

**Final report for the year 2019**  
**following the IUPAC Project #2018-031-1-400**

**23<sup>rd</sup> UNESCO/IUPAC Postgraduate Course in Polymer Science**

Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic

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In the year 2019, seven months (January – July) of the 23<sup>rd</sup> run of the Course and three months (October – December) of the 24<sup>th</sup> run were completed.

10 participants from the following countries finished the 23<sup>rd</sup> run: Mexico, Croatia, Tunisia, China, Ukraine, and India (October 2018 – July 2019, see List of participants in attachment). In March 2019, a mid-term seminar, Project Meeting, was held, during which the students reported on preliminary results of their respective research projects. A special guest Dr. René Zelený from the Czech Commission for UNESCO by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the CR attended the Project Meeting. At the beginning of the meeting he gave a presentation about activities of the Czech Commission for UNESCO in the Czech Republic.

As a part of the celebration of the **centenary of IUPAC in 2019**, we joined within the UNESCO/IUPAC Course in a Global Women's Breakfast. The event was titled "Empowering Women in Chemistry: A Global Networking Event" and was held on a single day – February 12, 2019. At our local meeting with a subtitle "**Women through the UNESCO/IUPAC Postgraduate Course in Polymer Science**" we welcome 25 participants. As former graduates of the Course, three women at different stages of their individual careers talked about their career progress, motivation and also about the dissimilar opportunities for women in science in different parts of the world.

<https://www.imc.cas.cz/events/unescoiupac/uniupevents>

The final reports of the Course participants were given at the international **workshop "Career in Polymers XI"**, which was organized by the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry CAS in Prague from 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The workshop was aimed at young scientists and PhD students at the start of their professional career and covered all aspects of polymer science – chemistry, physics, characterization and applications of polymers. Abstracts were published in Book of Abstracts, Workshop Career in Polymers XI., published by the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry CAS, ISBN 978-80-85009-94-1 (in attachment Book\_of\_abstracts\_2019.pdf). The Course concluded at the end of July 2019. Four of the Course graduates have started PhD studies at universities in the Czech Republic. **The paper about the 23<sup>rd</sup> run of the Course** was published at the web pages of the Czech Academy of Sciences (in Czech language).

<http://www.avcr.cz/cs/veda-a-vyzkum/chemicke-vedy/Polymerni-vedy-v-Akademii-ved-pritahuji-mlade-badatele-z-celeho-sveta>

The financial support by the Polymer Division of IUPAC was used to fund one part of the accommodation expenses of the participants of the 23<sup>rd</sup> run of the Course.

In October 2019, the 24<sup>th</sup> run of the Course has begun. Out of a large number of applicants, 11 have been accepted. They came from the following countries: Columbia, Mexico, Poland, India, Russia, Nepal, Brazil, Tunisia, and Philippines. All of the Course participants introduced their respective research projects at the Welcome Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

The 25<sup>th</sup> run of the Course is being prepared: the research project topics were announced, more than 40 applications were collected and assessed. The new run of the Course will commence in October 2020.

Cumulative results of the 23 runs completed by the end of the year 2019 are: 198 graduates from 24 countries; more than 500 publications in international journals, with more than 10000 citations and many communications at international meetings. Since January 2019, there have been **34 published publications in impacted journals** (all as of July 2020). These data are collected for participants from the year 2016 to 2019, i.e. a maximum of 3 years after participant finished the Course (List of papers in attachment).

Detailed information on the Course can be found at the address:  
[http://www.imc.cas.cz/en/umch/kursy\\_unesco\\_iupac.htm](http://www.imc.cas.cz/en/umch/kursy_unesco_iupac.htm)

Prof. Pavel Kratochvíl (Task Group Chair)

Hana Studenovská, Ph.D. (Coordinator of the Course)

Prague, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020