

## **20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Heterocyclic Chemistry (20ICHC)**

**Palermo July 31 – August 5, 2005**

The 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Heterocyclic Chemistry (20<sup>th</sup> ICHC) was held in Palermo from July 31 to August 5, 2005. The ICHCs are major scientific events that have been organised all over the world since 1967, when the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque hosted it, attracting attendees from both industry and academia. These Congresses cover the whole range of heterocyclic chemistry from theory to practical applications. This biannual Congress was organized by Professor Girolamo Cirrincione and Colleagues of the Department Farmacochimico, Tossicologico e Biologico of the University of Palermo, under the auspices of the ISHC (International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry) and of SCI (Società Chimica Italiana).

Heterocyclic Chemistry has undergone a noteworthy and scientifically intriguing expansion. In addition to the more traditional topics of heterocycle synthesis and studies related to heterocyclic natural products, the field has grown to encompass pursuits in areas such as bioorganic and organometallic chemistry, to mention but two. The 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Heterocyclic Chemistry was in line with established tradition, offering a scientific program dealing with the latest developments in the following main topics: New Methods in Heterocyclic Chemistry, Biologically Active Heterocycles (Pharmaceutical and Agrochemicals), Heterocyclic Natural Products and Analogues, and Heterocycles in Synthesis.

The plenary lecturers, all from Academia were, Pier Giovanni BARALDI (University of Ferrara, Italy); José BARLUENGA (University of Oviedo, Spain); Dennis CURRAN (Chevron Science Center, Pittsburgh, USA); Tomas HUDLICKY (Brock University, St. Catharines, Canada); Masataka IHARA (Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan); Tsutomu ISHIKAWA (Chiba University, Japan); Peter MÁTYUS (Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary); Michael REGGELIN (Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany); Mark RIZZACASA (University of Melbourne, Australia); Malcolm F. G. STEVENS (University of Nottingham, UK) and Marcello TIECCO (University of Perugia, Italy).

Two Award Lectures were delivered by Larry OVERMAN (University of California, Irvine, USA) for the Senior Award in Heterocyclic Chemistry, and by Alois FÜRSTNER (Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung, Mülheim/Ruhr, Germany) for the Katritzky Junior Award in Heterocyclic Chemistry.

The following thirty-two invited speakers, twenty-six from academia and six from industry, were organized into four parallel sessions and included, Alan AITKEN (University of St. Andrews, UK); Phil S. BARAN (The Scripps Research Institute La Jolla, USA); Peter BÄUERLE (University of Ulm, Germany); David BLACK (University of South Wales, Sidney, Australia); Maurizio BOTTA (University of Siena, Italy); Erick M. CARREIRA (ETH, Zürich, Switzerland); Jin K. CHA (Wayne State University, Detroit, USA); Alba CHIMIRRI (University of Messina, Italy); Franklin A. DAVIS (Temple University, Philadelphia, USA); P. Andrew

EVANS (Indiana University, Boomington, USA); Amin F. M. FAHMY (Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt); Vittorio FARINA (Boehringer Ingelheim, Ridgefield, USA); Johannes FRÖEHLICH (University of Technology, Vienna, Austria); Giuseppe GUANTI (University of Genova, Italy); Serge HALAZY (Serono P.R.I, Geneva, Switzerland); Guy R. HUMPHREY (Merck research Laboratories, Rahway, USA); Volker JAGER (University of Stuttgart, Germany); Mitsuo KOMATSU (Osaka University, Japan); Panayiotis A. KOUTENTIS (University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus); David LAFFAN (AstraZeneca, Macclesfield, UK); Akira MATSUDA (Hokkaido University, Japan); Vladimir MINKIN (Rostov State University, Russia); Kouichi NARASAKA (University of Tokyo, Japan); Frank NARJES (IRBM Angeletti, Pomezia, Italy); Alcide PERBONI (Glaxo Smith & Kline, Verona, Italy); Teresa PINHO E MELO (University of Coimbra, Portugal); Giovanni PETRILLO (University of Genova, Italy); Milan POTACEK (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic); Viresh H. RAWAL (University of Chicago, USA); Jacques ROYER (University of Paris 5, France); Jose SEPULVEDA ARQUES (University of Valencia, Spain); Jurij SVETE (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia). A special slot was dedicated to ARKIVOC, where a brief summary of the first five years of activity was presented by Eric SCRIVEN (University of Florida, USA). There were also one hundred oral contributions in four parallel sessions and two-hundred-eighty-two poster presentations in three different sessions.

