

The official EFMC e-newsletter

MedChem Watch

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EFMC

The official EFMC e-newsletter

MedChemWatch

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The European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC) is an independent association founded in 1970 representing 25 Societies from 23 European Countries and more than 6500 Medicinal Chemists. The mission of the EFMC is to advance the science of medicinal chemistry, by promoting cooperation and networking, providing training and mentoring, rewarding scientific excellence and by facilitating communication and influencing stakeholders.



Dear colleagues,

this issue of MedChemWatch is almost entirely dedicated to the XXIII EFMC-ISMIC meeting, held in Lisbon September 7-11. This flagship event of our Federation has been a great success either in terms of organisation (about 1250 registrants and more than 55 exhibitors) and scientific outcome. You will find reports of the main events, including awards and prizes in the next pages. The EFMC-ISMIC has also been the place where new concepts for our organisation have been implemented. For the first time the meeting has been thoroughly covered by social media (#EFMC_ISMC), an interesting press conference has been organised, and most importantly, at the end of the meeting, we have organised the first edition of the Young Medicinal Chemist Symposium, a one-day event focused on the activity of the younger members of the Federation.

The EFMC-ISMIC has been preceded by the Executive and Council meetings. New EC members have been elected (Antonello Mai and Yves Auberson), replacing Gabriele Costantino and Hein Coolen, at the end of their term. Pascal George is the new Treasurer of the Federation. The Council has also unanimously assigned the 2018 edition of the EFMC-ISMIC to Slovenia.

There will be also news concerning our newsletter. Starting from January, we will implement a new format, more concise and more timely.

My best regards,

Gabriele Costantino, *Editor of MedChem Watch*

The 23rd EFMC-ISMIC 2018 International Symposium in Medicinal Chemistry

Lisbon 7-11, September 2014



The 23rd edition of the EFMC-ISMIC has been held in Lisbon, 7-11 September 2014. The meeting, organised by the group of Medicinal Chemistry of the Portuguese Chemical Society, continued the successful tradition of these biennial meetings which have become, over the last five decades, the largest medicinal chemistry congresses in the world.

The meeting, chaired by Prof. Rui Moreira, has seen the participation of about 1,200 scientists coming from more than 55 countries. The impact that the meeting had in the community is exemplified by a few numbers. More than 100 speakers, distributed among plenary, invited and oral communications, over 600 posters, of extremely high quality

covering all the major therapeutic areas, as well as technological and methodological developments and 55 exhibitors. Therefore, the meeting has been not only the occasion to get updated on the last breakthroughs in our discipline, but also the ideal place for productive and enjoyable networking.

Besides the regular scientific communications, the Meeting has also hosted several events, here summarized and fully described elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The EFMC-ISMIC is the place where the community recognizes its champions, and the ideal place to present the 2014 EFMC Awards and EFMC Prizes. As already announced, the



Rui Moreira (right) and Uli Stilz in their inaugural speech



The audience



Music and fun during the opening ceremony

Nauta Award for Pharmacochimistry has been assigned to Dr. Paul Leeson (GSK, UK), the UCB-Erich Award for Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry to Prof. Craig Crews (Yale University, USA) and the Prous Institute-Overton & Meyer Award for New Technologies in Drug Discovery to Prof. Gyorgy Ferenczy and Dr. Gyorgy Keseru (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, HU). The EFMC Prize for a Young Medicinal Chemist in Industry has been awarded to Dr. Grazia Piizzi (Novartis Pharma, CH), while the EFMC Prize for Young Medicinal Chemist in Academia to Dr. Christian A. Olsen (University of Copenhagen, DK).

Furthermore, the EFMC-ISMIC has also hosted the award ceremony for the IUPAC Richter Prize, assigned to Dr. Helmut Buschmann (Pharma Consulting Aachen, DE), and the ceremony for the MedChemComm Prize, won by Dr. Christian Heinis, of the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Switzerland.

