

## Conference Call

branching technique development of toluene, and progress involving metallocene polyolefins.

Through the Young Chemists Program, CCS and IUPAC cosponsored 88 young chemists from 34 countries to attend the Congress. The program aims to promote young chemists' academic development and facilitate information exchange. In addition to helping the careers of these young chemists, the program provides a spark to the Congress through the valuable contributions of these chemists.

Professor Xibai Qiu <qxiub@infoc3.icas.ac.cn> was secretary of the 40th IUPAC Congress Program Committee; he is vice-chairman of the Committee on International Activities of the Chinese Chemical Society.

## Solution Chemistry

by Vojko Vlachy

The **29th International Conference on Solution Chemistry** (ICSC) was held in Portoroz, Slovenia, 20–25 August 2005. The conference was organized by the faculty of chemistry and chemical technology at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The ICSC has been held biannually since 1967 and under the present name since 1988. The meetings, which have been held in locations ranging from Debrecen to Vaals and from Fukuoka to Vichy, are organized by a 10-member international steering committee. The present chairman of the committee is Professor Ingmar Persson from the University of Uppsala in Sweden.

The 29th ICSC was sponsored by IUPAC, and IUPAC representative Hitoshi Ohtaki gave a speech at the opening ceremony. Other guests at the opening ceremony were Bijoy Chatterjee from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Franci Demšar, director of the Slovenian Research Agency.

The theme of the conference was "the chemistry of solutions," but sessions were also held on supramolecular assemblies and nanostructures, interfaces, biophysical and pharmaceutical problems, aquatic chemistry, and

others. In addition, a roundtable discussion on ionic liquids was held, sponsored by Merck. Andreas Heintz chaired the discussion, and the main contributors were Josef Barthel, Urs Welz-Biermann (Merck), Hartmut Krienke, and Chris Hardacre.

A broad array of eminent scientists from around the world gave presentations and keynote lectures; a complete list can be found at <www.icsc2005.si>. The conference program also included 69 20-minute oral contributions and two poster sessions, with 160 posters in total. Moderated discussions followed each poster presentations, and each participant or group had an opportunity to show the conclusions of their study in a few slides and discuss them with the audience. An ad hoc committee chaired by Josef Barthel selected the most interesting posters, which received diplomas and practical awards. The recipients were:

- Yasuo Kameda and coworkers from Yamagata University, Japan
- Sylvia E. McLain, Rutherford Appleton Lab, United Kingdom
- Mónika Valiskó and coworkers from the University of Veszprem, Hungary
- Andrew W. Hakin, University of Lethbridge, Canada, and Harald Høiland, University of Bergen, Norway

An exhibition of scientific instruments included the participation of MicroCal LLC (United States), Mettler-Toledo (Slovenia), Merck (Germany), Sanolabor (Slovenia), and Anton Paar (Austria).

Altogether, the ICSC hosted almost 300 participants from 36 countries, including approximately 50 Ph.D. students who took advantage of the conference's reduced fees for students, and more than 40 accompanying family members.

The conference organizers made strong efforts to secure funds for participants from economically less developed countries; in fact, the organizing committee fully supported more than 30 participants and provided reduced fees for 25 others. This support would not have been possible without generous donations from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, IUPAC, and the



*Professor Jean-Marie Lehn during his plenary lecture "From Supramolecular Chemistry to Constitutional Dynamic Chemistry."*

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Slovenian Research Agency. The conference organizers are also grateful for many other donors and sponsors, particularly general sponsor Lek, a new Sandoz company from Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The 30th ICSC will take place in Perth, Australia, 16–20 July 2007; for more information, go to <[www.icsc30.murdoch.edu.au](http://www.icsc30.murdoch.edu.au)>.

Dr. Vojko Vlady served as chairman of the organizing committee of the 29th ICSC. He is currently a professor of chemistry and chemical technology at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, as well as an adjunct professor at the University of California, San Francisco campus, United States.

 [www.icsc2005.si](http://www.icsc2005.si)

## Advanced Materials—WAM III

by Piet Steyn and John Corish

The very successful IUPAC New Directions in Chemistry—Workshop in Advanced Materials (WAM III) attracted more than 150 participants to South Africa on 4–9 September 2005.

The workshop was funded under IUPAC's program for conferences in emerging regions and was organized by the University of Stellenbosch's United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Associated Center for Macromolecules and Materials, with professor Ron Sanderson chairing the local organizing committee. The first two workshops were held in Singapore (in



*Sanjay Mathur (1st on the left) and Ron Sanderson (5th) with some of the participants of the bilateral German-South African minisymposium. Funding from the national research foundations of South Africa and Germany enabled the participation of 10 young South African and German scientists.*

July 1999) and Bangalore (in February 2002), respectively. Overall responsibility for the workshops rests with the IUPAC Interdivisional Subcommittee on Materials Chemistry.

WAM III focused on nanostructured advanced materials and featured eight sessions addressing new synthetic routes for the production of nanostructured materials, nanoelectronics, nanotubes and fibers, design and self-assembly, biorelated materials, and device characterization and applications. The workshop was opened on behalf of IUPAC by past president Piet Steyn. C.N.R. Rao, another former president and the organizer of WAM II, also participated and presented a plenary lecture. The plenary and invited lectures will be published in a special issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry*. The journal's scientific editor, James Bull, also attended the conference.

WAM III concentrated on the vital role played by chemists in the design and fabrication of nanostructured materials, with a particular emphasis on soft chemistry. The presentations covered an exhaustive range of established and novel synthetic techniques for the preparation of nanoparticles as well as nanotubes and a variety of nanostructured films, nanocomposites, and nanoporous materials. All of the principal characterization techniques were also covered, with particularly impressive presentations given on the latest developments in the use of scanning tunneling microscopy and atomic force microscopy on silicon surfaces. The current and future technological utilization of nanomaterials as coating materials, electrocatalysts, and electronic components, as well as their application in chemical separations, fuel cells, and other novel energy technologies and in medicine were also discussed, as was the potential offered by autonomous nanoscale motion through catalysis.

The WAM III program also incorporated a bilateral



*Left to right: Professor Ayusman Sen, Pennsylvania State University, plenary lecturer; Professor John Corish, Trinity College Dublin, chair of the international organizing committee; Professor John Boland, Trinity College Dublin, plenary lecturer; and Professor Ron Sanderson, University of Stellenbosch, chair of the local organizing committee.*