

The European Young Chemist Award 2010

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The European Young Chemist Award (EYCA) 2010 was held in Nuremberg, Germany, during the 3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress. This was the third time this award has been presented. It had previously been awarded at the 1st European Chemistry Congress in Budapest in 2006, and at the 2nd European Chemistry Congress in Torino in 2008. Under the patronage of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS), the Italian Chemical Society (SCI), the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh), and the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN), the European Young Chemist Award 2010 was chaired by myself (SCI) and Sergej Toews (EYCN).

The aim of the EYCA is to showcase and recognize the excellent research being carried out by young scientists working in the chemical sciences. In particular, this award is intended to honor and encourage younger chemists whose current research displays a high level of excellence and distinction. It seeks to recognize and reward younger chemists of exceptional ability who show promise of substantial future achievements in chemistry-related research fields.

To be eligible to participate in the European Young Chemist Award in Nuremberg, the applicants had to be less than 35 years old by August 29, 2010 and co-authors of an abstract submitted to the 3rd European Chemistry Congress. As on the previous two occasions, the event was fully sponsored by the Italian Chemical Society.

For the event in Nuremberg, we received about 70 applications from scientists between the ages of 19 and 34 (Figure 1a); slightly fewer than in Budapest (120) and Torino (90). The trend is probably attributable to the fact that people now realize that the competition is very hard and it is not easy to even reach the final. A few applicants also participated in the previous competition.

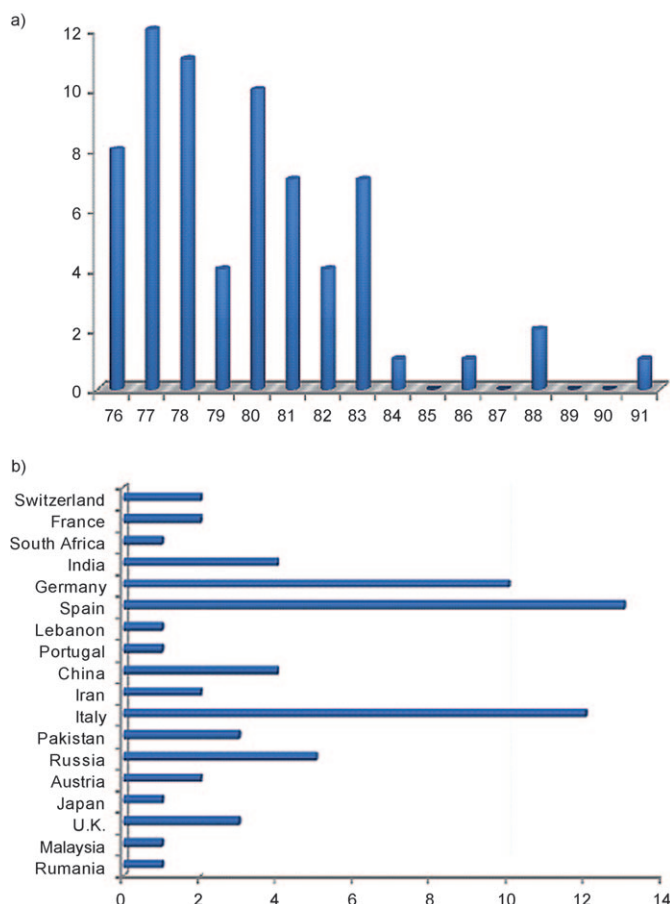


Figure 1. a) Age of the applicants (year of birth); b) nationality of the applicants.

The competitors came from 18 different countries (Figure 1b). Most of the applicants were born or were working in Spain, Italy, and Germany (about 10 per each country). Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Iran, China, India, Australia, South Africa, Rumania, Russia and many other European countries were also represented. Again, there were relatively few applicants from the UK, France, and Switzerland. In contrast, the visibility of the EYCA-2010 reached China and India.

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Approximately 66% of the applicants were male, and about 30% were PhD students, the number of postdoctoral researchers being a smaller percentage. Practically no applicants came from industry, even if many applications dealt with problems of great industrial interest and some researchers have been and/or are in very close contact with industry.

