The 33rd International Symposium on Free Radicals
Olympic Valley, California, 2 - 7 August 2015

Conference Organizers: David Osborn, Craig Taatjes and David Chandler of Sandia National Laboratory and Robert Continetti of UC San Diego

International Committee Chair: Terry Miller (Ohio State University); Secretary: Robert Continetti (UC San Diego)

Report on the 33rd International Symposium

The 33rd International Symposium on Free Radicals was held on August 2-7, 2015 at Olympic Valley California. This meeting dates back to 1956, when it was first held in Quebec City, Canada, and is the premier international meeting focusing on the structure and dynamics of reactive free radicals. The initial motivation for the meeting was the development of detailed spectroscopic studies of reactive free radicals in the gas-phase and in cryogenic matrices. Free radicals and other reactive species remain topics of great interest today owing to the central role they play as reactive intermediates. The field has expanded to increasingly focus on the dynamics of radical reactions in addition to spectroscopy and kinetics. As we seek to understand complex environments in combustion, atmospheric chemistry, condensed phase phenomena and the interstellar medium in great detail, all of these techniques continue to play critical roles, and this meeting brings together the top researchers from around the globe to advance this important area of science. In the 33rd Symposium, the topics of the invited talks ranged from elegant spectroscopic studies of isolated species to the kinetics and reaction dynamics of free radicals relevant to combustion, atmospheric and interstellar processes.

Lead Conference organizer David Osborn gave a report on the 33rd International Symposium on Free Radicals to the International Committee. There were 112 registrants for the scientific program and approximately 18 accompanying guests (partners and children). As is the tradition of this scientific meeting, going back to the late 1950's, the regional origins of the scientific registrants were as follows: Asia (including Australia) – 16, Middle East – 1, North America – 65, and Europe – 30.

In the tradition of the FRS, the organizers took great care to ensure a broad geographic distribution for the invited speakers and hot topic talks. The scientific talks included 20 invited talks of 40 minute length and 21 hot topic talks of 20 minute length. The regional origins of the invited speakers were as follows: Asia (including Australia) – 3, North America – 11, Europe – 6. The regional origins of the hot topic speakers were as follows: Asia (including Australia) – 2, North America – 9, Europe – 10. In addition, there were four 10-minute hot poster talks, with two from the US and two from Asia (Australia). Two poster sessions with a total of 63 posters were held. Regarding gender diversity of the presenters, three invited talks and four hot topic talks were given by female scientists, representing a significant increase at the hot topic level usually given by younger scientists. There were 18 postdocs, 27 graduate students and 1 undergraduate student attending the meeting.

The arrangements for the conference venue and other activities were undertaken by the local organizing committee – no conference coordinator was retained. The registration cost for the meeting was $850, covering all conference costs, meals and the conference outing, that had to be paid up-front. The student/postdoc registration costs were the same, however, the organizers supported the travel expenses of students and postdocs who applied to present posters with a rebate of $400 to cover travel expenses, as well as one subsidy of $850 using funds from the International Journal of Chemical Kinetics. In addition registration fees were covered for the invited speakers at $850 per person, and for two invited speakers, registration and travel expenses were covered at $1780 per person. The registration fees included covering the excursion and banquet at a cost of approximately $155/person. The costs of accommodation

ranged from $273.17 for 5 nights for students/postdocs in shared living quarters to $929.50 for 5 nights in a single room.

External support for the meeting was generated from the US Department of Energy ($15,000), the US Army Research Office and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research ($22,753 combined) and the Oak Ridge Associated Universities ($4,000). External support from scientific journals included the Journal of Chemical Physics ($1,500), Chemical Physics Letters ($2,000) and the International Journal of Chemical Kinetics ($850). Industrial support included Morpho Detection ($960), Altos Photonics ($1,500), and LaserVision ($500). In addition, support was received from the Barbara Mez-Starck Foundation ($1,080) following the presentation of the Mez-Starck Prize to Lucy Ziurys on the first night of the meeting. Sandia National Laboratory and the University of California, San Diego both provided considerable staff time, including the management of the federal grants waiving of the off-site overhead at UCSD.