

Editorial

Selected Papers from 10th International Chemical and Biological Engineering Conference (CHEMPOR 2008)

Eugénio C. Ferreira and Manuel Mota

Institute for Biotechnology and Bioengineering, Centre of Biological Engineering, University of Minho, 4710-057 Braga, Portugal

Correspondence should be addressed to Eugénio C. Ferreira, ecferreira@deb.uminho.pt

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This special issue contains selected papers presented at the 10th International Chemical and Biological Engineering Conference (CHEMPOR 2008), held in Braga, Portugal, from the 4th to the 6th of September, 2008. The conference was jointly organized by the University of Minho, “Ordem dos Engenheiros,” and the Institute for Biotechnology and Bioengineering (IBB), with the support of “Sociedade Portuguesa de Química” and “Sociedade Portuguesa de Biotecnologia.”

Thirty years elapsed since CHEMPOR was held at the University of Minho, organized by T. R. Bott, D. Allen, A. Bridgwater, J. J. B. Romero, L. J. S. Soares, and J. D. R. S. Pinheiro. Professors Bott, Soares, and Pinheiro made part of the Honor Committee and were present in this 10th edition. The opening ceremony conferred Professor Bott with a “Long Term Achievement” award acknowledging the important contribution that he brought along more than 30 years to the development of the chemical engineering science, to the launch of CHEMPOR series, and especially his co-operation with the University of Minho.

The CHEMPOR series traditionally brings together both young and established researchers and end users to discuss recent developments in different areas of chemical engineering. The scope of this edition was extended to biological engineering research. One of the major core areas of the conference program was life quality, due to the importance that chemical and biological engineering plays in this area. “Integration of Life Sciences & Engineering” and “Sustainable Process-Product Development through Green Chemistry” were two of the leading themes with papers addressing such important issues. This was complemented with additional leading themes including

“Advancing the Chemical and Biological Engineering Fundamentals,” “Multi-Scale and/or Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Process-Product Innovation,” “Systematic Methods and Tools for Managing the Complexity,” and “Educating Chemical and Biological Engineers for Coming Challenges.” Papers selected for this special issue represent a good sample of the important themes that were addressed. We wish to thank the authors who have contributed to yield a high scientific standard to this special issue. We also extend our gratefulness to all reviewers through their dedicated efforts that have assisted us in this task.

This special issue contains six papers. Professor Bott’s inaugural lecture entitled “Meeting the Challenge” constitutes the first paper. It addresses the importance of the challenge to the scientific community regarding food and water supply for a rapidly growing world population and consequently the need for the effective waste and energy management in processing operations, particularly in the effectiveness of heat recovery and the associated reduction in greenhouse gas emission from combustion processes.

In the second paper entitled “Biofouling Control in Cooling Water,” Reg. Bott gives some examples of the effectiveness of different approaches to biofouling control by chemical or physical techniques or a combination of both, and the contribution to the control of greenhouse gas emissions. As stressed by Prof. Bott, unless suitable steps are taken, the accumulation of microbial deposits on the cooling water side of the steam condensers can reduce their efficiency and in consequence the overall efficiency of power production, with an inevitable increase in fuel consumption and hence in CO₂ production.

In the third paper, “Influence of Pyrolysis Parameters on the Performance of CMSM,” Campo et al. aimed at understanding the influence of pyrolysis parameters—end temperature, quenching effect, and soaking time—on carbon hollow fiber membrane properties obtained by pyrolysis of a P84/S-PEEK blend. Permeation experiments were performed with nitrogen, helium, and carbon dioxide. Results demonstrated that the highest permeances were obtained for the membrane submitted to an end temperature of 750°C and the highest ideal selectivity for an end temperature of 700°C. Furthermore, it was observed that the membranes quenched after reaching the end of the process revealed higher permeances than the ones naturally cooled.

In the fourth paper, “Influence of Different Cations of N₃ Dyes on Their Photovoltaic Performance and Stability,” Andrade et al. investigate the performance and stability of a N₃ dye modified by substituting two of its protons by potassium or sodium cations. Dye-sensitized solar cells incorporating the new dyes were evaluated under light soaking (1000 W·m⁻²) at 50°C. Photocurrent measurements demonstrated that proton substitution by potassium cations renders the system more stable. Further characterization of the potassium-based devices was performed by electrochemical impedance spectroscopy to investigate the charge transfer phenomena occurring at the different interfaces of the cells.

