



# CANCUN



## Mexico

### October 5-9, 2014

#### Moon Palace Resort

## Highlights from the Joint International ECS and SMEQ Meeting in Cancun

This was a joint international meeting organized by ECS and SMEQ (La Sociedad Mexicana de Electroquímica). This was the second meeting at the Moon Palace all-inclusive resort; the first was in 2006. At the meeting there were 2,299 presentations given in 51 symposia with attendance of over 2,100 participants.

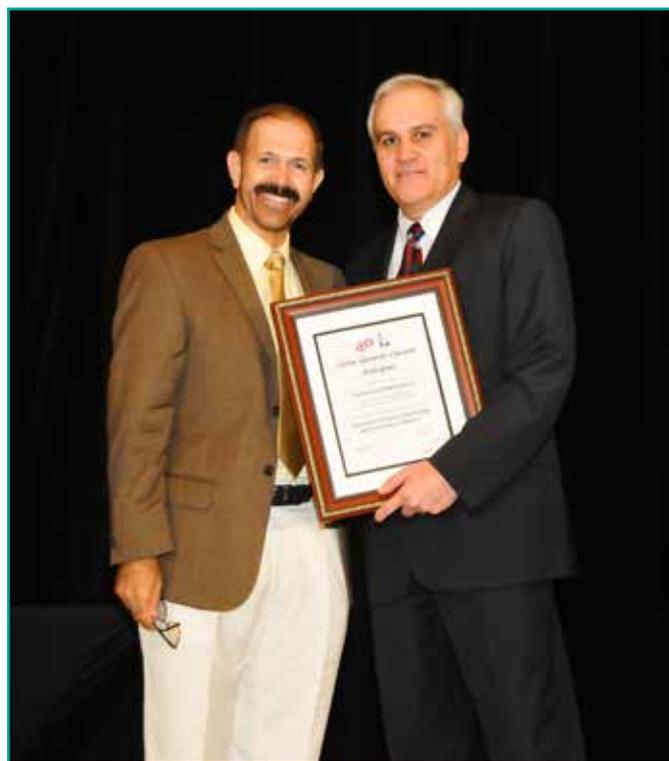
### Plenary Session

On Sunday evening **Noberto Casillas**, former President of Sociedad Mexicana de Electroquímica, welcomed everyone on behalf of SMEQ and ECS, and opened the meeting. He noted that over 2,100 attendees were on hand for this meeting, which was the 226<sup>th</sup> meeting for ECS, the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting for ECS Mexico Section, and the 29<sup>th</sup> congreso for SMEQ. ESC President **Paul Kohl** also welcomed the audience and presided over the awards presentations, which included 10 different awards with 41 winners.

The **Plenary Lecture** was given by **Victor Gerardo Carreón Rodríguez** and the title of his presentation was *Advances in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in Mexico*. Dr. Rodríguez is the Deputy Director of Planning and International Cooperation (Planeación y Cooperación Internacional) a unit of CONACYT (the Mexico National Council for Science and Technology). He explained how Mexico's goal is to develop the capabilities to transition toward a knowledge-based society and economy by growing the national investment in science, technology, and innovation; developing and strengthening highly qualified human resources; strengthening regional development; promoting exchange between academic research and the economic sector; strengthening scientific and technological infrastructure; and strengthening the STI capacities in biotechnology.



SMEQ and ECS leadership at the plenary session: (left to right) **FACUNDO ALMERAYA CALDERÓN**, SMEQ President; **PAUL KOHL**, ECS President; and **NOBERTO CASILLAS** former SMEQ President.



Former SMEQ President **NOBERTO CASILLAS**, (left) presented a plaque to **VICTOR GERARDO CARREÓN RODRÍGUEZ** (right) for giving the Plenary Lecture.



**RALPH BRODD** (third from left) at the special reception in his honor for winning the Edward Goodrich Acheson Award. Standing with Dr. Brodd are (left to right): **RICHARD ALKIRE**, **DOROTHY BRODD**, (Dr. Brodd), **HARIKlia DELIGIANNI**, **SOL KRONGELB**, and **LUBOMYR ROMANKIW**.

## Awards Highlights

The **Edward Goodrich Acheson Award** was established for distinguished contributions to the advancement of any of the objectives, purposes, or activities of ECS. This year the award went to **Ralph Brodd**, President of Broddarp. Dr. Brodd is an ECS Past President and an ECS Honorary Member. Dr. Brodd was honored for his exceptional service to the Society, and for inspiring leadership in innovation, commercialization, management, and public service activities related to battery science.

