



Participants at the Forum for Chemical Society Presidents in Paris. Photo: SCF/ACS

100 Years of IUPAC

The 47th IUPAC World Chemistry Congress and the 50th IUPAC General Assembly took place in Paris in July. The 100th anniversary of IUPAC provided an ideal opportunity for the 2019 congress to return to Paris, the city in which IUPAC was founded. GDCh president Matthias Urmann, GDCh executive director Wolfram Koch and other GDCh representatives from the executive board, GDCh divisions, JCF, Wiley-VCH and GDCh headquarters took part in the centenary celebrations, which were held under the patronage of French President Emmanuel Macron. At the invitation of the French Chemical Society, Urmann and Koch attended a special forum for chemical society presidents at which the presidents of 15 societies signed a joint declaration in support of the UN sustainability goals.

Global Women's Breakfast

As part of its centenary celebrations, IUPAC invited organizations around the world to take part in its Global Women's Breakfast – and more than 100 organizations took up the offer. From New Zealand, where the first breakfasts were held, to Hawaii, women chemists, post-docs and students got together. The GDCh was involved in two such events in Germany. In Leipzig, the local GDCh chapter and the equal opportunities officer organized an event in collaboration with GDCh board member Evamarie Hey-Hawkins, while the event in Frankfurt was organized by the GDCh's public relations department and its career service. Around 50 women from the chemistry sector enjoyed a breakfast together and listened to presentations. Stefanie Dehnen, who is GDCh vice president since January 2020, talked about her own experiences in balancing the demands of her academic career with those of her family. Career consultant Doris Brenner provided valuable advice on the best ways for women to present their strengths and skills.



Chemists from Boston meet the Town Musicians of Bremen and the GDCh mascot "Erlenmeyerchen". Photo: GDCh

Student Exchange Programme visits Bremen

The 19th study exchange trip organized jointly by the GDCh, NESACS (Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society) and their young scientists groups JCF Bremen and NSYCC (Northeastern Section Younger Chemists Committee), respectively, took place from 17–22 March. Twelve undergraduate and doctoral students from Boston, accompanied by three members of the NESACS German Exchange Committee, travelled to Bremen for a week of cultural and scientific exchange and to attend the JCF Spring Symposium in Bremen (see page 32). Soon after arriving in the city, the visitors were introduced to Bremen's most well-known inhabitants – the four "Town Musicians of Bremen". On the second day, the visitors were taken to the neighbouring Hanseatic city of Hamburg, to its new Elbphilharmonie concert hall and the huge container port. In Bremen, the guests had their sights set high at the 146-metre high Fallturm (drop tower) operated by the Center of Applied Space Technology and Microgravity (ZARM). The tower is unique in Europe and serves as a ground-based laboratory for conducting experiments under near-zero gravity conditions. The visit to ZARM was followed by excursions to two companies. At the Airbus site in Bremen, the guests learned about aircraft wing production. In Nienburg, the group was able to observe production in practice at BASF's production site for catalytic converters for both petrol- and diesel-powered vehicles. On Wednesday, the visitors became acquainted with the research at the University of Bremen's Faculty of Chemistry. The JCF Spring Symposium began on Wednesday evening with a reception. After his welcome address on the morning of 21 March, Matthias Urmann took time to get to know the guests personally. With two talks and ten posters, the visitors were active participants in the Spring Symposium.