Growing collaborations between Chinese and UK young scholars on chemical science and technology

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Following the CSCST-25 Special Issue [1] we continued this issue based on the 26th CSCST-SCI annual conference (CSCST-SCI 26), which was held at the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) headquarter, 14/15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS on the 4th and 5th September 2019. The annual conference had 4 sessions with 20 oral and 14 poster presentations, which featured several plenary and keynote lectures by national and international eminent speakers. International researchers and delegates from China and Australia, and members of other SCI groups (SCI Energy Group and SCI London Regional Group) also joined the two-day event. Dr. Weiping Wu, Chairman of SCI Chinese UK Group introduced the history, membership, activities of SCI and SCI Chinese UK Group [2]. Mr. Sunan Jiang, Minister Counsellor for Science and Technology Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Kingdom gave a talk on the China-UK collaborations in science and innovations. Sharron Todd, Chief Executive Officer of SCI warmly welcomed everyone to the SCI headquarter and the conference, she awarded prizes to the oral presentation winners of CSCST-SCI 26.

The theme of the conference is Energy and Environment, two important areas of Chemical Engineering. This issue supports the community and rapidly reports the recent exciting discoveries in this field. All manuscripts were peer-reviewed, and finally 19 contributions were accepted for publication in the Special Issue. The contributions cover a wide spectrum of research activities of the community including novel materials for solar cells [3,4], solar thermal energy harvest/storage [5,6], photocatalysis and electrocatalysis [7,8], hydrogen production and fuel cells [9,10], sustainable materials [11,12] and advanced chemical engineering processing [13,14]. The four review articles present the bio-oil upgrading in supercritical fluids [15], the computational design of heterogeneous catalysts [16], the state-of-the-art of polymer based dielectrics for high-energy storage [17] and advanced chemical processing and photothermal materials for solar-powered steam generation [18].

Based on the aesthetic appeal, one cover artwork was selected by the editors. The cover article is from the paper of Montazersadgh et al. on the electrolytic cell engineering and device optimization for electrosynthesis of e-biofuels via co-valorisation of bio-feedstocks and captured CO₂ [8]. The authors presented a numerical model of a continuous-flow design considering various CO₂ anodic and cathodic reactions produce fuels (e.g., methanol) and high value-added chemicals (e.g., selective oxidation of alcohols, aldehydes, carboxylic acids and amines/amides), to determine the most techno-economically feasible configurations from the aspects of energy efficiency, environmental impact and economical values.

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Wu, Fan, Li and Dong are the invited Guest Editors of *Frontiers of Chemical Science and Engineering*.