Conference presenters included the following:

- Prof Wayne Carter, Nottingham University, UK
- Prof. Dr. Gerrit Schüürmann, Head HCER,UFZ, Germany
- Dr. D. Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, Assam
- Dr. Rao V. Jayathirtha, IICT, Hyderabad
- Dr. Mohan S. Venkat, IICT, Hyderabad
- Prof. S. Gourinath, JNU, New Delhi
- Dr. Madava Sharma, IICT, Hyderabad,
- Dr. M. Chandraseharan, IICT, Hyderabad
- Prof. P. K. Joshi, JNU, New Delhi
- Prof. D. E. Babu, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam
- Prof. G. R. Naidu, SVU, Tirupathi
- Prof. Vibha Tandon, JNU, NEW Delhi
- Prof. A. L. Ramanathan, JNU, New Delhi
- Prof. P. Rajendra Prasad, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam
- Dr. G. Parthasarathi, NGRI, Hyderabad
- Dr. I. Gurappa, DMRL, Hyderabad
- Prof. K. Sreeramulu, Gulberga University, Gulberga
- Dr. Surender Singh, Scientist, IARI, New Delhi
- Dr. Suresth Yadav, Scientist, ICMR, Ahmedabad
- Prof. M. Pandurangappa, Bangalore University, Bengaluru
- Prof. Rajendra, Former VC, SVU, Tirupathi
- Prof. S. V. Krishna Murthy, Kuvepu University
- Dr. T. N. V. Rao, CEO, Aquamark, Bengaluru
- Dr. K. N. Rao Aurigene, Reddy Laboratories, Bengaluru

In conclusion, the conference provided the right platform to discuss the impact of environmental pollution, including pesticides and more, on the environment and human health. The conference also deliberated on remedial methods and technology for reducing environmental pollution and its effect on the environment. These efforts could protect the environment for the well-being of human beings in the years to come.

The convener would like to thank all the funding agencies for their financial support and encouragement. The untiring support of the management of Dayananda Sagar University (DSU) resulted in a successful, high quality conference. Special Thanks to Prof. A.N. Murthy, Vice Chancellor, and Prof. A. Srinivas, Dean of the School of Engineering of DSU as well as the other administrators there.

The organizing committee, faculty and student volunteers of DSU offered timely help and

encouragement. Without the support and contributions of the plenary and invited speakers and the delegates of the conference, it could not have been successful.

The conference has allowed for the development of a very good network in terms of experts, resources, and researchers, both from within India and abroad. The exposure and experience gained through the conference organization has created the motivation to organize the conference in the years to come, with the support of research labs and organizations of national and international importance.

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Croatian Meeting of Chemists and Chemical Engineers

Ana Šantić, D. Kovačević and Marijana Đaković

The 25th Croatian Meeting of Chemists and Chemical Engineers with international participation (25HSKIKI), organized jointly by the Croatian Chemical Society and Croatian Society of Chemical Engineers, was held from 19-22 April 2017 in Valamar Diamant Hotel in Poreč, Croatia.

The Meeting was organized under the auspices of Ministry of Science and Education and Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Croatia, University of Zagreb, Croatian Engineering Association, and Croatian Chamber of Economy. For the first time, the Meeting was endorsed by IUPAC and supported by more than 20 chemical and pharmaceutical companies.

25HSKIKI in numbers

25HSKIKI gathered more than 400 scientists, researchers, and university and school teachers working in various fields of chemistry from 21 countries all around the world. The scientific programme covered all domains in chemistry through nine thematic sessions: Analytical and Structural Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry and Biochemistry, Physical, Theoretical and Computational Chemistry, Synthesis and Catalysis, Supramolecular Chemistry, Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, Materials, Environment, and Education. The scientific highlights of the meeting included seven cutting-edge plenary lectures by internationally renowned chemists and 27 invited lectures on various current topics in chemistry. In addition, 40 oral contributions and almost 180 posters were presented and discussed at the meeting.