This year the winner of the **Charles W. Tobias Young Investigator Award** was **Adam Weber**, a staff scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He received the award for his research leadership that furthered the understanding of transport phenomena in electrochemical systems through the use of mathematical modeling and advanced diagnostic techniques. Dr. Weber presented his award address entitled “*Understanding Transport Phenomena in Polymer-Electrolyte Fuel Cells*” at the meeting. The Charles W. Tobias Young Investigator Award is given to a young scientist or engineer who has produced outstanding engineering work or scientific in fundamental

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**ADAM WEBER** (left) received the Charles W. Tobias Young Investigator Award from ECS President **PAUL KOHL** (right).

## Cancun Meeting Highlights

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ECS President **PAUL KOHL** (center, back row) inducted the 2014 Class of ECS Fellows. Seated in the front row holding their plaques (from left to right) are **FRED ROOZEBOOM**, **BRUCE PARKINSON**, **JOSE H. ZAGAL**, **GERARDINE BOTTE**, **PIOTR ZELENAY**, **ALVIN SALKIND**, and **JAY W. GRATE**. Standing in the back row without their plaques (from left to right) are **YASUHIRO FUKUNAKA**, **TOORU TSURU**, (President Kohl), **MICHAEL M. THACKERAY**, and **GEORGE BLOMGREN**. Missing from the photo are **RALPH J. BRODD**, **DIRK M. GULDI**, **SUDIPTA SEAL**, and **HARRY L. TULLER**.



ECS President **PAUL KOHL** (right) presents the Norman Hackerman Young Author Award to **RAHUL MALIK** (center), while his co-author and co-award winner **AZIZ ABDELLAHI** (left) waits to receive his award.

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or applied electrochemistry or solid state science and technology. The award is named in memory of Charles Tobias, the 69<sup>th</sup> ECS President, who is considered the “father” of electrochemical engineering.

The **Norman Hackerman Young Author Award** for the best paper published in the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* in the field of electrochemical science and technology went to **Rahul Malik** and **Aziz Abdellahi**, for their paper, “*A Critical Review of the Li Insertion Mechanisms in LiFePO<sub>4</sub> Electrodes.*” (JES, Vol. 160, No. 5, p. A3179)

The **Bruce Deal and Andy Grove Young Author Award**, an award newly established in 2013, was presented to acknowledge the best paper published in the *ECS Journal of Solid State Science and Technology*, for a topic in the field of solid state science and technology by a young author. **Konstantino Spyrou** was the recipient of this award for his paper, “*Hydrogen Storage in Graphene-Based Materials: Efforts Towards Enhanced Hydrogen Absorption.*” (JSS, Vol. 2, No. 10, p. M3160)

## 2014 Electrochemical Energy Summit

The 2014 **Electrochemical Energy Summit** took place in Cancun and presented attendees with the “Science for Solving Society’s Problems Challenge.” The multi-day workshop addressed critical technology gaps and water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The workshop was designed to foster collaborative problem solving among participants and apply the collective brainpower of the joint ECS and SMEQ meeting attendees to complex technical challenges that required integrated thinking and out-of-the-box solutions.

The Electrochemical Society  
**e** electrochemical energy  
**summit 2014**

The workshop began on Monday morning with opening remarks and brief presentations of the issues and priorities, and was followed by a question and answer session. Later that day, the participants were guided through facilitated brainstorming and working group sessions. The first day culminated with a summary of the brainstorming session and a solicitation for proposals. After the first day, the researchers had two days to develop their one-page pitch. On Thursday the chosen applicants gave short presentations to the panel of judges. The workshop wrapped up on Friday with the announcement of the winners. (See related article on page 18 in this issue of *Interface*.)

The following were members of the Steering Committee for this event: **Luis Gerardo Arriaga**, Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico en Electroquímica; **Kathy Ayers**, Proton OnSite; **Roque Calvo**, ECS Executive Director; **Dan Fatton**, ECS Director of Development and Membership Services; **Carl Hensman**, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; **Paul Kohl**, Georgia Tech and President of ECS; **Paul Natishan**, Naval Research Laboratory and Past President of ECS; **Brandy Salmon**, RTI International; **Brian Stoner**, RTI International; **E. Jennings Taylor**, Faraday Technology, Inc. and Treasurer of ECS; and **Eric Wachsman**, University of Maryland, Energy Research Center. ■



ECS President **PAUL KOHL** (right) presented an ECS Service Award to **TETSUYA OSAKA** for his outstanding contributions as ECS President during his 2013-2014 term.



ECS was pleased to bring back the ever-popular **Sunday Evening Get-Together**. The photo above shows attendees enjoying themselves at the event held outside at the Moon Palace, with the Caribbean as a backdrop.

