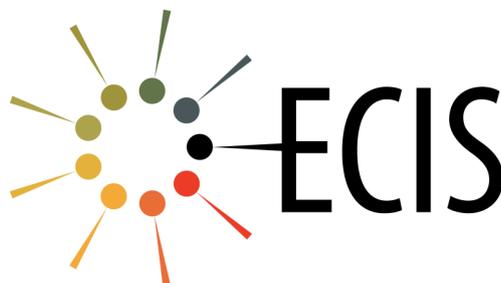


**EUROPEAN  
COLLOID  
AND INTERFACE  
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter 1  
February 2022**



**Message from the President**

Dear colleagues, ECIS members

The ECIS newsletter is introduced today as a novel means of communication between the Board and the members of the Society. For some time now, but certainly during the last two difficult years, we, in ECIS, have felt the need to enhance contact with our members in ways that go beyond the impersonal information in the website. The goal of this newsletter is to improve communication and steer ECIS into a new era. At the core of ECIS there is a community of scientists that have worked together for many years. It is an open, active community, in which all younger scientists are welcome and made to feel at home. The newsletter aims to convey the proper “atmosphere” of the society and help it welcome and embrace younger researchers.

Colloid and Interface Science has had its ups and downs over the years, starting from the late 19th century. Attracting major world-class scientists in its early steps (Einstein, Perrin, Rayleigh, Debye, Langmuir, Overbeek, Derjaguin and many others) it developed dramatically as a major branch of the physical sciences. At the same time, it retained some unique characteristics:

**In this issue:**

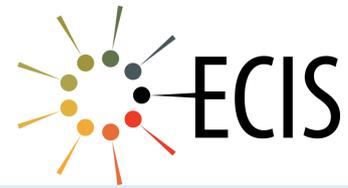
- ◆ **Message from the President (E. Leontidis)**
- ◆ **ECIS Board - Who we are**
- ◆ **Report of the Board activities in 2019-2021 (D. Danino)**
- ◆ **Major goals of the new Board (2021-2023)**
- ◆ **Report of the 35th ECIS conference (2021 Athens) (A. Xenakis)**
- ◆ **36th ECIS conference, Chania, Greece, 4-9/9/2022**
- ◆ **18th student conference, Szeged, Hungary, 26-30/6/2022**
- ◆ **Overbeek gold medal and Solvay prize. A call for nominations.**
- ◆ **Obituaries**
- ◆ **Final notes**

**36th European Colloid & Interface  
Society Conference**

4-9 September 2022 Chania, Crete, Greece

[www.ecis2022.org](http://www.ecis2022.org)

## Message from the President



Strong interdisciplinarity, a consistent balance between theory and experiment, and a strong commitment to the interaction between academia and industry.

After some apparent decline about 50 years ago, Colloid and Interface Science regained momentum and became one of the major pillars of nanotechnology and the biomedical sciences. ECIS was formed roughly at that time. The famous 1983 Varenna Summer School on the “Physics of Amphiphiles: micelles, vesicles and microemulsions” was the trigger for the formation of a Society, the success of which can be measured by the many years of running the annual ECIS conference. From the very start, ECIS conferences became the meeting places of outstanding scientists that have strongly influenced the development of Colloid and Interface Science in the last 50 years. Many of them have been honored with the greatest honor that the Society can bestow, which is the Overbeek medal for lifetime achievement, administered by the Overbeek foundation.

A tremendous boost to ECIS was its association with COST networks D43 (Colloid and Interface Science for Nanotechnology ) and CM-1101 (Colloidal Aspects of Nanoscience for Innovative Processes and Materials), chaired by Michal Borkovec and Piotr Warszynski, which managed to connect almost 2000 scientists all over Europe! The two networks regularly used the ECIS conference as an annual meeting forum.

The covid-19 pandemic was a blow for ECIS, as for any other scientific society. The 2020 conference had to be postponed. It finally took place in Athens in 2021. Through the efforts of Dganit Danino and the previous Board members, the community was able to convene online in 2020 and honored the recipients of the 2020 Overbeek medal, and the Solvay and Lyklema awards. The all-new Lyklema award for scientific excellence and service to the Society was awarded to our former secretary Peter Kralchevsky, who sadly passed away shortly afterwards.