After the success in the previous 2010 edition, also this 23rd EFMC-ISMIC meeting has hosted a EFMC session, again fully described in this issue, whose theme was 'The Innovative Medicines Initiative and Opportunities for Medicinal Chemists'. With the EFMC Session, the Federation intends to take explicitly on its role of learned society and offers qualified views on scientific developments and opportunities to its members. Also on this line was the breakfast meeting of the EC-EFMC with representatives of SMEs across Europe. The breakfast meeting, organised by the SME and Biotech Landscape Working Group of EFMC (led by Thomas Fessard, Spirochem, CH) had the scope of align the potential offered by EFMC, in its role of scientific federation and learned society, with the rapidly changing needs (visibility, networking, training) of SMEs and Biotechs.

EFMC AWARDS AND PRIZES

On the occasion of its major events, including the biennial EFMC-ISMC, EFMC awards the worldwide excellence in medicinal chemistry with awards and prizes.



WINNER OF THE UCB-ERLICH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

Craig Crews

During the 23rd edition of the EFMC-ISMC, the UCB-Erlich Award for excellence in medicinal chemistry was assigned to Dr. Craig Crews (Yale University, USA). The “UCB-Ehrlich Award for Excellence in Medicinal Chemistry” was established to acknowledge and recognise outstanding research in the field of Medicinal Chemistry in its broadest sense. The Award is open to any scientist whose age does not exceed 50 years on January 1st of the year during which the Award is to be presented.

Previous recipients were Prof. Krzysztof Jozwiak in 2012, Dr Anthony Wood in 2010, Prof. Peter H. Seeberger in 2008, Dr Bernd Riedl in 2006, Prof. Jesper Wengel in 2004 and Dr Jürg Zimmerman in 2002. The Award lecture delivered by Dr. Crews, by title “Small molecule control of intracellular protein level” touched many aspects related to the ability of interfering with intracellular mechanisms through small molecule modulators, on route towards new potential drugs.



WINNER OF THE NAUTA AWARD FOR PHARMACOCEMISTRY

Paul Leeson

The Nauta Award for Pharmacology was assigned to Dr. Paul Leeson (GlaxoSmithKline, UK). The “Nauta Award for Pharmacology” was established to honour the memory of Prof. Dr. W. Th. Nauta, whose activities have been very

important for the advancement of Medicinal Chemistry in general, and the development of international organisational structures for this discipline. The Nauta Award will acknowledge outstanding results of scientific research in the field of Medicinal Chemistry obtained by scientists without restriction regarding nationality. Previous recipients were Prof. Alexander Levitzki in 2012, Prof. Camille George Wermuth in 2010, Prof. Hugo Kubinyi in 2008, Prof. P. Porthogese in 2006, Prof. C.R. Ganellin in 2004, Prof. B. Testa in 2002, Prof. Dr. E. De Clercq in 2000, Prof. Dr. H. Timmerman in 1998, Prof. Dr. P. Krosggaard-Larsen in 1996, Dr. M. Petitou in 1994 and Dr. A.E. Brändström in 1992. The Award Lecture delivered by Dr. Leeson, entitled “Pursuing Compound Quality” was a reflection on the major achievements of his scientific career, mostly devoted to the understanding of what physico-chemical properties make a molecule more druggable.



WINNER OF THE PROUS INSTITUTE-OVERTON & MEYER AWARD FOR NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN DRUG DISCOVERY

Gyorgy Ferenczy, Gyorgy Keseru

The third assigned Award was the Prous Institute-Overton & Meyer Award for new technologies in drug discovery. Dr. Gyorgy Ferenczy and Dr. Gyorgy Keseru, both from the Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest, were the recipient of the Award. The “Prous Institute-Overton and Meyer Award for New Technologies in Drug Discovery” was established to encourage innovation and investigation in technologies related to drug discovery. The Award is given biennially to acknowledge the discovery, evaluation or use of a new technology. Previous recipients were Dr Harren Jhoti in 2012, Prof. Klaus Müller in 2010, Prof. V. Ley in 2008, Prof. D. Neri in 2006 and Prof. C.O. Kappe in 2004. The Award lecture, by title “Thermodynamics assisted Drug Discovery” was delivered by Dr. Keseru also on behalf of Dr. Ferenczy and covered the importance of thermodynamic measurements to ascertain the mode of binding of small molecules to protein and to derive guidance for their optimization.

