



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Catalysis Today

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/cattod

Preface

Because the traditional four-year sequence of our symposium series had been broken up by the pandemic... we have been particularly happy to organize the 13th edition of the Symposium on the Scientific Bases for the Preparation of Heterogeneous Catalysts at the University of Louvain (UCLouvain), in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium), from July 9th until July 13th, 2023. The event gathered about 220 participants, coming from 18 different countries.

This event has been made possible thanks to the organisational skills of the members of the Heterogeneous Catalysis labs at UCLouvain and the scientific support of the Centre for Surface Chemistry and Catalysis and the Centre for Sustainable Catalysis and Engineering at KU Leuven. As for previous editions, a severe and rigorous selection was applied by the international Scientific Committee (comprising the undersigned and 19 scientists from renowned international companies involved in catalysis). The oral contributions were selected among the ~150 submitted abstracts. About 40 of them constituted the final programme of this 4-days event, together with ~100 presented as Posters during two sessions. The main selection criteria were a strong focus on catalysts preparation aspects, privileging novel and innovative procedures in the field, and also the possibility of their implementation at the industrial level. All contributions were requested to focus mainly on catalyst preparation, the discussion of physico-chemical and catalytic properties being dedicated to identification and control of the preparation parameters. Importantly, the programme included 10 min for discussion after each 20 min long oral presentation. As novelty for this 13th edition, last minute submissions for Posters have been considered, allowing the attendees to communicate on their most recent discoveries. We believe that all of this has guaranteed a high level of excellence and innovation for the symposium, still leaving time for fruitful debates and discussions.

Sticking to the tradition, the symposium was held in a single auditorium. The programme was not structured around sessions on specific topics; instead these were intentionally mixed altogether along the timeline of the symposium to promote cross-fertilization and out-of-the-box thinking. Out of the most impacting abstracts, 4 have been selected

as keynote lectures based on their excellence and perfect fit with the spirit of the symposium. Keynote lectures by Luc C.J. Smulders (group of K. P. de Jong at Universiteit Utrecht, NL), Arturo Pajares (VITO, BE), Marco Faustini (Sorbonne Université, FR) and Dan Zhao (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and Leibniz-Institut für Katalyse e.V., DE) have opened the programme on each morning of the symposium.

A specificity of this series of symposia has always been a balanced participation of delegates from the industrial and academic spheres. We think that, as for the previous editions, the 13th edition of the symposium has provided an efficient platform for exchanges between these two worlds. Discussion has been made possible during the coffee breaks, poster sessions, lunch breaks and social activities, such as the traditional “Belgian Beer Reception”, and the Symposium dinner held this time in the Hergé Museum.

To constitute this volume, the authors of oral contributions have all been invited to submit an original manuscript about the research they presented, as well as a selection of the best posters. The volume compiles the manuscripts from authors who accepted our invitation, and that were accepted for publication after the usual rigorous peer-review procedure of Catalysis Today with international referees. We believe that it constitutes a nice summary of the current fundamental and applied research on rational catalysts synthesis.

The Organising Committee wishes you a pleasant and fruitful reading and hopes to see you (again) next time for the 14th edition of the symposium.

Eric M. Gaigneaux^a, Damien P. Debecker^a, Michel Devillers^a,
Michiel Dusselier^b, Sophie Hermans^a, Johan Martens^b

^a UCLouvain, Institute of Condensed Matter and Nanosciences, Place Louis Pasteur 1, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

^b KU Leuven, Centre for Surface Chemistry and Catalysis and the Centre for Sustainable Catalysis and Engineering, Celestijnenlaan 200F, B-3001 Heverlee, Belgium

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cattod.2024.114761>

Available online 30 April 2024

0920-5861/© 2024 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.