

17. Working Party on the History of Chemistry

The Working Party on the History of Chemistry (WPHC) has been involved in the setting up of the John Dalton 250th Anniversary Symposium in the frame of the ECC in Sevilla, in close collaboration with Mats Tilset and Sylviane Sabo, and with members of the Division of Chemical Education.

The symposium reflected on Dalton's fundamental contributions to chemistry and our present understanding of the elements. It also provided an opportunity to focus on his career in teaching, and how his conceptual innovations are embedded in his teaching practice. Expanding this theme more generally, historical papers devoted to the Periodic Table and Berthollet's chemical affinities emphasized teaching and textbooks as a place for ground breaking conceptual innovation and the diffusion thereof.

The WPHC provided the plenary lecture for the opening of the Symposium on 14 September in the morning and historical papers for the afternoon session "Chemistry meets History" during which lively short oral presentations showcased young scholars.

The Working Party on the History of Chemistry (WPHC) organizes an international conference on the history of chemistry every year.

The 11th International Conference on the History of Chemistry (11th ICHC) will take place in the Medieval city of Trondheim from 29 August to 1 September (excursion on 2 September), 2017. The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), which has been the country's centre for

technology education since 1910, will host the conference. See the conference website, <http://www.ntnu.edu/11ichc>, and the call for papers for special symposia. There will be no general theme this year, and the programme committee will especially encourage the submission of panel/session proposals.

The conference programme will include scientific sessions, key-note lectures, the WP business meeting, as well as social events such as excursions, receptions, and a banquet. The steering organizing committee consists of Christoph Meinel, Universität Regensburg, and Ignacio Suay-Matallana, Centro Interuniversitário de História das Ciências e da Tecnologia, Lisbon (chairs of the scientific committee), Annette Lykknes (chair of the local organizing committee) and Brigitte Van Tiggelen, Mémosciences/Chemical Heritage Foundation (chair of the WP).

The WPHC has started conversations with other Divisions and WP's, as well as the UK group of historians of chemistry, the Historical Group of the RSC, to plan activities for the ECC in Liverpool, UK, in 2018.

Among ongoing activities are: internal and external reorganization, connection with same aim groups, renewing national delegations, and recruiting new delegates from countries not yet represented, connecting to the other EuCheMS divisions (WP Ethics in Chemistry, WP Chemistry for Cultural Heritage, Division for Chemical Education) and participating in EuCheMS activities, connecting with the sister division of EPS and working on a joint programme of EuCheMS/EPS

historic sites. We have appointed observers from other institutions and groups devoted to the history of chemistry (see the WPHC webpage on the EuCheMS website).

The Working Party on the History of Chemistry published a report on the teaching of the discipline in 2007. The final document – entitled "Teaching history of chemistry in Europe" – was the result of information provided by many colleagues all around Europe, and aimed at understanding the position of history of chemistry in the context of the Bologna reform. Some ten years later, the academic landscape has evolved and the discipline is facing new challenges, both inside and outside of the university sphere. By updating the 2007 report and preparing an overview on the history of chemistry in Europe, the WP wants to evaluate the current situation and help to identify how best to support and reinforce local, national and international initiatives.

The preliminary results have been discussed during the WPHC business meeting in 10ICHC. The complete survey was published in open access in the Journal for Chemical Education <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.jchemed.6b00401> and accessible on the WPHC webpage, as is the 2007 survey.

Chair:	Dr. Brigitte Van Tiggelen (Walloon Royal Chemical Society, Belgium), 2013
Vice Chair:	Prof. Annette Lykknes (Norwegian Chemical Society), 2009
Secretary:	Dr. Ignacio Suay-Matallana (Royal Spanish Society), 2015
Members:	26 active delegates, 150 members
Countries:	21 countries represented by 23 member societies and 35 delegates (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom) and 15 observers