

**EUROPEAN
COLLOID
AND INTERFACE
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter 13
April 2025**



Message from the Editor

Dear colleagues, ECIS members

Welcome to the new edition of our Newsletter, which aims to bring you the latest news and activities of our Society.

Next on line for 2025 is the 39th ECIS conference in Bristol (7-12/9/2025). We are looking forward to a great event, and we remind our members that the deadline to submit abstracts for oral presentations is imminent (11/4/2025—this coming Friday!). The 39th ECIS is an important milestone for ECIS, since it will be jointly held with the 5th UK Colloid Conference. The Joint Colloid Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) of Great Britain will be our valuable partners in this endeavor, which holds great promise for all partners involved.

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Organising Committee
Professor Wuge H. Briscoe (Chair)
A. Prof. Richard Greenwood (Co-Chair)
Ms Victoria Hancock (Conference Secretariat)
A. Prof. Shirin Alexander (Treasurer)
Dr Sarah Rogers
Professor Peter Dowding
Prof. emeritus Brian Vincent
Prof. emeritus Terence Cosgrove

**39th ECIS
UK Colloids 2025**
7 - 12 September 2025 | Bristol · UK
ecis-ukcolloids2025.org

The third ECIS webinar on fundamentals took place on 4/2/2025 and involved an interesting discussion of depletion forces in crowded environments. Profs Gary Pielak and Daniel Harries presented this fundamental topic. You will find a report in this issue.

Message from the editor



Once again, the ECIS Board would like to publish a Call for nominations for the two major awards of the Society, which are the Syensqo (formerly Solvay) award and the Overbeek medal. In 2025, the Board decided to also publish a Call for the very first “ECIS Maria Miguel” award to be handed over at the next ECIS conference in Bristol. Establishment of this new award was decided by the Copenhagen General Assembly; it is given to an exceptional young scientist at a maximum of 8 years after the PhD.

The deadlines for nominations for all these awards are now close (30/4/2025), so please send our Secretary nominations for excellent candidates.

We also remind our members that 2025 is an election year for ECIS. A new vice-President will be elected in Bristol during the 39th ECIS conference, and the Board welcomes all related nominations before 31/5/2025.

Two important European colloid scientists, who also played important roles in the development of ECIS, passed away recently. In this issue we discuss the work and impact of Profs Heinz Hoffmann and Pierre Bothorel.

Finally, some additional conferences that will take place in early summer 2025 and are related to Colloids and Interfaces, are highlighted in this issue for the benefit of our members.

On behalf of the Board

E. Leontidis

(Editor of ECIS newsletter)

39th ECIS conference (ECIS-2025) in Bristol



The next annual ECIS conference will be held in Bristol, UK, and will be jointly organized with the Joint Colloid Group of the RSC and the Society of the Chemical Industry (SCI) of the UK. The call for abstracts and first circular were sent to our members last November, and the deadline to submit an abstract is on **11/4/2025!**

39th ECIS Conference (Jointly with UK Colloids 2025)

With the support of the ECIS Board and the RSC/SCI Joint Colloids Group, the 39th ECIS conference will be jointly held with UK Colloids 2025 in the historic city centre of Bristol on 7-12 September 2025.



We are pleased to announce the conference **Scientific Themes**:

- Interfaces, wetting, adhesion & superhydrophobicity
- Bioinspired colloidal systems, bio-interfaces, colloids in health applications & bio-delivery
- Nanoparticles, nanostructured materials, nano-ions, & ion specific effects
- Theory & multi-scale modelling of colloids & interfaces
- Active colloids & catalysis, droplets, emulsions and microemulsions, bubbles & foams
- Surfactants, lipids, membranes & self-assembly
- Colloidal interactions, surface forces, rheology, dynamics & lubrication
- Polymer colloids, hydrocolloids, polyelectrolytes, microgels and hydrogels,
- Colloid science for sustainability, application & formulated products

The following **Special Sessions** will also be organised:

- Scattering in Colloid Science
- Aerosols
- Vincent-Cosgrove Symposium

Details for *Plenary Speakers, Scientific Committees, Registration Fees, Accommodation, Travel, Excursions & Social Programme* can be found at <https://ecis-ukcolloids2025.org/>.

