

**EUROPEAN
COLLOID
AND INTERFACE
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter 4
January 2023**



Message from the Editor

Dear colleagues, ECIS members

HAPPY 2023 !

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We feel lucky that a slight delay in the preparation of the present issue has allowed us to send you all our heartiest wishes for a happy, healthy and successful New Year!

In this issue of the ECIS newsletter we report on the very successful ECIS Conference, the 36th (!) in the series, which took place in 4-9/9/2022 in the resort of Platanias, close to Chania, Greece. We are happy that after two difficult years, the yearly ECIS Conference returned back to normal, with a large physical attendance, numerous young scientists and a pluralism of oral and poster awards, including the new “Art in Science” award.

We next propose to our members the 2023 ECIS Conference, which will take place in Naples, and a 2023 Student Training Camp, which will take place in Marcoule, France, just before the Naples Conference.

37th European Colloid & Interface
Society Conference
3-8 September 2023, Naples, Italy
www.ecis2023.eu





The new concept of online “Discussions on Fundamentals” will also materialize in early 2023. We expand on it here, and hope to connect with many of our members in this novel event.

The Newsletter continues with the new regulations for the Overbeek medal and Solvay award, and a Call for Nominations for the two major awards bestowed by the Society. Then follows a Call for bids for the organization of the European Student Colloid Conference in 2024.

Finally, as a service to our members we post (a) an advertisement of an interesting workshop that will be held in Singapore and (b) an advertisement by Lund University for an open position at the Associate Professor level, which is related to colloid and interface science and scattering methods in particular.

On behalf of the ECIS Board

E. Leontidis

(Editor of the ECIS newsletter)

**Report from 36th ECIS
conference. Chania,
Greece, 4-9/9/2022**



The 2022 ECIS conference was held in the resort town of Platanias, close to Chania (Crete, Greece). It was a very successful conference, despite the organization troubles inflicted on the organizing committee by the covid-19 pandemic. The conference was originally planned for 2021 but was shifted by necessity to 2022. The almost complete recovery of international mobility after the lockdowns of the two previous years proved that the ECIS community was eager to travel, meet and discuss science in the beautiful venue provided. 675 scientists registered for the conference, 590 of them appearing on site to contribute 5 plenary talks, 2 award talks (Overbeek and Solvay), 32 keynotes and 236 oral presentations. A total of 382 posters were presented in the lively, as usual for ECIS, poster sessions of the conference. The conference was preceded by a short course on “Advanced Characterization and Modelling Techniques for Colloids”, delivered by 5 distinguished tutors and attended by 53 participants (49 physically present).

The Platanias conference also included a satellite meeting on the “tribological effects on rheology of suspensions”, as well as a section with EU-China online talks. Several oral and poster awards were given to young scientists, and we must once more thank our sponsors (ACS, RSC, Elsevier, MDPI, the Ferroni Foundation, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the University of Florence) for their unwavering support. For the first time, an “Art of Science” contest was organized, in which the contestants presented amazing photographs from their experiments. The winners of this contest had the honor of seeing their beautiful images presented on the screen during the gala dinner of the conference.

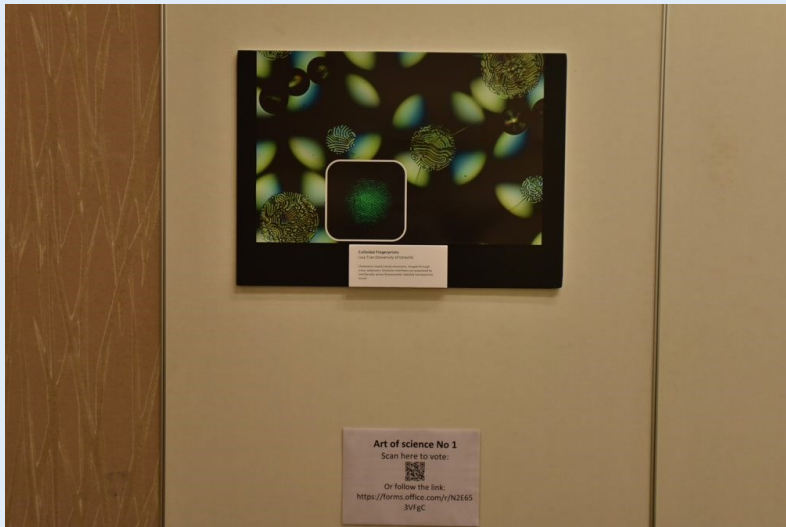
Overall, the 2022 conference was a big success, and proved once more the strength and continuity of the ECIS community despite the recent hard times. A big thanks by the Board to the Organizing committee for their hard work, with special thanks to the Chairs George Petekidis, Maria Vamvakaki and Bennoit Loppinet for making this conference an unforgettable experience to all participants.