Several among the older participants have permanent positions as Professors, Associate Professors, Junior Professors, Researchers at Universities or Research Institutes; others hold positions as Lecturers, Assistant Researchers, Group leaders, and Tenure Track Assistant Professors. A couple of very young participants were undergraduate students. Many participants have worked in more than one country, moving from Europe to Japan or the USA. Many received grants from programs like Erasmus/Socrates, Marie Curie and Marco Polo. Some of them went around studying or working in three, four, and even five different European countries and for this reason can be considered to be truly European citizens.

As in Budapest and Torino, the scientific standing of the applicants was very high and their research achievements were remarkable, especially in relation to their young age. Note that research from the best candidates of the two previous EYCA competitions can be found in four different books entitled *“Tomorrow’s Chemistry Today—Concepts in Nanoscience, Organic Materials and Environmental Chemistry”*, *“Ideas in Chemistry and Molecular Sciences—Advances in Synthetic Chemistry”*, *“Ideas in Chemistry and Molecular Sciences—Where Chemistry Meets Life”* and *“Ideas in Chemistry and Molecular Sciences—Advances in Nanotechnology, Materials and Devices”*, edited by myself, and published by Wiley-VCH, with the patronage of EuCheMS, SCI, RSC, and GDCh.

A few facts and figures help to illustrate the quality of the participants. About 45% of the applicants were selected to give an oral contribution at the Nuremberg Congress. Among the candidates, one had already had about 60 papers in peer-reviewed international journals and is responsible for a group of 20 PhD and Post Doc researchers, and has a h_{index} of 17 and the published papers have been cited well over 1500 times. Several participants had already received a number of prizes and had been invited to give various lectures. Again, as in previous years, several of the papers quoted in the reference lists of the applicants of the EYCA-2010 had achieved further recognition by being featured on the covers of top journals. Other papers had been selected as hot articles or highlighted in top journals. The publication lists of most applicants proudly noted the appearance of their work in the leading general science/chemistry journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, *Angewandte Chemie*, the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, and *Chemistry—A European Journal* or the best niche journals in the fields of Organic, Inorganic, Organometallic, Physical, Analytical, Environ-

mental, and Medicinal Chemistry. Moreover, according to the recommendation letters, some of the work of the candidates may be considered as major breakthroughs in their particular fields.

On reading the applications, it became clear that the applicants have very varied scientific interests and have very interesting ideas for their future work. Further support for the applications, and a testament to the very high quality of the competitors, was apparent from reading the recommendation letters coming from a number of eminent scientists. A flavor of these from the applications received is given below:

“The top 1% of students at one of the top universities in Europe”. “Her personality and skills should place her high on any list of good representatives for our country” (this was for a competitor from a developing country). “The candidate is extremely bright, hard-working, talented, and he has a great love of chemistry that is infectious. He has one love and one hobby and they are the same: chemistry. He eats, lives, and breathes the subject. This is manifest in his exceptional command of the chemical literature. With this chemistry, the candidate has made breakthroughs on several fronts”. “He is an exciting young scientist whose bright star is on the rise. A more talented, tireless, enthusiastic, and genuine colleague would be difficult to find. I endorse the candidate enthusiastically! If you select the candidate to receive the 2010 European Young Chemist Award you will be making the best possible choice, and as well, adding his name to the list of recipients of this Award will help to increase this Award’s honor and prestige”. “A very bright, hard working researcher, eager to learn with high research scales; with a creative and positive mind”. “He has a lot of talent for both experimental and theoretical research. His ability to acquire new knowledge is accompanied by an extraordinary aptitude to make use of this knowledge to tackle old and new problems”. “He tends to work (too) hard. With his dynamic nature, curious mind, initiative and many innovative ideas the candidate has shown to be fully capable to function as an independent researcher. I advise him to continue his career in science because there are not so many people around with his kind of talent”. “She is an outstanding candidate for this award for the following reasons: Excellent research achievement. Outstanding academic performance. Strong commitment to chemistry”. “With an outstanding background of education is able to push the limits of his topic to an unexpected extent. He surprised me not only with his experimental skill, but also with his creativity in solving problems. He is an independent thinker and a real leader”. “The research activities followed by the candidate are impressively wide. I have every reason to believe that the candidate will show an outstanding performance and become a key contributor of chemistry in his generation”. “I can testify that she is a truly outstanding young scientist, one of the top three post-doctoral fellows [from a total of over fifty] with whom I have had the pleasure of working”. “Her research is characterized by a refreshing in-

