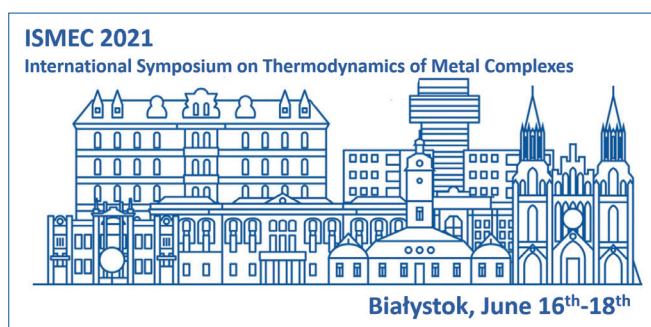




Demetrio Milea  
President of ISMEC Group  
Sofia Gama  
Chair of the Organizing Committee of ISMEC 2021

## ISMEC 2021 AND THE 14<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE FERNANDO PULIDORI PRIZE

*Despite pandemics, the University of Białystok (PL) organized the 47<sup>th</sup> Edition of the International Symposium on Thermodynamics of Metal Complexes, ISMEC 2021. For the first time the meeting was held online, on June 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. During ISMEC 2021, Marianna Tosato (UniPd, IT) and János P. Mészáros (U-Szeged, HU) were awarded, ex-aequo, with the Fernando Pulidori Prize.*



COVID-19 undoubtedly affected our lives from all points of view. However, despite the obvious restrictions caused by pandemics, the International Group for the Thermodynamics of Metal Complexes, the ISMEC Group, and its members did their best to go on with usual activities. And it was thanks to these efforts that the annual congress of the Group, The International Symposium on Thermodynamics of Metal Complexes, ISMEC 2021, was regularly held, though in an online form, organized by the University of Białystok (Poland), from June 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. During ISMEC 2021, the Fernando Pulidori Prize, at its 14<sup>th</sup> edition, was awarded.

ISMECs are the annual congresses of the International Group for the Thermodynamics of Complexes, the ISMEC Group, an open group in which researchers freely meet to share info and ideas in the

field of the Thermodynamics of Complexes. The main scope of ISMEC group is to create initiatives and organize events and activities to promote research, best practices, training and culture in that field. No subscriptions and/or official documents are needed to join our community: people interested in can simply subscribe through the group website ([www.ismecgroup.org](http://www.ismecgroup.org)).

The history of ISMEC Group dates back to 1972, when a consistent number of Italian researchers from different areas of chemistry, but brought together by the common interest in chemical thermodynamics, spontaneously joined and constituted the Italian “Gruppo di Termodinamica dei Complessi”. The researchers belonging to that Group established a plan to coordinate research covering the thermodynamics of metal complexes and to promote activities addressed to the dissemination of the knowledge in this field. They held their first constitutive meeting in Parma (Italy) in 1973 and the first congress was organized in Florence in 1974. In 1989, with the inclusion of Spanish participants to the Group, the annual meetings evolved into the Italian-Spanish Meeting of Thermodynamics of Metal Complexes “ISMEC”, with annual congress sites alternating between Italy and Spain (ISMEC or SIMEC). In 2010, in the occasion of ISMEC 2010 Congress held in Bilbao, participation





was widened again, changing the name to “International Symposium on Thermodynamics of Metal Complexes”.

Over the years, the scientific quality of contributions attracted the interest of researchers from all over the world, and now a consistent number of scientists attends this meeting every year, with focus on different aspects of the study and application of the thermodynamics of complexes in the fields of analytical, environmental, inorganic, medicinal, nuclear and physical chemistry, providing a valuable discussion forum on recent advances on the above mentioned areas and a unique opportunity for exchanging knowledge on leading-edge developments in these and related fields. ISMEC Congresses revealed to be a useful and valuable meeting for scientists from all over the world and have facilitated the creation of many collaborative projects, such as the successful COST Action CA18202 - NECTAR (Network for Equilibria and Chemical Thermodynamics Advanced Research), ideated by many ISMEC Group members and involving, at present time, researchers from 32 European Countries.

ISMEC 2021 was attended by about 150 researchers from 15 different countries and 3 continents, who enjoyed the scientific program consisting of 3 Plenary and 6 Keynote Lectures, 24 Oral and 61 Poster Communications, whose abstracts were published online as the Vol. 10 of the book series “Acta of the International Symposia on the Thermodynamics of Metal Complexes”, the “ISMEC ACTA” (ISSN 2239-2459, <https://www.ismecgroup.org/ismec-acta/>).

During ISMEC 2021, a session of the program was dedicated to the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Pulidori Prize, an award dedicated to the memory of Prof. Fernando Pulidori from the University of Ferrara (Italy), one of the founders and former President of the Italian Gruppo di Termodinamica dei Complessi, who dedicated his scientific life to the development of this research field and to the training of young researchers in

chemical thermodynamics and solution equilibria. Since 2007, each year, in the occasion of the ISMEC Congress, the Fernando Pulidori Prize is awarded to a young researcher (no more than 30 years old), preferably an expert in thermodynamics and/or kinetics of complexation phenomena in solution, author of an original paper published in the last three years or accepted for publication at the deadline of application.

Submitted applications are evaluated by the Scientific Committee of the annual ISMEC Congress, on the basis of the scientific impact of the paper, its originality and innovative character in the field of thermodynamics and/or kinetics of complexes in solution, the curriculum of the applicant and his/her contribution to the research.

The winner(s) attends the annual ISMEC Congress free of charge, and he/she is awarded a prize of 250 € and has the chance to give an oral presentation on the results of the work submitted for the Prize and submit an extended abstract of her/his scientific activity to **La Chimica e l'Industria**.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> Pulidori Prize Edition there were two ex-aequo winners: Marianna Tosato from the University of Padova, Italy, and János P. Mészáros from the University of Szeged, Hungary (Fig. 1). During the ceremony, the two winners (virtually received the plaque of the award, previously sent to their home institutions) and the money prize from the President of the Evaluation Committee, Prof. Maurizio Remelli, and they presented the work reported on the publication submitted for the application to the prize. The extended abstracts of Marianna's and János's works are reported in the following pages of this journal.

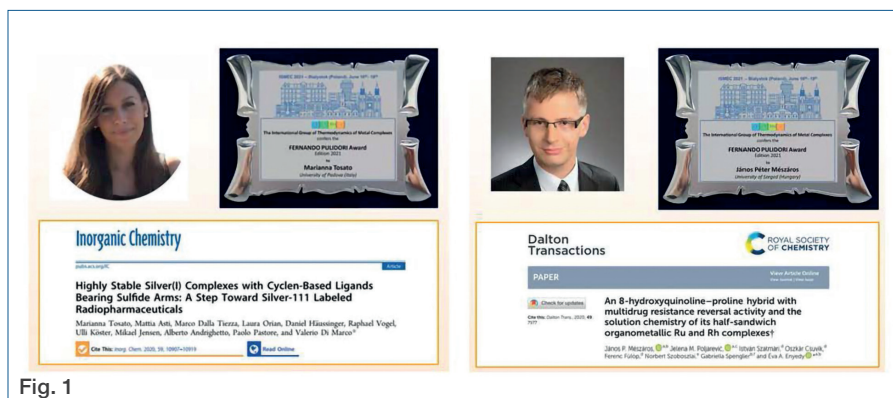


Fig. 1