Important dates:

- 4th Nov 2024: Abstract submission & Registration open
- 11th Apr 2025: Abstract submission deadline
- 19th May 2025: Presentations selected by Scientific Committees informed
- 13th Jun 2025: *Early Bird* Registration concludes
- 11th Jul 2025: Last day for Oral Presentation registration
- 7th Sep 2025: Conference opens

Any questions please email us at ecis2025@inanyevent-uk.com.

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39th ECIS conference (ECIS-2025) in Bristol



Prof. Wuge Briscoe, the main organizer on behalf of ECIS, has provided additional information to the Board, which we make available here to our members:

Organising Committee

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39th ECIS 2025
UK Colloids

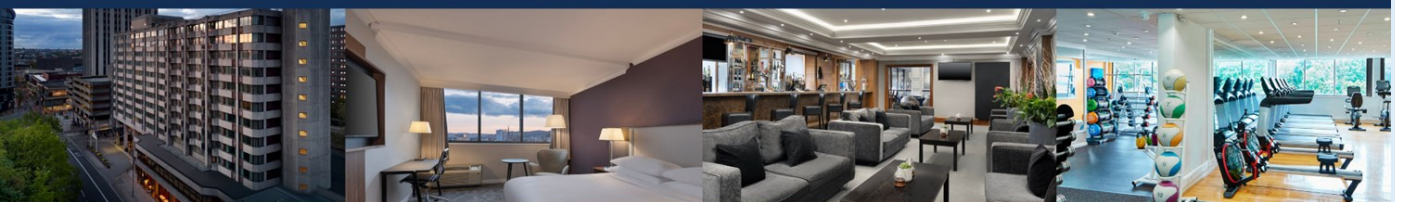
7 - 12 September 2025 | Bristol · UK

ecis-ukcolloids2025.org
Delta by Marriott Bristol City Centre
+44 01275 266001



Venue

The Delta Hotel by Marriott Bristol City Centre



Bristol & Coach bus station – 10 min walk
Temple Meads – 23 min walk
Bristol Park way – 25 mins drive
Bristol Airport – 20 min by car
Cardiff Airport – 1 hour 20 mins by car

39th ECIS conference (ECIS-2025) in Bristol



Bristol is an excellent city to host the 2025 conference, and the conference organizers would like to remind us of this fact:



Travelling to Bristol



Bristol Airport by bus or coach is easy and convenient. If you are travelling to and from Bristol Airport then please note the Bristol Clean Charge. There are over 70 services a week from Heathrow Airport. Your drop off point is right in the city centre.



- Bristol Temple Meads is largest rail hub in the west of England, with direct services available to and from London Paddington and the rest of the UK.
- Bristol Parkway is located to the north of the city. Services run from Birmingham, Cardiff, Gloucester and London.



- Bristol Bus Station is situated on Marlborough Street, near Broadmead shopping centre.
- Megabus run coaches all over the UK from Bristol, along with National Express service.
- The bus from Heathrow Airport is approximately 2 hours and 3.5 from Gatwick Airport.

39th ECIS conference (ECIS-2025) in Bristol



As usual with ECIS conferences we anticipate an excellent program and great science.



