

## Highlights from ECS Sponsored Meetings

### The XXVI Meeting of the Mexican Electrochemical Society and the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECS Mexican Section

The XXVI Meeting of the Mexican Electrochemical Society (SMEQ) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECS Mexican Section of ECS was held in Mexico City, from May 30 to June 3rd, 2011. The local organizing committee included Francisco Rodríguez Gómez (President), Atahualpa O. García, Vianey Torres-Mendoza, Sergio López-León, Fernando Flores-Álvarez, and students from the Corrosion Laboratory of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

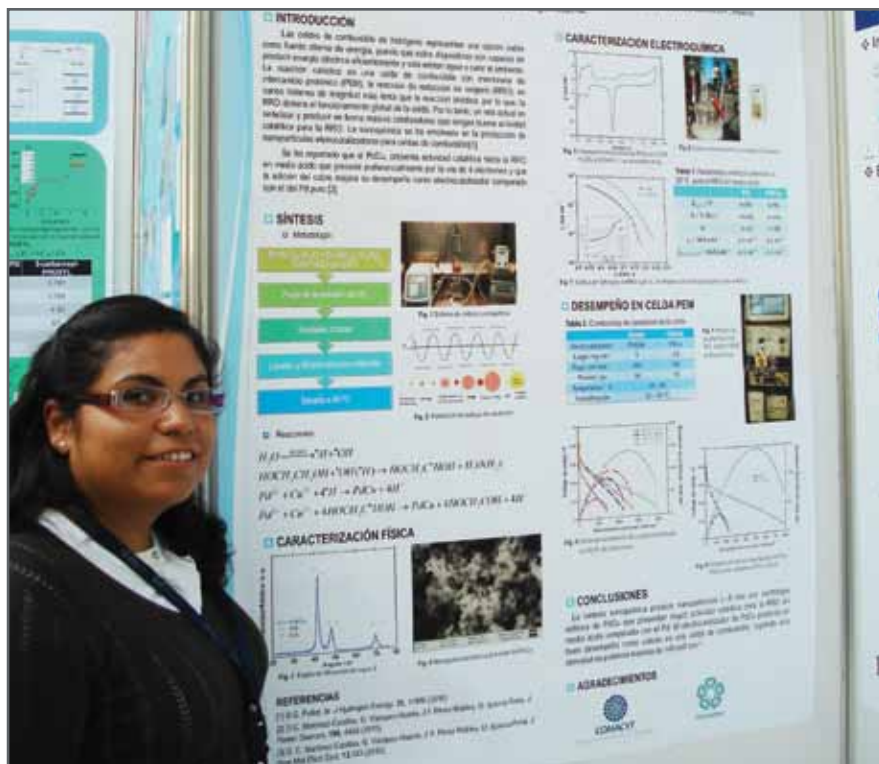
The meeting focused on the use of electrochemistry as a tool for sustainable development and had a broad audience, including members of SMEQ, individuals from industry, students, and distinguished international professors. There were more than 250 oral and poster presentations and six plenary lectures delivered by distinguished professors including Mark E. Orazem (USA), Ray Taylor (USA), Bernard Tribollet (France), Vincent Vivier (France), María Lorenza Escudero-Rincón (Spain), and Carmen M. Abreu-Fernández (Spain). Important topics that were covered included: conversion and energy storage, corrosion and surface treatment, education in electrochemistry, electrodeposits and surface modification, environmental electrochemistry, electro-analytical, molecular and bioelectrochemistry, electrochemical engineering and technological applications, nano-electrochemistry, and nanotechnology. The local organizing committee acknowledged and thanked Bernard Tribollet, representative of ECS, Mark Orazem, President and representative of the International Electrochemistry Society (ISE), and Vincent Vivier, for their willingness to come to Mexico to participate in the meeting.

The poster competition's best poster was awarded to Diana Cristina Martínez Casillas, a PhD candidate in chemistry sciences under the supervision of Omar Solorza-Feria, in the Department of Chemistry at CINVESTAV-IPN (Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute) in Mexico City. She received her BS degree in chemical engineering from UNITEC (Technological University of Mexico). Her PhD project is based on the synthesis, physical, and electrochemical characterization of novel Pd-based nanocatalysts, to be used for the oxygen reduction reaction in acid medium and as cathode electrodes in PEM fuel cells.

Martínez Casillas is also working on theoretical studies of oxygen reduction reaction on metallic Pd-based clusters, and has published two ISI papers and written two chapters in a Spanish electronic book on hydrogen-oxygen fuel cells. The prize, sponsored by ECS, includes a registration fee for the 220<sup>th</sup> ECS meeting in Boston Massachusetts, and travel support.

