

Report on the 68th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry
Providence, Rhode Island, USA
27 August - 1 September, 2017

The 68th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry was held in Providence, Rhode Island. The scientific theme of the meeting, Electrochemistry without Borders, emphasizing the global character of the electrochemical community encompassed by the ISE, was found by many speakers to have a special meaning in view of current global conditions.

Providence was a delightful venue for the conference. Providence is the capital of the state of Rhode Island and, founded in 1636, is one of the oldest cities in the United States. The city is situated at the mouth of the Providence River at the head of Narragansett Bay. Once an industrial city, it is now home to eight colleges and universities. The art museum at the Rhode Island School of Design is close to the convention center and offered a welcome respite from the rigors of conference presentations. The city center features walkways and small parks along the intersection of three rivers that pass through the city. Nearby Newport, known as the sailing capital of the world, is home to 19th century mansions of America's wealthiest families, now accessible to the public, and breathtaking views of the ocean and beaches. The conference banquet was held in the Providence Biltmore Grand Ballroom, providing a beautiful panoramic view of the city.

Tutorials

Frédéric Jaouen, from the Université Montpellier II, delivered a tutorial on platinum group metal free catalysts. Shawn C. Kelley and Erik Scott, from Medtronic, provided tutorial lectures on biomedical applications of electrochemical systems. In addition, Robert Hillman, Editor in Chief of *Electrochimica Acta* and professor at the University of Leicester, presented a workshop for *Electrochimica Acta* authors and reviewers.

Plenary Lectures

Adam Heller (University of Texas) delivered a plenary lecture entitled "Electrochemical Glucose Monitoring for Diabetes Management: Making the Monitoring Painless and Bloodless." Clare Grey (University of Cambridge) spoke on "Recent Developments in the Application of In- and Ex-situ NMR Spectroscopy to Batteries and Supercapacitors." Krishnan Rajeshwar (The University of Texas at Arlington) presented a lecture on "Photoelectrochemistry, Solid-State Chemistry, and Solar Fuels: A Nexus?" Hector Abruña (Cornell University), the 2017 *Electrochimica Acta* Gold Medal recipient, presented the award plenary lecture on "Operando Methods for the Study of Energy Materials." The final plenary lecture on "Reactivity Descriptors of MN_x Catalysts for the Oxygen Reduction Reaction" was provided by Jose Zagal (University of Santiago de Chile).

Joint ISE-ECS Symposium

A special feature of the meeting was a symposium on "Education for Electrochemistry and Electrochemical Engineering," which was co-sponsored by the Electrochemical Society (ECS). The ISE and ECS have entered into a project in which specific symposia are jointly sponsored. The first example was at the 2016 ECS Meeting in San Diego, in which the ISE and ECS jointly sponsored "Modeling: From Elucidation of Physical Phenomena to Applications in Design." After the Providence meeting, the 2018 ISE Annual Meeting in Bologna, Italy will feature a jointly sponsored symposium on "Theory: from Understanding to Optimization and Prediction," and the 2019 ECS Meeting in Dallas, Texas will feature a jointly sponsored symposium on "Imaging and Detecting Electrochemistry at the Nanoscale."

Participation

1082 participants attended the conference, with roughly equal representation from North America, Asia, and Europe. Delegates were present as well from South America, Africa, and Australia. The meeting featured 5 plenary presentations, 48 keynotes, 698 oral presentations, and 325 poster presentations. Financial sponsorship from Medtronic and American Elements is gratefully acknowledged.

Special Issue of *Electrochimica Acta*

A special issue of the Society journal *Electrochimica Acta* is planned based on selected original contributions made at the conference. Selection will be made by an international editorial committee, coordinated by Sergio Trasatti.

We express our sincere appreciation to our sponsors and exhibitors, to Thierry Lenzin and Kathleen Vionnet, who are the ISE Conference Organization, to the symposium organizers who assembled an exceptional program spread over 19 symposia, to our student helpers, and to our tutorial and plenary speakers. We thank each of the participants, who contributed to the scientific excellence of the meeting.

Submitted November 30, 2017

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