Scientific Themes & Special Sessions



- **Themes: 4 parallel sessions**
 - *Wetting, adhesion, superhydrophobicity, & interfaces*
 - *Bioinspired colloidal systems, bio-interfaces, colloids in health applications & bio-delivery*
 - *Nanoparticles and nanostructured materials*
 - *Theory & multi-scale modelling of colloids & interfaces*
 - *Active colloids & catalysis, aerosols, droplets, emulsions and microemulsions, bubbles & foams*
 - *Surfactants, lipids, membranes & self-assembly*
 - *Colloidal interactions, surface forces, rheology, dynamics & lubrication*
 - *Polymer colloids, hydrocolloids, polyelectrolytes, microgels and hydrogels,*
 - *Colloid science for sustainability, application & formulated products*
- **Special sessions:**
 - **Scattering in Colloids** (Sarah Roger, **ISIS/Diamond/ESRF/ILL**)
 - **Vincent-Cosgrove Symposium** (Brian Vincent & Terence Cosgrove)
 - **Aerosols** (Bryan Byzdek, **CDT in Aerosol Science**)
 - *More TBC - Happy to consider expression of interests (Sarah Roger)*

Girl with Pierced Eardrum - Banksy

Plenary Speakers

- **Professor Kazue Kurihara (Japan)**
- **Professor Debora Berti (Italy)**
- **Professor Karen Edler (Sweden)**
- **Professor Tony Ryan (UK) – RSC Rideal Prize**

Keynote Speakers

- **To selected from Abstract evaluation by the Scientific Committees**

Special Session Invited Speakers

ECIS 2025 – Bristol
UK Colloids 2025



The Matthew, Cumberland Basin, Bristol - photo by Nick Greville

39th ECIS conference (ECIS-2025) in Bristol



And everything is provided at very reasonable prices!

TYPE	EARLY BIRD PRICE*	FULL PRICE**	ONSITE PRICE
REGULAR (THE REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES A 1-YEAR ECIS MEMBERSHIP)	£615	£665	£715
STUDENTS & RETIREES	£375	£425	£475
INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES	£615	£665	£715
HONORARY MEMBERS	£0	£0	£0
GALA DINNER	£65	£70	£75

Dear colleagues

Join ECIS, RSC and SCI in Bristol for this exciting conference. More information and details can be found in the conference website:

<https://ecis-ukcolloids2025.org/>

But hurry up!

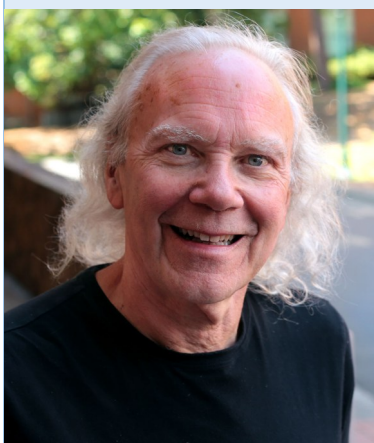
The deadline for submissions is this coming Friday!



The third ECIS webinar on the fundamentals of Colloid Science took place on 4/2/2025!



After some unforeseen delays, the 3d ECIS webinar took place **on February 4th at 15:00 CET**. The format was identical to that used in the previous two webinars that were run under the administration of LINXS (the Swedish Institute of Advanced Neutron and X-ray Science). Prof. Daniel Harries (from the Hebrew University) and Prof. Gary Pielak (from the University of North Carolina) were our two speakers. As usual with ECIS webinars, we juxtaposed an experimentalist and a theoretician to provide in depth



coverage of this particular fundamental topic. The common title suggested by both speakers for the ECIS webinar was: **“Crowding beyond depletion forces: a tale of two dimers”**.

Our first speaker, covering the experimental aspects, was Prof. Pielak. He pointed out that protein-protein interactions are modulated by their environment. High macromolecular solute concentrations crowd proteins and shift equilibria between protein monomers and their assemblies. Using ¹⁹F-NMR spectroscopy, Pielak’s group studied the effects of various polyethylene glycols (PEGs) on the equilibrium thermodynamics of two protein complexes: a side-by-side and a domain-swap dimer. The goal was to understand the mechanism of crowding by elucidating the molecular-level interactions that determine dimer stability. The results were rationalized using a mean-field crowding model, and the interesting finding was that, contrary to classic crowding theories, PEGs destabilize both dimers through enthalpic interactions between PEG and the monomers.