ventiveness, and willingness to tackle new problems in an imaginative fashion. Her publication record to date is outstanding for a young researcher". "It is very clear that the candidate has the gift of identifying the relevant questions and important directions in his research". "He deserves this award for his myriad and important contributions to the fields of...". "He is an extraordinarily skilled, creative and accomplished synthetic and materials chemistry researcher. He has an enthusiastic approach to any kind of chemical problems and has shown a tremendous interest for new developments in pure and applied research, considering all different branches of chemistry, physics and materials science. He carried out most of the experiments at a very sophisticated level, but has also contributed with very valid new ideas, that led to opening of new research areas". "She is a highly creative young scientist working on topics of exceptional interest embracing several areas of chemistry". "She was a Key player in our effort...". "You will be hard pressed to find a better candidate for the award". "She is an outstanding scientist as well as a most valuable and congenial colleague. I sincerely consider myself very fortunate to have her as a key player in our research team". "Her expertise, knowledge and talent will be of considerable value for the progress of science and prestige of the European Scientific Community". "He possesses a modern far-reaching vision for the discipline, which includes not only an emphasis on the core activities involving methodology and target-oriented synthesis but also a recognition of the importance of integrating these in the context of the interface with biology and medicine. Thus, I am convinced he is a superb scientist and would be an outstanding hire for the very best departments at the very top Universities". "He is a star-researcher and as such has my strongest possible recommendation in support of his application". "She is intellectually curious, passionate and devote her skills towards the achievement of scientific goals involved in her work constantly trying to transform ideas in real chemistry". "Based also on my colleagues' opinion, I rank him among the top 5% students I have met in my academic career. He has always carried out his research activity with independence and strong leadership, with a very clear vision of future directions". "I do not exaggerate when I say that I think the candidate is the very best undergraduate student with whom it has been my privilege to work over the last 30 years". "Select him!". "His analyses stemming from computational results have been most insightful. I think the candidate has shown that he is a tremendous scientist". "Without her dedicated contributions, my lab would not be where it is today". "He is superb!". "She already is and will be a model for young women who want to undertake a career in science". "It should be a top priority for Europe to keep such caliber scientists from developing countries around by providing them with a professional perspective". "Her productivity is taking off while maintaining scientific excellence as the main driver".

In addition to the above, I would like to stress that several papers were not only scientifically excellent and innovative,

but were also industrially relevant, as illustrated by the number of patents in the reference lists of the applicants. Also, many of the candidates are highly successful teachers; others are also very good communicators for "their" science. For one of the competitors, the supporting letter said: "In very clear, interesting and very lively talks, he fascinates his auditorium". In addition, some of the older competitors are currently involved in industrial projects, and others have been responsible for organizing laboratories and meetings. On the basis of the recommendation letters it is also clear that many candidates possess an engaging personality with whom one can have stimulating discussions about chemistry and science in general.

A panel of finalists was selected on the basis of the evaluation by the Symposia Chairs from the 3rd European Chemistry Congress and/or other recognized international scientific experts.

