

Summary

The EUROMAR 2009 took place in Göteborg, Sweden, between July 5 and July 9 on a university campus. The meeting was organized by the conference program committee chaired by Göran Karlsson and co-chaired by Martin Billeter. Eleven plenary lectures were held and 16 topics were covered in parallel sessions. Each session comprised an invited keynote presentation and three oral presentations predominantly by young researchers. During the conference, two poster sessions were organized and there was also a vendor exhibition. The funding from EMAR allowed a special focus on the participation of young scientists. In total, 129 young scientists registered at a reduced fee, an additional 62 young scientists were awarded a waived registration fee and 55 young scientists were awarded a travel grant. In total, the meeting attracted 463 participants.

2. Description of the scientific content and organization of the event

The date and place for the meeting was determined by the EUROMAR board at the board meeting in Sevilla 2007. The program committee was finally decided during the EUROMAR meeting in St Petersburg, 2008.

The venue for the meeting, the conference centre of the Chalmers University of Technology, was chosen by the local organizing committee in the autumn of 2008. This conference centre provides a main lecture hall for 450 people and a smaller hall for ca 200 people. It was estimated that this venue could host a meeting with ~600 participants, considering that all participants and vendors do not simultaneously participate at every presentation.

It was early decided that the EUROMAR 2009 should be organized in collaboration with a professional conference organizer. Tenders were asked from PCOs and Congrex was chosen. The offer from Congrex allowed a high degree of flexibility considering the local organization. Two scientific bodies, EMAR and the Swedish National Research Council sponsored the conference. This funding was used for the support of young scientists (reduced registration fee and travel grants) and for inviting plenary speakers, respectively.

EMAR funding was used primarily to increase the number of participating young scientists. This was achieved in three ways.

First, it was decided to decrease the registration fee for every young scientist. The contribution from EMAR was instrumental in defining a registration fee for young scientists very close to half of that for regular participants, SEK 2250 vs SEK 4375. Considering the exchange rate at the time of registration, 1 € ~10.65 SEK, this corresponds to a subsidy of € 200 per young participant.

Second, travel grants, in the range between €300 to €400, were available to young scientists submitting an abstract to the conference.

Third, a reduced registration fee (fee waived) were available to young scientists on the same grounds.

The results of the EMAR funding was very successful. In total, 191 young scientists registered at the conference at a considerably reduced fee. Of these, 62 applied for waived registration fee and 51 applied for a travel grant. All of these applications were supported.

Reduced registration fee for 191 participants @ €200	€24 200
Waiver of registration fee for 62 participants @ €211	€13 082
Travel grants for 55 young scientists	€ 17 600
Total cost for support of young scientists	€ 54 882

The total cost for the support of young scientists is slightly higher than the allocated EMAR funding, which was 51.000 €. The excess costs was taken from the conference budget.

Assessment of the results

The specific support of young scientists was very valuable in two aspects. First, the period of the conference was a period of world wide economic decline, and funds for conference participation were less abundant than usual. The EMAR support was in this respect extremely valuable.

The second aspect concerns the visibility of young scientists in general. At the EUROMAR 2009 conference, 25 presentations were invited, but as many as 46 presentations were selected from poster abstracts, predominantly presented by young authors. This allowed the young scientists to have a high degree of visibility at the conference, which substantially contributed to the dynamic scientific discussion which characterized the EUROMAR 2009 conference.

Final program

	Sunday 5	Monday 6	Tuesday 7	Wednesday 8	Thursday 9
		Runan	Runan	Runan	Runan
08.30	08.30	H al-Hashimi	D Goldfarb	B Reif	P Galvosas
09.15	09.15	J Wrachtrup	G Otting	F Neese	B Halle
10.00	10.00	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee
		Runan Palmstedt	Runan Palmstedt	Runan Palmstedt	Runan Palmstedt
10.40	10.40	Solution NMR	EPR	Solid State NMR	Paramagnetic
11.00	11.00	N Khaneja	M Bennati	A Böckmann	M Ubbink
11.20	11.20	Naumann	Vasos	Hinderberger	Paquin
11.40	11.40	Amero	Prandolini	Steinhoff	Dahlberg*
12.00	12.00	Pelupessy	Duckett	Potapov	Sandin
12.20	12.20				
12.40	12.40				
13.00	13.00				
13.20	13.20				
13.40	13.40				
14.00	14.00				
14.20	14.20				
14.40	14.40				
15.00	15.00				
15.20	15.20				
15.40	15.40				
16.00	16.00				
16.20	16.20				
16.40	16.40				
17.00	17.00				
17.20	17.20				
17.40	17.40				
18.00	18.00				
19.00	19.00				
	City Reception	Hospitality Suites	Hospitality Suites	Hospitality Suites	

Göran Karlsson