

## Conference Call

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Tomasz Sterzyński, his colleagues, and collaborators at the Poznan University of Technology deserve our thanks for their effective organization of the Course and the Conference. Good organization is a necessary condition for a creative and comfortable atmosphere, which was appreciated by all the participants in Poznan. POLYCHAR 25 is scheduled for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9-13 October 2017.

### Polymers and Organic Chemistry (POC-16)

by Kostas D. Demadis

The **16th International Conference on Polymers and Organic Chemistry** (POC-16, <http://poc2016.com>), endorsed by IUPAC, was held in the seaside town of Hersinossos on the island of Crete, Greece, 13-16 June 2016. The meeting, organized by Prof. Kostas Demadis and the University of Crete, was the latest in the series of biennial POC Conferences, started in Lyon, France in 1983, aimed at discussing, sharing, and disseminating advances at the interface between the fields of polymers and organic chemistry. Following the tradition of the previous meeting in Timișoara, Romania and earlier editions of this series, the conference included exchanges of information, results and advances among scientists working in the areas of polymer synthesis, characterization, and applications, with an eye towards organic chemistry.

*The two POC-16 Plenary Speakers, Nikos Hadjichristidis (above) and Maria Vamvakaki (below).*



*Conference group photo, just before the Gala Dinner.*

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The program focused on nine topics:

- Advances in polymer synthesis
- Polymers for separations and environmental protection
- Polymers in medicine, biochemistry and agriculture
- Novel functional polymers
- Polymers for catalysis and energy applications
- Biocatalysis and polymers synthesis
- Biopolymers and their applications
- Functional Metal-Organic Frameworks and Co-ordination Polymers, synthesis and applications
- Polymers in Cultural Heritage

POC-16 attracted nearly 150 participants from 29 countries. There was a strong presence of young researchers, with students making up ~ 40 % of the participants. There were two Plenary Lectures, “Polyhomologation: From organic to polymer chemistry” by Nikos Hadjichristidis (KAUST, Saudi Arabia) and “Photosensitive polymeric materials”, by Maria Vamvakaki (Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas, and University of Crete), together with nine invited talks given by Steven Armes (Polymerisation induced self-assembly), Christine Jerome (Polyphosphoesters as a new platform for the design of particulate drug delivery systems), Barbara Fowler (filling in for Judit Puskas, Novel UV-curable rubbers for biomedical applications), Corneliu Davidescu (Chemically modified polymer matrices with applications in environmental protection), Gheorghe Ilia (Modern methods used in synthesis of polyphosphoesters), Spiros Anastasiadis (Structure and dynamics in polymer nanocomposites), Theoni Georgiou (Designing well defined polymeric materials), and Joanna Pietrasik (Polymer brushes: From synthesis, through properties to applications). These were accompanied by 63 oral presentations, in addition to two poster sessions at which 57 communications were presented. The meeting allowed ample time for discussion, both inside and outside the lecture and poster sessions, and greatly benefited from the presence of enthusiastic young researchers.

Many of the presentations from this Conference will be published in a special issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry*.

The next POC Conference (POC-17) will be held in 2018 in Montpellier, France and will be organized by Prof. Ghislain David. We anticipate that this will be as successful and enjoyable as POC-16.

## Phosphorus Chemistry

by Nikolay E. Nifantiev



Held for the first time in Russia, the 21st International Conference on Phosphorus Chemistry (ICPC-2016) took place 5-10 June 2016, in Kazan, the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan. ICPCs are typically organized bi-annually in the world's largest scientific centers. Since the first ICPC, which took place in 1964 in Germany, these conferences have played an important role in the development of phosphorus chemistry. ICPCs are often endorsed by IUPAC because of their outstanding scientific level and international importance.

The decision of the IUPAC Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry Division (Division III) to support ICPC-2016 was based on two principle arguments in favor of Tatarstan and its capital Kazan. First, this region is known world wide in the chemical community because of the many eminent researchers belonging to the renowned Kazan school of chemists. This school is one of the world leaders in the number of discovered named reactions and fundamental chemical approaches. The Kazan school was initiated in the 19th century by Professors Klaus and Zinin and was continued by the great Butlerov, followed by Markovnikov, Zaytsev, Vagner, and Reformatsky. The twentieth century gave brilliant phosphorous chemists—Academics Alexander Arbuzov and his son Boris, Professors Pudovik, Abramov and later on Academicians Alexander Konovalov and Oleg Sinyashin (the Chair of ICPC-2016; Director of A.E. Arbuzov Institute of Organic and Physical Chemistry, Kazan Scientific Center, Russian Academy of Sciences), and many other renowned researchers.

The second reason is the regional excellence of Tatarstan with regard to the level of its chemical and petrochemical industries. They are of priority for regional development and it is not surprising that the government, and personally The President Minikhanov, have provided support to make this conference successful and productive. Specifically, it should be mentioned that the chemical companies of Tatarstan meet the requirements of IUPAC's “Responsible Care” initiative, aimed at promoting an understanding of chemists' responsibility in using, handling, and producing chemicals. One of the leaders in this field is PJSC «Nizhnekamskneftekhim». Local companies intend to join as Company Associates of IUPAC for the