

More than 500 participants from across the world gathered on the Georgia Tech campus for the 9th International Symposium on Functional π -Electron Systems (F- π -9), May 23 -28, 2010. The conference was organized by Professor Seth R. Marder and Jean-Luc E. Brédas, aided by the local organizing committee of professors Uwe Bunz, Ron Chance, David Collard, Bernard Kippelen, Joe Perry, Elsa Reichmanis, and Laren Tolbert. The conference was organized by COPE's Veronique Bredas assisted by Distance Learning and Professional Education (DLPE). The symposium started with a welcoming reception on Sunday evening at the MoSE Building and continued on Monday morning at the Ferst Center for the Arts where Keynote Speaker Roger Tsien (Nobel Laureate 2008, University of California, San Diego, USA) kicked-off four days of lectures, discussions, and poster sessions. The international forum provided researchers with an opportunity to discuss their new research and results in the context of conjugated polymer/oligomer synthesis, organic semiconductor materials, and photovoltaic and electroactive materials and devices.

The conference included plenary lectures from

Zhenan Bao, Stanford University, USA

Paul Burn, University of Queensland, Australia

Mario Leclerc, Université Laval, Canada

Hiroyuki Isobe, Tohoku University, Japan

Bert Meijer, Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands

And Invited Speakers:

Chihaya Adachi, Kyushu University, Japan

Harry Anderson, Oxford University, UK

Chantal Andraud, ENS Lyon, France

Ana Arias, Xerox PARC, USA

Peter Bäuerle, University of Ulm, Germany

David Beljonne, University of Mons, Belgium

Fabio Biscarini, ISMN Bologna, Italy

Graciela Blanchet, DuPont, USA

Bong Rae Cho, Korea University, Korea

Paulette Clancy, Cornell University, USA

Eugenio Coronado, University of Valencia, Spain

Xavier Crispin, Linköping University, Sweden

Luisa DeCola, University of Münster, Germany

Dennis Dougherty, California Institute of Technology, USA

Antonio Facchetti, Polyera Inc., USA
Richard Friend, University of Cambridge, UK
Dan Frisbie, University of Minnesota, USA
Robert Haddon, University of California at Riverside, USA
Samson Jenekhe, University of Washington, USA
Emil List, Graz University of Technology, Austria
Christine Luscombe, University of Washington, USA
George Malliaras, Cornell University, USA
Jenny Nelson, Imperial College London, UK
Greg Scholes, University of Toronto, Canada
Natalie Stingelin-Stutzmann, Imperial College London, UK
Timothy Swager, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
Kazuo Takamiya, Hiroshima University, Japan
Luisa Torsi, University of Bari, Italy
Scott Watkins, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia
Xiaowei Zhan, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
Xi Zhang, Tsinghua University, China

The conference also had over 300 contributed talks and posters. Representatives from various societies and journals attended the conference including from the American Chemical Society, Royal Society of Chemistry, Nature Chemistry and Nature Materials which published a short article highlighting the conference.

This years award winners were: 1st Prize, Chemical Science, Egle Puodziukynaite, University of Florida; 2nd Prize, Journal of Materials Chemistry, Roland Gresser, TU Dresden; 3rd Prize, Polymer Chemistry, Christiane Falkenberg, TU Dresden; Chemical Communications, Thomas Holcombe, University of California, Berkeley; Chemical Society Reviews, Elena Galán, University of Zaragoza, Spain (spent 6 weeks in the Marder group).

AFOSR support allowed organizers to help cover travel expenses of five invited speakers and registration for four graduate students.

The F- π -10 Conference will be held in Beijing, China, Oct. 13- 17, 2011.