It is aim of EFMC also to give visibility to younger scientists, and this is achieve through two EFMC prizes, one for young medicinal chemist in the industry, and the other for a young medicinal chemistry in the academia.



WINNER OF THE EFMC PRIZE FOR A YOUNG MEDICINAL CHEMIST IN INDUSTRY

Grazia Piizzi

The “EFMC Prize for Young Medicinal Chemist in Industry” acknowledges and recognizes an outstanding young medicinal chemist (≤ 10 years after PhD) working in industry within Europe. The Prize is given annually. The winner this year has been Dr. Grazia Piizzi (Novartis, Switzerland), and the two runners-up were Laurence Jung (Prestwick, France) and Pavel Mykhailiuk (Enamine, Ukraine). The title of Dr. Piizzi’s presentation was “Design, synthesis and properties of potent inhibitors of Pseudomonas Aureginosa deacetylase LpxC”.



WINNER OF THE EFMC PRIZE FOR A YOUNG RESEARCHER IN ACADEMIA

Christian A. Olsen

The “EFMC Prize for Young Medicinal Chemist in Academia” was established by the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC) to acknowledge and recognize an outstanding young medicinal chemist (≤ 10 years after PhD) working in academia within Europe. The Prize is given annually. The winner for this year edition is Dr. Christian A. Olsen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark). His lecture was entitled: Inhibitors of substrates of the himan lysine deacylase enzymes.

EFMC COUNCIL MEETINGS

New EC Members and EFMC-ISMIC 2018

As usual, the Sunday morning before the opening of the EFMC-ISMIC has been devoted to the EFMC Council Meetings. Among the various things, the Council had the task of electing new components of the Executive Committee for the 2015-2017 term. Gabriele Costantino (University of Parma, Italy) leaves the EC after six years of commitment, and the same does Hein Coolen (Utrecht, The Netherlands), who had to resign from his position of Treasurer due to changed professional responsibilities. Thus, the EC decided to propose Pascal George, member of the EC, as new Treasurer, and this left one position more open for EC memberships. Two applications came, from Antonello Mai, University of Rome (Italy) and Yves P. Auberson, Novartis (Switzerland). The Council unanimously accepted the proposal for the new Treasurer and approved the candidatures, which will thus be effective starting January the 1st, 2015. The Council warmly thanked the leaving members and welcomes the new ones!

In the same meeting, the Council took the decision for the 25th EFMC-ISMIC which will be held in 2018. Only one candidature came, from Slovenia, which was very nicely presented by Prof. Danijel Kikelj and Dr. Marko Anderluh. Two possible locations were proposed, one in the Slovenia’s Capital, Lubijana, the other one in Portorose, in the Adriatic sea. The presentation and the proposal was very much appreciated by the Council that unanimously approved the candidature, expressing the preference for the Lubijana’s option.

See in you Slovenia, 2018!

