

EPNOE 2017 – A Summary

The fifth edition of the EPNOE International Polysaccharide conference has also been an outstanding event of the Polysaccharide networking community. More than 250 participants from 49 countries met from 20–24 August in the lecture halls of the University of Applied Sciences in Jena, Germany. The conference was arranged by the Centre of Excellence for Polysaccharide Research Jena-Rudolstadt; namely by its two representatives the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena and the Thuringian Institute for Textile and Plastics Research Rudolstadt. The meeting organisation was professionally realised by Conventus Congressmanagement & Marketing GmbH Jena.

Among the conference attendees were PhD students, junior scientists, business professionals, industrial scientists related to the subjects of Polysaccharide isolation, molecular and super-molecular characterisation, Polysaccharide solvents, homogeneous chemical and physical derivatisation and application in man-made fibres, nanomaterials, aerogels, pulp and paper as well as composites.

Wolfgang Tiefensee, the Thuringian Minister for Economic Affairs, Science and the Digital Society, Walter Rosenthal, President of the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Alexander Brenning, Vice-Dean of the Faculty for Chemistry and Earth Sciences at the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, and Patrick Navard, President of the EPNOE Association as well as the Conference Chair Thomas Heinze opened the conference and welcomed all participants.

The scientific conference programme already started on Sunday afternoon with a PhD workshop. 6 invited lecturers and more than 80 attendees discussed Polysaccharide Solutions: Solvents, Characterisation and Application.

The first three conference days began with plenary sessions given by Tetsuo Kondo (Kyushu University, JP), Candance H. Haigler (North Carolina State University, US), Stephen Harding (University of Nottingham, GB), Christian P. Lenges (DuPont Wilmington, US), Omar El Seoud (University of São Paulo, BR), Run-Chang Sun (Beijing Forest University, CN), Jay-Lin Jane (Iowa State University of Science and Technology, US), Herbert Sixta (Aalto University, Finland), Karin Stana-Kleinschek (University of Maribor, SI) and Thomas Heinze (University of Jena, DE).

Every of the five sessions running simultaneously at the first three conference days were introduced by key-note lecturers, who described the last results of research and development of their particular Polysaccharide sector. A lot of the keynote lecturers came from members of the EPNOE Association. More than 150 oral and 85 poster presentations were given in the lecture programme of the EPNOE conference. Many presentations dealt with the biosynthesis, isolation, extraction, physical and structural characterisation, chemical and enzymatic degradations, homogeneous functionalisation and modification of polysaccharide and polysaccharide-based products. Issues related to the use of polysaccharides in the food, health, medicine and pharmaceutical as well as man-made fibre industries were also discussed, as well as biotechnology issues.

The conference posters were presented for the very first time in three parallel e-poster sessions on Monday evening. The authors gave a short summary of their topics in three-minute talks at the live-pictured flat-screens. Thus, the audience could ask questions about the topics, and the speakers could discuss their presentations simultaneously together with them.

The conference dinner on Tuesday night took place at a special location, namely the Phyletic Museum, one of the most famous historical places in the city of Jena. The delegates could not only

enjoy the historic collection and networking talks, but also delicious Thuringian dishes like the Thuringian bratwurst and grilled steaks. Moreover, there was music by the duo Drum'n'Guitar.

At the museum, the outstanding phylogenetic collection of Prof. Ernst Haeckel is presented. He was a German biologist, naturalist, philosopher, physician and artist, who discovered, described and named thousands of new species, mapped a genealogical tree relating all life forms, and coined many terms in biology. Haeckel promoted and popularised Charles Darwin's work in Germany. He studied at the University of Jena for three years, earning a doctorate in zoology, before becoming a professor of comparative anatomy at the University of Jena, where he stayed for 47 years.

Best poster presentation awards sponsored by Carbohydrate Polymers (Elsevier) and Springer Nature (Springer Publisher) were respectively awarded to Satomi Tagawa (Kyushu University, JP) and Ana Morales-Burgos (Hermosillo Technological Institute, MX) as well as Annu Rusanen (University of Oulu, FN) and Peter Schulze (Research Centre of Medical Technology and Biotechnology, DE).

