- Jiji Abraham, Mahatma Ghandi University, Kottayam, India, for her work on Ionic liquid modified carbon nanotube based styrene butadiene rubber nanocomposites
- Rongyu Xia, Peking University, China for his work on Effect of fiber treatment and process and process variation on morphology, thermal, mechanical and water absorption behaviours of natural fiber nanocomposites
- Netra Lal Bhandari, Tri-Chandra Campus, T.U. Nepal, for his work on Steering elastic sheerhorizontal waves by tunable locally resonant metasurface
- Bhim Kafle, Kathmandu University, Nepal, for his work on Reduced graphene oxide (rGO) films for hole transport layer for perovskite solar cells.

Three IUPAC Awards for Best Student Posters were awarded to:

- Arpita Roy, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, India for his work on β-cyclodextrin based dual responsive hydrogel for colonic drug delivery
- Achyut Nepal, Department of Physics, Amrit Science Campus, Kathmandu, Nepal for his work on TiO_2 nanoparticles as an electrode of dyes sensitized solar cells (DSSC)
- Chanda Bhandari, College of Biomedical Engineering and Applied Sciences, Kathmandu, Nepal, for her work on Application of zinc oxide nanoparticles loaded with slug slime as surgical glue for wound closure and healing

Three POLY-CHAR Best Student Posters were awarded to:

- Lucas Grossmann, Hof University of Applied Science, Hof, Germany for his work on Investigation of the influences of composition and processing of pressure sensitive adhesive polymeric materials laminated with textiles
- Tabli Ghosh, IIT Guwahati, Guwahati, India, for her work on Development of non-toxic magnetic cellulose nanofiber dispersed chitosan based edible nanocoating
- Yuchen Shi, Heifei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at the Microscale, Heifei, China, for his work on Novel electrochromic-fluorescent bifunctional devices based on aromatic viologen derivates

The coming POLY-CHAR conferences were planned for POLY-CHAR 2020 [Venice], Italy, 18-22 May 2020 and POLY-CHAR 2021 [Auckland], New Zealand, 25-29 January 2021.

Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry

by Pierangelo Metrangolo

The **14th International Symposium on Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry** (ISMSC2019, www.ismsc2019.eu) was held from 2 to 6 June 2019 in Lecce, Italy. The symposium was organized by Politecnico di Milano and Fondazione Politecnico di Milano, and chaired by Pierangelo Metrangolo, Francesca Baldeli Bombelli, and Giancarlo Terraneo. Co-organizers of the event were the local academic and research institutions, such as Università del Salento, and its School of Advanced Studies, ISUFI, the Nanotechnology Institute (Nanotec) of the National Research Council (CNR), and the Center for Biomolecular Nanotechnologies (CBN@UniLe) of the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT).

The symposium was attended by 712 scientific participants from 43 different countries. The program included 2 Nobel Laureate lectures (45 minutes each), 3 Award lectures (40 minutes each), 22 keynote talks (30 minutes each), and 24 invited talks (20 minutes each). In addition, there were 12 oral (15 minutes each) and 24 short paper (5 minutes each) contributions selected by the organizers from the submitted abstracts. The poster session enabled 550 participants to share their work in this exciting meeting for the supramolecular chemistry community. In particular, ISMSC2019 hosted lectures from the 2016 Nobel Laureates in Chemistry (Sir James Fraser Stoddart, and Bernard L. Feringa), as well as from the 2019 Izatt-Christensen Award (Luisa De Cola), Cram-Lehn-Pedersen Prize (Xiaopeng Li), Sessler Early Career Researcher Prize (Ross Stewart Forgan), and the Natural Product Reports Emerging Investigator Lectureship (Konrad K. Tiefenbacher) winners.

The symposium received the endorsement, among others, of IUPAC, the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT2019), the European Chemical Society (*EuChemS*), the Italian Chemical Society (SCI), and the Materials Research Society (MRS). As far as IYPT2019 is concerned, ISMSC2019 was selected by IUPAC as the venue for the announcement of ten elements of the Periodic Table of Younger Chemists celebrating IUPAC 100.

IUPAC supported the Microsymposium "**New Directions in Supramolecular Chemistry: Nanomedicine**", which was held within the ISMSC2019 program and has shown how, recently, Supramolecular Chemistry (*i.e.*, use of inter-molecular interactions to build-up self-assembled systems) has been exploited

ISMSC2019 group picture at Monastero degli Olivetani, Lecce, Italy.

for pioneering new directions in bio-engineering and nanomedicine. IUPAC support allowed the participation of seven young scientists coming from underdeveloped countries.

Other funding agencies supported ISMSC2019 such as the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr), the Organization for the Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the US Army, the Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung, and the World Society of Intravenous Anaesthesia (WorldSIVA). This support, along with others coming from National, Regional, and Local institutions and associations, covered most of speakers' expenses and supported the participation of 21 young scientists with grants. Furthermore, the ISUFI college of the local university offered 31 free accommodations to students. Finally, several companies and most of the chemistry scientific publishers sponsored the symposium, *e.g.*, the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), the American Chemical Society (ACS), Wiley, Springer-Nature, Elsevier, and MDPI, and offered more than 30 prizes to be awarded to the best posters.

In general, the conference covered a wide range of topics such as organic electronics, nanotechnology, biology, medicine, and materials science, in which supramolecular chemistry was the common tool for developing innovative materials, devices, macromolecules, nanovectors, etc. This symposium showed forcefully how supramolecular chemistry is flourishing, crossing traditional borders, and moving towards new interdisciplinary areas of research at the interface between chemistry, medicine, biology, and materials science.

As far as outreach is concerned, during ISMSC2019, a public lecture was delivered by Sir James Fraser Stoddart to present the world of supramolecular chemistry and the long scientific journey to the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016. More than 800 high school students, as well as citizens attended this lecture.

The event passed in an informal and friendly atmosphere with stimulating discussions during the sessions as well as in the coffee breaks, lunches, poster sessions, and banquet. Furthermore, ISMSC2019 was spread over several historical venues in the city of Lecce, such as the city theater, Teatro Apollo (Opening Ceremony), Monastero degli Olivetani (lunches and poster sessions), Torre del Parco (speakers' dinner), and Chiostro dei Domenicani (Banquet), which gave the unique opportunity to experience the architectural and historical beauties of this southern part of Italy.

ISMSC2019, beyond providing a platform for scientists from different disciplines to brainstorm and promote cross-disciplinary collaborations, represented a great opportunity for junior researchers and PhD students to present their work and discuss new ideas with well-established leaders in their field of research.

The 15th edition of this symposium, ISMSC2020 (www.ismsc2020.org), will be held in Sydney, Australia, 12-16 July 2020, chaired by Kate Jolliffe.