ECIS is constantly striving to become better and more inclusive and to better serve the needs of the strong European Colloid and Interface Science community. The following report of the work of the previous ECIS Board by Dganit Danino clearly shows the dynamism of the Society and its quest for excellence. This newsletter is a further step in the direction of keeping the Society strong and connected, a high-quality home for all European scientists working in this historical and exciting area of research. We hope that you will find it useful and inspiring.

For the next issues we would welcome contributions from our members that would be of interest to the whole community. In particular, following the successful example set in the IACIS newsletter, we would like to involve our younger members by welcoming short contributions highlighting their recent research achievements.

On behalf of the ECIS Board, Epameinondas (Minos) Leontidis

## ECIS BOARD WHO WE ARE!



Prof. Epameinondas (Minos) Leontidis is the current President of ECIS. He is a Professor of Physical Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry of the University of Cyprus, in Nicosia, Cyprus. He has been an active member of the ECIS community since 2000.



Prof. Tommy Nylander is the current Vice President of ECIS. He is a Professor of Physical Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry of Lund University in Lund, Sweden. Tommy was the organizer of the 2012 annual ECIS conference in Malmö.



Prof. Dganit Danino is the Past President of ECIS, having served as ECIS President in the difficult period 2019-2021. Dganit is a Professor in the Department of Biotechnology and Food Engineering of the Technion Institute in Haifa, Israel. She was the organizer of the 2014 annual ECIS conference, originally to take place in Haifa, but transferred because of the then political situation to Limassol, Cyprus.



Prof. Pierandrea Lo Nostro is the current Secretary of ECIS, a 6-year position which he holds since 2021. Pierandrea is a Professor of Physical Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry of the University of Florence, Italy. He is a member of ECIS since 1988, and has been a co-organizer of the 2003 annual ECIS conference in Florence.



Prof. Andreas Fery is the current Treasurer of ECIS, a 6-year position which he holds since 2017. He is a Professor of Physical Chemistry at Technical University Dresden and Head of the Institute for Physical Chemistry and Polymer Physics at the Leibniz Institute for Polymer Research, in Dresden, Germany. Andreas is an ECIS member since 2002.



Prof. Dominik Horinek is the current Webmaster of ECIS, a 6-year position which he holds since 2020. He is a Professor of Chemistry in the Institute for Physical and Theoretical Chemistry of the University of Regensburg, in Regensburg Germany.



## **Report of the Board activities in 2019-2021**

By Dganit Danino  
ECIS Past President



Despite the pandemic, 2019 to 2021 were very active years for our society. Here are the main key actions and decisions made for the benefit of the ECIS community.

### **• *Revisiting ECIS Bylaws, Statutes and conference contract***

ECIS Statutes describe the society aims, structure, activities and way of operation. The document was updated and modernized, primarily to allow remote meetings and expand the ways the society legally takes fundamental decisions. The updated document has been approved at the general assembly.

The ECIS conference contract was similarly updated to ensure that ECIS conferences maintain our goals, structure, and community spirit.

The bank account of ECIS was moved to Dresden, Germany, where the Treasurer of the Society, Prof. Andreas Ferry is located.

### **• *Updates to ECIS Prizes and Awards***

The Overbeek Gold Medal is the most prestigious prize that ECIS awards annually to honor leadership and scientific excellence in the field of colloid and interface science over an entire career. ECIS supported the Overbeek foundation through a loan, which guarantees that medals will be available for the next 20 years, so we will continue the long tradition of honouring our leaders with this medal.

We established the ECIS-Lyklema Prize, to be awarded every 4-5 years to an ECIS scientist in recognition of scientific excellence and long-time, sustained and exceptional efforts to ECIS organizational activities and the colloid community development. The first prize was awarded to the late Prof. Peter Kralchevsky at the ECIS 2020 meeting.

ECIS signed a long-term contract with the journal Polymers, to annually award to a top young scientist the MDPI-Polymers Prize, acknowledging top level scientific activity in the field of polymer physics, chemistry, or technology.

