The day before the official conference starts, there is a tutorial on analytical methods in polymer characterization, which is presented by notable specialists. This event is very useful for advanced and doctoral students to get an overview of the most important techniques available to characterize polymers in theory and application.

The areas covered by the conference were:

- Predictive Methods
- Polymerization
- Polymer Liquid Crystals
- Mechanical Properties and Performance
- Dielectrical and Electrical Properties
- Surface, Interfaces, and Tribology
- Rheology, Solutions and Processing
- Characterization and Structure-Property Relations
- Recycling

Presentations covered a range of subjects, such as Combinatorial Methods for Polymer Science, Alleviation of Environmental Pollution by Converting Polystyrene Waste into Nonionic Surfactants, Processing and Performance of Polymer-Based Shape Memory Alloy Adaptive Composite, and Biobased Polymeric Flocculants for Industrial Effluent Treatment.

In addition, a number of awards and prizes were announced at the conference:

- The Paul Flory Polymer Research Prize was shared by Ronald Koningsveld, Sittard, The Netherlands, and Moshe Narkis, The Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel.
- The Prize for the Best Lecture of the Tutorial was awarded to Dirk Schubert, Freudenberg Forschungsdienste, Weinheim, Germany.
- The Bruce Hartmann Award (for a young polymer researcher) was given to Sirina Putthanarat, University of Akron.
- The Carl Klason Award (for the best student paper) went to Ricardo Simoes, University of North Texas, Denton, U. S. A.
- Diplomas of Distinction (for a student's presentation) went to Frederic Dreux, University of Rouen, France; Kwan Yee Lau, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, China; Joanne Yip, Polytechnic University of Hong Kong, China; and Rice University, Houston, U. S. A.

The next World Forum on Polymer Application and Theory (POLYCHAR 11) will be held in Denton, Texas, 7-10 January 2003 with the Short Course on Polymer Characterization on 6 January 2003.

Michael Hess is a professor at the Gerhard-Mercator Universität, in Duisburg, Germany and is chairman of the Subcommittee on Macromolecular Terminology.

Heterocyclic Chemistry

by Thomas T. Tidwell

The 3rd Florida Heterocyclic Conference was held at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, USA from 6-8 March 2002. The conference was organized by the Florida Institute of Heterocyclic Compounds directed by Alan Katritzky, Kenan Professor of Chemistry at the University of Florida. The audience of 100 was distinguished by extensive industrial participation and four of the lectures, by Peter Wuts of Pharmacia (Kalamazoo, Michigan), Graham Johnson of Bristol-Myers Squibb (Wallingford, Connecticut), Joseph Sisko of GlaxoSmithKline (Philadelphia), and Nicolas Bodor of Ivax Corporation and the University of Florida dealt with industrial themes. The topics included the discovery and development of new drugs for the treatment of Parkinson's disease, HIV treatment, and dopamine agonists.

Other lecturers included Ronald Grigg (Leeds University, UK) on cascade reactions for heterocyclic synthesis, William Pearson (University of Michigan) on alkaloid synthesis, Jose Baruenga (University of Oviedo, Spain) on heterocyclic synthesis using metal carbene complexes, Dennis Curran (University of Pittsburgh) on fluorous techniques in organic synthesis, Ernst Anders (University of Jena, Germany) on the synthesis of novel heterocycles, Joachim Schantl (University of Innsbruck, Austria) on synthesis of cyclic azomethine imines, and Nicos Petasis (University of Southern California, Los Angeles) on heterocyclic synthesis using organoboron compounds.

From left to right: Ronald Grigg, Alan Katritzky (the conference organizer), and Jose Barulenga.

A feature of the conference was an initial full day short course on the fundamentals of heterocyclic chemistry. The Florida Heterocyclic Conference is also used to support ARKIVOC (Archive for Organic Chemistry), a free on-line refereed journal covering all aspects of organic chemistry, available at <http://www.arkat.org>.

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