

Conference Report

4th Young Investigators Workshop in Vienna, August 23–25, 2012

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Vienna is not only known as the ‘City of Music’ but also as the ‘City of Dreams’. Therefore, it was more than appropriate to choose this location for the 4th Young Investigators Workshop of the Organic Division of EuCheMS. Three days before the actual EuCheMS meeting in Prague 34 young researchers from 23 European as well as Asian and American countries gathered in one of the new buildings of the Vienna University of Technology in the heart of the city. Each country sent one or two representatives, which were chosen by their chemical societies or directly contacted by the Organic Division of EuCheMS. The meeting, organized by *Marko Mihovilovic* and *Michael Schnürch*, was originally initiated by Jay Siegel in 2008 under the umbrella of the Organic Division of EuCheMS. The idea was to bring together promising young chemists to exchange exciting science as well as to provide the opportunity to create bonds, which are more and more important in a wired globalized world. Financial support came not only from the Organic Division of EuCheMS and the Austrian Chemical Society (GÖCH), but also from industry, such as Anton Paar, Apollo Scientific, Boehringer Ingelheim, Büchi Labortechnik, FCIO, Thieme Verlag, Gilson, Illmvac, Shimadzu, Sigma-Aldrich, Springer, Thermo-Scientific and VWR.

The meeting started on Thursday afternoon with an inspiring presentation by Marko Mihovilovic himself, which set the pace for

a splendid celebration of chemistry. After that each of the young investigators had 20 minutes to show their research followed by 5 minutes of intense discussion. The afternoon session continued with contributions from the area of catalysis, which was also the theme for the next morning. The rest of the day continued in the area of bioorganic and medicinal chemistry ranging from biological aspects to the development of efficient methodologies of synthesis of bioactive compounds. The breadth of chemical expertise present at the meeting was visible on Saturday when materials science was the focus of the morning sessions. After some explorations in the area of biotechnology, the meeting finished with core disciplines of organic chemistry with talks on total syntheses, asymmetric synthesis and mechanisms.

As important as the scientific exchange, however, was the unique opportunity to meet fellow chemists from so many different countries and chemical backgrounds. The organizers have achieved in this regard a perfect informal environment to foster such a mutual exchange. For the evening dinner on the arrival day the microbrewery ‘Siebensternbräu’ was elected, which not only served excellent traditional Austrian food, but also a creative palette of well-assorted beers, the perfect ‘fuel’ for networking. Also, the coffee breaks offered plenty of opportunities to continue the discussion of science and elaborate potential collaborations. On Friday night a barbecue on the rooftop of the chemistry building of the TU Vienna provided the perfect background to further extend the bonds.

The 4th Young Investigators Workshop was a tremendous experience for all participants. Besides excellent science on the highest level the informal and friendly atmosphere was a fruitful ground to get to know peer chemists from all over the world and to knot a global network for the future.

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