Prof. Harries then took up the challenge of addressing the theoretical aspects in more depth and pointed out that understanding the effect of macromolecular crowding and depletion forces on proteins and other macromolecules is key to understanding biophysics in cells. He described how to apply a recently developed model to the dimerization of two proteins in the presence of a large range of crowder size as a function of both crowder concentration and temperature. His analysis shows that crowding effects depend not only on protein-crowder interactions but also on the thermodynamic dimer association mechanism.

The third ECIS webinar was a worthy sequel to the first two, and encourages the Board to continue the efforts to establish the webinars as an integral ECIS tool to support fundamental science. The video recording of the webinar can be found in the related ECIS website link:

<https://www.ecis-web.eu/conferences/ecis-webinars-on-fundamentals/>

**Call for nominations for
the 2025 Syensqo award
and the Overbeek medal
of ECIS**



The Board invites all ECIS members to nominate candidates for the two major awards yearly bestowed by our Society. These are (i) the Overbeek medal, which is the ECIS lifetime-achievement award in Colloid and Interface Science, and (ii) the Syensqo (formerly Solvay) award, which is an award recognizing significant advances in a particular area in the past five years. Nomination rules and templates are available in the ECIS website at <https://www.ecis-web.eu/awards/overbeek-medal/about-the-overbeek-medal/> and <https://www.ecis-web.eu/awards/ecis-solvay-award/about-the-ecis-solvay-award/> for the Overbeek and Syensqo respectively.

An email has been circulated by the ECIS Secretary concerning all nominations. Nominations for the Syensqo award and Overbeek prize are open now, **with a deadline set to 30/4/2025**, and should be sent to the ECIS Secretary, Prof. Pierandrea Lo Nostro (Pierandrea.lonostro@unifi.it).

Call for nominations for the Maria Miguel award of ECIS for 2025



The new “Maria Miguel” award for excellent young researchers in the first stages of their research careers (up to 8 years from obtaining their PhD) was approved by the General Assembly of ECIS in Copenhagen. The Board has set up the related rules

Professor Maria da Graça Martins Miguel (1949-2021) was a well-known colloid scientist at the University of Coimbra and a guest professor at Lund University, who supported and inspired many young scientists. She was strongly engaged in the international colloid and interface community and served as a member of the ECIS board between 2006-11 and was president of ECIS from 2008 to 2009.



The Maria Miguel Award is annually granted to a young scientist working in the field of in colloid and interface science in Europe.

The independent scientific work of the awardee should be original and of outstanding quality. The recipient of the Award must have obtained his/her PhD in the last 8 years and must have published at least 5 peer-reviewed publications as corresponding author without the PhD supervisor as a co-author. Nominations can only be made by a scientist that is/was not part of the PhD supervisor's group.

The Award consists of 1.500 € from ECIS and a certificate.

The awardee will give a plenary lecture during the ECIS annual meeting.

The selection will be made by a committee composed of 7 members, the ECIS board (President, Past President and Vice-President), the last two awardees of the Overbeek Gold Medal and the last two recipients of the ECIS-Syensqo Award.

The nomination template for this award may be downloaded from the ECIS website. The PDF of the nomination file is:

<https://www.ecis-web.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Miguel-Nomination-2025-1.pdf>

Nominations should be submitted before **30/4/2025**



A new ECIS Vice-President will be elected by the General Assembly held in the Bristol conference

2025 marks the end of the tenure of Prof. Minos Leontidis in the ECIS Board. As Prof. Tommy Nylander will become Past-President and Prof. Regine von Klitzing the new ECIS President, we will vote for a new Vice-President. According to the ECIS statutes, each member of the Board follows a six-year trajectory, voted first to become Vice-President for two years. He/she then becomes ECIS President for another two years, and completes his/her tenure in the ECIS Board as Past President for two more years. All members are invited to nominate Colloid Scientists wishing to serve the Society. There are no particular rules, but a Board member is expected to be affiliated with ECIS for some length of time, to have visited the annual ECIS conferences a number of times, and to be willing to serve the large and vibrant European community of Colloid and Interface Scientists. Every person in the Board and Secretariat of ECIS has a strong and important role to play. We are happy that since the creation of ECIS many excellent scientists have voluntarily contributed to the Society, and have helped it grow and achieve the prominent international status that it has today.

