



Editorial

3rd EPNOE international polysaccharide conference (EPNOE 2013)



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The 3rd EPNOE International Polysaccharide Conference (EPNOE 2013) with the title “Polysaccharides and polysaccharide-derived products. From basic science to applications” was held in Nice (France) from 21 to 24 October 2013. This conference was jointly organised by EPNOE (European Polysaccharide Network of Excellence) and the Cellulose and Renewable Materials Division of the American Chemical Society (ACS). Patrick Navard from the Materials Processing Center of Mines ParisTech was the chairman of the local organising committee. EPNOE 2013 was a great success. More than 450 participants from 45 countries gathered in the newly refurbished Nice Acropolis Convention Center, a perfect location for a scientific meeting with rooms for oral communications, posters and lunch being in the same place. It was also a wonderful site since the Congress Hall is situated in the heart of the old Nice city, close to the Mediterranean sea side.

The EPNOE 2013 conference was a forum for bringing together academic, industrial, and government scientists and students dealing with polysaccharides and polysaccharide-derived products. Scientists from many disciplines were present, including biologists, chemists, physicists, food specialists, technologists, and environmentalists. In total, 236 oral communications were presented in four parallel sessions and 200 posters were permanently displayed throughout the conference, catalysing numerous discussions and providing good visibility of the exhibited work.

The conference had the honour to host two Special Guests who are EPNOE members and ACS Anselme Payen awardees, Thomas Heinze from the University of Jena, Germany in 2010 and Hans-Peter Fink from Fraunhofer Society, Gölms, Germany in 2012 (EPNOE is also proud to have another of its distinguished scientists, Thomas Rosenau, honoured by the 2014 ACS Payen award). Four Plenary Lecturers gave overviews on four different fields, biosynthesis (Herman Höfte, INRA, France), biomass-based materials (Yoshiyuki Nishio, Kyoto, Japan), food (Bruce Hamaker, Purdue, USA) and

health (Rolando Barbucci, Siena, Italy). Twenty-two experts gave invited lectures.

Teaching was also part of the conference. A pre-conference course on “Challenges and perspectives in making materials from polysaccharides” was held on Sunday October 20, 2013. Nine academic and industrial scientists gave presentations on the basis features of various aspects of polysaccharide science and technology to 82 participants, the majority of them being junior scientists. A course on scientific paper writing was organised by Wendy Hurp (Elsevier) assisted by John Mitchell (editor of *Carbohydrate Polymers*).

The social side of the conference was a very enjoyable aspect particularly the dinner in the new Nice casino located on Promenade des Anglais. In addition to excellent food this featured top class magic, mime and musical acts.

The conference would not have been such a success without the help of our sponsors. We wish to thank for their support: Bionavis, Cargill, Elsevier, *Journal of Applied Polymer Science*, Springer, and Wyatt.

On behalf of EPNOE and ACS, we have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the 4th EPNOE Conference (EPNOE 2015) which will be held from 19 to 22 October 2015 in Warsaw, Poland (epnoe2015@ibwch.lodz.pl). EPNOE 2015 is organized by the Institute of Biopolymers and Chemical Fibres (IBWCh), an EPNOE member located in Lodz, Poland.

This special issue of *Carbohydrate Polymers* highlights papers from key contributors to the third EPNOE Conference in Nice. Their papers update the work so ably presented there. In this special issue we present 40 papers representing some of the most interesting contributions to this meeting. We hope that you enjoy this snapshot of the research being carried out on this vitally important class of materials.

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