

Report from the 29th Polychar World Forum on Advanced Materials in Nice, France

Our 29th Forum took place on September 26-29, 2023, as usual with worldwide participation. Our Forum is unique in many ways; possibly its most important feature is that it offers opportunity to young students and researchers to present their scientific results to a wide public and exchange knowledge with prominent scientists and engineers.

Our Forum was limited originally to polymer characterization (hence Polychar). However, its international character and treatment of students as equals quickly attracted metallurgists and others, hence the Forum now covers materials of all classes. The meetings had been held in Denton, Texas, USA (where the Forum was founded in 1992 and held until 2003), Portugal (2004), Singapore (2005), Japan (2006), Brazil (2007), India (2008), France (2009), Germany (2010), Nepal (2011), Croatia (2012), South Korea (2013), South Africa (2014), USA (2015), Poland (2016), Malaysia (2017), Georgia (2018), Italy (2019) and resumed after the pandemic break in Armenia (2022).

The Forum traditionally begins with a one-day Course on Materials Characterization. While it is possible to attend the Forum without the Course, several participants have declared that the Course helped them to follow the research presentations on the following days.

The following lectures were delivered in the Course:

Elizabete F. Lucas, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, *Procedures to Evaluate Polymers as Additives for Petroleum Industry*

Masaru Matsuo, Nara Women's University and Dalian University of Technology, *Electrical Properties of Composites with Polymer and Nano-fillers*

Witold Brostow, University of North Texas, Denton, *Viscoelasticity of Polymers*

Cosimo Carfagna, Federico II University of Naples, *Bioinspired Materials*

Kevin P. Menard, Mary Kay Corp., *Dynamic Mechanical Analysis*

Dirk W. Schubert, Friedrich Alexander University, Erlangen-Nuremberg, *Polymer Blends*

Tomasz Sterzynski, Poznan University of Technology, *Macromolecular Orientation in Polymers*

Osman Gencel, Bartin University, *Making Concretes with Inclusion of Waste Materials*

The Scientific Committee of the Forum consists of members from many countries, including the Forum founders Witold Brostow and Kevin P. Menard who were both in Nice in person. It was decided to create the Executive Board of the Forum. The composition of the Board:

President: Alice Mija, Université Côte d'Azur, Nice, France

Vice Presidents:

Veronica Ambrogi, Federico II University of Naples

Elizabete F. Lucas, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Cyrille Sollogoub, Conservatoire National des Arts and Métiers, Paris

Honorary President: Witold Brostow, University of North Texas, Denton

Chair of the Industrial Relations Committee: Kevin P. Menard, Mary Kay Corp., Dallas

Chair of the Prize Committee: Liubov P. Myasnikova, Abram Yoffe Institute, St. Petersburg

Vice Chair of the Prize Committee: Cosimo Carfagna, Federico II University of Naples
Chair of the Membership Committee: Masaru Matsuo, Nara Women's University and Dalian University of Technology

Diplomas of the Prizes will be sent to winners by e-mail. The following Prizes were awarded:

Svante Arrhenius International Materials Research Prize:

Veronica Ambrogi, Federico II University of Naples
Teresa Gatti, Torino Polytechnic
Jean-Marie Raquez, University of Mons

Paul J. Flory International Materials Research Prize:

Antonella Esposito, University of Rouen
To Ngai, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Cyrille Sollogoub, Conservatoire National des Arts and Métiers, Paris

Jürgen Springer Prize for Young Scientists:

Maximiliano Martins, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
Chirag R. Ratwani, Bournemouth University

Bruce Hartmann Prize for Young Scientists:

Roxana Dinu, Université Côte d'Azur = University of the French Riviera, Nice
Anastasiia Pidvorotnia, Vasily Karazin Harkiv National University and Université Côte d'Azur
Javier Gomez Sanchez, King Juan Carlos University, Madrid

On Friday September 29 there was an opportunity to visit the Principality of Monaco, not a long trip from Nice, with at least two options: going into the Casino and getting rid of excess of money in one's pockets, or else to walk in the gardens surrounding the Casino. There was also one more option followed by some participants: visiting the Marc Chagall Museum in Nice. Chagall was born in Vitebsk, now in Belarus, but spend most of his life near Nice.

The Prizes were awarded at the closing ceremony. On behalf of the participants Witold Brostow thanked Alice Mija and her coworkers for exemplary organization of the 29th Forum. At the conclusion of that ceremony Ivanka Popovic, former President of the Serbian Chemical Society, has invited everybody for the 30th Forum in Belgrade in 2024. The 31st Forum in 2025 will take place in Bartın, Turkey.