The selection criteria were looking for evidence of:

- Excellence in chemistry and related fields
- Originality and independent contribution
- Thoroughness and a depth of understanding of the research area
- Awareness of the future perspectives of their research

To illustrate the above I quote here a few referees comments and judgments, which were used to narrow down the field. "The applicant has worked in excellent groups and has achieved in a short time major results in the area of mechanistic and synthetic organic chemistry as well as materials chemistry". "The applicant's present research field is undoubtedly of highest relevance". "This is a truly important aspect which will have impact". "The scientific value is very high, with certainty. Whether a technical value will emanate from the applicant's research is (as always) difficult to predict. As the candidate and his co-workers are amongst those at the forefront of this kind of research, it is likely that their work will lead to technological value".

Owing to the high scientific quality of the applicants, the selection procedure proved to be very difficult and it is pity that some very high caliber scientists could not be included among the finalists.

Notably, young chemists gave important contributions in almost all the symposia of the 3rd European Chemistry Congress and as mentioned above about 30 of them gave an oral presentation.

In the following, noteworthy contributions from the applicants are summarized (the names of the finalists are given in boldface):

In the Symposia "Innovative Materials" and "Supramolecular Systems", the young chemists played a key role (9 out

of 14 applicants gave an oral presentation): Carlos Baleizao (Centro de Química-Física Molecular, Instituto Superior Técnico, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal) reported the first successful encapsulation of pristine fullerene C_{70} in polymer nanoparticles to be used as temperature fluorescence sensors; **Giacomo Bergamini** (University of Bologna, Dipartimento di Chimica “G. Ciamician”, Italy) studied luminescent dendrimers by fluorescence anisotropy measurements; Vittorio Boffa (Dipartimento di Chimica Generale e Chimica Organica, Università di Torino, Italy) proposed an example of a green multistep chain, in which residual biomasses are used as the source of chemicals (biosurfactants) for the preparation of functional materials for an environmentally friendly process; Nicola Davis (University of Oxford, Department of Chemistry, UK) presented her contribution on Toward Large-Conjugated Sheets: Fusing Anthracenes to Porphyrins; **Xinliang Feng**’s work (Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research, Mainz, Germany) dealt with graphene, as a new class of two-dimensional carbon nanostructure having unique properties such as high mobility and saturation velocity for both electrons and holes, room-temperature quantum Hall effect, and good optical transparency, which make it a realistic candidate for a number of electronic applications; Marina Kuimova (Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London, UK) developed a novel method for imaging viscosity by utilizing fluorescent probes, termed ‘molecular rotors’, to measure microscopic viscosity inside single cells with precision and high spatial resolution; the work by Shiding Miao (Physikalische Chemie/Elektrochemie Technische Universität Dresden, Germany) concerned the synthesis of a series of cadmium phosphide nanomaterials from magic-sized clusters (MSCs, emitting at ~458 nm) to nano-sized quantum dots (emitting from 610 nm to 1140 nm); Carlos Mirò Sabate (Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Energetic Materials Research, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, Germany) presented the synthesis of new nitrogen-rich energetic materials based on a tetrazole moiety; **Sophie Carencó**’s work (Laboratoire de Chimie de la Matière Condensée de Paris, UPMC, Collège de France, Paris, France) opened an avenue for the synthesis of designed metal phosphide nanoparticles with versatile properties; Chiara Ingrosso (Dipartimento di Chimica, Università di Bari, Italy) selected colloidal nanocrystals based on polymer nanocomposites for microfabrication; **Abbie Trewin** (Department of Chemistry and Centre for Materials Discovery, University of Liverpool, UK) discussed atomistic and molecular dynamic simulations for porous materials having interesting gas sorption properties; Alexander Schiller (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena, Germany) presented his supramolecular saccharide sensors; Vittorio Saggiorno (Otto-Diels-Institut für Organische Chemie, Kiel, Germany) presented work on ion transport across membranes; **Guido Clever** (Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany) developed a sophisticated synthesis for the assembly of a new kind of molecular cage with outstanding guest-binding capabilities; **Aurelio Mateo-Alonso** (Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, School of

Soft Matter Research, Germany) discussed in detail the preparation and behavior of molecular shuttles stoppered with fullerenes; **Serena Silvi** (Università di Bologna, Dipartimento di Chimica “G. Ciamician”, Italy) outlined a general strategy for the reversible photochemical control of motion kinetics in threaded and interlocked compounds; **Sheshanath Bhosale** (Monash University, Clayton, Melbourne, Australia) described the construction of yoctoliter-sized vessels which may act as tiny chemical reactors by manipulating the interactions between guest molecules and the walls of the yoctowell gap.