In the fifth paper is entitled “The kinetics of ampicillin release from hydroxyapatite for bones regeneration” by Ferreira et al. The aim of this work was to evaluate the application of hydroxyapatite as antibiotic delivery carrier. Adsorption kinetic models are compared to describe ampicillin release from hydroxyapatite, a material similar to real bones.

In the sixth paper entitled “Drop Distribution Determination in a Liquid-Liquid Dispersion by Image Processing,” Brás et al. present the implementation of an image analysis technique for the automatic identification of drops with different sizes in monochromatic-digitized frames of a dispersion of toluene in water within a transparent mixing vessel. An algorithm is proposed for the calculation of drop size and shape distributions for modelling liquid-liquid systems.

Eugénio C. Ferreira
Manuel Mota

Special Issue on Bioprocess Development for Biofuels and Bioproducts

Call for Papers

The increasing pursuit of green technology and renewable resource products has fostered a dramatic interest in biofuels and bioproducts globally. Primarily, this is due to the potentials displayed by biofuels and bioproducts in curbing current global warming issues through sustainable conversions of biomass into valuable consumer products. The development of biofuels and bioproducts creates pathways independent on petroleum but toward a more secure transport and manufacturing future with a lower greenhouse gas signature. In particular, biofuels and bioproducts have demonstrated the capacity to support the growth of agriculture, forestry, and rural economies, and to foster major new domestic industries such as biorefineries to make a variety of fuels, chemicals, and other products. Examples of these products include bioethanol, biodiesel, and biohydrogen for biofuels and a range of bioproducts from low-volume/high-value products to high-volume/low-value products such as biopolymers and renewable chemicals including propanediol and lactic acid. We invite authors to present original research articles as well as review articles that will stimulate the continuing efforts in assessing the potential of a range of new engineering technologies for producing biofuels and other bioproducts, including the economic and environmental impacts. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Algae biofuels and products
- Cellulosic bioethanol—biomass feedstocks, biochemical and thermochemical conversion, unit operations (pretreatment, fermentation, product separation), and lifecycle analysis
- Biodiesel production—feedstocks, conversion via enzymatic process
- Biohydrogen production—fermentation, photobiological and bioelectrolysis process
- Bioelectricity production via biofuel cells
- Bioproducts development—metabolic engineering of cellular systems for the production of novel bioproducts such as organic acids, surfactants, biobutanol and higher alcohols
- Environmental topics of relevance—carbon sequestration, bioremediation, and water recycle
- Bioethics and policy related to biofuels and bioproducts

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Manuscript Due	November 1, 2009
First Round of Reviews	February 1, 2010
Publication Date	May 1, 2010

Lead Guest Editor

Michael K. Danquah, Department of Chemical Engineering, Monash University, Wellington Road, Clayton, Victoria 3800, Australia; michael.danquah@eng.monash.edu.au

Guest Editors

Ravichandra Potumarthi, Bioengineering and Environmental Centre, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR), Tarnaka, Hyderabad 500 607, India; ravichandra@iict.res.in

Pogaku Ravindra, Department of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering, University Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu 88999, Malaysia; ravindra@ums.edu.my

Special Issue on Quality and Pollution Control Technologies for Water, Air, and Soil

Call for Papers

Environment is today a major issue in several countries. The changes to ecosystems, reported during the last decade, caused an awakening of the populations and of governments on the need to preserve environment. Therefore, new or stricter regulations on the release of pollutants or greenhouse gases are being implemented all around the world. Consequently, the follow-up and control of pollutants being rejected becomes necessary. Worldwide, the environmental market represents around 800 billion dollars and the global need for environmental technologies, able to control pollution in air, water and soil, is in continuous increase.

We invite authors to submit, for publication, original reviews or research papers conducted at a laboratory, pilot, or industrial scale, and using biological processes. Papers proposing new control technologies will also be accepted. The following areas will be covered by this special edition:

- Air pollution control
- Soil remediation
- Water and wastewater treatment

Before submission authors should carefully read over the journal's Author Guidelines, which are located at <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/ijce/guidelines.html>. Prospective authors should submit an electronic copy of their complete manuscript through the journal Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/> according to the following timetable:

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Lead Guest Editor

Josiane Nikiema, Department of Chemical/Biotechnological Engineering, Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada; josiane.nikiema@usherbrooke.ca

Guest Editors

Evans Chirwa, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0002, South Africa; evans.chirwa@up.ac.za

Yves André, Department of Energetic Systems and Environnement, GEPEA UMR CNRS 6144, École des Mines de Nantes, Nantes, France; yves.andres@emn.fr