

Dear participants and friends of the **Polychar World Forum on Advanced Materials 2023**:

Our 29th conference will take place at the Université Côte d'Azur = University of the French Riviera in Nice, France, 25 – 29 September 2023. The Forum will be in the hybrid form, in-person as well as long-distance participations are possible.

Our Forum was originally was limited to polymer characterization (hence Polychar). However, it was so popular that metallurgists and others also participated. We now cover materials of all classes. The previous meetings had been held in Denton, Texas, USA (where the Forum was founded in 1992), 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 Armenia (2022). We usually have participants from more than 20 countries on all continents except for Antarctica. Two founders of the Forum, Witold Brostow at the University of North Texas and Kevin P. Menard now at the Mary Kay Corporation will participate in 2023.

On Friday September 30 there will be an excursion – for those who wish to see the French Riviera (known in France as Côte d'Azur) beyond Nice. Principality of Monaco is a very small country but worth seeing, only an hour or so travel from Nice. There are several unique places in Monaco. One is the Oceanographic Museum – in which one can see through a huge glass many kinds of fish in their almost natural surroundings. There is also the Monte Carlo Casino – with at least two options. One is to get inside and spend money. The other is to stay outside and walk in beautiful gardens around the Casino building.

Our Forum is unique in many ways. Possibly the most important feature is that it offers opportunity to students and young researchers to present their scientific results to a wide public and exchange knowledge with prominent scientists from all over the world. There is a number of prizes for young scientists and students to encourage their participation (see below). Our Forum pays also much attention to uniqueness and technology innovations – which is why worldwide contribution is crucial.

Traditionally on the first day we have a Course on Materials Characterization. It is possible to attend the Forum without attending the Course. However, each time those who have participated in the Course declare that it is easier to follow research reports on the following days after taking the Course.

This time the Forum focuses on the following areas:

- Modeling, Predictive and Advanced Characterization Methods
- Smart and Functional Materials
- Synthesis and Chemical Modification
- Materials for Environment, Sustainability and Recycling
- Materials for Medicine and Health

- Materials for Energy and Electronics
- Engineering and Manufacturing.

At the end of each Forum several awards are distributed among the participants (one, two or three recipients for each prize):

the *Svante Arrhenius International Materials Research Prize*

the *Paul J. Flory Research Prize*

the *Jürgen Springer Prize for Young Scientists* (not older than 32)

the *Bruce Hartmann Prize for Young Scientists* (not older than 32)

the *Carl Klason Student Awards* (students currently enrolled in a university or college)

At the registration time Young Scientists and Students should identify themselves as such.

The Prize Committee Chairperson is Liuba Myasnikova, Abram Ioffe Institute, St. Petersburg.

The Program for Monday September 25 is as follows:

Course on Materials Characterization

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

9.30 Masaru Matsuo, Dalian University, Electrical properties of composites with polymer and nano-fillers

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

10.30-10.45 Morning break

10.45 Shaghayegh Hamzehlou, University of the Basque Country, Donostia-San Sebastian, Morphology of Composites

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

11.45 Witold Brostow, University of North Texas, Viscoelasticity of Polymers

12.15 – 13.15 Lunch

13.15 Narine Durgaryan, Yerevan National University, Materials for Electronics

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

14.15 Kevin Menard, Mary Kay Corp., Dynamic Mechanical Analysis

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

14.45-15.00 Break after the Course

Forum First Session

15.00 Veronica Ambrogi, University of Naples (Invited):

15.30 Celina R. Bernal, University of Buenos Aires (Invited):

16.00-17.00 Posters first session

Schedules for the following days are still being worked out. In those days further Invited Speakers are planned:

Antonella Esposito, University of Rouen Normandie

Teresa Gatti, Torino Polytechnic

Christoph Kulgemeyer, University of Bremen

Marcela Mihai, Petru Poni Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Iasi

To Ngai, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Jean-Marie Raquez, University of Mons

Meital Rechtes, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Cyrille Sollougoub, Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, Paris

At the closing ceremony Sanja Seslija will invite everybody to our 30-th Forum in 2024 at the University of Belgrade.

Fees:

Forum in-person participation other than students: 475 euros/person

Students, both in-person and distance-participants: 175 euros/person

Monday Course on Materials Characterization only: 125 euros/person

Thursday evening gala dinner: 80 euros/person

Friday trip including lunch in Monaco and entrance to the Oceanographic Museum: 80 euros/person

Please send us your declaration of participation to pforumadvmat@gmail.com. If you wish to present your research results, send to the same address your abstract(s) (precising oral conference or poster; in presence or virtual; if student or Young Investigator; with Monday Course or not; Monaco visit or not; with gala dinner or not) before June the 14-th.

In the second announcement we will provide you with the payment possibilities; fees are recommended to be paid before July the 14-th, otherwise an extra fee of 50 euros/person will be applied.

Information on opportunities to publish the papers presented in a respected worldwide journal will be provided at the closing ceremony. This information pertains to both oral and poster presentations.