Conference Call

The programme

The Meeting was opened on Wednesday, 19 April 2017 with a welcoming word from Prof. Marijana Đaković, Chair of 25HSKIKI, Prof. Srđanka Tomić-Pisarović, President of the Croatian Chemical Society, and Prof. Ante Jukić, President of the Croatian Society of Chemical Engineers, followed by the representatives of sponsors and supporters. In between the remarks of the speakers, the audience enjoyed traditional Croatian a capella singing performed by a local klapa: "Motovun." The opening session ended with an excellent plenary talk given by Prof. Margaret Brimble (University of Auckland, New Zealand) on "Development of peptide and peptidomimetic therapeutic agents from a New Zealand perspective." She also, as a representative of IUPAC, briefly presented IUPAC work and its agenda. After the formal opening, the participants were invited to continue the evening with an informal get-together with a delicious Istrian prosciutto and cheese, a selection of local wines, and live a capella singing.

The programme on Thursday morning started with a plenary lecture, "Bio-inspired designer materials," given by Prof. Jasper van der Gucht (Wageningen University, The Netherlands) who presented the use and challenges of common design motifs of a range of bio-inspired materials. After the lecture, parallel sessions were held during the day; Synthesis and Catalysis and Physical, Theoretical and Computational Chemistry in the morning and Supramolecular Chemistry and Analytical and Structural Chemistry in

Top: The audience at 25HSKIKI. Above: Prof Margaret Brimble (University of Auckland, New Zealand), representative of IUPAC, giving her plenary lecture.

the afternoon. All sessions were filled with interesting invited talks and oral contributions interlaced with intense discussions. The final part of the Thursday programme was devoted to the poster session and the plenary lecture, "From molecules to materials" given by Prof. Christer B. Aakeröy (Kansas State University, USA), who took the audience on an exciting journey to the world of supramolecular chemistry and crystal engineering. The second day of the Meeting

Conference Call

ended with a student mixer where young chemists and chemical engineers mingled, networked and, simply, had lots of fun.

The next day began with two plenary lectures. Prof. Joachim Ulrich (Martin-Luther University, Halle, Germany) presented the most recent approaches and current developments in industrial crystallization in his lecture “Product design form and function needs process design,” whereas Prof. Lynn Kamerlin (Uppsala University, Sweden) illustrated the application of theoretical physical organic chemistry to computational enzymology in her talk “Dynamics, flexibility, cooperativity and the evolution of enzyme function.” The diversity of the sessions which followed during the day such as Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, Medicinal Chemistry and Biochemistry, Materials, and Environment, ensured that all participants found lectures and presentations of their specific interest. Moreover, in parallel to the rich scientific program, the full-day session “Education” was organized in collaboration with the Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency. The session gathered more than 60 school and university teachers who had an opportunity to discuss issues and perspectives related to modern approaches in chemistry teaching. The last plenary lecture on Friday, given by Dr Zdravka Knežević (Abdi Ibrahim Pharmaceuticals, Turkey) was dedicated to the “Pharmaceutical product design and development.” The intense day ended with a gala dinner where participants were able to network and share experiences in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The last day of the Meeting started with a plenary

lecture on the “Supramolecular Electronic Circular Dichroism: Characterization of Aggregated Phases of Conjugated Functional Polymers” delivered by Prof. Gennaro Pescitelli (University of Pisa, Italy) after which the 3rd symposium “Vladimir Prelog” took place. Traditionally, the symposium is devoted to the most recent developments in organic chemistry and this year, Dr Ivanka Jerić from Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia gave an invited lecture entitled “Multicomponent approach to natural product-like compounds.” Within the symposium, the Vladimir Prelog award for organic chemistry was handed to a young scientist, Dr Vjekoslav Štrukil from Ruđer Bošković Institute for his achievements in mechanochemical organic synthesis.

The workshops at 25HSKIKI

The programme of 25HSKIKI included two workshops “I can do it—science and business” and “How to succeed in science?” intended mainly for young chemical researchers and scientists to help them direct and develop their careers in chemistry. The workshop “I can do it—science and business,” held on Thursday 20 April, provided a platform for sharing experience and ideas for strengthening the relationship between fundamental chemical research and chemical industry through participation of leading managers from chemical companies such as Dr. Aleksandar Danilovski (Xelia Pharmaceuticals, Denmark), Dr. Dubravko Kičić (Bicro BIOCentar, Croatia), Prof. Tomislav Bolanča (Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology), Dr. Vjekoslav Majetić (Dok-Ing, Croatia) and Dr. Radan

Young chemists helping at the conference desk.