Press Conference at the 23rd EFMC-ISMIC

With the recent reorganisation of the EFMC structural layout, the visibility of medicinal chemistry has been selected as a strategic theme for the next year's activities, and a Working Group led by Fabrizio Giordanetto (Taros Chemicals, DE) and sponsored by Gabriele Costantino (EC member and University of Parma, I) has been established. A key activity assigned to the WG is the promotion of the visibility of medicinal chemistry in the general public, and the increase of the general awareness of the importance of medicinal chemistry and medicinal chemists for discovery of medicines and for the public health. One of the actions in this direction has been the organisation of a press conference during the EFMC-ISMIC, open to scientific publishers and general press. The theme of the press conference was 'Importance of Medicinal Chemistry: who is responsible for discovering new drugs?' After the foreword by Uli Stilz, EFMC President and Antonio Cruz Serra, University of Lisbon, Rector, a panel of five researchers presented very recent achievements on the discovery of new drugs combating devastating diseases, reported during the Meeting. The speakers were Sabine Hadida (Vertex Pharmaceuticals) who briefly reported on Ivacaftor, an approved drug for the treatment of cystic fibrosis; Tesfaye Biftu (Merk), the inventor of Omarigliptin, a new therapy for type II diabetes, in phase III of clinical trials; Henning Steinhagen (Grunhental), the inventor of Cebepnanodolm a new therapy for cancer pain in phase II of clinical trials; Georg

Jaeschke (Roche), the inventor of Basimglurant, a novel therapy for the treatment-resistant depression in phase II of clinical trials. The panel also included Ada Yonath (Weizmann Institute of Sciences, Israel, and Nobel Laureate 2009) who gave her personal vision on the importance of basic research for the invention of new medicines.

The questions and answers session was quite populated with a clear interest by the general press in the timeframe needed to proceed new drugs into the market for patient availability, and also in the emotional involvement of researchers involved in the discovery of new medicines. Dr. Joeschke stressed on the fact that medicinal chemistry is a very creative task. It creates new things, potentially useful for the mankind, that did not exist before. Dr. Hadida, who co-invented a drug which is already on the market, shared her experience that having your molecule in a pill given to patients is, for a medicinal chemist, a dream that comes true, since you have the direct feeling that you help them having their life back.

In this respect, the press conference has been very successful in transmitting the idea that medicinal chemistry (and medicinal chemists) are key players in the long and laborious process of drug discovery and that their activity must be fully recognized and acknowledged by the whole society.



Antonio Cruz Serra, Uli Stilz and Ada Yonath



The speakers panel and Fabrizio Giordanetto

The 20th Edition of EuroQSAR Meeting in St. Petersburg (Russia)



With the sponsoring of EFMC, St. Petersburg (Russia) has hosted the 20th edition of the EuroQSAR meeting, organised by Prof. Vladimir Prokoirov (MSU) biannually in a European city, the meeting was originally thought to be the main scientific event of the QSAR and Molecular Modeling Society, which has now ceased his operation. Despite this, the meeting continues to be place where scientists from all around the world meet to discuss the most recent advances in the development and application of computational and informatics techniques to disciplines such as drug discovery, material chemistry, agriculture and agrochemicals. Despite the broad scope of the conference, there is no doubt that also in St. Petersburg the most popular field of application was drug discovery. Indeed, QSAR methods as well as ligand and structure based molecular modeling techniques are continuously perceived as accelerators in the drug discovery pipeline. More than 260 participants and several exhibitors have enjoyed the conference which started on Sunday 31st. The opening lecture was delivered by Prof. Fujita (Kyoto University, Japan), who is universally recognized as the founding father of the QSAR together with Corvin Hansch. And in fact his lecture was an inspiring wandering into fifty years of science which have contributed to shape not only the QSAR but also

most of the way in which structure-activity relationship are perceived by medicinal chemistry. The scientific program has then evolved along thematic scientific session, from structure based drug design to chemoinformatics. The Meeting was also the occasion to assign the Corvin Hansch Award. The award, established in 2000, is named after the late honorary chair of the Society and the pioneer of the interdisciplinary science of QSAR, Dr. Corwin Hansch. The 2014's recipient was Dr. Andreas Bender, Lecturer for Molecular Informatics with the Centre for Molecular Informatics at the University of Cambridge. The next edition of the EuroQSAR meeting in 2016 will be hosted by Italy and will be held in Verona, chaired by Gabriele Costantino and Andrea Cavalli.

It must be finally observed that the Meeting has been held under the patronage of the 2014 EU-Russia Year of Science, an initiative which is especially important to mention in these days where we see not easy political relationships which, nevertheless, do not obstacle friendly and productive scientific contacts.

