

100 European students participated at INASCON

Nanoscience students from iNANO, University of Aarhus and NCCR, University of Basel have organized the first nano student conference, INASCON. The conference was held July 7th-10th, 2007 and took place near Silkeborg in Denmark. In total 101 students from 18 universities in 9 countries participated – of these 86 students were from Frontiers partners. Most of the students were undergraduate students, while a few PhD students also participated.

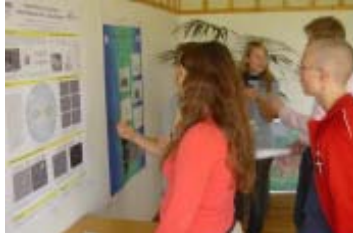
The program consisted of an excellent mixture of scientific talks, workshops and more student related issues. The scientific talks were presented by five leading international scientists, three of them taking up positions at Frontiers partners, and by eight of the participating students. All students presented their bachelor, master or PhD project through a poster session, and the three best posters were awarded with prizes.

During several workshops and discussion sessions themes like employment after uni, nanotoxicology, combining a scientific career with family life, the nano hype, nanoscience in public media were presented and discussed. During the social get-together one of the evenings, existing nano products were presented and demonstrated. Moreover, the possibilities for student exchange, especially through the Frontiers Joint Curriculum, were presented.



During his opening speech, Flemming Besenbacher (iNANO, University of Aarhus) touched upon nano educations in Europe. This was followed up by Aldrin E. Sweeny (Department of Teaching & Learning principles, University of Central Florida), who spoke about the challenge in teaching people at all levels about nanoscience. Later on a workshop on nano education allowed the students to discuss their point of view on the subject.

The main sponsor of the conference was Frontiers, however the organizers had managed to find coverage for approximately half of the budget through other sources (Novartis, Roche, Merck Serono, Ciba, Syngenta, DUF, Swiss Nanoscience Institute, Fabrikant Mads Clausen Fond, and Karl Pedersen og Hustrus Fond).



Postersession

The conference was very successful and both participants as well as the invited speakers expressed their admiration for the work performed by the organizing committee (Frank Zoller, NCCR; Géraldine Geux, NCCR; Patrick Bosshart, NCCR; Johan F. Kraft, iNANO; Kasper Jahn, iNANO; Line H. Rude, iNANO and Thomas Dyrland, iNANO). Moreover, the invited speakers were very impressed by the high level of engagement by all the participants. In conclusion, the conference may be recapped by a citation from the industrial speaker: *"...indeed it was a great pleasure, lots of really interested and bright people. Very promising for the future."*

For more information, see www.INASCON.org

Signe Osbahr
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