## Cancun Meeting Highlights

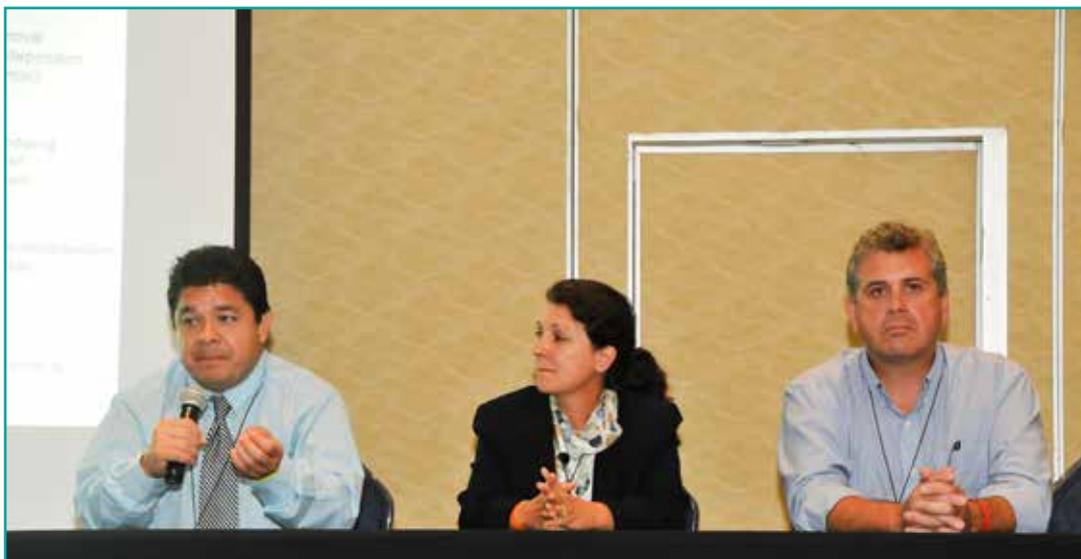
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On Monday night, more than 140 students attended a special invitation-only **Student Mixer** to relax and compare notes with their peers. The mixer was possible thanks to the generous support of Gelest.



On Wednesday, the sun rose at 6:40 a.m., but many were already up before dawn. Some tried to get a glimpse of the lunar eclipse, some were readying for early business meetings, and a group of enthusiasts assembled for the second **ECS Free the Science™ 5K Run**. (The first one took place six months earlier, in Orlando). **MATTHEW LAWDER** (men) and **RANA MOHTADI** (women) won the race. For Matthew it was his second win at the ECS run, and he plans to win again at the Chicago meeting in the spring and takes on all challengers. Proceeds from this event are used to benefit the ECS Publications Endowment.



As part of the career development series, ECS presented a **Panel of Professionals** on Monday, October 6. Attendees heard from three guest speakers, representing industry, academia, and government, each discussing the unique challenges and opportunities of pursuing a career in their chosen field. The panel was moderated by Jamie Noël (University of Western Ontario). The speakers, pictured above (left to right), were **LUIS GARFIAS** (Wood Group Kenny), **ELIZABETH PODLAHA MURPHY** (Northeastern University), and **RUDY BUCHHEIT** (The Ohio State University).

## Travel Awards

All Divisions and some topical symposia support travel grants, most of which are directed to students giving presentations at ECS meetings. The following students and young professionals received either a registration waiver and/or travel support to attend the Cancun meeting; or received a Divisional or symposium sponsored at-meeting poster award: Diana Morales Acosta, Andrei Akbasheu, Lik Ming Aw, Sriya Banerjee, Shuyu Bao, Elodie Beche, Michael Clark, Baratunde Cola, Kely Escorcia-Rojas, Maria Escudero-Escribano, Xin Fang, Eleanor Gillette, Paul Gondcharton, Colin Gore, Charlie Gosse, Rolf Grieseler, John Hart, Ramsey Hazbun, Chen-Pin Hsu, Yilin Huang, Sijia Jiang, Jr-Jian Ke, Yun-Hyuk Ko, Volker Kurz, Donghoon Kwon, Du-Yeong Lee, Robert Lillard, Fa-Sain Lo, Raciél Lopez, Xinyu Lu, Natalia Macauley, Damien Massy, Angela Mohanty, Tarun Mudgal, , Christopher Pellegrinelli, Joseph Rheinhardt, David Richardson, Marcel Rost, Ashley Ruth, Biplab Sarkar, Robert Spotnitz, Bharatkumar Suthar, Esther Takeuchi, Jianshi Tang, Gregory Timp, Tzu-Chiao Wei, Michael Workman, Ming Wu, Lu Yu, Yang Yu, and Yuanyuan Zhang.