## **Report of the Board activities in 2019-2021**

By Dganit Danino  
ECIS Past President



### **•Reordering ECIS conferences**

Given the chaotic worldwide situation created by the covid-19 pandemic, ECIS and the organizers of the two conferences that were originally planned to take place in Greece in 2020 and 2021 have jointly taken the decision to shift those meetings for a full year. ECIS annual activities continued however, and in September 2020, the first online ECIS meeting *Afternoon of Colloid and Interface Science* was broadcasted from the Technion with lectures by ECIS2020 prize recipients: Prof. Peter Schurtenberger the recipient of the Overbeek Gold Medal, Prof. Wilson Poon, the recipient of the ECIS-Solvay Prize, and our late colleague, Prof. Peter Kralchevsky, the first recipient of the ECIS-Lyklema Prize. Over 350 scientists participated in this online meeting, which was the first such meeting to be organized by ECIS and served to preserve the community spirit in a period of scientific isolation.

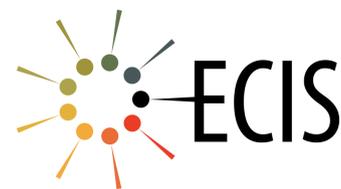
ECIS2021 was successfully held in Athens, in a hybrid mode, with almost 600 participants, among them 356 on site. Plans for ECIS2022 in Chania, Crete, are advancing, and the calls for abstract submission and registration are now open. ECIS hopes that this conference will take place mostly with physical participation.

The Student Colloid Conference organized by ECIS, which takes place every two years, was scheduled to be held in 2021 in Szeged, Hungary. This was also rescheduled for 2022. Everything is now in place for this important meeting for younger scientists.

### **•Appointments to the ECIS Board**

On March 2021, following the sudden death of the former ECIS secretary, Prof. Peter Kralchevsky, an ad-hoc general assembly meeting was called. The general assembly unanimously elected Prof. Pierandrea Lo Nostro to be the Secretary of ECIS, and Prof. Dominik Horinek to be the Webmaster of ECIS.

## **Major goals of the new Board (2021-2023)**



The challenges faced by the new Board are still considerable, given the fact that the covid-19 pandemic is still troubling the World. Our first concern is to keep the tradition of ECIS alive, with strong annual and student conferences and workshops. We will work hard to ensure that the 2022 conference in Chania, Crete, and the 2023 conference in Sorrento/Naples, Italy, are big successes, in line with their predecessors. We are also strongly supportive of the Student Colloid Conference, which will take place in Szeged, Hungary, next June. At the same time, we encourage members of our community to come forward and suggest locations for the next annual conferences, despite the strong uncertainties introduced by the pandemic. The success of Athens and the strong effort of Chania show the way!

We are relying on the important efforts of the previous Board, which worked hard to improve the Statutes, create new regulations to handle the conference contracts, the finances and the website, and even introduced the current newsletter. We can now go one step further. We need to create stronger ties or to revive old ties with other international societies with goals similar to ECIS. These include:

- The International Association for Colloid and Interface Science (IACIS), with which we share many members. The IACIS 2022 conference in Brisbane, Australia, organized in hybrid mode, will create an excellent opportunity to strengthen our connection to the Australian Colloid and Interface Society as well.
- The Colloid Divisions of the ACS and the RSC are not really connected to ECIS. We need to work to strengthen our relations to these two large Societies.

As we strive to enhance the value of ECIS for our younger members we will endeavor to introduce a special prize for Young Researchers (advanced post-docs or young assistant Professors) within the context of the annual conference.

In recent years, we have sadly noted that research in Colloid and Interface Science is more and more focused on applications. While this is a natural development as researchers strive to satisfy the demands of funding agencies and societal stakeholders, we deplore the apparent marginalization of the more fundamental aspects of our research area. In failed attempts for a new COST network, the community tried to re-instate fundamental work as a driver of future developments. This must now be the work of ECIS conferences, which need to reinforce the emphasis on fundamentals. In addition, the Board will consider the introduction of an online (in the first place) annual or biannual meeting that will exclusively focus on theory, modeling and fundamental aspects of Colloid and Interface Science.

