

REPORT FROM ROME: 22nd ICCE/11th ECRICE

Morton Z. Hoffman, Boston University [hoffman@bu.edu]

U.S. National Representative to the IUPAC Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE), CCE Conference Coordinator, CHED Representative to IUPAC

The joint International Conference on Chemistry Education (ICCE)/European Conference on Research in Chemical Education (ECRICE) meeting (*Stimulating Reflection and Catalyzing Change in Chemistry Education*) was held at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" on July 15-20, 2012. The meeting, which attracted almost 600 participants from 71 countries (including 80 from North America), featured plenary and keynote lectures, more than 600 abstracts (of which 356 were oral presentations), workshops, and a social program (a welcoming reception, an excursion to Hadrian's Villa and a banquet dinner in Tivoli, and a participants' night of singing and dancing). A discussion of the writings of Primo Levi was also scheduled. The IUPAC Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry Education were presented to Peter Mahaffy (Canada) and Robert Bucat (Australia).

The five days of sessions had the following themes, respectively: Communicating chemistry, Didactics of third-level chemistry, ICT and multimedia in teaching chemistry, Didactics of second-level chemistry, Laboratory work in teaching chemistry. Plenary lectures were given by Vincenzo Balzani (Italy), Harry Kroto (U.K./U.S.A.), Brian Coppola (U.S.A.), Mansoor Niaz (Venezuela), Alexander Renkl (Germany), Norman Reid (U.K.), Bassam Shakhshiri (U.S.A.), Avi Hofstein (Israel), Peter Mahaffy (Canada), Ilka Parchmann (Germany). Keynote lectures were presented by Mei-Hung Chiu (Taiwan), Melanie Cooper (U.S.A.), Hans-Dieter Barke (Germany), Odilla Finlayson (Ireland), Maria Sheehan (Ireland), Silvija Markic (Germany), Marcelo Conti (Italy). At the end of the meeting, a panel discussion of the plenary and keynote speakers examined the challenges for putting the results of chemistry education research into practice, the understanding of the learning of chemistry by students, and the directions for the renewal of chemistry education. This reporter made an oral presentation on peer-led team learning in the session on best pedagogical practices, and chaired a session on college/university general chemistry education.

The full papers from the conference will be published in the Italian Chemical Society journal *Chimica nella Scuola*. ICCE/ECRICE was organized by IUPAC-CCE and the Division of Chemical Education of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS), and was under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic. Among its co-sponsors were the ACS, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the City and Province of Rome, and Cengage Learning.

At its meeting, CCE reviewed its activities, its relationship with other organizations, and its completed, current, considered, and future projects. The co-chairs of the 23rd ICCE from the University of Toronto offered a preview of the meeting (*Developing Learning Communities in the Chemical Sciences*), which will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on July 13-18, 2014; <www.icce2014.org>. Expressions of interest to host the 24th ICCE in 2016 were made by representatives from Malaysia and Australia.

The next meeting of CCE will be at the IUPAC Congress and General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey (August 11-16, 2013), at which time the formal bids for the 24th ICCE will be considered and the site chosen for the meeting in 2016.

Photos (by M.Z. Hoffman):



Bassam Shkhashiri, ACS President (at left) with Vincenzo Balzani (Italy)



NESACS Norris Award recipients at Hadrian's Villa: Zafra Lerman (2002), at left, and Peter Mahaffy (2011).



Presentation of the IUPAC Awards: (l-r) Mei-Hung Chiu (Taiwan), Chair of CCE; Robert Bucat (Australia), 2012 Award recipient; Peter Atkins (U.K.), 2010 Award recipient; Peter Mahaffy (Canada), 2012 Award recipient; Lida Schoen (Netherlands), 2010 Award recipient; Ting-Kueh Soon (Malaysia), member of the Award Selection Committee. Background: Luigi Campanella (Italy), Conference Chair.