

## ХРОНИКА



### 5th Transmediterranean Colloquium on Heterocyclic Chemistry (TRAMECH-5)

On June 25–28, 2007, Petra International Chemistry Conference (PICC) and 5th Transmediterranean Colloquium on Heterocyclic Chemistry took place in Tafila–Petra, Jordan. Their organizers were the Department of Chemistry, Tafila Technical University, and Jordan Chemical Society.

This series of conferences has a long history. TRAMECH was launched some years ago as an initiative by the network of laboratories "Molecules and Materials". It was with the meeting in Marseilles (France) in 2000 that this conference has acquired an international dimension with a wide participation from several Mediterranean and European countries. Another two conferences took place in Italy (2002) and in Morocco (2004).

The aim of both series of conferences is to encourage the cooperation between countries and especially to promote the integration of people from developing countries with more developed ones.

The main topics of the PICC and TRAMECH-5 dealt with all aspects of modern chemistry, heterocyclic chemistry, educational chemistry, and the Arab contribution to the history of chemistry.

The conference started with an opening ceremony, where Prince of Jordan was present. The Chairman of conference Prof. S. Abu-Orabi, a President of Tafila Technical University (TTU), welcomed all participants and introduced them to the history of the University. Some other scientists from a TTU as well as Abul Rahman A. Al-Warthan, a Rector of University of Saudi Arabia, had a short talk. After this a ceremony of rewarding took place. Professor V. G. Kartsev, a President of Scientific Partnership Foundation, together with A. Geronikaki, a coordinator in Europe of Scientific Partnership Foundation, awarded Tafila Technical University with a Gold medal, as well as a Chairman of TTU Board of Trustees His Royal Highness Prince Ali Bin Naif, Prof. S. Abu-Orabi, Prof. F. Sauter (Austria), Prof. D. Spinelli (Italy) with medals for the outstanding contribution in the development of science. Prof. B. Stanovnik was awarded with a medal in the memory of Prof. A. N. Cost. Prof. El Sayed H. El Ashry (Egypt) and some others were awarded with honorary diplomas for their contribution to the development of international collaboration.

11 Plenary lectures, 41 lectures of invited speakers, 82 oral presentations, and more than 60 posters were represented during the conference. About 250 scientists from 40 countries of the world took part in the conference, together with TTU students, journalists, and accompanying persons the number of participants reached about 500. It should be mentioned that there was a lot of young scientists in this conference.

During the conference the participants had an opportunity to enjoy the lectures of some chemists, noted in the field of heterocyclic chemistry. The conference was opened with a plenary lecture by Prof. J. A. S. Cavaleiro, a famous scientist in the field of chemistry of porphyrins, spoke about porphyrins synthesis and their application in medicine. Prof. L. M. Harwood gave an excellent lecture about morpholinone chemistry

Prof. B. Stanovnik introduced the auditoria in use of enamines as building blocks in synthesis of heterocyclic systems including natural products. Prof. D. Spinelli gave a spectacular lecture on ring-opening reactions and ring-ring interconversions. Prof. L. Fišera spoke about sugar-derived nitrones and their application in synthesis. In general there were plenty of excellent lectures not only in the field of pure heterocyclic chemistry but also in applied heterocyclic chemistry, especially in medicinal chemistry. From this point of view I would like to mention two speakers – Prof. M. Botta and Prof. P. G. Baraldi. Both of them gave brilliant lectures on very hot topics, such as fight against AIDS and new antitumor agents.

New effective methods for the synthesis of complicated heterocyclic systems were always attractive for scientists. One of these methods is T-reactions, which very successfully developed by the team of Russian scientists, headed by Prof. V. G. Kartsev. It was shown that some of T-reactions were accelerated by microwave irradiation.

The organizing committee decided to award three best posters. These were posters from Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

Besides the scientific aspects of the conference, the participants had also the chance to appreciate one of the most ancient and historically fascinating place of the Mediterranean area, Petra; the conference was named after. It is suffice to repeat what Dean Burgen once stood amazed in front of Petra and said: "Match me such a marvel, save in Eastern clime, a rose-red city, half as old as time. Petra is like nothing else on earth. It is a remarkable testimony to the human spirit, etched for all time in sandstone and shale".

Recently Petra was chosen as one of the New 7 Wonders of the World.

The participants also had a chance to visit Wadi Rum, Dana, Dead Sea, Jerash, Ajloun, and Old Amman's amphitheatres of old Rome and to taste the specific and nice food of traditional Jordanian cuisine.

In general, the conference took place in a very friendly and creative atmosphere, it gave the opportunity to scientists to meet old and to make new friends, to discuss the trends in the development of heterocyclic and medicinal chemistry, and a possibility of starting new collaboration.

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