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Electrochemistry in Italy: A Special Section Devoted to the GEI 2013

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This special section of *ChemElectroChem* includes some invited or contributed papers presented at the annual meeting (GEI 2013) of the Electrochemistry Division of the Italian Society of Chemistry (SCI), which was held in Pavia from 22 to 26 September 2013.

Before giving more details on the contributions, let us spend some words on GEI 2013. The conference was organized around 14 oral sessions and 2 poster sessions. The oral sessions covered five topics: “*Electrochemistry and Energy*”, “*Electrochemical Methods*”, “*Models and Processes*”, “*Electrochemistry and Sensors*”, “*Electrocatalysis*”, “*Electrochemistry and Environment*”. A specific session was also devoted to the delivery of the divisional awards to young researchers. The most relevant scientific appointments of the meeting were indeed the two plenary lectures given by Bruno Scrosati (University of Ulm and Italian Institute of Technology, Rome) who delivered a talk entitled *Challenges in the Li/Air batteries*, and by Daniel Mandler (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) who

spoke about *Chemistry and Electrochemistry in Two Dimensions: From Langmuir–Blodgett Films to Monolayers and Polymeric Films*. Besides the plenary lectures, there were five keynotes, 59 oral communications, and 43 poster communications. The conference was attended by more than 100 scientists, most of them young researchers, post-docs and Ph.D. students, which testifies to the vitality and freshness of Italian Electrochemistry. A large part of the conference was devoted to energy, including applications in batteries, fuel cells (polymeric and solid oxide), and solar cells (chiefly dye-sensitized solar cells). A specific session on energy was organized in cooperation with the newly-appointed SCI inter-divisional group on Chemistry for Renewable Energy (EnerCHEM).

GEI meetings are interdisciplinary events bringing together electrochemists from different scientific/technological areas, in-

cluding physical and analytical chemists, materials scientists, chemical and environmental engineers. The papers reported in this special section of *ChemElectroChem* indeed reflect this cultural and scientific richness. Contributions span from basic works, including characterization of electron transfer in nanocrystals, and electrocatalysis mechanisms in metal nanoparticles, to more applied papers on materials for lithium/air batteries and DSSCs, as well as on catalysts for both PEMFCs and SOFCs. One paper is concerned with CO₂ capture by means of an ionic liquid-based system. The durability of an electrocatalyst for DEFC and the photoelectrochemical response of a DSSC are the topics of two more applied contributions. We thank ChemPubSoc Europe and Wiley-VCH for allowing us to present this work to the wide and qualified audience of *ChemElectroChem*, and we hope that our efforts can contribute to the improvement of scientific debate, chiefly on energy-related topics, as well as to the strengthening the Italian Electrochemistry reputation at the international level.

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President of the GEI 2013 Organizing Committee

Piercarlo Mustarelli obtained his Master's Degree in Applied Physics in 1983, a “Perfezionamento” Degree in Biophysics in 1987, and a Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1992. At present he is Associate Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Pavia. He has been visiting scientist at the Institute of Scientific Instruments of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic (Brno), Osaka National Research Institute (Osaka) and Warsaw Polytechnical University. He is an expert for the Italian Ministry of Industry for industrial projects evaluation. During the last five years he has obtained grants for more than 2 million Euros. He authored or co-authored about 200 publications in international journals, more than 300 contributions at international or national conferences, and two patents. Mustarelli's research interests span from the development of NMR instrumentation to the study of electrolytes and electrodes for lithium batteries and fuel cells, to (nano)biomaterials.



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