

OMCOS 17 – Final Report

2013 marked the year that OMCOS returned to Fort Collins for the first time since its inception in 1981. The occasion was marked by a slew of spectacular talks by preeminent scientists from around the world, strong participation from industry and academia, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty. Above all else, we were fortunate to have the organizer of OMCOS 1 on hand to kick things off.

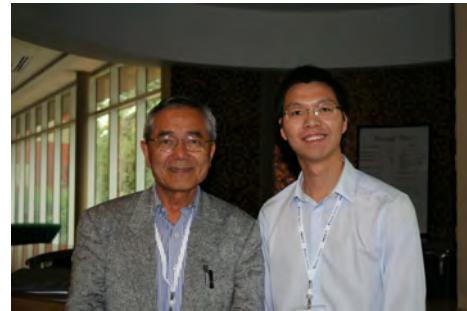
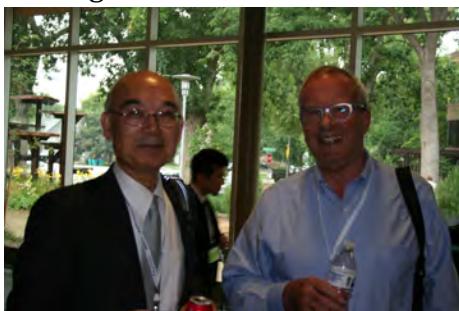


Over 550 attendees gathered in Fort Collins from July 28 until August 1, 2013. They arrived representing more than 35 countries. 52% of the attendees were graduate students. They gathered to watch presentations from 7 Plenary Lecturers and a further 12 Invited Lecturers. In addition, two award lectures were given and another 12 Short Talks were selected from the contributed posters.



The conference enjoyed tremendous support from various groups. Industrial support was received from Amgen, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Evonik Industries, Grace, Advion, Wiley, Abbvie, Pfizer, Gilead, Strem and Sigma Aldrich. Thieme continued its strong support of this conference series. The Royal Society of Chemistry was a sponsor as were the Department of Chemistry and the College of Natural Sciences at Colorado State University. The Yen Chuang Foundation also continued its long-standing support of OMCOS with its funding of the OMCOS Award.

The event started Sunday night with a retrospective by the co-Chair of OMCOS 1, Lou Hegedus, who regaled us with tales and pictures of the original event in 1981. As it turned out, a handful of individuals were present in Fort Collins at both OMCOS 1 and OMCOS 17 besides Lou: Professor T.-Y. Luh was at both as was Nobel Laureate Ei-ichi Negishi.