The first EFMC Young Medicinal Chemist Symposium (EFMC-YMCS) 2014 in Lisbon

CHRIS DE GRAAF

With more than 125 scientist coming from 25 nations, the very first EFMC- Young Medicinal Chemist Symposium (YMCS 2014), held at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon, September 12, 2014, has created a new inspiring stage for young researchers in medicinal chemistry.

The EFMC-YMCS 2014 was organised by an EFMC working group (which spun out of the 2012 Frankfurt EFMC brainstorm session) in connection with the XXIII EFMC International Symposium of Medicinal Chemistry (ISMC). The objectives of the YMCS are to

- Create a network of young European investigators in Medicinal Chemistry
- Stimulate young European investigators in Medicinal Chemistry to share their scientific work with peers and inspiring leaders in the field
- Create competition and excellence in Medicinal Chemistry within Europe.

The Symposium was opened by EFMC President Uli Stilz (Novo Nordisk) and Symposium Chair Chris de Graaf (VU University Amsterdam) to start a full day conference filled with state-of-the-art medicinal chemistry: 2 keynote lectures, 8 oral communications by invited prize winners from national young medicinal chemist meetings in Europe, 4 selected oral communications, 20 oral flash poster presentations, and 80 poster presentations. The symposium sponsors Taros, Roche, RSC, AstraZeneca, and Pfizer together with important financial contributions of the EFMC, in kind contributions of LD Organisation (in particular Ly Differding and Briec Matagne), and organisational efforts of the University of Lisbon host (Rita Guedes, Maria Santos, Rui Moreira, and their tremendous team of post-docs and PhD students) were acknowledged for their crucial support for the first YMCS.

The inspiring opening Keynote Lecture of Kelly Chibale (University of Cape Town), leader in the field of

malaria drug discovery research, set the tone for a successful symposium with interactive scientific discussions on a wide variety of medicinal chemistry research topics and disciplines. Professor Chibale gave an interesting overview of the medicinal chemistry optimization of phenotypic screening of hits from softfocus chemical libraries that target the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*, and showed how this work links to collaborative drug discovery projects together with the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV). Eight oral communications of invited prize winners of national young medicinal chemist meetings in France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Poland, Spain, The Netherlands, and United Kingdom, and four additional communications selected from more than 65 abstracts showed the high level of the new generation of European medicinal chemistry researchers.

Duncan Hay (University of Oxford), winner of the young medicinal chemist meeting in The United Kingdom (Royal Society of Chemistry), presented the structure-based design and synthesis of a chemical probe to study the biological roles of CBP/P300 bromodomains.

Lucia Tamborini (University of Milan), winner of the young medicinal chemist meeting in Italy (Società Chimica Italiana) provided insights into the development and application of continuous flow chemistry as enabling discovery tool in medicinal chemistry.

Milon Mondal (University of Groningen), one of the four selected oral abstracts, showed how the combination of de novo structure-based design and dynamic combinatorial chemistry can lead to novel inhibitors of aspartic protease endothiapsin.

Christelle Dupouy (University of Montpellier), winner of the young medicinal chemist meeting in France (Société de Chimie Thérapeutique) presented her work on the synthesis and biological evaluation of siRNA prodrugs.

Nir Ben Chetrit (Weizmann Institute of Science), winner of the young medicinal chemist meeting in Israel (The Medici-



YMCS impressions: Concentrated auditorium audience (left), coffee break and poster session networking (middle), inspiring Keynote lecture Alexander Mayweg (right).

nal Chemistry Section of the Israel Chemical Society) presented high-throughput screening studies to identify novel molecules that target lipid signaling as a new therapeutic approach for breast cancer.

Karolina Pajak (Medical University of Lublin), winner of the young medicinal chemist meeting in Poland (Polish Society of Medicinal Chemistry), provided insights into molecular mechanisms of functional ligand selectivity towards the beta-2-adrenergic receptor.