Among the many contributions presented in the symposium on “Catalysis”: Raquel Herrera Perez (Technische Universität Dortmund, Organische Chemie, Germany) discussed the organocatalytic Rauhut-Currier cyclization of α,β -unsaturated aldehydes catalyzed by the Jørgensen–Hayashi catalyst; **Nicolai Cramer** (ETH Zurich, Laboratory of Organic Chemistry, Zurich, Switzerland) reported on the enantioselective rhodium-catalyzed C–C bond activation and its economic and ecological interest; Jerome Waser (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland) studied acetylene chemistry with the aim to explore catalytic methods for non-conventional bond disconnections; Nicolas Delpont’s work (Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia, Tarragona, Spain) focused on the total synthesis of englerins A and B, which is a natural product exhibiting highly potent and selective biological activities against a panel of renal cancer cell lines; Patricia Benito-Martin (University of Bologna, Italy) described electrosynthesized structured catalysts for H_2 production from the natural gas; Matteo Maestri (Fritz-Haber-Institut der MPG, Berlin, Germany) gave an accurate description of the elementary steps involved in catalytic processes; Tommaso Marcelli (Politecnico di Milano, Italy) worked on the theoretical study of the reaction mechanism of the boronic acid-catalyzed amide bond formation; **Laura Gomez Martin** (Departament de Química, Parc Científic i Tecnològic de la Universitat de Girona, Spain) reported on biomimetic iron catalysts for stereospecific C–H oxidation with H_2O_2 ; **Ulrich Hintermair** (ITMC of RWTH Aachen, Germany) developed innovative approaches to continuous-flow methods for molecular catalysis; **Xile Hu** (Institute of Chemical Sciences and Engineering, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland) discussed the cross-coupling of non-activated alkyl halides by a well-defined Ni catalyst, by an approach that allows one to understand and control the reactivity in a rational manner; Stephan Reitmeier (TU München, Department of Chemistry, Germany) gave a contribution on assessing transport in nanopores on a molecular basis; Shoubhil Das (Leibniz-Institut für Katalyse e. V. an der Universität Rostock, Germany) presented work on the zinc-catalyzed reduction of amides, and its potential interest in the synthesis of highly functionalized molecules; Richard Leyfield (School of Chemistry, The University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom) described studies on bi-functional allyl and pentadienyl carbanion complexes of

alkali metals, and their importance in organic and organo-metallic synthesis.

In the “Molecular Life Science” and in the “Analysis, Manipulation and Simulation Symposia” three outstanding contributions came from: **Claudia Höbartner** (Research Group Nucleic Acid Chemistry, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany) on the development of a combinatorial approach to define essential nucleotides and functional groups in the catalytic core of DNA catalysts; **Santiago Gomez-Ruiz** (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Móstoles, Madrid, Spain) on palladium nanoparticles supported by hybrid mesoporous silicas as novel biomaterials with potential application against bone tumours; and **Clemence Corminboeuf** (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland) on the simulation of pi-conjugation effects on molecular and materials properties representing an important step for the rational design of novel functional molecules and materials having predefined macroscopic properties.

In the “Advances in Organic and Inorganic Chemistry” Symposium, one should mention the work by **Shinichiro Fuse** (Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan) on efficient syntheses of Taxol and 9-membered masked enediyne using an automated synthesizer developed in his laboratory; Natalya Izarova’s (Jacobs University Bremen, Department of Chemistry, Bremen, Germany) work on noble metal based polyoxometalates, and Bassem Bassil’s (Jacobs University Bremen, Department of Chemistry, Bremen, Germany) work on the ‘superlacunary’ cyclic 48-tungsto-8-phosphate and its reactivity; Hannelore Nuss (Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research, Stuttgart, Germany) discussed new ionic ozonides exhibiting interesting physical properties; the studies by Paola Romanato (Organisch-chemisches Institut der Universität Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland) on the synthesis of intramolecularly stabilized organosilylium ions by interaction with different electron-demanding aromatic substituents; and Cristina Nevado’s (Zürich University, Organic Chemistry Institute, Zürich, Switzerland) work on the design and syntheses of complex molecules and its use as chemical probes targeting biological questions.