Nominations for the next Vice-President should be submitted to the ECIS secretary Prof. Pierandrea Lo Nostro (Pierandrea.lonostro@unifi.it), until **31/5/2025**. Please note that the Board will not accept further nominations after this strict deadline.

Obituary for Heinz Hoffmann



With deep sorrow we learned that Heinz Hoffmann passed away on 28 February of this year. He had been an eminent scientist in the field of colloid research since the late 1960's and was instrumental in starting and running ECIS. With him ECIS has lost one of his founding fathers and honorary members, who shaped the society very much in its fledgling years. He was the first ECIS President in 1987 and ECIS General Secretary from 1987-2000. ECIS has always been very dear to him, as he considered it like his “colloid family” of friends and colleagues, as it certainly feels to many of us as well. He kept participating in the ECIS conferences long after his retirement in 2003, with the conference in Ljubljana in 2018 being his last participation.

He started his research career with a PhD from the Technical University in Karlsruhe in the field of electrochemistry in 1962, to be followed by a postdoctoral stay at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. There he not only became familiar with modern methods to study fast kinetics but also met his charming wife Claudia with whom he stayed happily together for the rest of his life. Applying the techniques for fast kinetics to study surfactant systems then became his first venture into colloid science. It led to pioneering work for understanding the dynamics of the micellization process, which is very important from a fundamental point of view but also highly relevant for many applications of amphiphilic systems. With this research field he moved in 1975 as a full professor to the newly founded University of Bayreuth, where he quickly established a large lab focusing on fundamental surfactant science. In the course of the following years, he and his team tackled many topics in colloid science: investigating lyotropic liquid crystals such as ringed gels or iridescent lamellar phases, the structure and rheology of viscoelastic surfactant solutions and vesicle gels, sponge phases (L3), the properties of dispersed clay particles or solubilization with the help of surfactants, just to name a few. In his research he addressed many fundamental scientific questions, but at the same time always had a good notion for how such fundamental properties could be converted to interesting practical applications. Especially in the later stages of his career such application oriented research was becoming increasingly important to him and after his university retirement he started an independent research lab, where he carried out applied colloid research funded by industry grants.

Obituary for Heinz Hoffmann



For his work Heinz Hoffmann received many awards, the most prominent ones being the Overbeek medal from ECIS (2011), the Nernst-Haber-Bodenstein Prize of the German Bunsen Society (1976), the Ostwald Prize (1995) of the German Colloid Society, and the Lectureship Award from the Chemical Society of Japan (1998). This shows the high esteem that he enjoyed in the international scientific community as he was highly active in promoting international collaborations. However, he was also instrumental in making the University of Bayreuth an internationally known center of colloid science, for instance by establishing the Bayreuth Centre for Colloids and Interfaces (BZKG) in 2000, an institution for whose founding he had been working for a long time. Many of us will remember encounters with Heinz Hoffmann. He was always highly interested and enthusiastic about tackling scientific challenges and venturing into areas which were not yet well understood. In discussions with him, one could always notice his enormous scientific curiosity and the will to extend existing knowledge by using his broad knowledge and intuition in the field of Physical Chemistry. He enjoyed arguing about scientific points, being rigorous about them and enjoying the discussion but always keeping this away from a personal level. Everyone in contact with him could directly feel the honesty, empathy and generosity of his personality, as well as his good sense of humor. One could always rely on his serious interest in helping science to advance and also to support the human beings associated with this science, the colleagues, scholars, coworkers and friends around him, for whom he always had an open ear.

We will all miss him very much, but by keeping ECIS a thriving community we retain his legacy, which he would surely enjoy to see growing and advancing further.

Note by the Editor: This obituary was kindly provided by our member, Prof. Dr. Michael Gradzielski, Technische Universität Berlin.

