

El Grupo Portugués del Carbono (Grupo do Carbono @ SPQ)

The Carbon Group of the Portuguese Chemical Society (Grupo do Carbono @ SPQ)

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The Carbon Group of the Portuguese Chemical Society (Grupo do Carbono@SPQ) was set up in September 2015, upon the request of a number of members of Sociedade Portuguesa de Química (SPQ) from the Universities of Porto, Aveiro, Coimbra, Lisboa, Nova de Lisboa and Évora, and also from

the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, with research activities in the carbon field. An ad-hoc Steering Committee, under the leadership of the author, assumed the coordination of the starting activities of the Carbon Group.



Figure 1: Logo of the Carbon Group of the Portuguese Chemical Society (SPQ)

In 2016, the Carbon Group applied for membership to the European Carbon Association (ECA), becoming a full member in 2017.

The 1st Meeting of the Carbon Group was organized in Porto (12-13 June, 2017). The President of the Spanish Carbon Group (GEC), Prof. María Jesús Lázaro Elorri, was invited for the opening session. The Scientific Program included two Plenary Lectures, five Key-note Lectures, and the presentation of 90 communications (13 oral presentations and 77 posters). The meeting was attended by 102 participants, a very promising start, indeed!

The Plenary Lectures were presented by Prof. Nuno Peres (Univ. Minho), "Plasmonic Effects in Graphene", and Prof. Francisco Rodríguez Reinoso (Univ. Alicante), "The unique versatility of carbon materials". The Key-note Lectures were: "Doped graphene and composite carbon materials as electrocatalysts towards Pt-free fuel cells" (María Jesús Lázaro); "Nanocarbon hybrids grown by microwave plasma CVD and their applications" (Florinda Mendes da Costa); "Activation with carbon dioxide or air: Which is better?" (Peter Carrott); "Carbon based materials: applications in chemical catalysis and electrocatalysis" (Cristina Freire); and "Properties of carbon materials for catalytic wet peroxide oxidation" (Helder T. Gomes). The General Assembly of the Carbon Group was held during the meeting, and the Board for the period 2017-2018 was elected as follows: José Luís Figueiredo (President); Peter Carrott and Fernando Pereira (Vice-Presidents).

In 2018, the Portuguese Carbon Group organized the 8th International Symposium on Carbon for Catalysis, CarboCat – VIII (Porto, June 26-29), attended by

132 delegates from 18 different countries (<http://carbocatviii.eventos.chemistry.pt/>).

The Scientific Program included 3 Plenary Lectures, by Professors Graham Hutchings (Cardiff University, UK), Krijn P. de Jong (Utrecht University, The Netherlands) and Robert Schlögl (Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society and Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion, Germany), 4 Key-Note Lectures (Siglinda Perathoner, Italy; Magdalena Titirici, UK; Magnus Ronning, Norway; and Nathalie Job, Belgium), 33 oral communications and 85 posters.

The Board of the Carbon Group for the period 2019-2020 was elected as follows: Peter Carrott (President); José Luís Figueiredo (past President); Fernando Pereira (future President). The 2nd Meeting of the Carbon Group should have taken place in Évora, in 2019, but unfortunately Peter Carrott passed away on April 1st [1], and it was decided to postpone the meeting.

The Direction of SPQ has recently appointed Dr. Anabela Valente (Univ. Aveiro) as interim President of the Carbon Group, until the next General Assembly. She will organize the 2nd Meeting, which will take place in Aveiro in 2020.

The Carbon Group of SPQ is still *under construction*, but it is hoped that it will become consolidated in the near future. The main objective is to provide a *forum* for all the researchers that work in the field of carbon in its various aspects and allotropies, including chemists, physicists and materials scientists, as well as those that use carbon materials in any of their multiple industrial applications.



Figure 2: Group photo of the CarboCat VIII participants

References

^[1] J.L. Figueiredo, *Química* 2019; 43 (n° 153): 87 (<https://www.spq.pt/magazines/BSPQuimica/688>).