

69th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry Bologna, 2-7 September 2018

The 69th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry (ISE) has taken place in Bologna, Nuovo Polo Congressuale, on 2-7 September 2018.



This year, Italy has hosted the main scientific event of our Society for the fifth time. When our Society was still called *Comité International de Thermodynamique et Cinétique Electrochimiques*, its 2nd meeting was held in Milan (1950) and the 13th in Rome (1962). Eighteen years later, the 31st ISE Annual Meeting took place in Venice (1980) and in 1999, 200th anniversary of the main experiments that led Alessandro Volta to the invention of the electric pile, the 50th ISE Annual Meeting was held in Pavia, where Volta taught experimental physics and was Rector of the local University. This year in Bologna, another scientific giant who greatly contributed to the birth of electrochemistry was celebrated: Luigi Galvani, who lived in Bologna his entire life (1737-1798), working at the local University and Academy of Sciences.

Thanks to the participation of 2033 delegates, including 795 students, this year's Annual Meeting has been the largest in the ISE history, so far. The country with the largest number of delegates has been Germany (261) followed by Italy (220), Japan (190), China (135), France (115), United Kingdom (111), Korea (108), Spain (77), USA (69), Brazil (66) and 45 other countries.

The mayor of Bologna, Virginio Merola and the *Magnifico Rettore* of the University of Bologna, Francesco Ubertini participated in the opening ceremonies that included “a little taste of Italian opera”, performed live, with pieces of famous Italian composers like Rossini, Verdi, Puccini and Mascagni.



The scientific program included 20 symposia and a general session, and featured 6 plenary lectures, 58 Keynote lectures, 826 Oral communications, 1132 Poster communications and 3 tutorials. The plenary lecturers, in chronological order, were:

- Doron Aurbach, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, “Novel Electrochemical Methodologies for Analysing Composite Electrodes in Devices for Energy Storage”.
- Steven Chu, Stanford University, USA, 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics, “The Role of Electrochemistry in Providing Technical Solutions to the Climate Challenge”.
- Justin Gooding, University of New South Wales, Australia, “Well-defined Nanoscale Architectures Provide New Opportunities in Bioelectrochemistry Down to Single Entities”.
- Shelley Minteer, University of Utah, USA, “Electrocatalytic Cascades for Energy Conversion and Electrosynthesis Applications”
- Marc Koper, Leiden University, Netherlands, “Electrochemistry of platinum: new views on an old problem”.
- Flavio Maran, University of Padua, Italy, “Electrochemistry of Monolayer Protected Gold Nanoclusters”.



Among the keynote/oral communications presented in Bologna there were the award lectures delivered by the 2017 ISE prize winners, i.e. Patrick Unwin, Michael Eikerling, Armando Gennaro, Xile Hu, Xiangfeng Duan, Csaba Janaky, Abdoulaye Thiam, Federico Bella, Kristina Tschulik, besides Doron Aurbach and Justin Gooding who gave plenary lectures.

The three tutorials dealt with "Computational Electrochemistry" (taught by Richard G. Compton, Enno Kaetelhoeven and Eduardo Laborda), Differential Electrochemical Mass Spectrometry (teachers: Helmut Baltruschat, and Zenonas Jusys) and Impedance Spectroscopy for the Diagnostic of Electrochemical Energy Storage/Conversion Systems (teacher Mark Orazem).

Hopefully, in spite of this very busy scientific program, the delegates had time to enjoy the beauties of Bologna, the home of the oldest university in Europe, renowned for its friendly atmosphere, joie de vivre and haute cuisine. A banquet was held at Palazzo Isolani, in the heart of medieval Bologna, only a few minutes' walk away from Piazza Maggiore, Palazzo d'Accursio, the former city's Town Hall, the 13th century's Palazzo Re Enzo and the San Petronio Basilica.



We are indebted to a number of people for their great help in the organization of the 69th Annual Meetings. For all the scientific aspects, we gratefully thank the colleagues of the Organizing Committee, the members of the Executive Committee, who helped us in handling an unexpectedly high number of contributions by deciding to shorten keynote and oral communications (a decision that forced the speakers to enhance their communication skills, but turned out to be successful), the ISE Division Officers, who proposed the symposia, and the Symposium Organizers. For all other aspects of the organization, the ISE Office was our constant reference and guide. We are immensely grateful to Thierry Lenzin, Gil Bourgeois and Kathleen Vionnet for all their excellent work. We owe special thanks to the Student Helpers who put an amazing enthusiasm in their hard work. Mixed with those students and working with them were Otmar Dossenbach, honorary member of ISE, Kathleen's daughter Kenza, Bettina Stetzka and her daughter Ronja. We have been honoured to have them in our team. Finally, we gratefully thank the very helpful personnel of Bologna Congressi, Bologna Welcome and the caterer Party e Ricevimenti GERISRT S.R.L. who took care of lunches, coffee breaks and banquet.

Marco Musiani and Francesco Paolucci
Co-chairs of the Organizing Committee