

Molecules, Supramolecules and Materials Conference

1st - 3rd October 2010

The Department of Chemistry, IIT Kanpur organized a conference titled 'Molecules, Supramolecules and Materials' in which nearly 60 researchers including 4 from abroad, participated. A large contingent of faculty and students from IITK also attended the conference.

There were 30 plenary and invited lectures which covered almost all areas of Chemistry. Some of the notable speakers included:

1. Dr. Sivaram from NCL Pune, gave the plenary lecture on controlled synthesis of functional polymers.
2. Prof. Biman Bagchi from IISc Bangalore gave the first invited talk of the academic program on the structure and dynamics of water in the hydration layer around protein and DNA.
3. Prof. Pierre Dixneuf from the University of Rennes spoke on the catalytic activation and functionalization of inert C-H bond.
4. Prof. Mark E. Tuckerman from New York University, USA delivered a lecture on hybrid organic/semiconductor structures.
5. Prof. E. Arunan from IISc Bangalore, initiated a discussion on the definition of hydrogen bond.
6. Prof. T. K. Chakravarty from CDRI, Lucknow discussed the challenges in drug discovery.
7. Prof. U. Maitra from IISc, Bangalore, presented recent work on the soft materials designed from bile acid analogous.
8. Prof. K. Bhattacharya from IACS, Kolkata, discussed the recent advances in femtosecond spectroscopy.

There were many other invited lectures which dealt with front-line research on chemical problems cutting across boundaries of physics, biology and materials science. There was also an extended poster session in the evening of 2nd October where researchers from both IITK and outside presented their work. Several contemporary topics like the synthetic aspects of molecules, weak interaction, self-assembly, functional materials, development of theoretical methodologies and computational applications for different physical and chemical problems and metal-organic chemistry were discussed.

A large number of participants were alumni of the department and for them it was also a time for renewal and reminiscence. In addition to the academic events, a morning walk was organized on 2nd October followed by breakfast at the student mess in Hall-4.