



Trieste, 19 September 2022

Dear Participants,

Despite its historic scale and intensity, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis did not refrain us to finalize in presence the fourth Joint AIC-SILS Conference in Trieste, 12-15 September 2022.

The event returned to take place in Trieste nineteen years after the first one, held in July 2003.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we are very much thankful to the members of the Conference Steering and Scientific Committees in supporting and helping us in shaping an exciting and multidisciplinary scientific program.

The Conference hosted 13 micro-symposia, which included multidisciplinary aspects on:

Modern Integrative Structural Biology; Understanding Advanced Functional Materials Through Operando Studies; Italy@EuXFEL; Frontiers in Mineralogy and Inorganic Geochemistry; Experimental Design & Analysis of Data; Crystallographic and Spectroscopic Advanced Tools Applied to Pharmaceuticals, Materials at Extreme Conditions: X-ray Crystallography and Beyond; Bright Radiation Sources and Novel Software Applications; Current Approaches in Structural Biology; Investigating Molecular Crystals: Methods and Application; Interplay between Crystal Growth and Advanced Characterizations for Materials Development; Nanostructured Materials; Science & Society: from Dissemination to Communication.

We hope that the selected topics provided you with a wealth of information and paved the way for new research collaborations.

It is fair to say that the conference has been a success!

Nearly 200 attendees have contributed in so many ways to turn this event into a smoothly running meeting with many very insightful contributions: 4 plenary lectures, 25 keynote lectures, 42 oral and 25 flash communications, 27 E-posters, 3 commercial presentations and a vibrant atmosphere for discussion and networking.

The Conference has greatly benefited from the support of institutional Patronages and from the commitment, generosity and interest of the Sponsors

Highlights of the Conference have been:

- "Mineralogy 2022" a global-scale initiative established under UNESCO sponsorship to celebrate the importance of Mineralogy among the basic sciences;
- The Round Table Discussion on "Horizon-Europe and the Future of Research Infrastructures: Next Generation of Scientific Instrumentation, Tools and Methods".

A particular emphasis has been placed on gender balance and on student and early-career research participation.

The Mario Nardelli AIC 2022 prize has been awarded *ex-aequo* to Paolo Pio Mazzeo, University of Parma, and to Marco Taddei, University of Pisa.

The SILS Young Scientist 2022 prize has been awarded to Alberta Terzi, Institute of Crystallography - CNR, Bari and the SILS "Carlo Lamberti" 2022 best PhD prize to Mariele Romano, Ludwig Maximilian University, München.

Rosaria Bruno, University of Calabria, Alessandro Grinzato, University of Padova and Daniela Mauro, University of Pisa were the recipients of the Fiorenzo Mazzi AIC 2022 prize for the best PhD thesis.

Lisa Baratelli, Tommaso Battiston and Luca Sironi, all from the University of Milano, were the recipients of the Fiorenzo Mazzi AIC 2022 prize for the best MSc thesis.

AIC and SILS generously provided 10 and 2 travel grants and complimentary registrations respectively to assist early-career investigators, post-docs and undergraduate students to attend the Conference.

Eldico Scientific presented to Matteo Melegari, University of Parma the prize for the best E-poster; CCDC presented *ex-aequo* to Francesca Menescardi, University of Genova, and to Davide Salusso, University of Torino the prize for the best flash contribution.

Meetings of the AIC Biological Macromolecule and AIC Young Crystallographer groups as well as the AIC and SILS Annual General Assemblies took place during the Conference.

The web master Guido Righini has designed the set-up of the contents of the web site and has succeeded in building a logical structure with user-friendly registration procedure and the total program including all abstracts online. Nicola Corriero and Teresa Sibillano have composed the Abstract Book.

The "green" crew of Luisa Barba, Angelo Chiatto, Giuseppe Chita, Andrea Caporale, Alberto Cassetta, Sonia Covaceuzach and Alessandro Pesaresi from the Institute of Crystallography CNR, Trieste and, Rita de Zorzi and Neal Hickey from the Department of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Trieste, are thanked and complimented for their enormous effort and effective contribution to welcoming and helping participants with registration and logistics.

We owe much gratitude to Silvano Geremia and Francesco Princivalle for selecting the Teatrino Basaglia situated in the Saint John Park, Trieste and the Department of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Trieste as the venues of the Conference. The staff of the social cooperative "La Collina", the Posto delle Fragole and Nuovo Savron have taken care of professional technical excellence and high-quality catering.

The pleasant performance by the Ricmanje Orchestra Wind Quintet enlivened the Welcome Party with the unmistakable atmosphere of the Mitteleuropa music.

The Conference Gala Dinner took place at the historical Café Tommaseo.

Finally, yet importantly, we are honored to pass the baton to the Organizers of the 2023 SILS Annual meeting to be held in Roma and of the 50° AIC congress to be held in Bologna, to whom we wish good work!

To all those who contributed to the success story of the fourth Joint AIC-SILS conference: Thank you for all your excellent work!

Doriano Lamba – Chair of the Organizing Committee
Federico Boscherini – Chair of the Scientific Program

Angela Altomare – President AIC

Cinzia Giannini – President SILS