Tiago Rodrigues (ETH Zürich), one of the four selected oral abstracts, showed how computational methods can be used for the de novo design of lead-like chemical entities for kinase and GPCR drug targets.

Saskia Nijmeijer (VU University Amsterdam), winner of the young medicinal chemist meeting in The Netherlands (Section Medicinal Chemistry, Royal Netherlands Chemical Society KNCV) presented her work on functional fragment screening at G Protein-Coupled Receptors for the identification of signalling-biased fragment-like GPCR ligands.

Thomas Evangelidis (University of Athens), winner of the young medicinal chemist meeting in Greece (Hellenic Society of Medicinal Chemistry) showed how the performance of consensus scoring approaches in protein-ligand docking can be optimized.

Ainhoa Mascaraque (CSIS Madrid), winner of the young medicinal chemist meeting in Spain (Sociedad Española de Química Terapéutica) presented her work glycodendropetides as a potential vaccine against influenza A virus.

Laura Jennings (University of Oxford), one of the four selected oral abstracts, showed the optimization of in vivo probes for the BET bromodomains by structure-based design and synthesis.

Susana Dias Lucas (University of Lisbon), one of the four selected oral abstracts, presented a unified approach for rational discovery and optimization of neutrophil elastase inhibitors.

Twenty flash presenters efficiently used their 1.5 minute sneak previews to invite the audience and jury to their posters during the lunch: Ewald Edink (VU University Amsterdam), Stephanie Gueret (Novartis), Rudi Oliveira (University of Lisbon), Eleni Kotsampasakou (University of Vienna), Sofia Alexandre Santos (University of Lisbon), Ana Ressureicao (University of Lisbon), Rafal Urniaz (Medical University of Lublin), Sara Cristina Covas da Silva (University of Lisbon), Ramatoulie Camara (University of Hertfordshire), Mariana Reis (University of Lisbon), Daria Goldmann (University of Vienna), Carlos Jorge Azevedo Costa Ribeiro (University of Lisbon), Andrea Unzue (University of Zurich), Agnese

Chiara Pippione (University of Turin), Pedro Miguel Cal (University of Lisbon), Frans Smit (North West University), Nagore Isabel Marin Ramos (Complutense University of Madrid), Marzena Baran (Jagiellonian University Medical College Krakow), Davide Carta (University of Padova). The 79 posters created a buzzing scientific atmosphere in the hall of Faculty of Pharmacy and a challenging but rewarding task for the poster jury to select the best YMCS poster presentation.

Alexander Mayweg, Global Head of Medicinal Chemistry at Roche Pharma Research and Early Development (and winner of the EFMC Prize for a Young Medicinal Chemist in Industry 2011) gave an inspiring closing Keynote lecture on the future of medicinal chemistry. In his lecture Dr. Mayweg showed how the exploration of new chemical space and development of new drug discovery technologies can broaden the range of therapeutic modalities that can be designed and synthesized by medicinal chemists. Earlier that afternoon, Dr. Mayweg and Uli Stilz awarded EFMC Roche Studentship grants to Corentine Laurin (University of Glasgow) and Johannes Lehmann (TU München).

Not only the symposium presentations were attractive demonstrations state-of-the-art science, but also the following Q&A sessions, led by session chairs Chris de Graaf (VU University Amsterdam), Rita Guedes (University of Lisbon), and Fabrizio Giordanetto (Taros Chemicals), enabled fruitful scientific discussions between the YMCS participants. Active scientific networking was further stimulated by the Portuguese sweetened coffee breaks, delicious lunch poster session, and gastronomical drinks and networking at the roof terrace of the Faculty of Pharmacy of University of Lisbon.

