

## Preface

Luciana Dini\*, Daniele Passeri, Cristian Vergallo and Marco Rossi

# 15<sup>th</sup> Eurasia Conference on Chemical Sciences (EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S-15) – 5<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Rome, Italy

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Around 1985–1986, Prof. Bernd M. Rode from the University of Innsbruck (Austria) suggested with Prof. Hitoshi Ohtaki (an International Steering Committee Member of the International Conference on Solution Chemistry, ICSC) to organize an international conference on solution chemistry in Thailand. ICSC was scheduled in 1988 and, thus, it was not possible to organize the new conference in Thailand before that year. Upon invitation of Prof. Ivano Bertini of Florence University (Italy) by Profs. Rode and Ohtaki to join this first committee, the three founders discussed the proposal and changed Prof. Rode's original idea to the creation of an international conference called Eurasia Conference on Chemistry of Solutions (EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S) aimed at deepening friendship among chemists in the Eurasian supercontinent, and supporting them with the help of chemists from Countries in other continents, such as USA, Canada, and Australia. This could be achieved with the organization of the international Eurasia series of conferences of world-top quality and class, mainly in developing Asian countries with the participation of a world-wide friendship network. Through this conference World-leading researchers were invited, with whom scientists, especially young ones from developing countries, could exchange information, opinions, results, and visions to emphasize scientific activities in their countries. Under such a vision of the three founders, Profs. Rode, Ohtaki and Bertini, the First Eurasia Conference on Chemistry of Solutions (1<sup>st</sup> EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S) was held in Bangkok in 1988 (<http://xray.kaist.ac.kr/euasc2s/>). In the same year, the logo of the conference (EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S) was proposed by Dr. Sunt Techakumpuch of Chulalongkorn University (Thailand).

Eurasia Conference on Chemistry of Solutions changed its name to Eurasia Conference of Chemistry in Seoul (Korea) in 1990, and then, again to Eurasia Conference on Chemical Sciences in 1992 in Guangzhou (China), due to its expansion to all areas of chemistry, now involved in the conference. All previous conferences of this series had been organized in Asiatic countries, while the first to be organized in Europe was the 12<sup>th</sup> in Greece. Chairman of 12<sup>th</sup> Eurasia was Emeritus Professor of Chemistry Nick Hadjiliadis. Every Chairman of Eurasia Conferences on Chemical Sciences is a member of the International Organizing Committee (IOC) at each conference and has a general supervision of the organization. The Chairman of the National Organizing Committee (NOC) is responsible for the organization of the conference with the cooperation of the National

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(Local) Organizing Committee. Besides these committees, EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S has also the International Advisory Committee (Board) in which world-leading scientists are contributing to support the activities of the conference. At present, EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S has 37 members from 28 Countries.

15<sup>th</sup> Eurasia Conference on Chemical Sciences (EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S-15) was held in Rome in the Renaissance Cloister by Sangallo at the Faculty of Civil and Industrial Engineering of Sapienza University of Rome in Via Eudossiana n. 18, from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018. This was the second Eurasia Conference organised in Europe. EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S-15 covered all branches of modern chemistry, bringing together leading chemists and young scientists. The main topics of the conference, covered by 20 thematic symposia, were: Inorganic Chemistry (chemistry that deals with the structure and interactions between inorganic compounds); Organic, Biological and Medicinal Chemistry (chemistry of carbon and living things, chemistry as it applies to pharmacology and medicine); Agrochemistry and Food Chemistry (chemistry for agricultural production and food processing); Environmental and Green Chemistry (chemistry concerning processes and products for environmental remediation, eliminate or reduce the use or release of hazardous substances); Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Technology; Medicinal Chemistry; Natural Products in Medicinal Chemistry (involved with design, chemical synthesis and development for market of pharmaceutical agents, or bioactive molecules, extraction of natural compounds to be used as drugs); Physical Chemistry, Photochemistry, Electrochemistry, Spectroscopy, Thermochemistry (chemistry that applies physics to the study of chemistry, chemistry that involves the study of chemical reactions in a solution at the interface between an ionic conductor and an electrical conductor, chemistry concerned with interactions between light and matter, chemistry that examines the interactions between matter and electromagnetic radiation as a function of wavelength, thermal effects of chemical reactions and the thermal energy exchange between processes); Theoretical and Combinatorial Chemistry (calculations to explain or make predictions about chemical phenomena, computer simulation of molecules and reactions between molecules); Analytical Chemistry (chemistry studying the properties of materials or developing tools to analyse materials); Chemical Engineering (practical application of chemistry to solve problems); Chemistry for Nanomaterials and Nanostructured Materials: Synthesis, Modelling, Characterization and Applications (recent advances about the chemistry contribution to this highly interdisciplinary research field to realize reliable processing and tailoring of morphology, structure and properties); Chemistry of biomaterials (recent developments of organic and inorganic thin films and coatings to design, stimulate new ideas, provide promising solutions, as well as discuss fundamental and applied topics in biomaterials); Women in chemistry (the significant roles of women in all the areas related to chemistry); Chemistry and Ethics (issues related to research ethics relevant within the chemical community and affecting the society and the environment). The cultural program of the Conference included two sightseeing tours through the ancient Rome at both Forum of Augustus and Forum of Caesar scheduled on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. All conference information, including agenda and speakers, are available at the URL <http://www.eurasia2018.org/rome/>.