Obituary for Pierre Bothorel



It is with deep sadness that we heard of the passing away of Pierre Bothorel, former director of the Paul Pascal Research Center (CRPP) in Bordeaux, an emblematic figure in the scientific world both at national and local level.

A university professor in Bordeaux, he spent his entire career at this university. Under the leadership of Adolphe Pacault, he participated in the creation of the CRPP (at the time a CNRS laboratory) of which he then took charge.



His contribution to fundamental research has been important not only within the University of Bordeaux, but throughout the scientific community. He introduced new research areas in the CRPP more focused on the physics of liquids and soft matter. Pierre Bothorel has worked in particular on problems related to self-organized systems such as membranes, microemulsions and emulsions. Bringing the old term colloid back into fashion, he was able to unite around him a very active scientific community which has spread internationally. In particular, he initiated GRECO Microemulsion, at a time when microemulsion-related research was beginning to interest scientists around the world, ahead of its evolution, which marked the statistical physics of self-organized objects of dimension 1 or 2.

Part of the work he initiated made it possible to lay the foundations of the interface between physical chemistry and biology, which is now one of the flagship activities of the CRPP. As director of the CRPP, Pierre Bothorel was able to instill a collegial and stimulating work environment. He was not only a respected manager, but also a caring mentor. Under his leadership, the center has excelled scientifically, while cultivating a spirit of openness and innovation. His colleagues remember him as a man who was always attentive, encouraging everyone to give the best of themselves, and generously sharing his experience and his vision of the future of research. He was able to recruit numerous talented scientists, who contributed to the national and international influence of the center.

Apart from the more fundamental aspects of research, he had an early interest in the applications of science; developing, for example, with Roland Bernon, an engineer from the laboratory, a device allowing the automatic analysis of phase separations which led to a device sold on the market by a Toulouse company and having had certain success: the “TurbiScan”. Above all, he was at the origin of one of the very first university technology parks in France: Unitec.

Obituary for Pierre Bothorel



With the visionary support of Alain Rousset, then mayor of Pessac, he developed this technology park with an incubator in the early 1990s to develop start-ups based on the scientific work of the university world. For more than 30 years, Unitec has supported more than 600 companies with an impressive success rate and supports around 150 start-ups annually.



Today we lose an exceptional man, but his legacy remains. The ideas he sowed will continue to flourish through the works of those he inspired. Pierre Bothorel will remain in our memories as a builder and a visionary, who, through his science and his humanity, contributed to making the Paul Pascal Research Center a recognized center of excellence. To his family, loved ones and colleagues, we send our most sincere condolences.

Editor's note: This obituary was translated from the French from the webpage of CRPP (link <https://www.crpp.cnrs.fr/hommage-a-pierre-bothorel-ancien-directeur-du-laboratoire/>). The text does not mention that Prof. Bothorel was one of the five “founding fathers” of ECIS, and that he served as ECIS’ second President in 1988. We, in ECIS, are profoundly grateful to him for paving the road for future European researchers in Colloid and Interface Science.

