conference covered several areas of food chemistry from broad subjects such as lipids, meat products or nutrigenomics to those more specifically focused on phytochemicals as glucosinolates or antioxidants.

The participants were also the first recipients of the application FoodSci Companion for iPad designed by the GUT team to provide food scientists with a convenient access to useful data.

Since 2011 is the International Year of Chemistry and it is also the 100th anniversary of Maria Skłodowska-Curie's Nobel Prize in chemistry, both occasions were recognized during the meeting. The "Special session: Tribute to International Year of Chemistry" was supported by the Polish Chemical Society and addressed the general public. It showed chemistry and chemists in roles other than research, with entertaining aspects including travel, music, magic and molecular gastronomy. A selection of the talks presented during this session will be published on the webpage of the chemical faculty of GUT.

*Agnieszka Bartoszek, Mariusz Piskula  
agnieszka.bartoszek@pg.gda.pl  
m.piskula@pan.olsztyn.pl*

## Events 2012

5 – 11 August 2012, Wales, UK

EUCHEM Conference Molten Salts and Ionic Liquids

Email: [euchem2012@qub.ac.uk](mailto:euchem2012@qub.ac.uk)

26 – 30 August 2012, Prague, Czech Republic

4th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress

[www.euchems-prague2012.cz/](http://www.euchems-prague2012.cz/)



*Participants of the Young Investigators Workshop.*

### Young Investigators Workshop

The 3rd Young Investigators Workshop took place on 8 to 9 July in Heraklion, Greece as a parallel event to ESOC-2011. It was sponsored by the Organic Division of EuCheMS and organised by the Division of Organic Chemistry, University of Crete. 27 young investigators from 18 different countries participated, and this was the first year that the US was represented by two young professors. The lectures were presented in eight sessions and focused on different topics of organic chemistry ranging from computational to green chemistry. The lectures were of high scientific quality and all participants acknowledged the support by EuCheMS and thank Manolis Stratakis for the excellent organisation of the event.

*Victoria Magriot, [vmagriot@chem.uoa.gr](mailto:vmagriot@chem.uoa.gr)*

### In Vino Analytica Scientia

The 7th Symposium "Analytical chemistry for wine, brandy and spirits" was hosted by the Institute of Analytical Chemistry and Food Chemistry at Graz University, Austria in July. Delegates from 20 countries discussed results on wine, spirit and vinegar analysis. Bernhard Lendl (Vienna) gave the opening lecture dealing with mid-infrared spectroscopy for wine analysis. The largest session entitled "Chemical analysis and composition of grapes, wines and spirits" was opened by Riccardo Flamini (Conegliano, Italy), who talked about mass spectroscopy for grape and wine analysis. All in all, 35 lectures and over 100 posters were presented in five sessions. The next "In Vino Analytica Scientia" will be held in Reims, France in July 2013.

*Erich Leitner, [erich.leitner@tugraz.at](mailto:erich.leitner@tugraz.at)*

### EuCheMS Newsletter



**Newsletter coordinator:** Karin Schmitz

Please send all correspondence and manuscripts to [k.schmitz@gdch.de](mailto:k.schmitz@gdch.de)

**Editors:** Wolfram Koch (responsible), Uta Neubauer, Frankfurt am Main

**Advisory board:** Wolfram Koch (Chair, Germany), Ulrich Schubert (Austria), Luis Oro (Spain), Giovanni Natile (Italy), Evelyn McEwan and Nineta Majcen (EuCheMS Secretariat), Marie-Claude Vitorge (France), Paola Turano (Italy), Viktor Milata (Slovakia).

**Layout:** Jürgen Bugler, Frankfurt am Main

**Production:** Nachrichten aus der Chemie

**Publisher:** Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker on behalf of EuCheMS

Postfach 900440, D-60444 Frankfurt am Main  
[euchems@gdch.de](mailto:euchems@gdch.de)

**EuCheMS General Secretary:** Nineta Majcen, Evelyn McEwan

c/o RSC, Burlington House  
Piccadilly, London W1J 0BA, UK  
[secretariat@euchems.org](mailto:secretariat@euchems.org)

[www.euchems.org](http://www.euchems.org)

EuCheMS is registered as "Association internationale sans but lucratif" (AISBL, international non-profit association) AISBL-Registered office: Avenue E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4, B-1160 Brussels