

The 17th Forum took place on April 20th - April 24th, 2009 at the Institute of Materials Research of the University of Rouen. The tutorial Course on Polymer Characterization was held at the same location on April 20th. Both were organized by Prof. Jean-Marc Saiter of the University of Rouen and his team.

The Forum stressed the following areas: Predictive Methods; Nanomaterials and Smart Materials; Electrical & Dielectric Properties; Surfaces, Interfaces & Tribology; Mechanical Properties and Performance; Rheology and Processing; Structure-Property Relationships; Materials Synthesis; Biomaterials, Materials for Energy & Recycling.

As in the past years, POLYCHAR had under one roof theorists, those doing computer simulations or modeling, processing and characterization people and more. Discussions during the presentations, during the breaks, in the evenings and even during the post-conference excursion were fruitful – for newcomers and distinguished materials scientists and engineers alike.

There were 164 participants from 40 countries presenting some 250 contributions. There were 30 invited and special lectures together with 116 regular oral contributions plus over 100 posters. Since POLYCHAR 1, the objective is to present originality and high quality of work – not maximizing the number of participants. Another objective is to attract students and other young scientists – to give them an opportunity to meet with their peers and with well-known scientists to exchange experiences, make contacts and present their results to the scientific community. Many students attended the presentations and 60 presented their own results.

For several years now POLYCHAR Forum as well as the Course on Polymer Characterization are sponsored by the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry (IUPAC, Division IV). Other sponsors this year include the Government of Upper Normandy.

The POLYCHAR Prize Committee chaired by Goerg Michler, Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, has awarded

a number of prizes listed below:

Carl Klason Prize for the Best Student Paper was in view of a fierce competition awarded to three *ex aequo* winners:

* VIVIAN IKEM, Imperial College London (advisor Alexander Bismarck) for her paper on highly porous polymer foams synthesized from templates.

* RENATA PIRES, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (advisor Elizabete F. Lucas) for her presentation on tailor-made copolymers for reduction of friction in aqueous solutions.

* DAVID YAN DONG, University of Washington, Seattle (advisor Chunye Xu) for his presentation on patterned electrochromic polymeric windows.

Diplomas of Distinction for Student Presentations:

* MOHAMMAD ALI ARAVAND, Torbiat Modares University, Tehran (advisor Mohammad Ali Semsarzadeh) for his presentation on phase inversion emulsification of epoxies with non-ionic block emulsifiers.

* LYUBOV BARDASH, Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Kyiv, and University of Lyon (advisors Alexander Fainleib and Gisele Boiteux) for her presentation on performance modification of poly(butylene terephthalate) by multi-wall carbon nanotubes.

IUPAC Diplomas of Distinction for a Student Poster Presentation:

* KHADIDJA ARABECHE, Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg and University of Rouen (advisors Goerg Michler and Jean-Marc Saiter) for presentation on multilayer films in confinement geometry.

* YOO-SHUNG CHOI, Chosun University, Gwangju (advisor Byung-Wook Jo) for his presentation on flame retardant composites containing inorganic waste fillers.

* ORATHAI PORNSUNTHORNTHAWEE, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok (advisor Ratana Rujiravanit) for a presentation on surface modification of biopolymeric films via adsorption of a biosurfactant.

Bruce Hartmann Award for a Young Scientist:

* CAROLINE TERRIÉ, University of Rouen, for her presentation on biodegradable materials from agro-based by-products.

Jürgen Springer Award for a Young Scientist:

* HALEY E. HAGG LOBLAND, University of North Texas, Denton, for her presentation on brittleness of materials and its implications for composites and impact testing.

The International Materials Science Prize, introduced in 2007, was awarded to Alexander Bismarck, Imperial College London, for his work on nanocomposite foams and emulsion templating and for his successful international cooperations.

The conference is also a platform for the esteemed Paul J. Flory Research Award. It was this year given ex aequo to:

ELIZABETE F. LUCAS, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, for her pioneering work on application of polymeric materials in many stages of petroleum extraction and processing.

MASARU MATSUO, Nara Women's University, for her pioneering work on gelation and crystallization.

and to
Ron Sanderson, University of Stellenbosch, for his establishing and developing advanced polymer science in South Africa.

Witold Brostow
Michael Hess
Jean Marc Saiter

Acknowledgements:

for all the peoples of LECAP Laboratory for the help:

Jean GRENET, Professor, University of Rouen

Mohammed BENZOHERA, Professor, University of Rouen

Eric DARGENT, Assistant Professor, University of Rouen

Allisson SAITER, Assistant Professor, University of Rouen

Nathalie LEBLANC, Assistant Professor, Esitpa

Richard GATTIN, Assistant Professor, Esitpa

Laurent DELBREILH, Assistant Professor, University of Rouen

Boulos YOUSSEF, Assistant Professor, INSA of Rouen

Marie-Rose GARDA, Ingenieur, University of Rouen

Eric DONTZOFF, Technician, University of Rouen

Sponsors:

Polychar organization

University of Rouen

Esitpa

INSA Rouen

IUPAC

VATA

Nutriset

Net Computer

RMPP

Chemistry Institute of Rouen

Institute for material researches Rouen

Doctoral School SPMII-Rouen

Region Haute Normandie

City of Rouen

Skyteam global meeting

American elements