**A scene from the welcome
reception of the conference**

Some pictures from the conference events depicting groups of people have been removed, in compliance with the regulations for website posting. We apologize for this inconvenience.



The Chairman of the Overbeek foundation and the President of ECIS pose with the 2021 and 2022 Overbeek medal winners, Peter Schurtenberger (second from left) and Hans-Jürgen Butt (right)



An entry for the “Art in Science” competition

The poster and oral award winners on stage during the closing ceremony of the conference



The team that worked hard to make it all possible. We offer them our most sincere thanks.

37th ECIS conference, Naples, Italy, 3-8/9/2023



In 2023 the yearly ECIS conference will be organized in Naples, Italy. Following on the footsteps of the successful organization of the Chania-Platanias conference, we are looking forward to one more excellent ECIS conference. Professors Luigi Paduano and Gerardo d' Errico will chair the organizing committee in Naples, and they asked us to convey their warmest invitation to all members of the European community of Colloids and Interfaces to this important event. See you all in Naples! A strong organization effort is underway to make this an unforgettable experience for all.

37th European Colloid & Interface Society Conference

3-8 September 2023, Naples, Italy

www.ecis2023.eu





37th ECIS conference
3-8 September 2023
NAPLES

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Abstract Submission deadline: **31 March 2023**
- Early registration: **10 June 2023**
- Mid Registration: **15 July 2023**
- Late Registration: **31 August 2023**

Conference Organizers



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI
FEDERICO II



Welcome Note

Dear colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the *37th Conference of the European Colloid and Interface Society (ECIS 2023)* that will take place from *3rd to 8th September 2023 in Naples (Italy)*.

ECIS 2023 is organized by the *University of Naples Federico II* and *CSGI*, under the auspices of *ECIS*, bringing together participants working in the interdisciplinary field of colloid and interface science, with a broad background ranging from chemistry to physics, from biology to engineering.

The scientific program will include plenary and keynote invited lectures, oral presentations and posters, consisting of four parallel sessions.

The venue is the Stazione Marittima, located close to the Maschio Angioino Castle and the very heart of the historical centre of Naples.

Complementing the scientific program, a diverse social program will offer to participants the possibility to discover the beauties and the historical and cultural gems spread in and around the city of Naples.

We look forward to your venue in Naples
The organizing committee

Conference Venue

The Maritime Station offers modern and functional structures among the most significant in Naples, its spaces have been the subject of restoration and reorganization, respecting the original architectural lines, thus giving rise to the Congress Center and the shopping gallery. The Congress Center which stands on the head overlooking Piazza Municipio, with its total area of 3,300 m² is the ideal location for organizing congresses, events and exhibitions. In its 18 multipurpose meeting rooms it can accommodate from min. 20 to max 1,800 seats.





37th ECIS conference
3-8 September 2023
NAPLES

Conference Sessions

- Liquid Interfaces and Membranes: Structure, Surface forces, Dynamics
- Emulsions, Microemulsions, Foams
- Polymers, Polyelectrolytes, Gels, Liquid Crystals, Anisotropic Fluids
- Surfactants, Lipids, Proteins, Peptides and Self-Assembly
- Dynamics, Stability and Phase Behavior of Colloids and Complex Fluids
- Colloids for Delivery of Bioactives
- Micro and nanostructured Materials and Nanoparticles
- Theory, Modeling and Simulation of Colloidal Systems and Complex Fluids
- Wetting, Superhydrophobicity, Superoleophobic Surfaces and Capillarity
- Colloids in Food Science and Technology
- Colloids and Interface Science in Energy Technology
- Colloids and Interface Science in Cultural Heritage
- Colloids and Interface Science in Environment



2023 Student training Camp in Marcoule, France



In the place of the usual Student Training School typically organized by the yearly ECIS conference organizers, the ECIS General Assembly has approved a different event for 2023. A Student Training Camp will take place in Marcoule, France, during the week prior to the Naples conference (28/8 to 1/9/2023), and will use a different format:

The number of student-participants will be smaller than that in previous ECIS Summer Schools (24-26 rather than 60-70). The students will be associated in pairs, and will follow each morning 2 specific courses of 1,5 hours each. Professors Dganit Danino (Technion, Haifa), Dominik Horinek (Univ. of Regensburg), Martin Inn (univ. of Montpellier), and Minos Leontidis (Univ. of Cyprus) will deliver the morning courses. The afternoons will be dedicated to work by the student teams on either **a physicochemical phenomenon** to be chosen from the list of the conference themes (e.g. solubilization, dispersion, coagulation, adsorption/separation, gelation, colloidal stabilization, wetting, phase transitions) or **an innovation project**. The projects will be chosen from available lists before the School starts (just after the registration).

