Organometallic Chemistry Directed Towards Organic Synthesis

by Irina Beletskaya

The idea to organize the IUPAC Symposium on Organometallic Chemistry Directed Towards Organic Synthesis (OMCOS) was expressed by the organic division of IUPAC 20 years ago, and ever since, the biennial conference has attracted an enormous number of chemists in the field of organic synthesis and organometallic compounds. The 11th OMCOS was held in Taipei, Taiwan in June 2001. Fears that the remoteness of Taiwan from many scientific centers would result in lowering of the number of participants fortunately did not come true as more than 800 participants from 32 countries attended. The conference attracted not only eminent scientists from all over the world, but also their young colleagues. Much credit is due to the organizing committee and its chairman Professor T. Y. Luh for managing to engage a large number of sponsors, making the registration fee for the young scientists merely nominal.

Five plenary lectures, 19 invited lectures, and a large number of short reports were delivered at the conference. Over 300 posters were exhibited as well. The lectures, short oral presentations, and posters reflected enormous progress in this field and demonstrated the extraordinary potential of transition metal catalysis in organic synthesis to lead to the creation of new drugs and new materials, the synthesis of complex molecules, and the discovery of new chemical reactions.

The conference was opened with a lecture by Professor F. A. Cotton, which was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the discovery of ferrocene. The story of this discovery, which has changed the face of organometallic chemistry, as told by one of its authors was certainly an unforgettable episode. Another eminent organometallic chemist, Professor A. Yamamoto, talked about the discovery of the oxidative addition reactions before discussing the most important task of modern chemistry—transforming it into "green chemistry."

The Springer award for young scientists (under age 40) was presented at the conference to Professor G. Fu of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, for his outstanding contribution to this field of chemistry. In accepting the honor, Fu gave a brilliant "award lecture."

The conference was held at the Grand Hotel, a unique construction in an oriental style that dominates the Taipei cityscape and provides excellent conference facilities. The conference was very well organized so that everything progressed in a highly efficient and orderly manner, and the atmosphere, as usual at OMCOS, was exceptionally friendly.

A selection from the plenary and invited lectures is published in the Janaury 2002 issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, for which the Conference Chairman, Tien-Yau Luh, acted as editor.

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www.iupac.org/publications/pac/2002/7401

Conference Announcements

designates IUPAC sponsorship

35th International Conference on Coordination Chemistry (35-ICCC) 21–26 July 2002, Heidelberg, Germany

The aim of this conference will be to provide an international forum for high-level discussions of all aspects of coordination chemistry and to give a representative overview of the state of the art in this field. Young chemists are particularly encouraged to participate and they will find answers to questions that stimulate their continued research. Six subsections will focus on frontier topics of coordination chemistry, including recent results of outstanding significance that impact our daily life, such as development of new drugs, catalysts for modern plastics, functional nanomaterials, and structure of the photosystems of plants. The meeting will help scientists to identify important applications of coordination compounds and may promote technology transfer. It will bring together not only coordination chemists but also scientists with academic (biology, medicine, physics) or industrial background to share scientific knowledge in an interdisciplinary atmosphere. This will generate significant impact regarding international future research in coordination chemistry on an international level.

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The Second Pan-European Younger Chemists' Conference 30 September–2 October 2002, Heidelberg, Germany

A meeting of Younger European Chemists (up to age 35) will be held 30 September-2 October 2002 in Heidelberg,

Germany. This is an event of the High-Level Scientific Conference Programme of the European Commission. It is the second in what will hopefully become an annual series. The first meeting took place in London in July 2001.

Chemistry will be interpreted broadly for the meeting—not only chemical science of all sorts but also some chemical engineering and technology. A principal aim is to bring European younger chemists working in research and R&D of all types together not only from EC countries but also from other European countries, thus encouraging greater interaction, networking, novel collaborations, and increased European harmony.

The core aspects of the conference are posters and talks by Europe's younger chemists. Keynote speakers include Harry Kroto, Jean-Marie Lehn, and the top research director of BASF. The Europa Medal and £500 Prize for Chemistry will be awarded at the conference. There will be an afternoon visit to BASF in Ludwigshafen as well.

The conference is being sponsored by Younger Chemists' Committee of the Heidelberg Branch of the German Chemical Society; BASF Ludwigshafen, Germany; and the Royal Society of Chemistry, United Kingdom.

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10th International Symposium on Macromolecule Metal Complexes (MMC-X) 20–24 May 2003, Moscow, Russia

This symposium, held every two years, provides an international forum for presentation and discussion about the most recent progress and future trends in the rapidly expending interdisciplinary field of macromolecular metal complexes. The main goal of the meeting is to bring together scientists and technologists (polymer chemists, coordination chemists, biochemists, catalytic chemists etc.), covering the various research topics of the symposium, to intensity the dialogue between young scientists, academia and industries, to encourage the newcomers to the field and to give new motivations for future developments.

New insight have been developed in the role of the macromolecule on material properties such as catalysis, electron transfer, non-linear optic, and in the other wide ranging technologies including secondary battery, photoenergy conversion, fuel cells, sensors, toxic material recovery, medical devices.

The scientific program will cover the following areas:

- Fundamental Aspects of Macromolecular Metal Complexes (Synthesis, Structure, Properties)
- Electron and Photonic Transfer
- Catalysis and Separation Processes
- Supramolecules, Dendrimers, Molecular Recognition
- Metal Ion Conductive Polymers
- Environmental Application of MMC

Approximately 200 scientists from all over the world are expected to attend the Symposium.

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www to be announced

Plutonium Futures—The Science 2003 6–10 July 2003, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

This conference, third in a series organized by the Los Alamos National Laboratory, will provide an international forum for presentation and discussion of current research on plutonium and other actinide elements. A number of issues surrounding plutonium and the actinides deserve and receive significant international attention, including the safe storage and long-term management of weapons materials and the management of large inventories of actinides from nuclear power generation. The conference will provide opportunities to examine present knowledge of the chemical and physical properties of plutonium and other actinides in complex media and materials and to discuss the current and emerging science (chemistry, physics, materials science, nuclear science, and environmental effects) of plutonium and actinides relevant to enhancing global nuclear security.

The scientific program will consist of invited plenary and keynote lectures followed by presentations of invited and contributed papers. The plenary sessions will include participation by policy makers as well as scientific leaders. Scientists, engineers, and students from throughout the world are encouraged to participate and make technical contributions. Anticipated conference technical sessions will cover: materials science; nuclear fuels; condensed matter physics; actinides in the environment; separations, detection, and analysis; processing; storage, disposal, and waste; and novel plutonium/actinide compounds and complexes.