

Report of the 5th Spring Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry

The 5th Spring Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry was held at Dublin City University in Dublin, Ireland from the 1st to the 4th May 2007. From the outset of the announcement of this conference it received a lot of interest from electrochemists from both within and outside of Europe, it was well attended with the participation of over 170 delegates.

The theme of the meeting was “Nanostructured Materials in Electrochemistry; Biosciences and Molecular Electronics Applications” with the scientific programme running over three days. Proceedings commenced with a wine reception on the Tuesday evening which was well attended and allowed delegates to meet in an informal setting. The first day of the scientific programme was dedicated to the fundamental behaviour of the nanostructured materials and it commenced on the Wednesday morning with the plenary lecture given by Professor Richard Crooks, from the University of Texas at Austin. Professor Crooks presented his groups recent work on the “Synthesis, characterisation and electrocatalytic applications of dendrimer-encapsulated nanoparticles”. In addition to the oral presentations during the day, Professor Ralph Nuzzo from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, presented his invited lecture on the “Micro Electrochemical Devices via Soft-Lithography: New Systems for Energy and Bioanalytical Applications”. There was a large number of posters submitted to the conference and it was decided to run two separate poster sessions, the first of these being on the Wednesday evening accompanied by refreshments and finger food.

The Thursday was dedicated to the materials application within the biosciences domain with invited lectures given by both Professor Philip Bartlett from the University of Southampton on “Engineering SERS Substrates for Bioelectrochemical Studies” and Professor Girault from the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne on “Nanoparticles on surfaces for proteomic analysis”. The second poster session was run on the Thursday afternoon leading up to the departure for the Gala Dinner in the Dublin Mountains at Johnnie Foxes Pub. Delegates were transported up to Johnnie Foxes pub to experience the atmosphere of a traditional Irish Pub with entertainment in the form of traditional Irish music and dance. The atmosphere proved to be very enjoyable for all with some delegates being persuaded to exhibit their Irish dancing abilities.

The final day was given over the molecular electronic applications of nanostructured materials with Professor Jens Ulstrup presenting his recent work on “Single-molecule Transistors from Nanoparticles to Proteins and DNA in Electrochemical Environment”. The meeting was then closed by Professor Bartlett, as a representative of the ISE, late on the Friday afternoon.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to my colleagues on both the Organising and Local Organising Committees for their input into the organisation of the conference. The ISE office provided vital support throughout the conference and in the preceding few years which proved invaluable. Thanks are also due to both the staff at Dublin City University who ensured the efficient running of the conference and to all the exhibitors and sponsors who took part and supported the event.

It was the first time an ISE meeting has been held in Ireland and I hope it will not be the last.

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