

Preface

16th international conference on phosphorus chemistry

The 16th edition of the International Conference on Phosphorus Chemistry was held in Birmingham (UK) July 4–9, 2004. This conference takes place every three years and is the place where the phosphorus community discusses the latest results as well as potential developments in the field for the future.

480 Delegates from 35 countries attended this conference. 146 Oral presentations and 240 posters were presented and discussed. An important part of the conference has been devoted to the application side of phosphorus chemistry, with strong participation from industry. The conference was sponsored by Rhodia, one of the major phosphorus chemical manufacturer. The next conference will be held in Xiamen (China) in 2007 and Professor Yufen ZHAO will be the chairman.

The major trends that can be drawn from this conference are the following:

- Traditional fundamental phosphorus chemistry remains one of the backbones of the new developments, and phosphorus chemistry is a field where innovative and “nonclassical” type of structures can be obtained. Most of these structures present very specific electronic properties, which opens new horizons in terms of potential applications.
- Polymers containing phosphorus moieties constitute an emerging domain where the first results show important potentialities in surface science as well as in biology.

- There is a clear shift toward new application domains for phosphorus chemistry. In catalysis and surface science, the role of phosphorus compounds is key. On the other hand, there is a diminishing interest in Research and Development for some of the more classical applications such as agrochemicals or flame-retardants.
- Biological and medicinal chemistry also remain key fields in phosphorus chemistry, with continuing developments in these domains through oligonucleotides and their uses as antisense drugs, antiviral applications such as AIDS, and also continuing efforts in bone related diseases.

All these developments show the dynamism of this field, which is in constant evolution with new findings in both fundamental and application sides.

This issue of the Journal of Organometallic Chemistry presents a broad coverage and includes mini reviews and regular research papers that were discussed during this conference. Full abstracts of oral and poster presentations as well as pictures from the event can be downloaded from the website www.icpc2004.com.

Pascal Metivier
Vice President Research and Development
Rhodia HPCII, 40 rue de la Haie Coq
93306 Aubervilliers, France
E-mail address: pascal.metivier@eu.rhodia.com