



Over 400 participants from all over the world gathered at the 3rd International Conference on Aerogels for Biomedical and Environmental Applications in Maribor, Slovenia, 5-7 July 2023. The event focuses primarily on environmental applications such as pollutant treatment and removal, energy management, and life cycle analysis.

The conference was attended by about 90 people, with an almost equal ratio of women to men. The event was supported by Merel d.o.o., Kemomed d.o.o., Polymers (MDPI), Chemas d.o.o., Micro polo d.o.o., Mettler Toledo d.o.o., Springer, and IUPAC. Three awards for the best oral contributions were awarded to young researchers: Second prize went to Philip Sidney Pein and Sara Valente, who received books from Springer, while Tania Ferreira Goncalves received first prize and a cash prize of €600 from Polymers. Ana Iglesias Mejuto received the prize for the best poster presentation and a cash prize of €400 from Polymers.

The 3rd International Conference on Aerogels for Biomedical and Environmental Applications provided an exceptional platform for experts to share their insights, knowledge, and experiences in the field. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for researchers, engineers, and professionals to learn about the latest aerogel advances and foster collaboration. The conference was a resounding success, and the organizers would like to thank all participants, sponsors, and contributors for their valuable contributions and active involvement. The fruitful outcomes of the conference suggest that advances in the field of aerogels for biomedical and environmental applications will continue, driving innovation and progress in these important research areas.

For more information about the conference, please visit the official website or contact the organizing committee at [aerogels23@um.si](mailto:aerogels23@um.si). <https://cost-aerogels.eu/activities/events/3rd-international-conference-on-aerogels-for-biomedical-and-environmental-applications/>

## Solution Chemistry

by Marija Bešter-Rogač and Slobodan Gadžurić

The 38<sup>th</sup> IUPAC International Conference on Solution Chemistry (38ICSC) was held in Belgrade, Serbia, 9-14 July 2023. The ICSC continued the tradition and fostered interaction among the various research communities worldwide. For the first time, ICSC was organized by two universities from two countries (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia and University of Novi Sad, Serbia). During the event, 130 participants from 32 different countries presented and discussed the new findings on various scientific and technological issues related to solution chemistry. With the advent of new theories, analytical methods, computers and technologies, the research field of solution chemistry has expanded widely and profoundly covering the following topics:

- Ionic liquids
- Solution thermodynamics
- Biochemical effects in solutions
- Solubility phenomena and phase equilibria
- Solution structure and dynamics
- Supercritical fluids and solutions under extreme conditions
- Colloids and interfaces
- Computational solution chemistry
- General solution chemistry
- Industrial applications of solutions.

The scientific program included 6 prominent plenary and 13 invited keynote speakers. The program and the book of abstracts are available online and can

be downloaded from the conference web page <https://icsc2023.pmf.uns.ac.rs/>.

Five prizes for the best poster presentations were given to young scientists. The awarded students are: Lukas Magenham (TU Wien Austria), Andrijana Bilić (University of Novi Sad, Serbia), Aditi Prabhune (Department of Chemistry, Goa, India), Pavlina Matysova (University Usti and Labem, Czech Republic) and Domen Goste (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia).

IUPAC provided financial support that helped six scientists from emerging countries to participate at 38ICSC. Also, the travel expenses for the IUPAC representative were partially covered using the IUPAC support.

During the steering committee meeting it was decided that the 39<sup>th</sup> ICSC will be held in September 2025 in the town of Monastir in Tunisia.

Marija Bešter-Rogač, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Slobodan Gadžurić, University of Novi Sad, Serbia are co-chairs of 38ICSC.

### Connecting Chemical Worlds – IUPAC General Assembly and IUPAC World Chemistry Congress at The Hague

by *Bipul Saha*

Founded more than one hundred years ago, IUPAC is one of the largest global organizations for chemical professionals. The 52<sup>nd</sup> IUPAC General Assembly and the 49<sup>th</sup> IUPAC World Chemistry Congress were held in The Hague (Netherlands) from 18 - 25 August 2023, simultaneously with 11<sup>th</sup> edition of CHAINS 2023, the largest Chemistry Congress from the Netherlands. More than 2200 delegates from 77 countries attended the program.

#### Opening Ceremony

The joint opening ceremony was held on 20 August at the “World Forum,” The Hague. **IUPAC President Javier Garcia Martinez** welcomed the participants and gave an overview of IUPAC. In this inaugural session, the **IUPAC-Solvay International Award for Young Chemists** was presented. The winners of the 2023 IUPAC-Solvay International Award for Young Chemists, for the best Ph.D. theses in the chemical sciences are:

1. Eduard Bobylev (Ukraine, Netherlands), Ph.D., University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
2. Craig Day (Canada, Spain), Ph.D., Rovira i Virgili University, Spain
3. Nikita Hanikel (Germany, USA), Ph.D., University of California Berkeley, USA

4. Apurva Panjla (India), Ph.D., Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India
5. Yu Zheng (China/Beijing/USA) Ph.D., Stanford University, USA

**The IUPAC 2023 Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering Awards** were also presented in this opening session. Through this award, women are recognized for their distinction and excellence in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering, whether in research, teaching, industry, government, academia or whatever work sector in which women are engaged. The awardees of the IUPAC 2023 Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering are:

1. Lidia Armelao, National Research Council and University of Padova, Italy
2. Annette G. Beck-Sickinger, Leipzig University, Germany
3. Chunying Chen, National Center for Nanoscience and Technology of China, Beijing, China
4. Bin Liu, National University of Singapore, Singapore
5. Laura McConnell, Bayer U.S., Crop Science Division, USA
6. Marcia Foster Mesko, Federal University of Pelotas, Brazil
7. Jyotirmayee Mohanty, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India
8. Tatjana Parac-Vogt, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
9. Gill Reid, University of Southampton, UK
10. Mikiko Sodeoka, RIKEN, Japan
11. Nguyễn Thị Kim Thanh, University College London, UK
12. Marinda Wu, Dow (retired), USA

In the inaugural session, a plenary lecture was delivered by Molly Stevens of Imperial College, London on the topic “Healing the Body and Detecting Diseases earlier through New Materials.” She has created a broad portfolio of designer biomaterials for applications in disease diagnostics and regenerative medicine.

#### IUPAC Committee on Chemistry and Industry led Workshop and Training Program

The IUPAC Committee on Chemistry and Industry conducted (a) “Safety Training Workshop” and (b) “Safety Training Program” for the International Young Chemist Network. IUPAC has been organizing Safety Training Program, both online and off line. Participants from all over the world have undergone