

Editorial

Editorial: Symposium-in-Print on the Occasion of XIII ELAFOT (XIII Encuentro Latinoamericano de Fotoquímica y Fotobiología)

ELAFOT is a Latin American meeting that has been held every 2–3 years since 1982, with a long-standing tradition in Photochemistry and Photobiology. The first ELAFOT was organized by Eduardo Lissi and coworkers at the *Universidad de Santiago de Chile*, and since then, the local organizer countries have alternated between Chile, Argentina and Brazil (1).

The most recent XIII ELAFOT was held in Argentina, in Villa Carlos Paz city, and brought together 190 participants mainly from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, México, Spain, France, Germany, Canada and USA. The program included sessions on basic and applied Photosciences covering critically important topics, such as photocatalysis, photosensitization, advanced light spectroscopy and microscopy, single molecule photochemistry, luminescent nanoparticles, photoactive materials and polymers, together with sustainable technologies among other related fields.

The Organizing Committee was composed of Dr. Claudio D. Borsarelli (Chairman, UNSE—INBIONATEC), Dr. Susana C. Nuñez Montoya (Co-chairman, UNC—IMBIV), Dr. M. Laura Dántola (UNLP—INIFTA), Dr. Carolina Lorente (UNLP—INIFTA), Dr. Inés Abatedaga (UNSE—INBIONATEC), Dr. Juan E. Arguello (UNC—INFIQC), Dr. Javier I. Bardagi (UNC—INFIQC), Dr. M. Cecilia Becerra (UNC—IMBIV), Dr. M. Eugenia Buden (UNC—INFIQC), Dr. Laura Comini (UNC—IMBIV), Dr. F. Eduardo Morán Vieyra (UNSE—INBIONATEC), Dr. Natalia Pacioni (UNC—INFIQC), Dr. Rodrigo Palacios (UNRC), Dr. Gustavo Pino (UNC—INFIQC), Dr. Luciana Schmidt (UNC—INFIQC) and Dr. Lorena Valle (UNSE—INBIONATEC). The

International Scientific Committee was coordinated by Dr. Andrés H. Thomas (UNLP-INIFTA, Argentina) and was composed of Dr. Carolina Aliaga (USACH, Chile), Dr. Pedro Aramendia (UBA-CIBION, Argentina), Dr. Mauricio Baptista (USP, Brazil), Dr. Sonia Bertolotti (UNRC, Argentina), Dr. Sergio M. Bonesi (UBA, Argentina), Dr. Silvia E. Braslavsky (MPS, Germany), Dr. Gonzalo Cosa (McGill University, Canada), Dr. Teresa Dib Zambon Atvars (UNICAMP, Brazil), Dr. Denis Fuentealba (PUC, Chile), Dr. Raquel Galian (UPV, Spain), Dr. Marcelo H. Gehlen (USP, Brazil), Dr. Mónica González (UNLP-INIFTA, Argentina), Dr. Germán Gunther (UC, Chile), Dr. Nancy Pizarro (UAB, Chile), Dr. Miguel Ángel Puertas-Mejía (UdeA, Colombia), Dr. Cristian A. Strassert (UM, Germany), Dr. Cristina Valencia Uribe (U.N., Colombia) and Dr. Walter A. Massad (UNRC, Argentina).

The meeting was supported financially by the Argentinean National Research Council (CONICET), the Science and Technology Ministry of Córdoba (Argentina), and the Argentinean Science and Technology Ministry (MINCYT), the National Universities of Córdoba (UNC) and Santiago del Estero (UNSE) of Argentina, and also by local and foreign commercial firms that sponsored the meeting. Thanks to the economic assistance received, about 55 PhD students and young researchers were awarded with scholarships to attend the meeting.

The XIII ELAFOT program included six Plenary Lectures, twelve Invited Lectures and 12 Short Lectures. Sixteen selected scientific contributions were presented as Flash Talks, and 101



Conference logo and group photo in front of the Portal del Lago Auditorium in Villa Carlos Paz City, Argentina, 25 October 2017.


scientific contributions were presented in Poster Sessions. Symposia in Honor of Eduardo A. Lissi (USACH, Chile) and Norman A. García (UNRC, Argentina) were organized by their coworkers, and both were especially emotional moments during the meeting. The first day, after registration, a Congress Reception with Argentinean wine and food was a perfect and friendly welcome to the meeting, where the photochemical community met again, giving the chance to the new student generation, mainly from Argentina, Chile and Brazil, to be part of this great community. There was also a Congress dinner, where a spontaneous amusing dance with international and typical Argentinian party music was enjoyed. All the information and some photographs of the XIII ELAFOT can be found on the webpage (<http://grupoargentinodefotobiologia.info/elafot2017/>), including the Book of abstracts (ISBN 978-987-42-5940-0).

This special issue of the Journal includes a total of eight contributions based on results presented at the XIII ELAFOT as peer-reviewed full articles. Susana C. Nuñez Montoya, Andrés H. Thomas and Carolina Lorente are the guest editors of the Symposium-in-Print.

As organizers we want to thank the participants, especially the speakers and poster authors for their works and for their active contribution to the meeting. We also thank the journal *Photochemistry and Photobiology*, represented by its editor Prof. Jean Cadet, for offering this special issue to present part of the Latin American work. We look forward to seeing you at the XIV ELAFOT that will be held next year in Viña del Mar, Chile!

REFERENCE

1. Braslavsky, S. E. and J. D. Simon (2005) Encuentros Latinoamericanos de Fotoquímica y Fotobiología (ELAFOT): The Latin-American Photochemical and Photobiological Community, Symposium-in-Print: VIII ELAFOT, La Plata, Argentina, 2004. *Photochem. Photobiol.* **81**, 768–770.

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