

Zing Main Group Chemistry conference: Mexico, Feb 15-18, 2009

The intention of the 2009 conference was to cover all aspects of main group (s- and p-block) chemistry with an emphasis on the interaction of this area of inorganic chemistry with other branches of chemistry, including organic synthesis, new materials (including polymers), coordination chemistry and catalysis. This goal was achieved by the broad range of topics covered in both the invited lectures and the contributed talks. These topics included the use of bimetallic s-block complexes in metallation of hydrocarbons, activation of elemental phosphorus and arsenic, new boron-containing heterocycles for applications as n-type semiconductors, macrocyclic phosphorus compounds, block copolymers incorporating polysiloxanes or polyphosphazenes, hydrogen activation and storage materials, nickel complexes of superchalcogenides, the applications of phosphorus-selenium compounds in organic synthesis, and single-source precursors for generating metal semi-conducting metal chalcogenides as thin films or nanomaterials. In keeping with the goals the meeting also attracted another of participants who are primarily involved in main group chemistry but wanted to learn more about the area

The quality of the science was excellent throughout the meeting and the scheduling of the talks allowed a generous amount of time for free-wheeling discussion. Meals were eaten communally in one of the resorts restaurants allowing participants to continue these discussions and to get to know each other on a more personal basis. In the words of one participant: "By the time I came to give my talk on Tuesday evening I felt that I knew the members of the audience quite well". The sunny location makes for a very pleasant mid-winter break for participants from colder climates and the four-hour "mediterranean-style" breaks in the middle of the day allow for ample rest and relaxation before the late afternoon/early evening sessions begin.

Chairing the meeting was a pleasure. The Chair's responsibilities are limited to selecting the invited speakers and scheduling the scientific program. All speakers who were invited accepted the invitation and there were no last-minute cancellations. The Zing staff looked after registration and all the local arrangements in an efficient and friendly manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Tris Chivers (Chair Zing Main Group Chemistry conference, 2009)