During the closing Award ceremony the Taros EFMC-YMCS Presentation Prize, Royal Society of Chemistry EFMC-YMCS Poster Prize, and Roche EFMC-YMCS Public's Choice Prize were awarded to the European Champions in Medicinal Chemistry:

Duncan Hay (University of Oxford) received the Taros EFMC-YMCS Presentation Prize for his presentation on "A chemical probe for the CBP/P300 Bromodomains". The prize was awarded by Fabrizio Giordanetto on behalf of the prize sponsor Taros Chemicals, consisting of a diploma, € 1,000 and an invitation for a short presentation at an EFMC symposium.

Ramatoulie Camara (University of Hertfordshire) received the RSC EFMC-YMCS Poster Prize for her presentation on "Desig, synthesis and evaluation of inhibitors of the S100P/RAGE interaction as potential anti-pancreatic cancer agents". The prize was awarded by Richard Kelly on behalf of the prize sponsor The Royal Society of Chemistry, consisting of a diploma, € 500 and free registration for an EFMC symposium.

Laura Jennings (University of Oxford), received the Roche EFMC-YMCS Public's Choice Prize for her presentation on "Optimising in vivo proves for the BET Bromodomains". The prize, based on the votes of EFMC-YMCS participants, was awarded by Andrew Thomas on behalf of the prize sponsor Roche, consisting of a diploma and an iPad. The outstanding scientific level and interactive scientific networking atmosphere of the first YMCS Lisbon meeting has set a promising standard for the EFMC-YMCS tradition, which will be continued in conjunction with EFMC meetings, the Frontiers in Medicinal Chemistry in Antwerp September 2015, and the XXIV EFMC-ISMCS September 2016 in Manchester. The first details can be found on the regularly updated symposium website <http://www.efmc-ymcs.org> or via the EFMC website www.efmc.info.



EFMC Young Medicinal Chemist Symposium Prize Ceremony: Left: Taros YMCS Presentation Prize awarded to Duncan Hay (University of Oxford) by Fabrizio Giordanetto (Taros Chemicals); Middle: Royal Society of Chemistry YMCS Poster Prize awarded to Ramatoulie Camara (University of

Hertfordshire) by Richard Kelly (Royal Society of Chemistry); Right: Roche YMCS Public's Choice Prize awarded to Laura Jennings (University of Oxford) by Andrew Thomas (Roche).

14>16/09
2015
ANTWERP BELGIUM

SAVE THE DATE

FMC 2015

FRONTIERS IN MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

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EFMC NEWS & EVENTS

BY NELE COULIER AND KOEN AUGUSTYNS



With more than 1,250 scientists coming from 55 nations, the XXIII EFMC International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC-ISM 2014), held at the Lisboa Congress Center from September 7-11, 2014 has been a very successful symposium with a diverse and high quality programme.

EFMC-ISM 2014 was jointly organised by the Group of Medicinal Chemistry of the Portuguese Chemical Society (SPQ), on behalf of the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC).

The Opening Ceremony, led by Rui Moreira, symposium chairman, and Uli Stilz, EFMC President, was the start of a five day symposium with many scientific highlights. The organisers are very pleased to have reached the main objective of creating a major scientific event for Medicinal Chemistry in Europe, with about 100 expert speakers, 600 poster presentations, 57 exhibitors and 31 sponsors.

The next edition of this biennial symposium will take place on August 28 - September 1, 2016 in Manchester and will be organised by the Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Sector (BMCS) of the Royal Society of Chemistry, on behalf of EFMC. EFMC-

ISM 2016 will continue the tradition of the EFMC-ISM symposia to create an international platform where scientists from all over the world meet and exchange their view and ideas. The first details can be found on the regularly updated website www.efmc-ismc2016.org

As a satellite symposium to EFMC-ISM, EFMC organised the 1st EFMC Young Medicinal Chemist Symposium (EFMC-YMCS) on Friday, September 12. This one-day meeting held at the University of Lisbon, attracted 120 participants from 25 nations. The 2 keynote lectures, 8 oral communications by invited prize winners from national young medicinal chemist meetings in Europe, 4 additional selected oral communications, and 65 poster presentations led the participants through the latest drug discovery advances in the major therapeutic areas, including neglected diseases, CNS disorders, inflammation, metabolic disorders and oncology.