On the basis of the selection procedure and the time available, 16 finalists were selected for the EYCA-2010 finalists’ special symposium. To reflect the different career level of the applicants, the finalists were divided in two sets: one for the PhD students and the other for those already active as a Post Doc or with their own research group.

After a brief welcome by Prof. Luigi Campanella (The President of SCI) and an introduction on the history of the award and rules by myself, the finalists each gave a 12-minute talk on their research during the morning and afternoon sessions (Csaba Janaky from the EYCN, chaired the afternoon session) of the EYCA finalists’ special symposium of the 3rd European Chemistry Congress. The talks were

presented in front of a jury, composed of Prof. Dr. Michael Droscher (The President of the GDCh), Prof. Dr. David Phillips (The President of the RSC) and Prof. Dr. Maurizio Prato (from the SCI), who were entrusted to select the award winners at the two levels. At the end of each session, questions were posed by the jury and members of the audience.

A photograph of most of the participants (finalists, jury, chairmen) is shown in Figure 2.

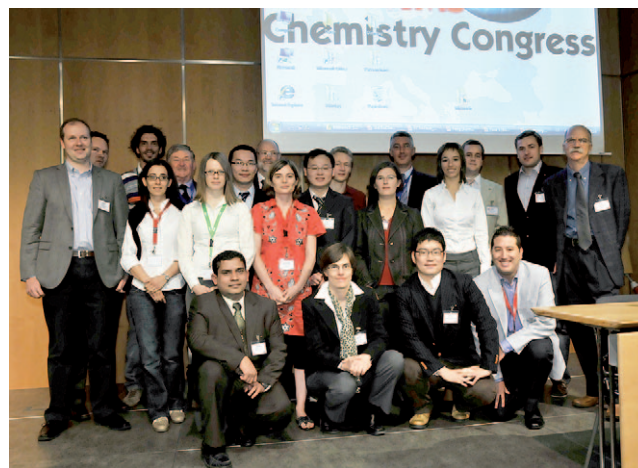


Figure 2. From right to left: top row: Maurizio Prato, Sergej Toews, Csaba Janáky, Bruno Pignataro, Ulrich Hintermair, Michael Dröschner, David Phillips, Giacomo Bergamini, Nicolai Cramer. Second row: Laura Gómez, Sophie Carencó, Xinliang Feng, Clemence Corminboeuf, Xile Hu, Abbie Trewin, Serena Silvi, Guido Clever. Third row: Santiago Gómez-Ruiz, Shinichiro Fuse, Claudia Höbartner, Sheshanath V. Bho-sale.

The session was very vibrant and exciting; the finalists presented a summary of many hot topics at the forefront of chemical science, and displayed plenty of creativity and innovation. As in Budapest and Torino, the competitors presented chemistry more and more as a dynamic science (because of the continuous development of knowledge, techniques, and paradigms), often adapting its potential to the demands of society, implementing its tradition and collaborating with other scientific disciplines to open up entirely new fields at the interface with physics, materials science, or life sciences.

