



Connecting Chemical Worlds

by Floris Rutjes

Chair of the Local Organizing Committee IUPAC|CHAINS 2023

It will still take a few more months before I can officially welcome you to IUPAC|CHAINS 2023, but since the preparations are already in full swing, it feels like we are getting close to the event. Behind the scenes we work hard to receive you all in the World Forum in The Hague from 20-25 August this year. We feel honoured that the Royal Netherlands Chemical Society (KNCV) was given the opportunity to host this year's IUPAC World Chemistry

Congress. To create a better national exposure, we joined forces with the Dutch Research Council (NWO), host of the annual CHAINS chemistry congress in the Netherlands, to ensure that we can turn this event into a great success!

Young Researchers

Hereby, I would like to invite especially the young researchers to come to IUPAC|CHAINS 2023! We have fantastic scientists giving the plenary lectures, like Chad Mirkin, Nicola Spaldin, Jennifer Thomson and Bartosz Grzybowski. Besides these established chemists, we aim to give a large podium to young scientists in particular. Thus, this congress will be a unique opportunity for PhD-students and postdocs to present their work for an international audience, meet their colleagues, discuss new chemistry, and perhaps jump-start their careers.

To make the congress even more suited for young chemists, a programme has been created that not

Line-up plenary speakers IUPAC|CHAINS 2023

The Scientific Programme Committee of IUPAC|CHAINS 2023 is very proud and honoured to announce the international speaker line-up. No less than nine plenary speakers will be present at IUPAC|CHAINS 2023, 20-25 August 2023 in The Hague, Netherlands.

On Sunday 20 August **Molly Stevens** (Imperial College London) kicks off with a lecture about how to detect diseases earlier through new materials. She will present advances in Raman spectroscopy for high-throughput label-free characterization of single nanoparticles that allow to integrally analyse a broad range of bio-nanomaterials.

Surface chemistry and catalysis expert **Mark Koper** (Leiden University) and molecular and cell biology expert **Jennifer Thomson** (Capetown University) will give their plenary presentation on Monday 21 August.

Koper's research focuses on fundamental aspects of electrocatalysis, theoretical and computational electrochemistry, and electrochemical surface science, in relation to renewable energy and chemistry.

Thomson's research field is the development of genetically modified maize resistant to the African endemic maize streak virus and tolerant to drought.

On Tuesday 22 August, it's time for professor of Inorganic Chemistry **Charlotte Williams** (Oxford University) and **Bartosz Grzybowski** (UNIST, South

Korea). Williams leads a research group investigating polymerization catalysis and polymer chemistry with a particular focus on improving polymer sustainability. Grzybowski has pioneered applications of artificial intelligence and network theory to synthetic chemistry. He will take us into the world of synthesis, processes, and reaction discovery in the age of computers.

On Wednesday 23 August, **Nicola Spaldin** (ETH Zürich) talks about developments in Materials Chemistry that are essential for addressing many of the world's most urgent problems, and presents one of her favourite emerging material classes, the multi-ferroics, which could help facilitate the transition to a new energy-efficient, climate friendly age.

Hiroaki Suga (University of Tokyo) gives his lecture on de novo discovery of pseud-natural peptides and products on Thursday 24 August. The second speaker on Thursday will be announced soon.

Chad Mirkin (Northwestern University) completes the list of inspiring speakers on the final day, Friday 25 August. Mirkin uses nanotechnology to discover and develop new materials and structures that make a difference in people's lives.

More information about the speakers can be found on iupac2023.org/plenary-speakers/ or follow IUPAC|CHAINS 2023 on LinkedIn, Twitter and/or Instagram via @iupac2023 to stay up to date about the conference, plenary speakers and other news.

only focusses on science, but also addresses other aspects of a scientific career. The International and the European Young Chemists' Networks (IYCN and EYCN), and Jong-KNCV have put quite some effort in composing a broader array of topics, the Young Programme, which I think will be really attractive for the younger generations of chemists.

Sustainability

During the congress, there will be a major focus on sustainability. Chemistry is a central science that can and has to significantly contribute to making our society more sustainable, which we wish to highlight during IUPACICHAINS 2023. Creating a more sustainable world and contributing to address the Sustainable Development Goals concerns virtually all branches of chemistry, requiring new concepts and creative ideas.

We will bring the different chemistry fields together and jointly discuss the scientific challenges underlying the societal challenges. The interaction between science and society is a complex discussion anyway, in which facts and feelings both play a role. Being researchers, we should keep emphasizing that is important to use science as a basis for making policy decisions, scientific facts must weigh heavier than opinions. I think this could lead to lively discussions.

Sightseeing

Besides the chemistry, you should also see a bit of The Netherlands. During the congress, we will organize

several excursions to chemistry-related organizations and innovations in the Netherlands. For instance, it will be possible to visit the Headquarters of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which is right next to the World Forum, but also the brand new Chemistry and Technology Centre of OPCW that is located elsewhere near The Hague.

I can also recommend you taking a stroll along the beach of Scheveningen, or visit the Mauritshuis—a museum next to the office of the Dutch Prime-Minister, displaying famous paintings of Rembrandt and Vermeer, like *The Girl with a Pearl Earring*—or *Panorama Mesdag*, a unique circular painting that makes you think you are on the beach. Or join the pubquiz or the Tuesday evening party to connect with your international colleagues in an informal setting.

Connecting Chemical Worlds

In conclusion, I hope to meet you soon on IUPACICHAINS 2023 to experience a congress with inspiring chemistry and ample opportunities to meet with old or new friends. Personally, I really look forward to meeting researchers who I don't know yet and hope to be surprised by new eye-opening insights. I am convinced that international meetings like this are excellent opportunities to expand your horizon, engage with the diversity and inventiveness of chemistry and connect with new people and fields. To me that is what it is all about in the end: connecting chemical worlds. 🏆

Register now

From 20 to 25 August 2023, we would like to invite you to join us in the beautiful city The Hague in the Netherlands for IUPACICHAINS 2023. The conference, themed '**Connecting Chemical Worlds**', brings together all disciplines of chemistry and is attended by a diverse international audience of chemists from both academia and industry. It is now possible to register. Register before 1 June 2023 and benefit from the early bird rate. Please visit <https://iupac2023.org/> for more information.

IUPACICHAINS 2023 consists of several parts, namely the IUPAC General Assembly (18-25 August 2023) and the IUPAC World Chemistry Congress combined with CHAINS, the largest chemistry conference from the Netherlands (20-25 August 2023). In addition to plenary and invited lectures, IUPACICHAINS will include parallel sessions with oral presentations,

focus sessions and poster presentations by junior and senior researchers. The full programme can be found on the website. We look forward to meeting you and your fellow chemists from around the globe!

Tag and win: who do you want to meet during IUPACICHAINS 2023?

In August 2023, chemists from all over the world will come together in The Hague during IUPACICHAINS 2023. The place to be to meet that one fellow chemist you've always wanted to talk to, but never got around to.

Who do you want to meet during IUPACICHAINS 2023? Follow IUPACICHAINS 2023 on LinkedIn, Twitter and/or Instagram, tag that specific person and win a great prize!