6TH EuCheMS CHEMISTRY CONGRESS

The sixth edition of the European Chemistry Congress was held for the first time in Spain, taking place in the city of Seville from 11th to 15th September 2016. Organized bienially by the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) and the National Chemists Association of Spain (ANQUE), the EuCheMS Congresses have the main objective of gathering scientists with various professional backgrounds from different countries of Europe, and from all areas of chemistry to discuss recent advances in chemical sciences, promote collaborations between different fields of chemistry and exchange ideas to increase the impact of chemical research in our society.

Located in the Palace of Exhibition and Conferences (FIBES) in the east of Seville, the congress started on Sunday afternoon with the opening ceremony under the slogan Chemistry creating future. Welcoming talks were given by the European Commission official Søren Bøwadt, the President of the EuCheMS David Cole-Hamilton, ANQUE's President Ernesto Castañeda, Peter Edwards, Carlos Negro, Pedro Miró, José Sánchez Maldonado and Carmen Castreño, who as First Deputy Mayor of Seville, gave a "warm welcome to their warm city". The first Plenary Lecture was given by the 2005 Chemistry Nobel Laureate Richard Shrock, presenting the Recent Advances in Olefin Metathesis. This interesting talk was followed by the Plenary Lecture of Gérard Férey about metal-organic frameworks, covering the progress made from their initial development to the several applications that these new materials have found throughout the years up to present day.

Also during this ceremony, both the EuCheMS and the Royal Society of Chemistry Spiers Memorial awards were granted. At the end of the day, the exhibition was inaugurated with a welcoming cocktail in the presence of several organizations and industry companies such as Wiley, Springer, the American Chemical Society, Cepsa, Dow Chemicals, among others.

The following days started with a Plenary Lecture succeeded by parallel Topic Plenaries, which in turn preceded oral parallel sessions divided in 8 topics:

A. Education and Society
B. The Environment, Energy, and Sustainability
C. New Chemical Compounds: Synthesis, Methods and Industrial Processes
D. Catalysis, Industry and Applications
E. Materials, Devices and Nanochemistry
F. Properties of Matter
G. Physical, Analytical and Experimental Methods in Chemistry
H. Chemistry in the Life Sciences

In general, the conference included 9 Plenary Lectures presented by top world leading scientists and Nobel Laureates, and 29 Topic Plenary Lectures from internationally renowned speakers. For each topic, oral sessions were held in the morning and the afternoon after the coffee break and lunch, always opened by an invitedspeaker expert in the area and followed by oral keynotes, oral communications and short oral contributions; these last ones giving the opportunity to students to present their works.

Within the extensive scientific program, the themes related to the analytical chemistry field were discussed throughout the congress in the different Topics, in particular Topic G. An important contribution was the Topic Plenary about advances on plasma ion sources and mass analysers presented by Alfredo Sanz-Medel, with emphasis on the applications in chemical speciation and proteomics in the field of biosciences. The use of immunoplatforms for the

determination of early alarm biomarkers was discussed, as well as the features and applications of Pulsed Glow Discharge-Mass Spectrometry, developed by his research group.

For those specialized in the development of methods, the subtopic G1 sessions that took place on Monday and Tuesday were very useful and interesting, because it included communications related to new automatic sorptive sample treatment procedures, the monitoring of analytes by new electrochemical and spectroscopic approaches, advances in the determination of cytostatics, pharmaceuticals, quiral compounds, among other subjects. On Tuesday, some of the discussion focused on chemometric methods and data analysis, especially within the omic sciences. On Thursday, the subtopic B4 dedicated to food chemistry also included some discussion on the development of analytical methods and recent advances in this field. Furthermore, the use of different mass spectrometry-based methodologies for different applications prevailed in several Topics from different chemistry fields. The development of new materials, new chromatography phases, biosensors, devices and advances in nanotechnology also contributed to analytical discussions, broadening the knowledge of the analytical chemists attending the congress.

Each day was closed with an important Plenary Lecture followed by the special activity scheduled for the day. In this sense, the first poster session was planned for Monday, covering the topics A, B, C and D. By night, the social program included a concert in the Cathedral of Seville, considered the largest Gothic cathedral and the third largest church in the world. Wednesday was the second poster session with posters of topics E, F, G and H and later by night, the farewell dinner was held at the Royal Alcazar of Seville or the Terraza Abades Triana in front of the Guadalquivir River. It must be said, that The Royal Alcazar is the oldest palace in Europe that is still in use as such, being a World Heritage Site together with the Cathedral and the General Archive of the Indies for its historical and architectural value.

The last day, Thursday, was different from the rest because it started directly with the oral sessions, which lasted until lunch. In the afternoon, Katherina Al-Shamery introduced the last Plenary Lecture presented by Ben Feringa, recipient of the August Wilhelm von Hofmann Denkmunze of GDCh Award. His very inspirational talk on Dynamic Molecular Systems treated subjects like controlled drug deliver self healing materials, nanotubes powered by sugar, responsive materials, smart drugs, photopharmacology, drugs activated by light, among several inventions with potential applications in the medical field, catalysis and even the environment. Inviting us to imagine the unimaginable, the scientific program ended. After this, the European Young Chemist Awards (EYCA) was granted followed by the closing ceremony.

An important part of this conference was the space focused to the students through the Career Days program. With the objective of giving tools and ideas to young researchers for the creation of a successful career, several lectures were offered parallel to the scientific program of the congress, focused on innovation, resume building, entrepreneurship, design of scientific presentations, and publishing. Monday evening, a reception was held to promote career networking.

With around 75 invited speakers, 51 Keynote communications, 440 oral presentations, 252 short oral presentations and 854 posters, the 6th EuCheMS gathered a large number of scientists from different fields in a congress with a strong presence from the industrial sector and representatives of society. Each attendant took home a great scientific experience and memories of a cheerful city full of kind people. For senior scientists, it was an opportunity for creating collaborations and taking ideas from other fields of chemistry into their research. For young scientists, it was a great opportunity for learning new skills and broadening the general

knowledge related to global progress in chemistry. For everybody, it was a reminder of the importance of the work we do every day, for the society outside our laboratories.

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