

# Conference Call

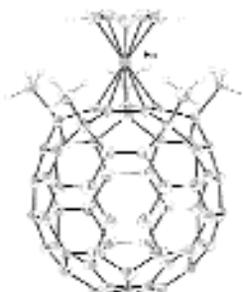
## Organometallic Chemistry

by Jon McCleverty

The 20th International Conference on Organometallic Chemistry was held on the island of Corfu from 7 to 12 July 2002. The conference was so well attended—with more than 700 participants—that the original site, based in a traditional but modernized Corfiot conference village, proved too small and operations had to be moved to a large beach hotel. Despite this obvious complication, with its attendant transportation difficulties, the local organizers, coordinated by Professor K. Screttas, are to be congratulated for maintaining calm and good order, effective information, and friendly hospitality, while providing an excellent conference venue.

This international meeting is biennial, and in keeping with its long tradition, covers all of metal chemistry in the organometallic context. There were six plenary lectures, nearly 40 session lectures, and approximately 120 other oral contributions, supplemented by 430 posters. The chemistry covered areas as diverse as nanotechnology, homogeneous catalysis, optical properties, computational chemistry, and were directed in equal measure at fundamental and applied problems. This conference complements very well an IUPAC-sponsored conference held in Taipei in 2001 that covered organometallic chemistry directed towards organic synthesis.

Organometallic chemistry is now thought by some to be a relatively mature field. However, the combination of organic fragments with metals still continues to provide remarkable new compounds, and materials with remarkable chemical and physical properties. So many of the contributions revealed exciting and unexpected results, with accompanying challenges to accepted theory and potential for new applications. What is gratifying is the attendance of a large number



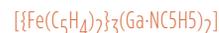
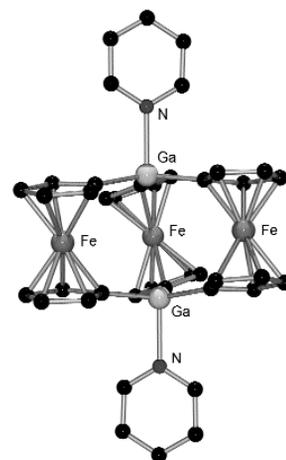
Structure of "bucky ferrocene" presented by plenary lecturer Eiichi Nakamura (University of Tokyo, Japan) in his lecture titled "The chemistry of  $\eta^1$ -Fullerene Metal Complexes."

of young chemists—proof that the field continues to attract among the best of chemical talent.

The advisors and organizers of this meeting did a fine job in putting together such an excellent program. The 20th ICOMC will long be remembered as a stimulating and informative conference set in a delightful location.

A selection of lectures from the conference will appear in *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, with Professor Screttas acting as conference editor.

Jon McCleverty is a professor at the University of Bristol, United Kingdom. As an IUPAC fellow, he also acted as IUPAC representative at the 20th ICOMC.



The picture shows three ferrocene-1,1'-diyl units which are linked by two gallium centers to give a carousel structure. The donor-free skeleton is a potential building block in supramolecular chemistry. Presented by plenary lecturer Peter Jutzi (University of Bielefeld, Germany).

## Electrical Properties of Polymers and More

by Jung-Il Jin

The 9th International Conference on Electrical and Related Properties of Polymers and Other Organic Solids (ERPOS) was held in the beautiful city of Prague, Czech Republic, from 14 to 18 July 2002. The opening ceremony was held in the afternoon of 14 July in the Carolinum, a historic building of the Charles University in the center of the Old Town. The symposium itself was held from 15 to 18 July in the auditorium of the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry (IMC) at

the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, located in Heyrovského.

The opening ceremony began with a welcoming speech to all participants from Professor S. Nespurek, the conference chairman. This was followed by speeches by Professor J. Sworakowski, a member of the International Advisory Board, and myself acting as IUPAC Representative. Professor J. Pflieger, the conference cochairman, led the opening ceremony and introduced the details and itinerary of the symposium program.

