

# 2<sup>nd</sup> International EPNOE Junior Scientists Meeting

## »FUTURE PERSPECTIVES IN POLYSACCHARIDE RESEARCH«

13-14<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Sophia Antipolis, France

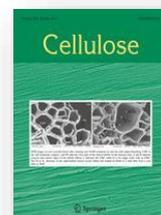
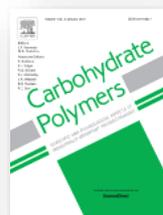
Materials Forming Center (CEMEF) of Mines ParisTech

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The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the EPNOE International Junior Scientists meeting, held October 13-14 in Sophia Antipolis (France), was a real success with about 90 participants from all over the world (17 European countries, Australia and Russia). The conference was attended by representatives of the scientific community, students, industrial scientists, and business professionals and provided an opportunity for Junior Scientists to meet and share their work and visions on future perspectives in polysaccharide research.

During the course of two full days, 45 oral presentations and 41 posters were presented. Many topics along the value chain of polysaccharides and biomass were discussed; from isolation, purification, and characterization of natural polysaccharides, to their chemical and physical modification and finally the processing of polysaccharides into specific shapes and materials for advanced applications. Moreover, the participants could attend a workshop on "How to publish in scholarly journals" by 'Elsevier B.V.'. The talks brought together young researchers of different backgrounds. Many scientific discussions evolved that were continued in the coffee breaks and poster sessions. The dinner that was organized at the first evening with help of a co-sponsoring from the 'Cellulose and Renewable Materials Division' of the 'American Chemical Society' was a particular highlight in this regard. It was a good occasion for the Junior Scientists to have more informal talks about scientific research, life experiences, and culture of different countries. Some impressions on the meeting along with further information can be accessed from the EPNOE web page (<http://www.epnoe.eu/> and <http://www.epnoe.eu/?q=content/epnoe-junior-scientists-meeting>). From the many contributions five were awarded for their outstanding quality:

Best Presentation Awards (sponsored by 'Elsevier B.V.') to Ricardo Pinto (University of Aveiro/Portugal) for "Development of novel biobased hybrid materials based on nanocellulose and copper nanowires for electrical conductivity applications" and Alaitz Etxabide Etxeberria (Escuela Politécnica (UPV/EHU)/Spain) for "A simple extraction method to obtain chitin from squid pen: characterization and environmental assessment".

Best Poster Awards ('Springer International Publishing AG') to Simon Gustafsson (University of Uppsala/Sweden) for "Mille-feuille paper: a novel type of filter architecture for advanced virus separation applications" and Katrin Niegelhell (Technical University Graz/Austria) for "Enzymatic treatment for patterning of bicomponent biopolymer thin films".

Travel grant (sponsored by 'Lenzing AG') to Michael Weiß (Technical University Graz/Austria) for the poster "Coating of cellulose fibers with inorganic nanoparticles in the course of the Viscose process".

The meeting was organized by young researchers from the EPNOE community and specifically addressed to fellow scientists from the polysaccharide area that are at an early stage of their career. Due to the great success, the EPNOE International Junior Scientists Meetings will be established as a constant platform for scientific discourse on a biannual basis. The next meeting of this kind is already being planned for spring 2018.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to thank again all the participants, sponsors, and organizers that contributed to this unique event. I am looking forward to meet you again.



Martin Gericke

(on behalf of the organizing committee)