

Green/Sustainable Chemistry

by M. Kidwai

The IUPAC-sponsored **Second International Symposium on Green/Sustainable Chemistry**, held in Delhi, India, from 10–13 January 2006, was a showcase for green chemistry innovations from all over the world. Green chemistry can be challenging, but it is fundamental to the future of chemical production, especially in the pharmaceutical and agricultural fields. The conference's 550 attendees from 22 countries took stock of recent advances in environmentally friendlier chemistry.

The organizing committee made a strong effort to help participants from economically less developed countries attend the event. The Third World Academy of Sciences gave USD 2000 to fellows from countries such as Ghana and Bangladesh so they could attend the conference.

The conference, which offered 8 plenary lectures, 31 main lectures, and 44 invited lectures featuring eminent scientists, focused on the vital role played by chemists in designing green methods of chemistry and how to widen the use of green technology.

A number of prominent speakers shared the results of their cutting-edge research. In his plenary lecture, E.J. Thomas from the University of Manchester, UK, discussed alternatives to allyl stannanes for remote stereo chemical control and encouraged the use of fictionalized ionic liquids. Pietro Tundo, from Ca' Foscari University, Italy, lectured about the tunable reactivity and selectivity towards C and N methylation in dimethyl carbonate chemistry using basic and acidic catalysts. Arthur C. Watterson from the University of Massachusetts, USA, discussed the chemo-enzymatic green synthesis of polymeric materials, which is an environmentally benign technique for medical, imaging, and other applications. John C. Warner, from the same university, discussed using entropic control in materials design.

In addition, there were 33 oral presentations by upcoming postdoctoral and Ph.D. fellows who shared their experiences with green chemistry. The poster presentations showcased the most up-to-date research in the areas of synthesis of bioactive compounds, green, use of biomaterials, nanotechnology, biomimetic processes, microwave technology, ionic liquids, and the edges of physical chemistry, including computational methods. Five awards were presented for best poster presentations.

Among the attendees were representatives of 28 chemical and pharmaceutical industries, a number of whom were inspired by green industrial methods described in lectures. Industries represented included Matrix Laboratories Ltd., Pfizer Global Research & Development, Emcure Pharma Ltd., Merck Research Laboratories, and Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

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Analytical Spectroscopy

by René Van Grieken

The **34th Colloquium Spectroscopicum Internationale (CSI-XXXIV)**, held in Antwerp, Belgium, from 4–9 September 2005, was hosted by the University of Antwerp. Since the first CSI conference, organized in Paris, France, in 1949, this prestigious series of biannual conferences has established itself as the premier forum for presentation and discussion of new developments in all branches of analytical spectroscopy. While many conference series decline after 20–30 years, the CSI series is still vigorous, probably because it is a truly international series of conferences. In Antwerp, as in previous conferences, there were participants from about 40 countries and from all continents.

The most recent CSI conferences took place in Granada, Spain (2003), Pretoria, South Africa (2001) and Ankara, Turkey (1999). The next one will be organized in Xiamen, China, from 24–28 September 2007, while in 2009, the event will take place in Budapest, Hungary. The conference alternates, in principle, between Europe and other parts of the world.

Following the tradition of the preceding CSI conferences, emphasis was placed on new developments and applications of spectroscopy in all branches of analytical chemistry. At this conference there were almost 300 participants, and more than 300 abstracts were received for oral and poster contributions. The topics included new research of various spectroscopic techniques and methodologies (such as atomic plasma spectrometry, molecular spectroscopy, organic and inorganic mass spectrometry, X-ray spec-