At the annual EFMC Council meeting held in Lisbon on occasion of EFMC-ISM 2014, it has been decided that EFMC-ISM 2018 will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, organised by the Slovenian Pharmaceutical Society, on behalf of EFMC.

At the Council meeting, the EFMC Council elected Jordi Gracia (Almirall,

Spain) as new Secretary of the Executive Committee. Pascal George (Consultant, France), EC member since January 2014, has been elected as successor of Hein Coolen, who served as EFMC Treasurer during the past years. Yves Auberson (Novartis, Switzerland) and Antonello Mai (Università degli Studi di Roma, Italy) have been elected as EC members. Koen Augustyns (University of Antwerp, Belgium) will succeed Uli Stilz (NovoNordisk, Denmark) on January 1st, 2015 as President of EFMC.



With the aim to support training and networking within the medicinal chemistry community, EFMC is organising twice a year EFMC Short Courses on Medicinal Chemistry. In October 2014, Andrew Leach (University of Liverpool) and George Keseru (Hungarian Academy of Sciences) will be organising a course on "Principles of Molecular Recognition". The complete programme as well as registration details are available on the website www.efmcshortcourses.org

EFMC ORGANISED EVENTS

9th EFMC Short Course on Medicinal Chemistry: Principles of Molecular Recognition

October 26-29, 2014
Oegstgeest (near Leiden),
The Netherlands
www.efmcshortcourses.org

5th EFMC International Symposium on Advances in Synthetic and Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC-ASMC)

With the support of the Medicinal Chemistry Section of the Israel Chemical

Frontiers in Medicinal Chemistry

Jointly organised by EFMC, ACS Medicinal Chemistry Division, KNCV and KVCV
September 14-16, 2015
Antwerp Belgium

2nd EFMC Young Medicinal Chemist Symposium (EFMC-YMCS)

Satellite symposium to Frontiers in Medicinal Chemistry
Antwerp, Belgium

EFMC SPONSORED EVENTS

1st International Conference: From Drug Discovery to Drug Delivery

November 13-15, 2014
Athens, Greece
www.drugdiscoverytodelivery2014.com

MedChem 2014 "New Vistas in GPCR Research: the Dawn of an Exciting Drug Discovery Era?"

November 21, 2014
Braine-L'Alleud, Belgium
www.medchem.be



9th EFMC Short Course on Medicinal Chemistry

PRINCIPLES OF MOLECULAR RECOGNITION

Course Organisers

George Keseru
*Research Centre for Natural Sciences,
Hungarian Academy of Sciences*

Andrew Leach
John Moores University, UK

Local Organiser

Henk Timmerman
VU University Amsterdam, NL

Deadline for preregistration

September 25, 2014

Venue

Castle "Oud Poelgeest", Oegstgeest
(near Leiden), The Netherlands
Airport: Schiphol, Amsterdam

Fee € 1475,00 – Including accommodation,
breakfast, coffee breaks, lunches and dinners
during the 3 days of the conference.

Contact

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October 26-29, 2014

Oegstgeest, near Leiden, The Netherlands

This intensive course is intended for scientists working in the field, and the number of participants will be limited to 35 to favour in depth discussion. The various presentations and tutorials will be taken by experts in the field who will present a broad historical perspective as well as cutting edge research from both academia and industrial settings. The course will take an informal approach and ought to prompt plenty of discussion among participants.

Course Outline

The interactions between molecules govern all of the properties that determine whether a compound will be an effective drug or not. This course will present the fundamental considerations determining the thermodynamic and kinetic properties of interactions between molecules.

The first part of the course will begin with an introduction to the types of interactions that are usually considered important for drug-like compounds, including some of the less commonly considered weaker interaction types.

The second part of the course will focus on applied aspects. This will take two forms: detailed presentations considering most key molecular properties and some hands on tutorial exercises. Both will be structured around real life case studies taken from the literature and the presenters' own experience.



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