Furthermore, Young Investigator Awards for the best oral presentations in international and European categories were awarded to Ziqiang Shao (Beijing Institute of Technology, CN), Hikari Utsunomiya (Kyushu University, JP) and Daniela Feirreira (University of São Paulo, BR) as well as Johanna M. Spöhr, (ITCF Denkendorf, DE), Arantzalu Valdes Garcia (University of Alicante, ES), Celine Fantou (University of Le Havre, FR), Anna Palme (Chalmers University Gothenborg, SE) and Eduarda S. Morais (University of Aveiro, PT), respectively.

According to the feedback of the conference attendees, the conference was an organisational and scientific success. This is indeed the merit of the excellent local organisers of the conference, Conventus Congressmanagement, of the close collaboration of the EPNOE Association, ACS and the Centre of Excellence for Polysaccharide Research Jena-Rudolstadt, and also because of the active commitment of all conference participants. Special thanks are directed to Ms. Ann-Kathrin Schulte and her team from Conventus Congressmanagement & Marketing GmbH, who were highly professional contact persons for all request at all times at the EPNOE conference.



Fig. 1: Welcome note of Wolfgang Tiefensee, Thuringian Minister for Economic Affairs, Science and the Digital Society at the opening ceremony of the 5th International EPNOE Conference.

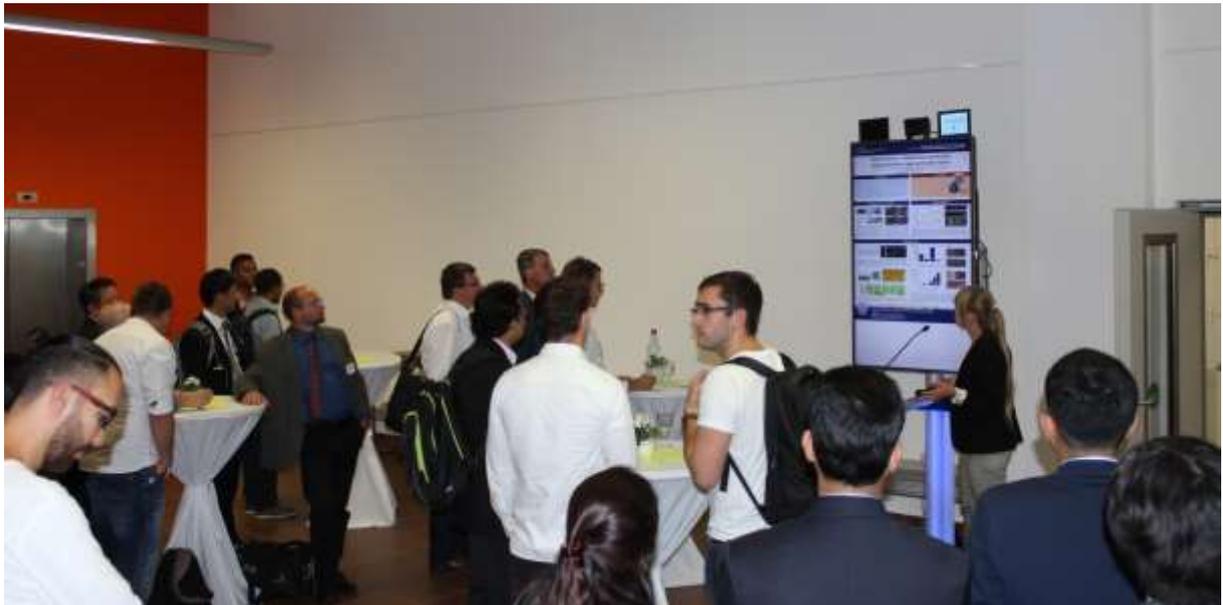


Fig. 2: ePoster session at the 5th International EPNOE Conference, 21 August 2017, at the second floor of the lecture building of the Jena University of Applied Sciences.



Fig. 3: Welcome note of the Conference Chair, Prof. Thomas Heinze (Friedrich Schiller University) to the attendees of the conference dinner at the Phyletic Museum Jena.



Fig. 4: Later at the conference dinner at the Phyletic Museum Jena.