

ESF RESEARCH CONFERENCES

Rapporteur Report

Partnership:	ESF-FEF Conference in partnership with LFUI
Conference Title:	Chemical Control with Electrons and Photons
Dates:	22-27 November 2008
Chair:	Petra Swiderek

General Comments

I participated in this conference for the whole period of its duration. The characteristic feature of this conference was good balance between experienced researchers and good prospective young scientists. Together with good selection of topics the conference has brought to participants the active atmosphere full of discussions and new acquaintances.

Quality of Scientific Programme, Presentations and Discussion

The scope of the conference was divided with professional balance between the topics Chemical Control with Light (3 sessions), Chemical Control with Electrons (3 sessions), Plasmas and Nanofabrication (2 sessions), Chemical Control at the Nanoscale (2 sessions) and Biomolecules (1 session). On the conference program there were also presentations delivered by specialists on applications of nanotechnology for semiconductor preparation. The invited lectures were given by internationally leading scientists. Their lectures were excellent and spiced by the personalities of the respective lecturers. The contributed talks by younger scientists were prepared with care and presented with enthusiasm.

Informal Networking and Exchange; Atmosphere

The organizers gave the participants the opportunity to exchange their views, comments and observations during several intertwined events: poster sessions, coffee breaks, common meals and informal non-conducted evening meetings. The poster sessions were well attended and served fully its purpose. The posters were displayed during all the conference period that offered the possibility to consult authors at almost any time in between sessions. The participants also often changed seats at different meals that enhanced contacts between different scientific disciplines, different nationalities and different-aged participants. To the prime atmosphere of the meeting contributed also the excellent weather yielding parties the opportunity to use the free time for walking and enjoying the beautiful environment of the conference venue.

Balance of Participants

The scientific organizers apparently used their long-time experience in the fields covered by the conference to establish a good balance between the experienced and younger (less than 40) participants. There was also a reasonable balance between different European nationalities with participation of leading scientists from United States, Canada, China (Hong Kong), Japan, India and Australia. A positive aspect I see also in the fact that the presentations in all topics were delivered by experienced as well as by younger scientists.

Outlook and Future Developments

Having in mind the goal of the ESF Research Conferences three organizers established during the last afternoon three sessions oriented thematically to (i) Biomolecules, (ii) Nanostructures and (iii) Control of fragmentation dynamics. The sessions were chaired by leading scientists and encompassed active interaction with participants in the audience. The aim of these sessions was to formulate issues that could be forwarded to ESF as experts' viewpoints. Among others the scientific areas were pinpointed where new collaborations are needed. At the same time it was stated that the present collaborations are very effective in attracting young scientists and in generating new scientific results. It is my strong opinion that this conference should be continued.

Organisation and Infrastructure

The conference was administered from ESF side by Alessandra Piccolotto with excellent result. The chosen venue - University centre in Obergurgl - is well suited for medium sized conferences, since it yields in-house conference room, accommodation and catering. there is also sufficient space for placing posters. Since the number of participants requesting single-room accommodation was greater than originally envisaged, a few participants were accommodated in Haus Schönblick, approximately 5 minutes walk from the main conference building. The meals served were well-tasting and included local Tyrolean specialties. Vegetarian food was provided. Since the traffic connection from Innsbruck to Obergurgl was not quite simple the ESF conference unit organized two buses between Innsbruck train station and Innsbruck airport and the conference venue on the days of arrival and departure.

Summary & Overall Assessment

From all viewpoints - scientific, organizational, social and well-feeling it was an excellent conference. The conference atmosphere was seasoned by the last presentations that were devoted to 65th birthday of Prof. Eugen Illenberger. I would like to stress that the success of the conference has to be attributed by major part to the conference chairlady Prof. Petra Swiderek and to the conference co-chairman Prof. Nigel Mason. Their personalities created pleasant and stimulating atmosphere that reigned throughout all the conference. In conclusion, the conference "Chemical Control with Electrons and Photons" demonstrated unequivocally the importance of interdisciplinary efforts within researchers all over the world. The conference completed fully its task in providing the opportunity for exchanging information, stimulating young scientists and starting new collaborations and acquaintances.