

PREFACE

5th Conference on Membrane Science and Technology PERMEA 2010

Membranologists from Visegrad countries, from the whole Europe and some other countries gathered in Tatranské Matliare (High Tatras) in Slovakia at the conference PERMEA 2010 (<http://sschi.chtf.stuba.sk/permea2010/>) from September 4 to 8, 2010 to discuss their recent research and application results. The main organiser of the conference was the Slovak Society of Chemical Engineering in close association with the membrane societies of the other Visegrad countries. In this event, 148 participants from 19 countries took part. Three plenary lectures, seven keynote lectures and forty eight lectures were presented in ten sessions. Very interesting results were presented also in two poster sessions with 83 posters.

Very positive feature of the conference was wide participation of 58 PhD students and 12 young researchers (under 35) what makes 47.3 % of all participants. This was achieved also with help of 12 grants supported by the International Visegrad Fund. Young generation of membranologists had an opportunity to discuss their results in a wide international forum and learn novel directions in the development of membrane processes and their applications. Their participation in the contest for extraordinary presentations was very active with 21 presentations of 19 students and young researchers. Eight presentations were awarded by an international jury. The European Membrane Society also supported the conference and granted free membership to the awarded students.

Three highlighted topics of conference were:

1. Membranes in production of energy and substances from renewable sources
2. Water and waste water treatment
3. Hybrid systems with membranes with emphasis to biotechnology.

Panel discussion on the highlighted topics showed important development in these areas with great potential for further development of science and applications.

Based on the response of participants during and after the conference, all its aims were fully achieved. It is important to continue organizing this meeting on triennial basis. It was decided that the next membrane science and technology conference of the Visegrad countries, PERMEA 2013, will be held in Poland.

This issue contains five papers presented at the conference PERMEA 2010. Two of them, Marták et al. and Koter et al. are dealing with mass-transfer through liquid membranes with and without chemical reaction and with their modelling. New approach to the regeneration of an ionic liquid containing solvent by molecular distillation is presented in the paper by Blahušíak et al.. A method for chlorinated hydrocarbons analysis in aqueous samples combining pervaporation through polymeric membrane and gas chromatography has been proposed by Rutkiewicz et al.. Gaspar et al. compared ultrafiltration ceramic capillary and tubular membranes with inserted static mixers in the treatment of wastewater contaminated with oil emulsions.

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