



Report on the CERC3 Young Research Scientists Meeting

„Functional Molecular Nanostructures“ !FunMONA!

in Baden-Baden, Germany, from 02.05.-04.05.2005

The CERC3 Young Research Scientists Meeting “Functional Molecular Nanostructures” comprised 35 active participants from 15 countries and, in addition, two senior researchers (Prof. Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Strasbourg, France and Prof. Silvio Decurtins, Berne, Switzerland). Unfortunately, two participants (respectively one from Sweden and Austria) renounced their participation due to conflicting schedules. Despite the support of ESF and considerable effort invested in inviting, finally only one participant from the “new” European Countries attended the meeting (from Czech Republic).

19 participants from overseas or with longer travel trajectories used the possibility of early arrival already at 1st May 2005. The official part of the meeting started the 2nd May 2005 at 12:30 a.m. with the welcome words of the organizer, Dr. Mario Ruben, Research Centre Karlsruhe, and the official of the German Science Foundation (DFG), Dr. Torsten Hotopp. The scientific part was generally organized into oral 15+5 minutes contributions of the participants and 45 min presentations of the senior researchers. Thereby, the first day was entirely dedicated to the topics “Molecular Magnetism” and “Nanomaterials”, the second to “Molecular Electronics” and “Molecular Optotronics”, while the last one covered the theme of “Molecular Motors”.

During the first day, the sessions lasted until 8 p.m. and were concluded by a joint dinner in the hotel. The scientific part of the second day was started at 9 a.m. and was followed by a social activity in the late afternoon. During this activity, all participants went together by bus to Strasbourg, one of the European capitals, and visited there the cathedral, the medieval and the European quarter of the town. The day was concluded by a relaxed dinner in a French restaurant close to the European Parliament.

The last day, Wednesday, started at 9 a.m. and the scientific part concerning the “Molecular Motors” was lead until 12.30 a.m.. Some concluding remarks by the organizer set the final accord of the meeting and all participants left the hotel the same day.

The atmosphere was very constructive and, especially the last day, was characterized by open and ambitious scientific discussions during the meetings and coffees breaks. Several scientific collaborations might spin up as issue of the work shop. A conference fee of 580,- Euro was collected at the place with the announcement to be reimbursed together with the travel subsidiaries by the National Agencies (except the case of all Italian, one Spanish and one East European participant).

Mario Ruben