

## Report

### 71st Annual Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry "Electrochemistry towards Excellence"

**Belgrade Online, Monday 31 August to Friday 4 September 2020**

In spite of the long tradition that electrochemical science has had in the Republic of Serbia, this was the first time Serbia was supposed to be the host of the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry. This year has been anything but ordinary worldwide, so the ISE Annual meeting was not a regular one, either. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Annual Meeting has been transformed into an online event, called "Belgrade Online", making it the first ever ISE online meeting.

The scientific program comprised the two-days core meeting, with plenary lecturers, selected Keynote and award speakers, while the remaining three days were conducted by Symposia. Of the originally planned 22 symposia for the regular meeting, 18 were held online using different online platforms and having award winner lecturers, as well as keynote and invited lectures.

After the opening ceremony and greetings by both co-chairs and Prof. Tian, the core meeting was opened by Nobel laureate M. Stanley Whittingham (Binghamton University, USA) with a lecture entitled "Lithium Batteries: From an Idea to Domination. What's Next?". Two plenary lecturers that followed the same day were presented by Vojislav Stamenković (Argonne National Laboratory, USA): "Electrochemical Interfaces for Energy Conversion and Storage" and Sharon Hammes-Schiffer (Yale University, USA): "Proton-Coupled Electron Transfer in Electrochemistry". Three more plenary lectures were provided on the second day by Hector Abruña (Cornell University, USA), who presented the Frumkin Medal award plenary lecture on "Energy Conversion and Storage: Novel Materials and Operando Methods", Yi Cui (Stanford University, USA) spoke on "Understanding and Designing of Materials and Interface for High Energy Batteries" and Nick Birbilis, Australia, (Australian National University, College of Engineering and Computer Science, Australia) presented "Corrosion of emerging materials".

Two tutorials were available online even before the beginning of the Annual meeting, dealing with "Electrochemical thin film growth, fundamentals and applications" given by Stanko Brankovic (University of Houston, USA) and Natasa Vasiljevic (University of Bristol, UK) and "Solving research problems by means of scanning electrochemical microscopy (SECM) and related techniques" delivered by Gunther Wittstock (University of Oldenburg, Germany) and Wolfgang Schuhmann (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany). The traditional "Electrochimica Acta Author workshop" was given by Robert Hillman, Editor in Chief of *Electrochimica Acta* and professor at the University of Leicester.

Owing to the great effort and enthusiasm of the task force and Symposium organizers, a high level of the scientific program was achieved, including 58 Keynote lectures and 303

oral presentations. The 1003 posters were presented, covering all originally planned 22 symposia and poster prizes were awarded after the meeting.

Thanks to Executive Committee registration fee policy, the Belgrade online became easily available to those who otherwise wouldn't have had a chance to follow a regular meeting. By allowing the science, discoveries and diverse approaches in electrochemistry to be shared so broadly, it has made this conference unique.

Altogether there were 1878 registered participants from 63 countries. The largest number of participants has been from Germany (229), followed by China (211), United Kingdom (120), France (108), USA (103), Italy (100), Spain (81) and Brazil (81).

A special issue of *Electrochimica Acta*, the Society's journal, is planned based on selected original contributions made at the conference. Selection will be made by an international editorial committee and co-ordinated by Special Issues Editor, Sotiris Sotiropoulos.

A great benefit that was recognized and appreciated was a possibility to follow missed lectures that had been pre-recorded and available all the time during the meeting and for a certain period after it was over.

After this first ever ISE online AM, some other online or hybrid meetings are likely to follow, benefiting from the experiences gathered during the Belgrade online, thus making it a turning point in an ISE conference concept.