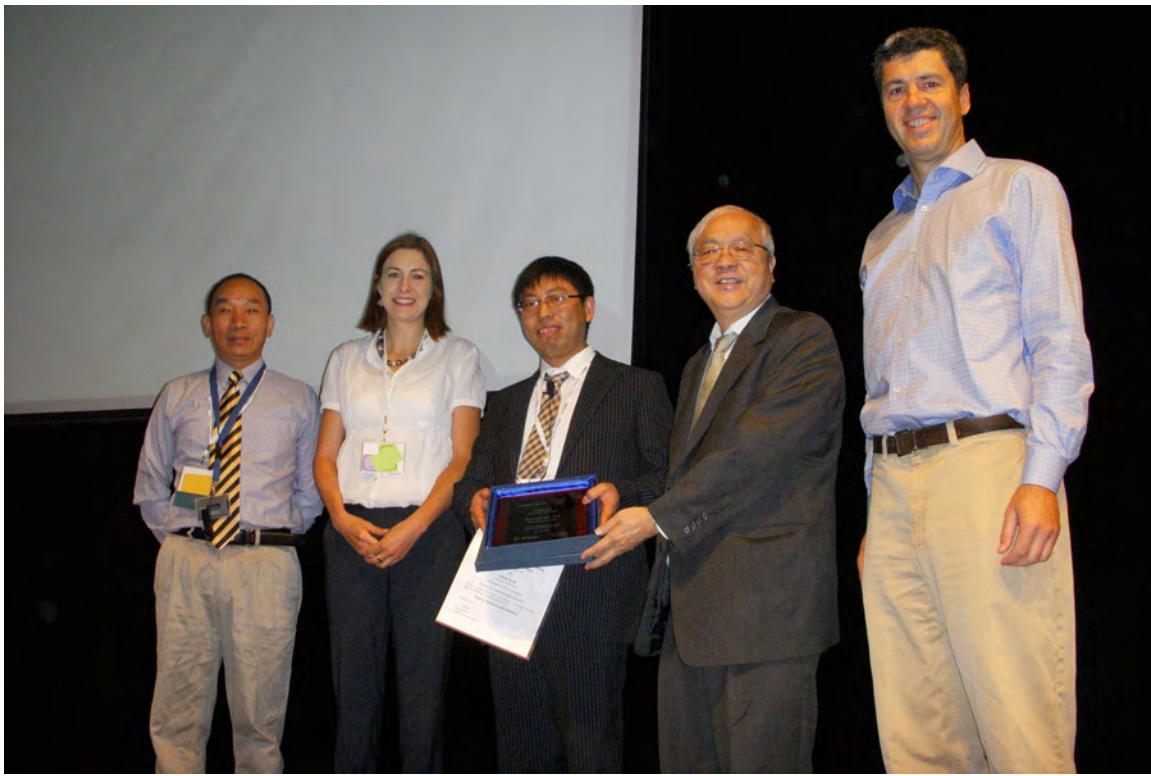


The scientific program began in earnest Monday morning with the first Plenary Lecture delivered by Erick Carreira. Six other Plenary Lectures were presented over the course of the week including Tamejiro Hiyama, Geoffrey Coates, Paul Knochel, Gregory Fu, John Hartwig and Chien-Hong Cheng. In addition, there were 12 Invited Lectures from Louis Fensterbank, Masahiro Murakami, Matthew Gaunt, Véronique Gouverneur, Nicolai Cramer, Mark Lautens, Guy Bertrand, Kazushi Mashima, Jose Mascarenas, Christina White, Aiwen Lei and Matthew Sigman. As is OMCOS tradition, a further 12 lectures were selected from the contributed Posters: Daniel Weix, Yoshiya Fukumoto, Xuefeng Jiang, Dipannita Kalyani, Seunghoon Shin, Naohiko Yoshikai, Etienne Derat, Koji Hirano, Jennifer Shomaker, Xavi Ribas, Sébastien Lemaire, and Weiping Tang were selected.





We were again fortunate to have the OMCOS Prize and the Prize winner, Professor Zhang-Jie Shi, delivered the Award lecture on Wednesday. The Prize is co-sponsored by Springer and the Yen Chuang Foundation.



In addition, this year we had a second Award Lecture: Professor Huw Davies of Emory University received the EROS Reagent of the Year Award for 2013. Professor Davies gave a lecture on his reagent. The lecture and the Award were sponsored by Wiley.



A rich poster session totaling ~350 contributions was also part of this meeting. We had extraordinary support from sponsors for poster prizes and delivered 16 individual prizes. The organizing committee is grateful to Thieme, Strem, Wiley, Organic Reactions, IUPAC, Angewandte Chemie and Springer for supporting the prizes.

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As is typical of OMCOS conferences, Tuesday afternoon was reserved for some excursions. A large group embarked on several hikes within nearby Rocky Mountain National Park. A second excursion had several groups rafting down the Poudre River, while a third group had a more relaxed afternoon tasting beers at Anheuser Busch and Fort Collins' own New Belgium Brewery.



A Speaker's Dinner sponsored by Thieme was held on Tuesday night at a local establishment, while the traditional conference banquet was held on Wednesday night. The latter event drew a huge crowd as we thanked all the contributors to the event, from speakers to organizers to administrative assistance and to the students that help keep the event on track and on schedule.

The week ended with fine talks on Thursday morning, the awarding of the Poster Prizes, some concluding remarks and the passing of the baton. From Fort Collins, the meeting moves to Sitges in Spain with Antonio Echavarren as chair. Best of luck to Antonio and we will see you in Spain in 2015!