After long deliberations, the jury made the following awards (Figure 3):

First prize (a gold medal; 1800 Euro; a certificate):

Nicolai Cramer, ETH Zurich, Laboratory of Organic Chemistry, Switzerland

Second Prize ex-equo (for both the two second prizes: a silver medal; 800 Euro; a certificate):

Clemence Corminboeuf, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland

Claudia Höbartner, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany

First prize at PhD level (a gold medal; 800 Euro; a certificate):
Sophie Carencó, Laboratoire de Chimie de la Matière Con-



Figure 3. The EYCA-2010 winners. Top row from left to right: Nicolai Cramer, Clemence Corminboeuf, and Claudia Höbartner. Bottom row from left to right: Sophie Carencu, Laura Gómez, and Ulrich Hintermair.

densée de Paris and Laboratoire Hétéroéléments et Coordination, Ecole Polytechnique, CNRS, Palaiseau, France
Second prize at PhD level ex-equo (for both the two second prizes: a silver medal; 600 Euro; a certificate)

Ulrich Hintermair, ITMC of RWTH Aachen, Germany

Laura Gómez, Departament de Química, Parc Científic i Tecnològic de la Universitat de Girona, Spain

A special mention was also made by the jury about Aurelio Mateo-Alonso (Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, School of Soft Matter Research-Germany)

In his closing remarks, Prof. Dr. Michael Droscher made the following comment: “As science and also the chemical science are getting more and more internationally competitive, it was good to see the high quality presented at the Finalist’s Symposium of the European Young Chemists Award. Europe’s young talent excels with topics ranging from synthesis to theory, from catalysis to energy storage. Not only the winners received the respect of the jury but all contestants of the symposium”.

Finally, the Gold and Silver Medallists (in Figure 4 the Gold Medal) were presented at the Award Ceremony during the Closing Ceremony of the 3rd European Chemistry Congress in the presence of Prof. Luis Oro (President of EuCheMS), Prof. Franco De Angelis (Past President of the Italian Chemical Society and Treasurer of EuCheMS), Prof. Michael Dröscher and Prof. Maurizio Prato for the jury, Dr. Sergej Toews (President of EYCN), and myself.

I personally learned a lot and received important scientific feedback from the attendees. In addition, I was again left with the feeling that our future is bright given that it is in



Figure 4. A photo of the Gold Medal presented to the EYCA-2010 winner.

the hands of such talented scientists. We are proud to underline that the two previous Award competitions were won by scientists that are in important positions and/or have made significant advancements in their careers: Jonathan Nitschke (Gold Medal 2006) joined the academic staff at the Cambridge University (UK); Leroy Cronin (Silver Medal 2006 - ex equo), Full Professor at Glasgow University (UK), who owing to the quality of his publications and the rate at which they are appearing was recently featured in the Author Profiles section of *Angewandte Chemie*; Javier Garcia Martinez (Silver Medal 2006 - ex equo) was featured by *Chemistry International* as one of the 2009 Young Global Leaders for his pioneering work in nanotechnology and energy; Fabio Arnesano (Gold Medal 2008) is Researcher at the University of Bari (Italy); Guillermo Espallargas (Gold Medal at PhD level 2008) is currently a “Juan de la Cierva” Research Scientist at the ICMol - University of Valencia (Spain); Leonard J. Prins (Silver Medal 2008), Researcher at the University of Padova (Italy), recently received an ERC IDEAS starting grant and won a national competition for Associate Professors; Ali Tavassoli (Silver Medal 2008) who is a lecturer in chemical biology at the University of Southampton and joined the Bio-Organic Committee of the Royal Society of Chemistry; Viktoria H. Gessner and Gustavo Fernández (both Silver Medal—ex equo—at PhD level 2008) currently developing their research in outstanding laboratories and making important breakthrough in their fields.

I am confident that the winners of this competition will also become key players for the progress of Chemical Sciences.

I cannot finish this Editorial without having expressed my personal acknowledgements to Chiara Musumeci and Giuseppe Francesco Indelli (Consorzio Catania Ricerche) for their precious help in the technical organization of the Award, to all the referees/judges involved in the selection process, and to Prof. Giovanni Natile as well as Prof. Franco De Angelis and Prof. Luigi Campanella who, as Presidents of the Italian Chemical Society (over these years of the EYCA), constantly encouraged and supported this activity.

Finally, let me conclude by saying that I am delighted that the European Young Chemists Award can now be considered an integral part of these international EuCheMS Conferences.