The participants numbering 600, came from forty-three different worldwide spanned countries, thus geographically distributed: Algeria (3), Argentina (1), Australia (4), Austria (10), Belgium (8), Canada (10), Croatia (3), Cyprus (2), Czech Republic (8), Egypt (3), France (27), Germany (35), Greece (4), Hungary (17), India (1), Iran (9), Ireland (1), Israel (1), Italy (133), Japan (104), Latvia (7), Lithuania (1), México (8), New Zealand (8), NL (6), Norway (3), Poland (7), Portugal (12), PR China (1), ROC-Taiwan (4), Romania (2), Russia (16), Slovenia (6), South Korea (2), Spain (16), Sweden (11), Switzerland (12), Turkey (5), UK (33), Ukraine (2), USA (52), Uzbekistan (1), Venezuela (1), and there were 130 accompanying persons. The Congress was very much appreciated by participants and guests, both scientifically and socially.

The opening ceremony took place at the Massimo Theatre, a magnificent sample of neoclassic architecture. On the stage Professor Girolamo Cirrincione (Chairman of the Congress), Professor Domenico Spinelli (Representative of SCI), Professor David St Claire Black (Representative of the IUPAC), Professor Marco Ciufolini (President of the ISHC) and Professor Giuseppe Silvestri (Rector of the University of Palermo) who welcomed the participants. On the occasion of the contemporary 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Palermo, the Rector presented a brief history of the institution of the University and of Palazzo Steri, which nowadays hosts the offices of the Rectorate. The get-together party took place at the 17<sup>th</sup> century Botanic Garden, where a buffet was arranged along the path surrounding the nymphoeum.

The congress Venue was at San Paolo Palace Hotel, where the scientific program started on the morning of August 1<sup>st</sup> (9:00 am) and ended on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> (1:00 pm). Besides the opening ceremony and the get-together party on Sunday evening, the Congress was scheduled so

that ample time was available between formal sessions and during the social program to stimulate valuable personal conversations. The Organizing Committee arranged an intense Social Program which included a concert at the Duomo of Monreale, a 12<sup>th</sup> century medieval cathedral entirely covered with golden Bizantine mosaics, performed by the Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana followed by a dinner at Belvedere of Monreale, during which a wide range of food belonging to the Sicilian gastronomic tradition was offered. In addition the garden of Belvedere was arranged to resemble typical Sicilian folklore. On Wednesday afternoon participants and accompanying guests went on an excursion to Selinunte, one of the largest archaeological site in the Mediterranean and visited the temple and remains of the ancient acropolis. The Social Banquet took place on Thursday night at Palazzo Guglielmo, Monreale where attendees were welcomed by young ladies, dressed in 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish clothes, who performed a typical dance of the Aragonese period. During the banquet awards were assigned to two young scientists (Dr Atsuko Ochida from the Hokkaido University and Dr Clara Cena from the University of Torino) for the best poster presentations.

The Congress was successful in that it attracted a large number of delegates presenting their latest results affording the opportunity for novel research ideas and the creation of new human relationships. The main topics, covering the whole range of Heterocyclic Chemistry, offered an interesting insight in several promising fields of science which play an important role in improving the well-being of humanity and the environment. The oral and poster presentations also attempted to emphasise “state-of-the-art” research in key areas of heterocyclic science.

The Organizing Committee celebrated the 20 congresses by preparing a DVD containing the whole history of the International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry, which was included in the congress kit. The idea originated in Stockholm in 2002 during the 20<sup>th</sup> European Colloquium in Heterocyclic Chemistry, during a discussion with Hans Neunhoeffer. While the latter provided the material related to the early days of the Society (the constitution and governances), Girolamo Cirrincione collected all the abstracts of the previous nineteen ICHCs. It was not an easy task, but was managed thanks to the contribution of colleagues who founded the Society including, Leroy Townsend, Alan Katritzky, Branko Stanovnik and others. With the exception of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> ICHC books, provided on magnetic support by the organizers, all books were photocopied and scanned, page by page. This meant several hundreds hours’ work by undergraduate and PhD students and staff of the Department Farmacochimico all coordinated by Professor Anna Maria Almerico. The quality of the photocopies of the early editions was quite poor, but nevertheless represented valuable documents. As a result it is possible to enjoy browsing through nearly forty years of heterocyclic chemistry.

## Acknowledgements

The organisers of 20ICHC wish to thank all those involved in the Congress, including the Honorary Advisory Committee, the Scientific Advisory Committee, sponsors, supporters,

exhibitors and for the cooperation of the technical staff, PhD students and the research associates of the following departments: Chimica Organica "E. Paternò" and Farmacochimico; Tossicologico e Biologico of the Università degli Studi di Palermo.

On a final note, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to wish every success to the 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress to be held in Sidney, Australia, in July 2007.

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