We hope that these actions will be successful and will help steer this strong European community to the future of our exciting, interdisciplinary branch of science.

## Report of the 35th ECIS conference (2021 Athens)

By Aris Xenakis

Athens conference organizer



## ECIS 2021 Athens



After two years of “silence” due to the covid pandemic, the ECIS community met again at the 35th Conference in Athens. Although the pandemic was still active, the Conference took place under a hybrid form: both by physical and by virtual presence.

A full scientific program was established with four parallel sessions, seven Plenary Lectures, 44 keynote lectures, 220 oral presentations and 354 posters. There were 593 registered participants with 356 being physically present in Athens. The Conference attracted a record number of young scientists - 308 PhD students and 43 post-docs.

A preconference Training Course on Application of Colloids and Interfaces in Foods and Pharmaceuticals took place at the venue, with 62 PhD students and postdocs, with 52 being physical participants.

The Organizers and all participants respected the anti-COVID protocols, and as a result not a single case of infection was reported!

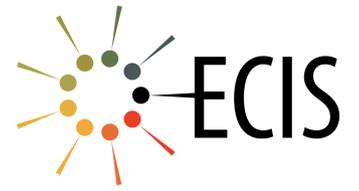
Throughout the conference there was a pervasive atmosphere of scientific excitement, both during the oral and the poster sessions, because for most conveners this was the first opportunity for a conference with physical presence after almost two years. This excitement was more than obvious in the gala dinner, which took place outdoors in a restaurant located in Voula, in the Athens Riviera.

Overall, the Conference was a great success, and as Prof. Jacob Klein, ECIS Overbeek gold medal awardee of 2021, said: “This was truly the worldwide first “normal” scientific conference after the pandemic”.

For the Local Organizing Committee

Aris Xenakis

**Images from the 35th ECIS  
conference, Athens, 5-  
10/9/2021**



**The welcome recep-  
tion with beautiful  
weather close to the  
Zappeion and the col-  
umns of the temple of  
Jupiter**



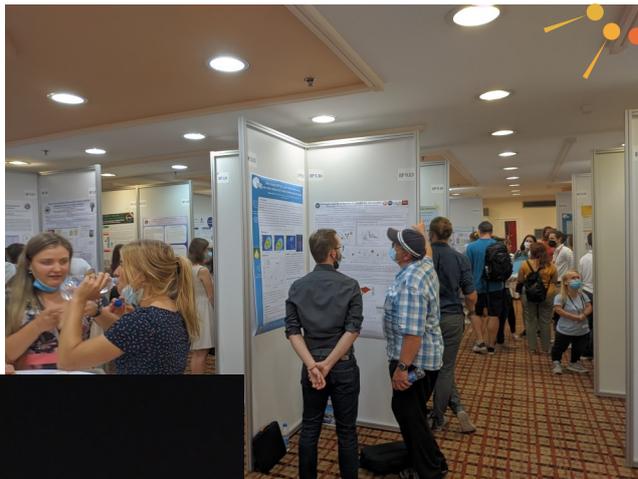
**Well-attended oral sessions  
were the norm in this ECIS  
conference**





**Images from the 35th  
ECIS conference, Ath-  
ens, 5-10/9/2021**

**Poster session**



**Speeches during the gala din-  
ner in the Athens riviera**

**A happy conference team  
outside the conference ven-  
ue**



**Prof. Jacob Klein is awarded  
the 2021 Overbeek medal**

**36th ECIS conference.**

**Chania, Greece,**

**4-9/9/2022**

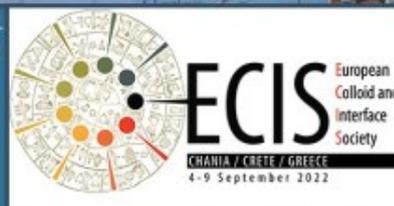


Dear friends and colleagues, members of ECIS. We hope to see all of you in the next ECIS conference in Chania, Crete (Greece). Our colleagues who organize the 2022 conference are working hard to produce a safe and excellent conference with physical presence in a beautiful venue. Check the details in the 1st circular, reproduced below. See you all in Crete in September!