**International Organizing Committee (IOC):** Atta-ur-Rahman (Pakistan), Bruno Botta (Italy), Iqbal M. Choudhary (Pakistan), Srinivasan Chandrasekaran (India), Nick Hadjiliadis (Greece), Susumu Kitagawa (Japan), Musa Z. Nazer (Jordan), Bernd Michael Rode (Austria), Hyunjoon Song, Secretary (Korea). EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S Founder: Ivano Bertini (Italy, passed away 2014), Hitoshi Ohtaki (Japan, passed away 2006), Bernd Michael Rode (Austria). EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S Fellows: Gilbert Balavoine (France), Jan Reedijk (The Netherlands), John Mark Webb (Australia), Bilge Sener (Turkey).

**International Advisory Board (IAB):** Amal F. Al-Aboudi (Jordan), Eugene V. Babaev (Russia), Fabian M. Dayrit (Philippines), Sotiris K Hadjidakou (Greece), Supot Hannongbua (Thailand), Raji Heyrovská (Czech Republic), Chee-Cheong Ho (Malaysia), Thomas Hofer (Austria), Sung H. Kang (Korea), Tamas Kiss (Hungary), Narayanaswamy Jayaraman (India), Hian K. Lee (Singapore), Yuan T. Lee (Taiwan), Zong-Wan Mao (China), M. Mosihuzzaman (Bangladesh), Govindasamy Mugesh (India), Michitaka Ohtaki (Japan), Hiroki Oshio (Japan), Maurizio Peruzzini (Italy), Kim P.P. Nguyen (Vietnam), Harno D. Pranowo (Indonesia), Roland K. O. Sigel (Switzerland), Hongzhe Sun (China), Myunghyun Paik Suh (Korea), Edit Tshuva (Israel), Franz Wimmer (Brunei Darussalam), Toshio Yamaguchi (Japan). Emeritus Member: Youngkyu Do (Korea), Hiroshi Yokoyama

(Japan), Nagao Kobayashi (Japan), Jean-Marie Lehn (France), Ingmar Persson (Sweden), Wolfgang Voelter (Germany), Leiv Sydnnes (Norway).

**National Organizing Committee (NOC):** Luciana Dini (Chair – Sapienza University of Rome), Bruno Botta (Co-Chair – Sapienza University of Rome), Francesco Paolo Fanizzi (Vice-Chair – University of Salento), Andrea Caneschi (Vice-Chair – University of Florence, INSTM), Marco Rossi (Conference Secretary – Sapienza University of Rome, NanoItaly Association), Eugenio Amendola (National Research Council-Institute of Polymers, Composites and Biomaterials, CNR-IPCB), Piero Baglioni (University of Florence), Michele Benedetti (University of Salento), Ruggero Caminiti (Sapienza University of Rome), Antonella Canini (University of Rome Tor Vergata), Giuseppe Cannazza (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia), Luisa Campagnolo (University of Rome Tor Vergata), Giuseppe Ciccarella (University of Salento), Gianluca Farinola (University of Bari), Paride Mantecca (University of Milan-Bicocca), Maurizio Masi (Polytechnic University of Milan), Claudio Medana (University of Turin), Maria Luisa Pompili (National Research Council-Department of Chemical Science and Materials Technologies, CNR-DSCTM), Ludovico Valli (University of Salento).

**National Advisory Board (NAB):** Angela Agostiano (University of Bari), Vincenzo Barone (Scuola Normale Superiore), Alberto Boffi (Sapienza University of Rome), Adele Carradò (Université de Strasbourg), Aldo Laganà (Sapienza University of Rome), Silvia Licocchia (University of Rome Tor Vergata), Giovanni Natile (University of Bari), Francesco Nicotra (University of Milan-Bicocca), Maria Letizia Terranova (University of Rome Tor Vergata), Teodoro Valente (Sapienza University of Rome), Sesto Viticoli (Association for Industrial Research, AIRI).

**Local Organizing Committee (LOC).** Coordinators: Daniele Passeri, Francesca A. Scaramuzzo, Emanuela Tamburri, Cristian Vergallo. Staff Members: Elisabetta Carata, Stefania Mariano, Massimo Moretti, Francesco Mura, Elisa Panzarini, Angela Sorbo, Stefano Tacconi, Ada Maria Tata, Bernardetta Anna Tenuzzo. Staff and Administration Supervisor: Cristina Gippa.

EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S-15, organized and chaired by Prof. Luciana Dini (Fig. 1), was the occasion to aim the spotlight on and celebrate several anniversaries. Indeed, 2018 was the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday of EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S-15 conference. Also, 2019 is the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of IUPAC, which endorsed EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S-15 conference. Finally, 2019 has been declared the International Year of Periodic Table, celebrated by IUPAC by realizing a periodic table of young researchers (<https://iupac.org/100/pt-of-chemist/>).

EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S-15 saw the presence of about 120 attendees from 30 countries (Fig. 2). 40% of attendees were women, which represents a satisfying result in terms of promotion of gender equality. Overall, the number and the provenience of attendees led to a broad, stimulating programme with over 80 lectures (including those by Nobel Laureate Prof. Jean-Marie Lehn, Fig. 3) along with 38 poster presentations. The most scientifically relevant of them have been selected for these two special issues of *Pure and Applied Chemistry*.



**Fig. 1:** Prof. Luciana Dini during the EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S-15's opening ceremony.



**Fig. 2:** Group photo of the EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S-15's participants on the entrance stairway of the Faculty of Civil and Industrial Engineering of Sapienza University of Rome.



**Fig. 3:** Prof. Jean-Marie Lehn (Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1987) during his Nobel Plenary Lecture entitled “Perspectives in chemistry: towards adaptive chemistry” given at EuAsC<sub>2</sub>S-15.

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