

Dear Plasma Spectrochemist, dear Colleague,

It is my honour and pleasure to invite you to the 2019 European Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry to be held in Pau, France, from February 3 to 8, 2019. The EWCPS-2019 will be the 18th event in this well-established series of successful meetings organized in uneven years by European research groups alternating with the US conferences organized by Professor Ramon Barnes in even years.

The Winter Plasma Spectrochemistry Conferences bring together the major figures in the field of plasma spectrochemistry and about 500 participants to promote exchange on all the topics concerning analytical plasma spectrochemistry and related mass and emission spectrometric techniques, including fundamentals and instrumentation, sample introduction techniques, glow discharge, laser ablation, isotopic analysis, speciation and metallomics, quality control and industrial applications.

Several outstanding plenary, keynote and heritage speakers have already confirmed their participation. In addition, we will offer a number of special sessions, workshops and technical short-courses taught by renowned experts. The EWCPS-2019 will host the exhibition where several companies will introduce and present their latest products in a warm and convivial atmosphere.

PhD students seeking to share and expand their experiences in plasma spectrochemistry will have a chance to win one of 12 grants (covering the conference registration fee, accommodation and a ticket to the Hot Plasma Party) and give a a high-impact lecture.

Two prizes (2019 European Award for Plasma Spectrochemistry and the Rising Star Award for Plasma Spectrochemistry) sponsored by the Agilent Technologies and promoting analytical plasma spectrochemical developments and applications in Europe, will be presented to plasma spectroscopists at the different stages of their carrier.

The EWCPS-2019 will be held in Pau, an old royal city beautifully set between the mountains and the ocean, at the extreme southwest tip of France. Local gastronomy offers a real taste of the land, its flavours, quality products and authentic age-old recipes. It is particularly well known for its *foie gras*, *poule-au-pot*, duck confit and prestigious *Jurançon* and *Madiran* wines. The conference venue, the *Palais Beaumont*, is a magnificent modern congress center with its wonderful outlook of the Pyrenees.

The conference web site: https://winterplasma19.sciencesconf.org/ will be periodically completed and updated till the opening of the Conference on February 3rd, 2019. Please consult it regularly for the latest information!

Do not hesitate to join us for this memorable event full of outstanding science and networking, but also of fun, good food and music!

Ryszard Lobinski

Chair of the 2019 Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry

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