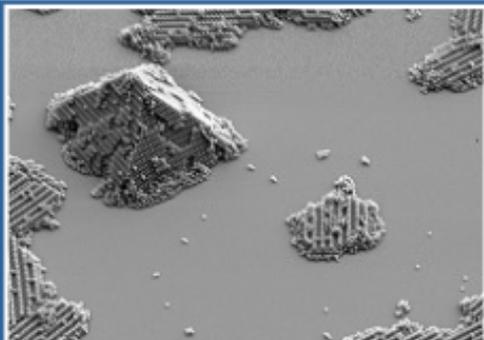
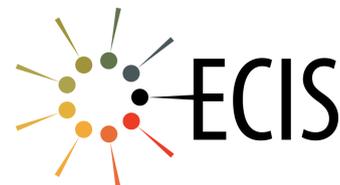
## 36th European Colloid & Interface Society Conference

4-9 September 2022 Chania, Crete, Greece

[www.ecis2022.org](http://www.ecis2022.org)



**36th ECIS conference.**  
**Chania, Greece,**  
**4-9/9/2022**



### Important Dates

- Abstract submission  
deadline: 4/4/2022
- Notice of acceptance:  
4/5/2022
- Early bird registration:  
4/5-10/6/2022
- Final program announce-  
ment: 30/6/2022

### Short Course

*"Advanced Characterization  
and Modelling techniques  
for Colloids"*

**Dates:** 3-4 September 2022

**Location:** FORTH at Heraklion  
(lab access)

**Tutors:** R. Zia (Stanford),  
R. Cerbino (Vienna), S.U. Egelhaaf  
(Dusseldorf), J. Vermant (ETH),  
V. Harmandaris (Crete)

### Conference Organizers

**Co-organized by: the Hellenic Polymer Society, the University of Crete and the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas**



### Welcome Note

*Dear colleagues,*

*It is our great pleasure to invite you to the 36th Conference of the European Colloid and Interface Society (ECIS), that will take place from 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 in Chania, on the island of Crete, Greece.*

*ECIS 2022 will be organized by the Hellenic Polymer Society, under the auspices of the ECIS, and aspires to bring together participants working in the interdisciplinary field of Colloid and Interface Science, with a broad background ranging from chemistry and physics to biology and engineering.*

*The Scientific Program will include plenary and keynote invited lectures, as well as oral and poster contributed presentations. Travelling permitted, we aim at four parallel in person sessions, with partial online coverage. The venue is the Minoa Palace, a 5-star hotel and conference center, located at the **Platanias resort area, a few kilometers outside the city of Chania**. In addition, a short course on "Advanced Characterization and Modelling techniques for Colloids" is scheduled for the weekend of 3-4 September at the premises of FORTH at Heraklion.*

*Complementing the scientific program, a diverse social program shall expose the participants to the history, culture and magnificent nature of mountains and beaches of Crete.*

*We look forward to welcoming you to Crete in 2022.*

*The Local Organizing Committee*

### Conference Venue



ECIS2022 will be hosted in **Minoa Palace Resort Hotel**, a luxury 5\* beach-side hotel located at the cosmopolitan area of Platanias, 12km west of the picturesque town of Chania and 30min drive from Chania International Airport.

## Plenary



**Markus Antonietti**  
(Max Planck Institute, Germany)  
Colloidal chemistry



**John F. Brady**  
(Caltech, USA)  
Theory and simulations of colloidal suspensions, rheology and active colloids



**Gijsje Koenderink**  
(TU Delft, The Netherlands)  
Material properties of cells and tissues



**Christos Likos**  
(University of Vienna, Austria)  
Theory of soft particles, phase behavior-interactions



## Conference Sessions

- ◇ Polymers, Polyelectrolytes, Gels and Liquid Crystals
- ◇ Design and Synthesis of colloidal systems and nanoparticles
- ◇ Colloidal Dispersions, Colloidal Stability and Surface Forces
- ◇ Theory and Multi-scale Modeling of Colloids and Interfaces
- ◇ Self-Assembly and Supramolecular Structures
- ◇ Colloidal systems in External Fields
- ◇ Wetting Phenomena, Responsive Colloids and Surfaces
- ◇ Active and Bioinspired Colloidal systems
- ◇ Colloids at Interfaces, Membranes and Biointerfaces, Emulsions and Foams
- ◇ Colloids in Biomaterials and Biomedical applications
- ◇ Advanced colloid science for applications and products
- ◇ Composite Materials and Nanostructures

