

# Preface

“Colloids 2011” – the first multi-day conference on the topic of colloid science held in the UK for many years – took place in the purpose-built De Vere conference centre in the heart of Canary Wharf, London, from July 4th to 6th 2011. Jointly organized by the RSC Colloid and Interface Science Group and the SCI Colloid and Surface Science Group, it was designed as the perfect opportunity for UK and international researchers interested in colloids and interfaces to meet, present and discuss issues related to current developments in this field. Canary Wharf is the centre of London’s business district and the many bars and restaurants within the vicinity of the conference venue made for an equally enjoyable social setting.

The conference had over 250 delegates, from all across the world – good representation from Japan, China, Australia, USA, France, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Spain, Poland, Georgia – as well as a substantial number of UK based researchers. Lectures, organised into three parallel sessions, numbered 100 ordinary presentations, 12 Keynote and 4 Plenary lectures. The conference also hosted the new Thomas Graham Lecture, created to recognise a scientist who has already made a distinguished contribution to the field of colloid science, with the prospect of a further 15+ years of active research to come. The first ever Thomas Graham Lecture was awarded to Prof Colin Bain (University of Durham) for his outstanding work on the characterisation and properties of interfaces and adsorbed layers. The conference also had about 75 poster presentations that ran in conjunction with a successful exhibition.

This Special Issue of “Progress in Colloid and Polymer Science” collects together a selection of 20 papers mostly presented during the Conference. The papers included cover the wide variety of topics from fundamentals in colloid and interface science to industrial applications. The current Special Issue reflects also an international character of the Conference.

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