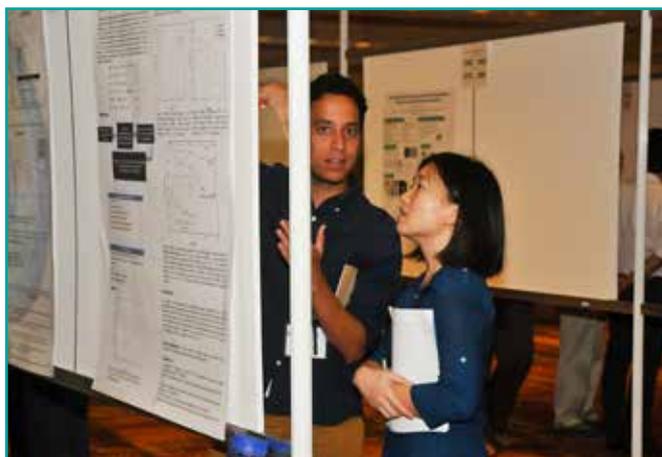
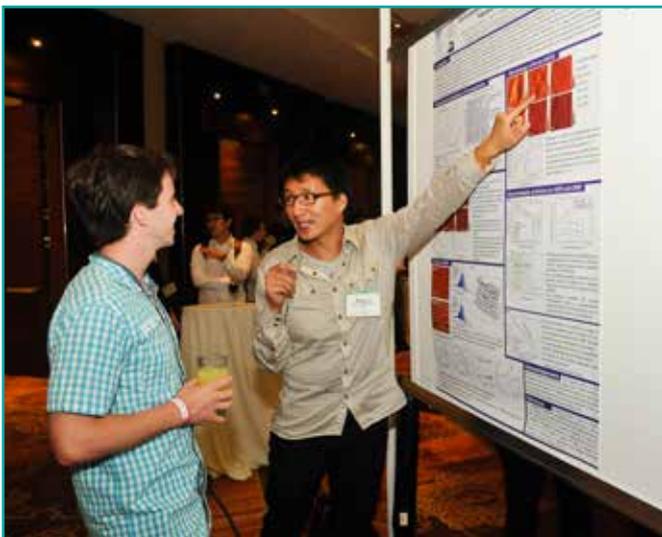
Find out how you can get a travel grant to your next meeting:

**[electrochem.org/travel\\_grant](http://electrochem.org/travel_grant)**

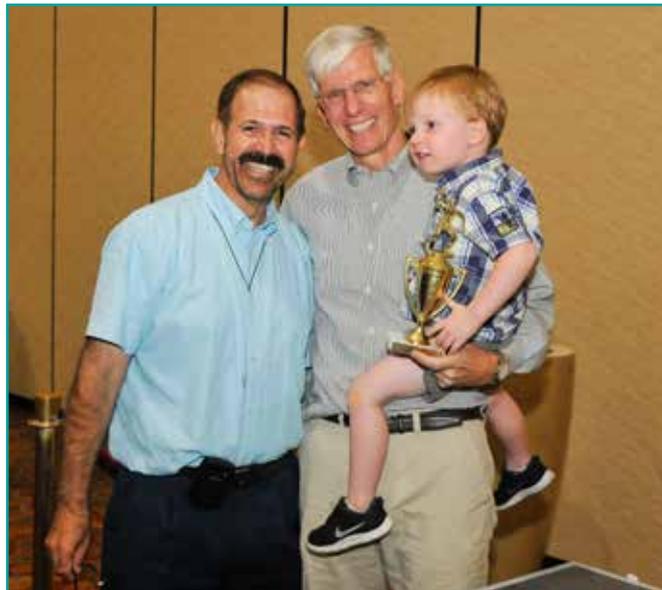
## Energy Summit Sessions



## Scenes from the Exhibit Floor and Poster Sessions



## The Table Tennis Challenge



ECS President Paul Kohl challenged the leadership of SMEQ to a ping-pong match. SMEQ was represented by its former president, Noberto Casillas. A hard match was played, but in the end ECS won and was awarded the trophy. The photo above at left shows **NOBERTO CASILLAS** (left) and **PAUL KOHL** (right) during the action. The photo on the right shows the two contestants with **COLE GILMORE**, Paul Kohl's grandson.



A festive and gallant dinner and dance party is a nice way to conclude an event. In Cancun, it was the **Cena Baile**, arranged on Thursday evening, before the guests departed on Friday. The dance party was set on a terrace facing the sea. A live band entertained the guests at this special event.