

12th Eurasia Conference on Chemical Sciences

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The Eurasia Conferences on Chemical Sciences (EuAsC₂S) started in Bangkok in 1988 under the leadership of Bernd M. Rode (Austria), Hitoshi Ohtaki (Japan) and Ivano Bertini (Italy), together with Salag Dhabandana (Bangkok). The aim of the conferences is to foster friendship and exchange of knowledge among chemists in the Eurasian supercontinent as well as those in the Americas and Australia. While all previous conferences have been held in Asia or the Middle East, the 12th Eurasia conference (EuAsC₂S-12) took place at the Hotel Corfu Chandris on the island of Corfu, Greece, from 16 to 21 April 2012 with the aim of encouraging and enhancing the participation of European scientists, thus helping to make the conferences more widely known (Fig. 1). The 12th conference was organised by the University of Ioannina on the Greek mainland, with Emeritus Professor Nick Hadjiliadis as chairman of the local organizing committee.

The total number of participants was 450, with approximately 400 active delegates from 60 countries. The plenary lecturers included Akira Suzuki, Nobel Laureate (the Suzuki reaction); Susumu Kitagawa, chairman of the international organizing committee (porous coordination polymers/metal-organic frameworks); Stefano Baffoni (protein–protein interaction in life processes); George Christou (supramolecular aggregation of manganese clusters: linkage of single-molecule magnets into rectangles and other motifs); Peter Sadler (organometallic and photoactivatable precious metal anti-cancer complexes); Charalambos Kalodimos (structural and dynamic basis for the assembly of large protein machineries by NMR); Jim Thomas

(multifunctional *in cellulose* probes); and Bernd M. Rode (chemical evolution of peptides and proteins and the origin of life).

The social activities included a one-day excursion to Necromanteion (oracle of the dead, portal to the underworld, where Homer sent Odysseus to seek advice from the dead in the *Odyssey*), the Dodona Theatre with the seventh-century BC oracle of Zeus, and the city of Ioannina in Iperus. A visit to the Medieval Venetian Castle of Corfu (Fig. 2) and the Achilleion Palace followed by a traditional Greek Taverna banquet concluded the cultural program.

The present issue of *Aust. J. Chem.* contains a series of papers by authors from Eurasia12. A highlight by Baptiste Plancq and Thierry Ollevier (winner of the prize for the best oral presentation by a younger scientist, sponsored by *Aust. J. Chem.*) from the Université Laval, Québec, details the use of iron salts in combination with chiral bipyridine-containing ligands for highly enantioselective reactions.^[1] Shunichi Fukuzumi et al. (Osaka University, Japan) describe a photocatalytic hydrogen-evolving system using a 9-phenyl-10-methylacridinium ion as a highly efficient electron mediator.^[2] Yang Kim (Kosin University, Busan, South Korea), Len Lindoy (University of Sydney, Australia) and their co-workers report on unusual Cu(II) complexes including a triple π -stacked dinuclear species and a trinuclear circular helicate.^[3] Highly inert oxo-centred triruthenium clusters have been prepared by Masaaki Abe et al. (Kyushu University, Japan).^[4] A high-yielding one-pot cobalt(II) phthalocyanine-catalyzed synthesis of *N*-substituted isoindolinones is reported by Neeraj Kumar and co-workers (CSIR, Palampur, India).^[5] Bernd



Nick Hadjiliadis was born in Athens, Greece, and received his B.Sc. (Hons) in Chemistry from the University of Athens in 1966. His M.Sc. (1972) and Ph.D (1975) degrees were obtained from the University of Montreal, Canada. In 1975, he joined the Department of Chemistry at the University of Athens as an assistant professor and subsequently the Department of Chemistry at the University of Ioannina, where he has been a full professor since 1987. He has been Emeritus Professor of Chemistry since 2008. His research interests have been mainly in the general area of metal ions in biological systems. He was among the founders, and was subsequently the chairman, of the graduate program in bioinorganic chemistry at the University of Ioannina, in which almost all Greek university chemistry departments participated. He was also the founder of the journal *Bioinorganic Chemistry and Applications* and its editor-in-chief for several years.



Curt Wentrup was educated at the University of Copenhagen (Cand. Scient., 1966; D.Sc., 1976) and the Australian National University (Ph.D., 1969). He held an assistant professorship at the Université de Lausanne, Switzerland, and a professorship at the Universität Marburg, Germany, before returning to Australia in 1985 as Professor and Chair of Organic Chemistry and head of the organic chemistry section at the University of Queensland, where he is now Emeritus Professor. Since 2009, he has been Chair of the National Committee for Chemistry of the Australian Academy of Science. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and has published over 300 research papers. His research interests are in the fields of both experimental and computational chemistry of reactive intermediates and unusual molecules, flash vacuum thermolysis, and photochemistry, and he collaborates extensively with researchers in Australia and Europe.



Fig. 1. Seaside view from Corfu town.



Fig. 2. The Venetian Castle of Corfu.

M. Rode et al. (Innsbruck, Austria) describe their quantum mechanical molecular dynamics study of the Ir(III) aqua ion that classifies the Ir-OH₂ bond as the strongest ion hydrate bond known.^[6] Spyros Perlepes (University of Patras, Greece) and co-workers in Greece and Canada report on new Ni(II)₄ clusters with interconvertible cubane and dicubane topologies.^[7] In the field of food chemistry, Leif Skibsted, Karsten Olen and co-workers at the University of Copenhagen describe the

detection of advanced glycation end products during dry storage of β -lactoglobulin/lactose.^[8] Sotiris Hadjidakou, Nick Hadjiliadis (University of Ioannina, Greece) and their collaborators in the UK and Poland report on highly active anti-cancer compounds in the topical organotin(IV) field.^[9]

The 13th Eurasia conference will be held in India in December 2014 with Professor N. Jayaraman (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore) as organiser.

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