

ISMEC 2015 AND 8TH EDITION OF PULIDORI AWARD

The meeting was focused on different aspects of the study and application of the thermodynamics of complexes in the fields of Analytical, Biomedical, Environmental, Inorganic and Physical Chemistry.

The 2015 edition of the International Symposium on Metal Complexes (Ismec 2015) (<http://ismec2015.chem.uni.wroc.pl/>), took place in Wrocław, Poland, from the 24th to 28th of June 2015. The Ismec 2015 conference has been built on the success of the previous Ismec meetings, being the 42nd of a series of meetings that begun in 1974 as the annual congress of the Italian group of “Thermodynamics of Complexes”. More than a decade later, with the addition of Spanish participants, it became the Italian-Spanish Congress on Thermodynamics of Metal Complexes, with annual meetings alternating between Italy and Spain. Since the 2012 edition of the congress, held in Lisbon (Portugal), participation was widened again and the name was changed to “International Symposium on METal Complexes (Ismec)”.

The Ismec 2015 conference hosted over 100 participants coming from 21 countries, most of them European (Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom) and 7 non-European countries (Algeria, Australia, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Uruguay, USA).

The meeting has been focused on various aspects of the basic studies and applications of the thermodynamics of metal complexes in the fields of analytical, bioinorganic, and biomedical chemistry, in particular focusing on topics such as:

- Chemical thermodynamics
- Solution equilibria and coordination chemistry
- Metal-complex interactions with biomolecules
- Metals in diseases: transport, homeostasis and toxicity
- Metal-based drugs: therapy and diagnosis
- Analytical methods and sensors, based on metal complexes
- Proteomics and metabolomics
- Metals in supramolecular chemistry
- Computational methods for equilibrium analysis.



Matteo Savastano (on the left),
 the winner of Pulidori Award 2015

The conference provided a valuable discussion forum on recent advances on the above mentioned areas; fostering new collaborations among researchers from diverse backgrounds with complementary skills and goals has been of great importance. In addition to outstanding lectures (6 plenary, 4 key-note, 17 invited, and 15 oral communications), covering a wide range of topics, a poster session (56 posters), as well as informal discussions in the afternoons and evenings, provided an ideal forum for attendees to brainstorm as well as to present and exchange new data and cutting edge ideas. We are confident we have been able to provide the Ismec 2015 participants with an exciting event and would like to thank all of them for their valuable input!

Abstracts of all the Ismec 2015 presentations are published as the online book series “Acta of Ismec Symposia, Vol. 5 (ISSN 2239-2459, <http://ismec2015.chem.uni.wroc.pl/programme/scientific-programme/>) thus, allowing a broad dissemination of the most recent advances of scientific research discussed at the symposium. Authors of the most relevant presentations have been invited to write an article for a special issue of *Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry*.

The Best Poster Award were awarded to Urszula Komarnicka (University of Wrocław), Jeremy Branel (University of Strasbourg), and Romana Michalcova (Masaryk University, Brno), as the authors of the most outstanding posters.

The Fernando Pulidori Prize (8th Edition) was awarded to Matteo Savastano, a PhD student from the University of Florence, presenting the paper entitled: “Thermodynamics of Anion- π Interactions in Aqueous Solution” (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2013, **135**, 102). The winner has been awarded a prize of 200 €, has taken part at Ismec 2015 with the registration free of charge. Moreover, Matteo Savastano presented the winning work at the award ceremony. An extended abstract of that work can be found in the following pages of this journal.

The next Edition of the Ismec (Ismec 2016) will be held in Barcelona (Spain), in June 2016.