## Special Sessions

- ◇ **EU - China Symposium**  
*Organizers:* Zhenghe Xu (Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, China), Jingcheng Hao (Shandong University, China), Jianjun Wang (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China), Hans-Jürgen Butt (Max-Planck-Institute for Polymer Research, Mainz, Germany)
- ◇ **Satellite Session**  
"Surface interactions, tribology and the rate-dependent rheology of colloidal dispersions"  
*Organizers:* Wilson Poon (The University of Edinburgh, UK), Emanuela del Gado (Georgetown University, USA), Jeff Morris (CUNY, USA), Nic Spencer (ETH Zurich, Switzerland) and Annie Colin (ESPCI Paris, France)

**18th Student Conference, Szeged, Hungary  
26-30/6/2022**



ECIS invites all young European researchers working in the area of Colloid and Interface science, or aspects of it, to attend the biannual Student Colloid Conference, the first since the start of the pandemic. The organization is in full steam right now, and the goal of the organizers is to run the conference with full physical presence.

The 18th  
**European Student Colloid Conference**



**26-30 June 2022**  
**Szeged**  
**Hungary**

**Biomedical aspects of colloids**  
**Surfactants, micelles, self-assembly**  
**Interfacial phenomena and adsorption**  
**Polymer solutions, gels and phase behavior**  
**Surface forces, liquid films, interactions in colloids**  
**Colloidal dispersions, foams, emulsions, suspensions**  
**Theoretical modeling and computer simulations of colloids**

**Plenary speakers:**

**Piotr Warszynski**

Cracow PL

**Dganit Danino**

Haifa IL

**Brian Vincent**

Bristol UK

**Julius Vancso**

Twente NL



**For more information:**  
<https://esconf2022.mke.org.hu/>  
[esconf2022@mke.org.hu](mailto:esconf2022@mke.org.hu)

**Overbeek gold medal  
and Solvay prize.  
A call for nominations.**

By Pierandrea Lo Nostro

ECIS Secretary



Dear ECIS Members

deadlines for important ECIS nominations are approaching, as follows:

- 1) Nominations for the Overbeek Gold Medal for 2022, deadline: **30 April 2022**.
- 2) Nominations for the ECIS-Solvay Prize for 2022, deadline: **30 April 2022**.

These are the details about the **nominations**:

**Nominations for the Overbeek Gold Medal for 2022.**

The medal will be awarded during the ECIS Conference in Chania (Crete), 4-9 September 2022. The Overbeek Gold Medal is designed as an award that recognizes **extended periods of scientific excellence**, including excellent careers in, and inspiring contributions to the field of Colloid and Interface science. To see more details and download the **Nomination Form**, please check the webpage: <http://www.ecis-web.eu/overbeek.htm>.

The completed Nomination Form should include a justification of merit of no more than 1,000 words and has to be emailed to the ECIS Secretary, [pierandrea.lonostro@unifi.it](mailto:pierandrea.lonostro@unifi.it)

The **deadline** for submission of Overbeek Medal nominations is **30 April 2022**.

**Nominations for the ECIS-Solvay Prize for 2022.**

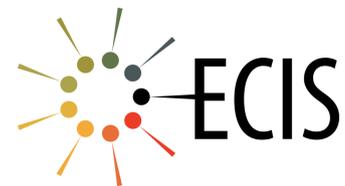
The prize will be awarded during the ECIS Conference in Chania (Crete), 4-9 September 2022. The ECIS-Solvay Prize is annually granted to a European scientist for original scientific work of outstanding quality, described in publications, patents or other documents made public in the **five years before the award is delivered**. The work should be in the field of colloid and interface science. To see more details and download the **Nomination Form**, please access the webpage: <http://www.ecis-web.eu/solvay.htm>.