Other activities included the appointment of new members for the Mexican Electrochemical Society Committee, and the election of Facundo Ameraya-Calderón (CIMAV) as Vice-President for the 2011-2013 term. In addition to Prof. Almeraya, the new committee consists of Norberto Casillas (UDG), appointed President of the SMEQ; Juan Manríquez-Rocha (CIDETEC), Secretary; and Juan Manuel Peralta-Hernández (CIANTEC), Treasurer. Officers of the SMEQ include Marina E. Rincón (CIE-UNAM), Mario A. Alpuche (University of Nevada, Reno), and Bernardo Frontana Uribe (UAEM, UNAM).

In his inaugural speech the new President of the SMEQ, Prof. Casillas encouraged his Mexican colleagues to keep working hard to increase and strengthen the number of electrochemistry research groups in Mexico. He also recognized the advances of the SMEQ and presented awards to the previous committee members, including Manuel E. Palomar-Pardave (former President), Roel Cruz-Gaona (former Secretary), and Leonardo Bernal-Haro (former Treasurer). He also thanked the local organizing committee, the representative officers from ECS and ISE, as well as all the sponsors and invited speakers. Finally, he encouraged the participants to attend the XXVII Meeting of the SMEQ and the fifth Meeting of the ECS Mexican Section to be held in the city of Toluca, Mexico, during the last week of May 2012. ■



**DIANA CRISTINA MARTÍNEZ CASILLA** was the winner of the best student poster award at the joint SMEQ/MES meeting. The winning poster was entitled, "On the Sonochemical Synthesis of PdCu and Its Activity as Catalyst for the RRO in a PEM Fuel Cell."

## ECS Sponsors IC4N: From Nanoparticles and Nanomaterials to Nanodevices and Nanosystems



From *Nanoparticles and Nanomaterials to Nanodevices and Nanosystems (IC4N)* held its third iteration on the Greek island of Crete in June. Session Chair **KRISHNAN RAJESHWAR** (left) joined **PHAEDON AVOURIS** (center), a keynote speaker, and **STATHIS MELETIS** (right), IC4N organizer.



ECS sponsored the Best Poster Award at the IC4N meeting in June. From left to right are: **C. POLITIS** (Univ. Patras, Hellas, IC4N co-organizer), **HADIYAH-NICOLE GREEN** (Best Poster Award winner), and **STATHIS MELETIS** (IC4N organizer).

Sandy beaches, the blue Mediterranean Ocean, a beautiful seaside resort, and materials science all came together nicely in the Greek island of Crete in late June for the **3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference: From Nanoparticles and Nanomaterials to Nanodevices and Nanosystems (IC4N)** and the Cretan Workshop on Global Challenges and Opportunities for Nanotechnology. This latest edition of the conference series came on the heels of two very successful predecessors held in Halkidiki and on the Greek island of Rhodes respectively. Both these earlier conferences as well as the 3<sup>rd</sup> IC4N ([www.uta.edu/ic4n](http://www.uta.edu/ic4n)) were co-sponsored

by ECS and the latest edition was also co-organized by the European Federation of Biotechnology. The 3<sup>rd</sup> IC4N featured four keynote lectures, of which the one given by Phaedon Avouris (“Graphene-Based Electronics and Optoelectronics”) perhaps represented a topic most familiar to the ECS membership. The technical program featured both invited and contributed oral talks spanning eight parallel symposia ranging from Energy Conversion & Storage to Functional Nanomaterials and Nanomedicine/Biotechnology.

A vigorous and actively-subscribed poster presentation program at the conference featured 80-odd presentations

of which 13 were presented by U.S. students in a graduate student competition funded by the NSF. The Best Poster Award was sponsored by ECS.

All in all, this event fully fulfilled the over-arching goal set forth for the forum in identifying current barriers and promising research avenues in the area of nanoscience and nanotechnology. The pleasant surroundings, very congenial weather, and the high quality of the talks and posters further contributed to a stimulating environment for interactions and networking. ■

## In the **NEXT** issue of **INTERFACE**

- **DIELECTRIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** is the featured topic in the winter 2011 issue, guest edited by **Durga Misra**. Featured articles include “High k on High Mobility Materials,” by Durga Misra; “Progress on Ultra-Low Dielectric Constant Materials for Logic Devices,” by Uros Cvelbar; and “Noise,” by Purushothaman Srinivasan.
- Don’t miss the next edition of **WEBSITES OF NOTE** which gives readers a look at some little-known, but very useful sites.

- **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL 2011 MEETING IN BOSTON...** The winter issue will take a look at the happenings at the 220<sup>th</sup> ECS Meeting in Boston, including photos and stories from the first-ever **Electrochemical Energy Summit**.
- **TECH HIGHLIGHTS** will continue to provide readers with free access to some of the most interesting papers published in the ECS journals.