Spaventi (Triadelta Partners, Croatia). “How to succeed in science,” which took place on Saturday, 22 April, discussed three evergreen topics in chemical science: intellectual rights in chemical research (Dr Zrinka Banić Tomišić), rising a spin-off company in scientific environment (Dr Marin Roje, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Croatia) and a perspective on manuscript writing from an editor of scientific journal (Prof Christer B. Aakeröy, Kansas State University, USA).

25HSKIKI was closed on early Saturday afternoon with announcing the best poster prize winners in even six categories and with a closing remark from Prof. Davor Kovačević, co-chair of 25HSKIKI, who thanked the organizers, participants, speakers, partners and sponsors without whom the realization of this meeting would not have been such a great success.

The next Croatian Meeting of Chemists and Chemical Engineers with international participation will be held from 9-12 April 2019 in Šibenik, Croatia.

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Crossing Divides—Science Towards Peace in the Middle East

by Stanley Langer

“Lovely to see you again.” “So good that we can all meet.” These are just two of the comments that greeted participants to this conference. Embraces between Israelis and Palestinians, Saudis and Omanis—who can imagine. Such was the starting point to this 8th conference in the biennial series entitled “Frontiers of Science: Research and Education in the Middle East—A Bridge to Peace” (Malta-VIII) held in Malta from 10-15 December 2017. It was especially appropriate that the meeting followed the previous month’s conference of the World Science Forum held in Jordan on Science for Peace (<https://worldscienceforum.org>). Scientists from 15 Middle East countries and Morocco attended Malta-VIII. It was designed, in part, to forge stronger relationships and establish collaborations among scientists in the region. In this way, it is hoped that improving scientific cooperation could act as a spur to sustainable growth. It also works to promote peace and political reconciliation through science diplomacy and cross-border scientific collaboration in an increasingly volatile region of the world. Science is a global endeavour and most health and biomedical challenges are borderless. If research

is to help meet those challenges, then an international, and in this case regional, approach is necessary.

Malta-VIII was attended by 90 invited individuals, with more women and graduate students than at previous conferences—this had been a deliberate attempt to engage these groups. Delegates came from Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, the Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. As at past conferences, there had been enormous problems to solve in connection with obtaining visas for some participants, especially the Iranians and Syrians—in the end all arrived safely. Unfortunately, Prince Hassan of Jordan, a staunch supporter of these conferences and well known internationally as a voice for global sustainability, reconciliation, and inter-religious understanding, had to cancel at the last moment due to the situation in the Middle East at the time.

As president of the Malta Conferences Foundation, Professor Zafra Lerman opened the meeting by introducing Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca (President of the Republic of Malta), Frédérique Dumas (Member of the French Parliament), Andrea Carignani di Novoli (EU Head of Unit for European Neighbourhood, Africa and Gulf) and Francisco José Borge López (Vice-rector, University of Oviedo, Spain), each of whom gave short presentations. As at previous meetings, this conference was structured on a series of thematic workshops, keynote talks from Nobel Laureates, visits, and some social activity; all designed to encourage interaction, understanding, and collaborations between the scientists from the Middle East.

On this occasion, six intensive workshops were conducted during the conference:

- Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Security
- Environment: Air and Water Quality
- Sustainability of Resources: Energy and Materials
- Science and Technology Education at All Levels
- Medicinal Chemistry, Organic and Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation

With the exception of the last mentioned (see later), each was co-chaired by Middle East and western contributors.

A continuing feature of the Malta conferences is the plenaries given by Nobel Laureates and their presence testifies to the importance of the meetings. On this occasion, several Nobel Laureates were unable to attend due to ill health or other reasons but Roald Hoffmann (USA) and Ada Yonath (Israel) had the audience spellbound with their contributions on “Simulation vs.