The completed Nomination Form should include both a justification (of no more than 1,000 words) and appended reprints (in the form of PDF files) of five publications that provide a coherent picture or other documents on which the nomination is based. These materials have to be emailed to the ECIS Secretary, [pierandrea.lonostro@unifi.it](mailto:pierandrea.lonostro@unifi.it).

The **deadline** for the submission of ECIS-Solvay Prize nominations is **30 April 2022**.

You are kindly requested to comply precisely with the instructions and guidelines given in this message and in the forms.

## Obituaries



ECIS is a large and connected community, with a strong family feeling, a “home” where people meet with colleagues, collaborators and friends. All families however have their sad moments. In the past year the ECIS community lost four very important members, whose presence marked strongly the development of the Society and of Colloid and Interface Science in general. Although longer obituaries have been presented in the ECIS website, and mailed to our members, we feel that in this very first Newsletter of the Society we must remember and thank our old friends once more.

### **Prof. Peter Kralchevsky**



Peter was the Secretary of ECIS for almost 10 years. His presence in the everyday life of the Society was so strong, that it is still difficult to believe that he is not working side-by-side with us. In addition, he contributed greatly to the two COST networks that had a momentous significance for ECIS. A Professor in the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy in Sofia University, Peter was distinguished by his very high scholarship and his dedication to the Society. For this reason he was the first recipient of the new Lyklema award in September 2020, just two months before his premature death. For a more complete obituary visit the site: <https://www.ecis-web.eu/kralchevsky.htm>

### **Prof. Vittorio Degiorgio**



Vittorio Degiorgio together with Mario Corti were the organizers of the very first “ECIS conference”, in the form of a Summer School in Varenna, Italy, in 1983. Following the eminent success of this meeting, which resulted in a very influential book of proceedings, the annual ECIS conferences were established. Vittorio was a Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Materials Science and Chemical Engineering of the Politecnico di Milano. He contributed to the development of Dynamic Light Scattering and to the application of colloid science in soft matter systems. For a more complete obituary visit the site <https://www.ecis-web.eu/degiorgio.htm>

## Obituaries



### Prof. Françoise Winnik



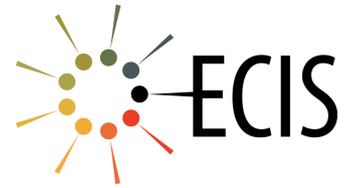
A Professor of Chemistry in McMaster University and the University of Montreal in Canada, and later in the University of Helsinki in Finland, Françoise served for many years as Editor-in-Chief of *Langmuir*. She was instrumental in establishing a strong and enduring link between *Langmuir* (representing the American Chemical Society) and ECIS, which the new Board will work to strengthen. A regular convener in ECIS conferences, Françoise was strongly missed by all in Athens. For a detailed obituary visit the site: <https://axial.acs.org/2021/03/03/remembering-francoise-winnik/>

### Prof. Maria Graça Miguel



Maria was the President of ECIS from 2008 to 2010, a strong presence in ECIS together with her husband, Björn Lindman, and a true friend to many of us. It was a great shock to everyone in ECIS to learn about her passing away. A professor of Chemistry in Coimbra, Portugal, she produced pioneering work in surfactant chemistry, DNA compaction, and the application of fluorescence methods in surfactant, polymer and biopolymer systems. For a more complete obituary visit the ECIS main site: <https://www.ecis-web.eu/>

## **Final notes**



- You receive this newsletter as a registered member of ECIS
- If you are not an ECIS member, please contact our Secretary, Prof. Pierandrea Lo Nostro ([pierandrea.lonostro@unifi.it](mailto:pierandrea.lonostro@unifi.it))
- If you have comments or suggestions and if you wish to contribute to future newsletters, please contact the newsletter editor, Prof. Minos Leontidis ([psleon@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:psleon@ucy.ac.cy)), or the ECIS webmaster, Prof. Dominik Horinek ([dominik.horinek@ur.de](mailto:dominik.horinek@ur.de))