

The 17th European Student Colloid Conference: June 18-22, Varna, Bulgaria.



The 17th European Student Colloid Conference was held in Varna, a resort on the Black Sea Coast in Bulgaria. It was organised by the University of Sofia, Department of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Engineering. It has been the tradition of these meetings, that the bulk of the organisation is carried out by a team of PhD students / postdocs. The Sofia team, which was led by post-doc Mihail Georgiev (chairman) and PhD student Veronika Yavrukova (secretary) did a great job – everything ran smoothly! However, to ensure this happened and to give advice, local academic Professor Peter Kralchevsky (also the secretary of ECIS) kept a beady eye, behind the scenes on proceedings!



The meeting was held in the *Cherno More* hotel in Varna, not far from the beach. It was attended by 8 senior academics who gave invited, overview-style, plenary lectures and 100 students / postdocs, who contributed 41 oral presentations and 70 posters. They came from 18 countries (including 9 from the Russian Federation and 1 from Australia); the European countries most represented were the UK (17), Poland (14) Bulgaria (11), Germany (11) and France (11). The Australian student was able to attend thanks to an agreement between ECIS and ACIS (the Australian Colloid and Interface Society) to sponsor, with financial assistance, a prize-winner from one of their own meetings to participate in the next biennial student meeting organised by the other society.



In addition to the scientific programme, there was a welcoming reception held in the hotel on the Tuesday evening before the meeting started. The conference dinner, on the Friday evening, was held in a beachside restaurant "By the Sea", where we were splendidly entertained by Bulgarian singers and dancers (Folk Dance Club "Chernomortsi"). Also, an excellent and informative 2-hour walking tour around the famous sites in Varna was organised for the Saturday afternoon, following the meeting.

In addition to ECIS, funding support, for which we are very grateful, was provided by Sofia University, The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, BASF, Unilever, Nivea, Kokona, Lonza, The Rosa Impex Cosmetic Company, Elsevier, Langmuir and Krüss.

Krüss sponsored a prize for the best oral presentation in the scientific sessions of the programme devoted specifically to "interfaces". This was won by Aneta Wojcik from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Langmuir sponsored two prizes for the best talks in the other scientific

sessions. These were won by Camille Keita from the University of Bordeaux in France, and Judith Tomsen-Malero from the Institute of Materials, Barcelona in Spain. Elsevier sponsored 4 prizes for the best poster presentations. These were won by: David Brossault (University of Cambridge, UK); Joelle Medinger (University of Fribourg, Switzerland); Rahul Kumar Raya (Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic), and Telma Soares (University of Minho, Braga, Portugal). The prizes, which were judged by two panels (talks and posters) made up from the senior academics attending the meeting, were presented on the Saturday morning, just before the closing ceremony.

The whole meeting was an outstanding success, and congratulations must go to all those involved in the organisation. We are already making plans for the next meeting, to be held in 2021. Please consult the ECIS website for details.

Professor Brian Vincent (University of Bristol, UK)