Most student teams will be asked to perform specific experiments, using one or more of the colloid chemistry methods available at the Marcoule Institute. The results of the student efforts will be presented on the 5th day in the form of 15-minute slide show or video presentations. The student teams will be supervised and supported (to guide, to answer questions, to direct literature research if necessary) by the professors and other supervising researchers from ICSM.

We are very excited about this new format, which starts this year on a trial basis. Full details for the Training Camp, including details for application and registration, fees, and the complete list of teachers, will be given in the next issue of the ECIS Newsletter.

A new idea: The ECIS webinar series on fundamentals



Recently, we have discussed in the ECIS Board that we, as a strong European scientific body, should do more for the fundamental basis of our science (the science established by Young, Laplace, Rayleigh, Thomson, Einstein, Smoluchowski, Langmuir, Perrin, Overbeek, Derjaguin and several other giants!). And we also agreed that any new development must be made outside the context of the yearly ECIS conference, for those who share our thoughts and are ready to undertake this new scientific challenge in Colloid and interface Science.

Subsequently, the Board proposed to the 2022 General Assembly in Platania the idea of a new online **ECIS webinar series** that will be done using one of the available platforms (Google Meet, Teams, Zoom or Webex) and will focus on fundamental aspects of our science, both theoretical and experimental. The format will be innovative: A fundamental problem is identified and prioritized beforehand, and two key speakers are selected, if possible one theoretician and one experimentalist. The speakers will challenge each other and will pose their fundamental scientific questions and ask for ideas about experiments or theoretical formulations that will help elucidate the issue discussed. The discussions are not supposed to be “teaching lessons”; we hope that they will stimulate a scientific “confrontation” with important questions from the “audience”. Finally, the webinars must not be strongly specific, i.e. they won't be reserved to specialists, but will be open to a wide audience. This is the only way that we may hope to highlight the importance of the fundamentals of our science, and challenge current beliefs where they fall short and become an obstacle to further progress.

Our first discussion is scheduled for March 2023; its topic will be **interaction forces between surfaces and the electrostatic screening length**. And the best person that could give a strong challenge to the fundamentals is none other but **Prof. Barry Ninham** (ANU, Australia), our 2015 Overbeek Medal recipient and a noted leader in the theory of colloid and interface science. Exact details about the first webinar in the series will be given in our website and in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Overbeek medal and Solvay award : new rules and call for nominations



In the 2022 General Assembly of ECIS, which took place in Platania on 8/9/2022, it was decided to implement some changes regarding the rules for the committees that award yearly the Overbeek prizes and Solvay award. More specifically it was decided that:

- The size of the Committee for the Overbeek medal will be increased from 6 to 7. The new Committee will include the President, the Past President, **and** the Vice-President of ECIS, and also the Overbeek foundation representative and the three most recent Overbeek medal winners.
- The Committee for the ECIS-Solvay award will also be increased from 5 to 7 members and will include the President, the Past-President, and the Vice-President of ECIS, a Solvay representative, the organizer of the current ECIS conference, **and** two former ECIS-Solvay prize winners.

These changes ensure the equivalence of the two committees. Both awards are considered of the utmost importance for the Society. The changes also ensure (through the odd number of committee members) that an even vote for the two final candidates will be avoided.

We urge all Society members to propose new nominations for the 2023 awards as soon as possible. Please recall that the Overbeek medal is not restricted to European scientists, and focuses on lifetime achievements and a clear demonstration of the impact of the candidate's research on Colloid and Interface Science. The Solvay prize on the other hand is given to European scientists (or scientists working in European research labs or industry), and is based on a particular research achievement highlighted in a maximum of five publications in the last five years.

The nominators of each prize will be asked to submit a proper *laudatio* for the successful candidates to be used in the Website, Newsletter and 2023 award ceremony. All nominations should be submitted to the ECIS Secretary, Prof. Pierandrea LoNostro, at pierandrea.lonostro@unifi.it

Bids for the Student Colloid Conference after Szeged-2022?