Opening lectures were given by Professors H. Inokuchi (Japan) and N. Karl (Germany). Inokuchi pre-

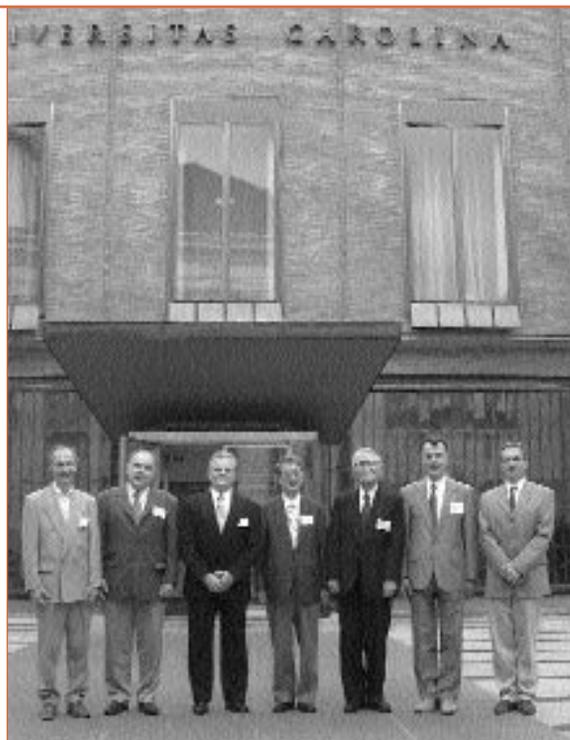
## Conference Call

sented an excellent review of 50 years of history in organic conductors. Karl delivered an illuminating and critical review of recent progress in organic field-effect transistors. The excursion through the historic rooms of the Carolinum after the two opening lectures helped participants wash out the tiredness accumulated by the long flight from Seoul to Prague; not to mention all the food and wine served afterwards during the welcome reception.

On the morning of 15 July, Professor K. Ulbrich, director of IMC, delivered a welcoming address before the technical session began. Ulbrich mentioned that this particular meeting was a combination of the 9th International Conference on ERPOS and the 21st Discussion Conference of the Prague Meeting on Macromolecules. He pointed out this was the 62nd Prague Meeting on Macromolecules—testament to how deeply rooted IMC is in the history of polymer science.

In addition, there were 10 main lectures, 25 special lectures, and 90 poster presentations. The list of the main lectures gives a glimpse of the major topics of the conference:

- Z. G. Soos and E. V. Tsiper (USA), Polarization Energies, Transport Gap, and Charge Transfer States of Organic Molecular Crystals
- H.Bässler et al. (Germany), Exciton Dissociation in Conjugated Polymers
- J. Zyss (France), Steering Molecules by Light: From NonLinear Optics (NLO) as a Goal to NLO as a Tool
- D. Haarer et al. (Germany), Charge Carrier Generation and Transport in Photorefractive Applications
- J. Kalinowski (Poland), Recombination Radiation from Organic Solids
- N. S. Sariciftci (Austria), Conjugated Polymer Based Solar Cells
- C. Flytzanice (France), Nonlinear Chiro-Optical Activity in Chiral Organic Molecular Complexes and Polymers
- J.-M. Nunzi et al. (France), Optical Structuring of Plastic Materials for Electronics
- M. Iwamoto (Japan), Interfacial Phenomena in Organic Polymer Films and the Generation of Maxwell Displacement Current
- J.-I. Jin et al. (Korea), Luminescence Properties of Novel PPV Derivatives and Low-Molar Mass Molecules Bearing Carbazole and Oxadiazole Moieties



(From left) Professors A. Miniewicz, J. Sworakowski, S. Nespurek (chairman), J.-I. Jin (IUPAC representative), H. Inoguchi, N. Karl, and J. Pflieger (cochairman) in front of the historic Carolinum building of Charles University in Prague during the opening day of the conference.

All of the oral presentations were very high in scientific quality; the discussions that followed often times were very heated. The scientific quality of poster presentations also was very high. In particular, the panel discussion on “From Molecular Crystals to Polymers and Single Molecules,” led by R. W. Munn (UK), J. Sworakowski (Poland), and R. M. Metzger (USA) brought up the importance of research cooperation among the scientists in different disciplines. It was concluded that a conference such as this could catalyze interdisciplinary research coworks that could result in scientifically, as well as technically, more significant contributions. Different approaches being taken among the scientists in different branches also were critically discussed. Such a panel discussion is very important in developing directions not only for research, but also for future conferences.