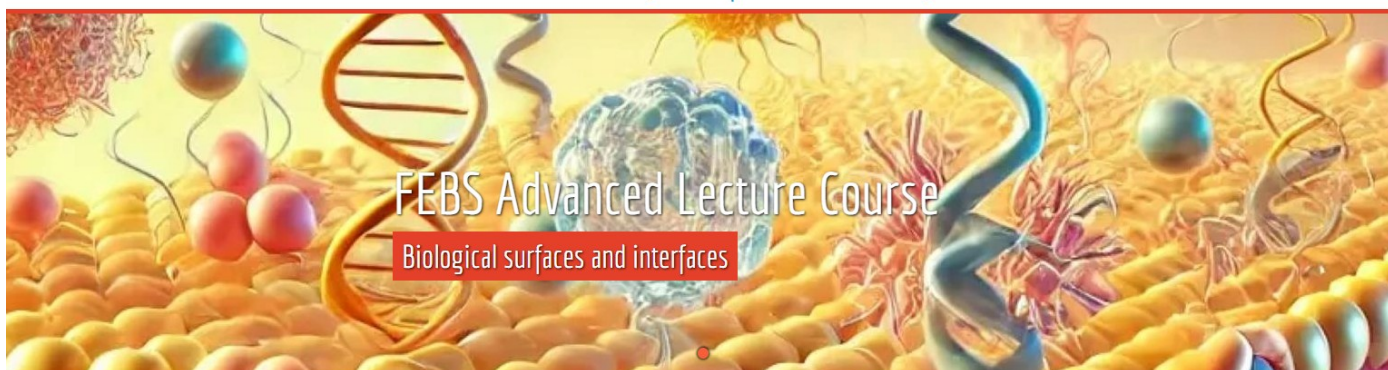
**FEBS Advanced Lecture
Course on Biological
Surfaces and Interfaces**
**Sant Feliu de Guixols,
Spain**



Due to a small delay in publishing the present Newsletter, the information related to the FEBS Advanced Lecture is almost obsolete. However, the deadlines for poster submission and registration are still ahead, on 15/4/2025. We invite our members to consider this interesting event, which will take place in June in a beautiful location in Catalonia, Spain.



Biological surfaces and interfaces:
biointerfaces at lipids, proteins and polymers
8-13 June 2025 | Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain



Supported by ESF, EMBO and FEBS, biological surfaces and interfaces meetings running between 2003 and 2022 have been the voice of the broad biointerface community, the forum for exchange of ideas between scientists active in this area, and a uniquely supportive environment for the training of young interdisciplinary scientists. For detailed information about this meeting please visit the conference link, at

<https://www.biointerfaces2025.febsevents.org/>

Deadlines
Late abstract deadline for posters 15th of April 2025
Registration Deadline 15th of April 2025
Closing times: 23:59 (IST)
€ FEBS YTF Grants

Formula XII Conference

16-18 June 2025

Sofia, Bulgaria



On 16-18/6/2025 the 12th edition of the “Formula” Conference will be hosted in Sofia, Bulgaria. It will be organized by the Department of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Engineering, Sofia University (<https://lepe.uni-sofia.bg/>). The conference aims to serve as a nexus for the industry experts and academia working in formulation in the colloidal sciences to meet, exchange ideas and novel insights in the field. The Formula Conference series is run by the Working Party on Formulation in Chemistry of the European Chemical Society. For more information on this conference series please visit the website <https://www.euchems.eu/divisions/working-party-formulation-chemistry/conferences/>. Several ECIS colleagues also participate in this Working Party, which is thus in a sense almost a “sister” Society. We encourage all our members interested in Formulation Science to attend this interesting event. Even though the deadline for oral presentations is now over, there is an extended deadline for poster presentations, and for early-bird registration (1/5/2025). More information can be found in the conference web-page <https://formula12.org/> and in the conference flyer below.

Formula XII Conference 16-18 June 2025, Sofia, Bulgaria

New strategies for innovation and performance prediction



Topics:

- Formulants: sourcing, lifecycle, safety and performance
- Formulation design: sustainability and disruptive innovation
- Fundamental science: mechanisms, structure-function relationship and theoretical modelling
- Formulation performance and measurement techniques
- Formulation stability and its prediction
- Formulation and delivery of hydrophobic drugs, biologics and other bio-actives
- Controlled release formulations
- Automation in formulation: high throughput screening and analysis
- AI/ML in formulation design, performance and process optimization

Organized by: Department of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Engineering, Sofia University

Prof. Slavka Tcholakova

Assoc. Prof. Zahari Vinarov

Important dates

Abstract submission opening: 1 Nov 2024

Abstract submission deadline: 1 Feb 2025

Early registration: 1 May 2025

<https://formula12.org>



Final notes



- You receive this newsletter as a registered participant in ECIS conferences
- If you wish your email contact to be removed from our mailing list, 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)