The 18th European Student Colloid Conference (ESC-2022) took place in Szeged, Hungary, between 26th and 30th June. We covered this successful event in our previous Newsletter, and congratulated the Szeged organizers, who were able to pull it through despite the severe limitations imposed by the covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.



We are now searching to find the next organizer, who will take care of the 19th conference in this series of important events. It is not an easy task since this is not the best of times for student conferences. The war in Ukraine and the associated energy crisis and inflation of prices do not assist any organizer, but we owe this fundamental service to the next generation of European colloid scientists. The Board of ECIS is always assisting the organizers by providing some of the necessary funds, largely in the form of travel allowances for students.

If any individuals or research groups in Europe are wishing to take up this important challenge, please contact the ECIS Secretary, Prof. Pierandrea LoNostro, at pierandrea.lonostro@unifi.it

Workshop on 'Phase Separation Regulated Life, In and Outside of Cells'



**1st - 3rd
March, 2023**

**Phase Separation Regulated Life,
In and Outside of Cells**

Singapore

Registration now open | Limited to 200 participants

'Phase Separation Regulated Life, In and Outside of Cells' is a 3-day research workshop to be held in Singapore during 1-3 March 2023 and will feature talks from the leading experts in the area of liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS)/coacervation in life and physical sciences. The workshop is organized by the faculty at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, and is primarily funded by the Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE) and NTU.

The program schedule features a distinguished list of speakers including 16 overseas speakers, and keynote presentations from Ashutosh Chilkoti (Duke University, USA), Manajit Hayer-Hartl (Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Germany) and Rohit Pappu (Washington University in St. Louis, USA). For those interested in phase-separation research, the workshop is a good opportunity to learn about the recent advances in the field while also giving the participants a chance to meet and network with fellow-researchers. PhD students and postdocs working in the field of phase-separation are likely to benefit the most from this workshop.

Participants will have the opportunity to share and showcase their research at the workshop via short talks and/or poster presentations by submitting their research abstract during the online registration process. Please visit the event website at www.LLPSworkshop.com for more info. The workshop is limited to 200 participants.

Associate Professor position in Lund Uni- versity



Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Physical Chemistry, with specialization towards colloid and interface science studied by scattering methods

The Division of Physical Chemistry, part of the Department of Chemistry within the Faculty of Science at Lund University, performs experimental and theoretical research within the area of colloid and interface science, involving both synthetic and biological systems. [A number of different experimental techniques are available within the division](#), where scattering methods are particularly important. The European Spallation Source (ESS) and the synchrotron light source MAX IV, as key European large-scale facilities for neutron and X-ray scattering, significantly contribute to the scientific life of Lund, and their close proximity has the potential to strengthen the role of the division as an internationally leading center of excellence in soft matter research. The division therefore has strong ambitions to be actively involved, through close collaborations and projects, with both facilities. The division has also a strong active engagement in the [LINXS Institute of Advanced Neutron and X-ray Science](#), and also in [NanoLund](#), the Lund University center for nanoscience.

The candidate should have a strong research profile within soft and/or biological matter that adheres to and is complementary to the other research currently conducted within the division. The applicant's research should to a large extent involve the use of scattering methods, using both [local in house equipment](#), and large-scale synchrotron and/or neutron facilities.

Lund University was founded in 1666 and is repeatedly ranked among the world's top 100 universities. The University has around 46 000 students and more than 8 000 staff based in Lund, Helsingborg and Malmö. We are united in our efforts to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition.

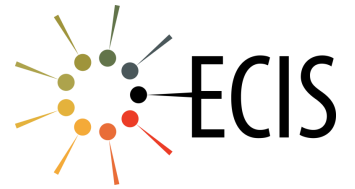
Lund University welcomes applicants with diverse backgrounds and experiences. We regard gender equality and diversity as a strength and an asset.

Deadline for application is 22 January 2023.

For more information and application.

<https://lu.varbi.com/en/what:job/jobID:556566/>

Final notes



- You receive this newsletter as a registered member of ECIS
- If you are not an ECIS member, please contact our Secretary, Prof. Pierandrea Lo Nostro (pierandrea.lonostro@unifi.it)
- If you have comments or suggestions and if you wish to contribute to future newsletters, please contact the newsletter editor, Prof. Minos Leontidis (psleon@ucy.ac.cy), or the ECIS webmaster, Prof. Dominik Horinek (dominik.horinek@ur.de)