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ISMEC 2017 AND THE 10TH EDITION OF THE FERNANDO PULIDORI AWARD

In June 2017, France hosted for the first time the International Symposium on Metal Complexes (ISMEC 2017) in Dijon. This annual event is the sole international meeting devoted to the broad outreach of solution equilibrium chemistry and thermodynamics of complexes. The Fernando Pulidori Prize was presented this year to Dr. Sergey Adonin, a talented coordination chemist from the Nikolaev Institute of Inorganic Chemistry in Novosibirsk (Russian Federation).



On June 11-15th, the Dijon campus of the Université de Bourgogne Franche-Comté hosted the 8th International Symposium on Metal Complexes (ISMEC 2017, <https://ismec2017.sciencesconf.org/>). This event was co-organized under the auspices of the Société Chimique de France, the Université de Bourgogne Franche-Comté, and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) by scientists from the *Institut de Chimie Moléculaire de l'Université de Bourgogne* (ICMUB, UMR CNRS 6302, Dijon) and the *Institut Univers, Transport, Interfaces, Nanostructures, Atmosphère et environnement, Molécules* (UTINAM, UMR CNRS 6213, Besançon).

ISMEC conferences have a long-standing history with strong Italian roots. This uninterrupted series of annual meetings launched by the “Gruppo di Termo-

dinamica dei Complessi” (GTC) started in Firenze in 1974. With an increasing number of Spanish participants, GTC meetings became two decades later the “Italian-Spanish Congress on Thermodynamics of Metal Complexes” held alternately one year in Italy (ISMEC) and the other in Spain (SIMEC). Rapidly their reputation spread out the Mediterranean area, attracting over the years more and more delegates from all over the world. While the official language progressively switched to English, the denomination of ISMEC changed again in 2010 in order to stress the international character of the conference and the widening of the scopes of the discussed topics to new cutting-edge areas. Since then, the “International Symposium on Metal Complexes” was successively held in Bilbao (2010), Taormina (2011), Lisbon





(2012), Burgos (2013), Pavia (2014), Wrocław (2015), and Barcelona (2016). Insofar, the historical city of Dijon, a landmark for medieval, renaissance and classical architecture, but also for gastronomy, fine wines, and the so-called “French art de vivre”, hosted in 2017 the 44th meeting. By gathering researchers from both academia and industry, ISMEC provides an outstanding forum for sharing new ideas and discussing the most recent advances on the thermodynamics and kinetics of coordination processes. Focusing on the study and applications of metal complexes in the fields of analytical, biomedical, environmental, supramolecular, inorganic, physical, and industrial chemistry, the symposium seeks to foster new collaborations among researchers from diverse backgrounds with complementary skills and goals. Main topics are:




- Speciation, solution equilibria and kinetics in relation to coordination chemistry;
 - Supramolecular chemistry;
 - Analytical methods and sensors based on metal complexes;
 - Solution equilibria and industrial processes (e.g. *hydrometallurgy, ion-exchange, catalysis...*);
 - Nanostructured metal complexes;
 - Metal complexes of environmental and biological interests (e.g. *proteomics and metabolomics, interactions with metalloenzymes and biomolecules...*);
 - Metals in health sciences (e.g. *transport, homeostasis, toxicity, therapy, diagnosis and imaging...*);
 - Chemometrics and computational modelling for equilibrium analysis.

This year, nearly 170 delegates from 20 different countries and 4 continents attended the 4-day symposium. As the guest of honor, Dr. Jean-Pierre Sauvage from the Université de Strasbourg, the 2016 French Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, delivered the opening lecture entitled “From chemical topology to molecular machines: the transition metal approach”. The program comprised altogether 4 additional plenary lectures given by reputed scientists:

- “Chromo-fluorogenic probes and sensing materials” by Prof. Ramón Martínez Mañez (Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain);
 - “Lanthanide-based MRI diagnostic probes at work: From small chelates to nanosized conjugates” by Prof. Mauro Botta (Università del Piemonte Orientale “Amedeo Avogadro”, Alessandria, Italy);
 - “Cu(II)/Cu(I) electron transfer coupled to dioxygen activation in biomimetic complexes: from calix-zymes in solution to calix-zymes grafted on an electrode”, by Dr. Yves Le Mest (Université de Bretagne Occidentale, Brest, France);
 - “Ruthenium, iridium and iron complexes in hydrogen/energy storage” by Prof. Gábor Laurenczy (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland);

as well as 10 keynote lectures (30 min), 43 oral communications (15 min), and 86 posters. All abstracts are collected in volume 7 of the e-book *series Acta of the International Symposia on Metal Complexes* (ISSN: 2239-2459), which is archived on the website of the Group of Thermodynamics of Metal Complexes (GTC, www.gtc2014.com) and on the open-access HAL repository of scholarly documents (<https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/>). Authors of the most relevant presentations have been invited to submit an article for a themed issue of the *New Journal of Chemistry*, owned by the CNRS of France and co-published since January 1998 with the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The International Committee of ISMEC seeks to honor the most promising junior researchers, typically those under the age of 35 (PhD students and post-doctoral fellows). The 10th Fernando Pulidori Prize was presented to Dr. Sergey Adonin, a post-doctoral researcher at the Nikolaev Institute of Inorganic Chemistry in Novosibirsk (Russian Federation). The award which was sponsored this year by the Met-





tlter-Toledo company, consists of a 250 € honorarium, a waiver of the registration fees, an engraved plaque and an award lecture following the ceremony. The winner is selected according to the scientific impact of a recently-published paper co-authored by the applicant ("Bi(III) polybromides: a new chapter in coordination chemistry of bismuth", *Chem. Commun.*, 2016, **52**, 5061). An extended abstract of the work presented by Dr. Adonin can be found in the following pages of the journal.

In addition, the most outstanding oral communications and posters presented by young participants were rewarded by 11 prizes offered by scientific editors (Prof. Sigel's book series *Metal Ions in Life Sciences*, *Inorganics*, *Molecules*, *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry*, and *New Journal of Chemistry*). Besides the scientific program highlighting the strength and vitality of contemporary equilibrium and solution coordination chemistry, all participants could enjoy a rich social program. After the welcome party offered by the organizers on June 11th, they were invited the following day by the municipality of Dijon to an official reception given at the City Hall, during which a commemorative medal was handed out to Dr. Jean-Pierre Sauvage. The traditional half-day excursion brought them to the beautiful city of Beaune, at the hearth of the famous Burgundy wine coast, where they could taste in a cellar several white and red local wines, before visiting the renowned Hospice de Beaune, a former almshouse and masterpiece of the XV century architecture. Finally, a memorable banquet animated by a life jazz band was served in the Bastion de Beaune, a vaulted reception room decorated by 11 Aubusson tapestries woven between the XVII and XVIII centuries.

Last but not least, all attendees have been introduced to the next ISMEC meeting to be held in Firenze on June 3-7, 2018 (<http://www2.chim.unifi.it/cm-p-v-p-276.html>).

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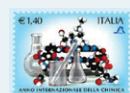
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