The excursion to the 15th-century Sychrov Castle and the 11th-century Detenice Chateau was memorable. The concert of the Telleman Quartet in the chateau concert hall took the participants to a different, more humane, and relaxing moment for a while. The informal dinner in the castle restaurant was another unforgettable experience.

## Conference Call

The closing ceremony was held 18 July right after the 25th Special Lecture by G. Juska (Lithuania). At this time it was announced that the next meeting (10th International Conference of ERPOS) would be held in 2005 in Angers, France. Jean-Michel Nunzi (Université d'Angers, France) will be the organizer of the meeting.

The 9th conference was attended by 126 participants from 24 countries; just the right size and mix for this kind of conference on interdisciplinary research top-

ics. The organization was superb and the meeting went as scheduled without a single interruption. Most of the credit for the success of this conference should go to Stanislav Nespurek, Jiri Pflieger, and their colleagues at the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry.

**Jung-Il Jin is professor at the Korea University in Seoul, Korea, and vice president of the IUPAC Macromolecular Division.**

## Polymer Networks

by Robert F. T. Stepto

**Polymer Networks 2002**, the 16th Polymer Networks Group Meeting, was held 2 to 6 September 2002 in Autrans, France, near Grenoble. It was organized under the auspices of IUPAC by the Polymer Networks Group, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, and the Université Joseph Fourier de Grenoble. Ninety-seven active participants, of whom 20 were students, attended the conference. Notably, the conferees came from 22 countries, showing the worldwide appeal of this specialized conference.

The conference chairman was Professor Erik Geissler of the Laboratoire de Spectrométrie Physique at the Université Joseph Fourier de Grenoble. Financial support was gratefully received from the Ministère de la Recherche, France, the Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique, the Université Joseph Fourier de Grenoble, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, the Région Rhône-Alpes, and Nestlé, Switzerland.

The conference was held in the Maeva Centre at Autrans, a purpose-built conference center in beautiful surroundings in the Vercors National Park. The conference facilities, accommodations, and catering were excellent. The social program included a musical evening in Autrans village church, with an outstanding performance of Mozart, Grieg, Mendelssohn, and Ravel by the Armaiti wind quintet. The program for accompanying persons consisted of a trip through the spectacular Gorges de la Bourne, with a visit to the Grottes de Choranche, and to the picturesque town of Pont en Royans.

The conference was one of a series of biennial conferences organized primarily by the Polymer Networks Group. It maintained the tradition of presenting papers of a high standard on subjects of present-day importance and future potential, combining both fundamental studies and applications. Indeed, the main theme of the meeting was Functional Networks and Gels. The

conference program consisted of 13 main lectures (40 minutes), 30 lectures (20 minutes), and two poster sessions, covering 57 posters.

The conference began with two main lectures: Eric Amis (NIST, USA) on Combinatorial Chemistry Applied to Polymer Systems and M. W. Husseini (Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg) on Molecular Tectonics as Building Blocks for Solid Polymeric Materials. The functional network topics were varied, covering amphiphilic, high-swelling networks for use as super-absorbing materials; the encapsulation of magnetic and conducting moieties in networks; the biological application of reversible physical gels; and the biomedical drug-release applications of microgels and nanogels, and thermally and pH responsive hydrogels. There were also contributions on filled and nanocomposite polymer network materials and the formation and properties of thermally reversible gels. The conference contained fundamental experimental, theoretical, and modelling papers on the behavior of gels at interfaces, microgels, polymeric network coatings, polymerization and network formation, swelling in gels, and optical properties of polymer networks.

The posters were of an excellent standard and reflected the wide range of topics of the lectures. Importantly, student registrants presented most of the posters and the discussions at the poster sessions were very lively.

Refereed papers from the lectures and posters will be published in a forthcoming volume of *Macromolecular Symposia*. The next meeting in the series, Polymer Networks 2004, will be organized by Eric Amis and Ferenc Horkay and will be held at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

**Robert F. T. Stepto is a professor at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, and is president of the IUPAC Macromolecular Division.**