Conference Call

Pesticide Chemistry

by Kenneth Racke

The 13th IUPAC International Congress of Pesticide Chemistry was held 10-14 August 2014, in San Francisco, USA. The Congress was organized by the AGRO Division of the American Chemical Society under the auspices of the IUPAC Division of Chemistry and the Environment (DCE). Two members of the DCE Committee served as co-organizers for the Congress, DCE President Laura McConnell and past-President Kenneth Racke. The Congress Scientific Committee was chaired by Cathleen Hapeman, AGRO Program Chair.

The theme of the Congress was "Crop, Environment, and Public Health Protection: Technologies for a Changing World". The scientific program was organized into nine main scientific topics and 46 individual symposia. Topics ranged from discovery synthesis to environmental chemistry to residues in food to regulation. Each individual symposium included invited lectures, posters, and an interactive panel discussion or workshop discussion. More than 1000 lecture and poster presentations were included in the symposia. Each day of the Congress began with two plenary lectures that all participants attended, and the rest of the day involved nine concurrent sessions which participants could choose between.

A total of 1216 scientists from 53 countries attended the Congress, with approximately one half originating from outside of North America. There was a strong emphasis on the participation of students and younger scientists as well as experts from scientifically emerging regions. More than 50 student travel grants were awarded and a "new investigator" award competition, open to those within 5 years of their Ph.D., generated a number of applicants from which three finalists were selected. A special graduate student luncheon was organized and included guest speakers who discussed international career opportunities. Based on an IUPAC project grant, a world crop protection chemistry leadership workshop was organized during the first day of the Congress. This workshop focused on identifying opportunities for training the next generation of crop protection chemistry leaders for industry, government, and academia. A report outlining a set of consensus recommendations is being prepared by the DCE's Advisory Committee on Crop Protection Chemistry.

A highlight of the Congress was the presentation of the biennial IUPAC International Award for Harmonized Approaches to Crop Protection Chemistry to Dr. Árpád Ambrus, an IUPAC Fellow and Chief Scientific Advisor for the Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office. For more than forty years, Dr. Ambrus' research has focused on analytical aspects of pesticide residues in food, elaboration of standardized methods and harmonized global residue standards, and capacity building for pesticide residue analysis and pesticide management in scientifically emerging regions. He presented a plenary lecture titled "International Harmonization of Food Safety Assessment of Pesticide Residues" and received his award during the Congress Gala Banquet.

Several collections of presented papers will be published as special issues of leading scientific journals. Details of the 2014 Congress, including post-Congress publications, will be posted to the Congress website. A detailed report of the scientific and social programs of the 13th IUPAC International Congress of Pesticide Chemistry, including a summary of the scientific topics, a list of plenary lectures, and the tabulation of poster awardees, was published in *Outlooks on Pest Management.* A complimentary copy may be downloaded at the following link: http://dx.doi.org/10.1564/v25_oct_02.

The 14th International Congress of Pesticide Chemistry will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2018. Details are available via the 2018 Congress website at www.abq.org.br/iupac2018.

www.iupac2014.org/

Congress opening ceremony showing (left to right): 2014 Congress Co-Chairs Laura McConnell and Kenneth Racke; ACS President Thomas Barton, IUPAC President Mark Cesa, ACS AGRO Chair Stephen Duke, 1994 Congress Co-Chair Nancy Ragsdale.