

# Balticum Organicum Syntheticum, BOS-2016

Re: BOS 2016 RIGA APRES PREAMBLE & OVERVIEW

Ispējimas, Brīdinājums, Ettevaatus, Warning!



According to the well-known dictum, a photo (even digital) is 1,000 words. Therefore, the words below may not give the same impression as the photos taken by the best photographer whose work I have seen and whose photos you will find in <http://www.boschem.eu/> . However, although I



hesitate to say, the words may give additional imagery and further your thought.



**Overture** (with reference and appreciation for the instructive brief finale concert by Nuno Maulide at the Closing Ceremonies)

- On behalf of all BOS Committee members, I write somewhat late but thus hopefully with more reflection. Part of my delay is due to a visit (emotional as always) with my relatives in Vilnius.
- We hope that this piece will have at least your scan-interest since ...
- We will know what has been read. How? Because there are some questions, especially for the invited speakers, for response. 😊

**Overview of BOS 2016 (for our continuing goals, see the Welcome message in the PROGRAMS AND ABSTRACTS booklet)**

- We set out with determination to highlight the impact of biology (or chemical biology, in the au courant term) on chemistry (or specifically, the interaction and overlap of biology and organic synthesis).
- BOS has become recognized as a conference where equal due is given to industrial and academic chemists. This time we failed: only Dalby, Norrby, Schunk were industrial representatives... but there was a recent industry → academia transfer and another who straddles the university-industry fence (your guesses).
- Another BOS tradition is to invite chemists from the three Baltic States for lectures. This time we highlighted the chemistry of Riina Aav, Maris Turks, and Inga Čikotienė. But, as we learned, early and lately, we also had speakers of Baltic parentage: Emily Balskus (Lithuania), Suzanne Blum (Latvia, Lithuania) and there were other mentions in personal conversations of possible heritages. Europe is small.
- The committee was always cognisant that more female scientists should be part of our invitees. Thus, as pointed out by Peteris at the Closing Ceremonies, 5 lady chemists spoke (Aav, Balskus, Blum, Čikotienė, Reisman), 21% of the speakers.

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- BOS also attempts to bring recognized chemists for interaction with speakers, participants, and, especially, students. This year we had Professor Makosza, whose presence was strongly felt by his penetrating questions.
- BOS cannot happen without the support of industrial sponsors (attachment: BOS 16 Thanks the following), some of which have been part of our conferences from the year 2000 beginning. Little needs to be said except a sincere thank you to all. A distinct thank you to Thieme Verlag who, via their representatives, Susanne Haak and Julia Stoezer, have hosted a dinner for the BOS invited speakers. May we continue to host your attendance by your exhibits.
- *Of course, there is no conference without conferees!* 315 of you arrived (BOS 16 Participants), mainly from the Baltic States but with solid representation from Europe. A special highlight was the participation of 10 Turkish students. The joy in their eyes to be at our BOS was evident especially from the photos in the collection shot by the expert photographer; the difficulties in their country then and, more gravely now after the attempted coup, must be understood by all of us. For all pics, visit: <http://www.boschem.eu/>

## The Toil, the Un-expectations, the Pleasure

### The Toil

- The BOS Committee thanks those of the local BOS Committee for presenting us with a flawless conference.
  - *Peteris*
    - At the lead, minute by minute attention, missing no details, and, undoubtedly, most significantly, securing InnovBalt funding for the registration and banquet costs for all of the participants. Hosting us in a magnificent building, The National Library, which had all of our conference requirements met 100%.
    - providing a splendid reception and then a super-magnificent banquet at the ZIEME|BLĀSMĀ (Northern Lights), a cultural foundation and creative innovation promotion center for Latvia. We received tours after which, and including the *sand painting artistry*, we certainly appreciated the aims of this fine structure whose motto: through knowledge – , through culture - , through healthy life style – , brings us a clear mind. **Question 1** (to Peteris): the email address of Guna Zandere who made sand evolve beautifully into castles, objects, faces, the latter for which I offer a *mea culpa*, since I failed to acknowledge it during my comments, overwhelmingly but I hope understandably, emotional.

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- *Ieva, Vita*
  - Always visible, always present, in full control of daily activities, solving all problems from speakers, participants, poster presenters, BOS committee members, and each other. Several times, when I had forgotten, Ieva or Vita appeared with “Please announce this...” or “don’t you think it would be good if ...” .
- *Duce*
  - A lady quietly in the background but, as many observed, never idle. Noting this, writing a reminder for that, it appeared that she got to know all 315 of us.
- *The A/V Assistants*
  - At the slightest hesitation in the speaker’s voice, Artis, Oskar (forgotten or spelling?), and one other [**Question 2 (to Peteris, Ieva, Vita):** names and email addresses for the last two in order to thank them separately], they appeared magically to help, advise and allow the retain our schedule to the allotted times.
- *Artis*
  - A separate bullet is given to Artis because, without him and Krista, I would have been helpless in my attempts at ppt preparation for the speakers and especially for the Closing Ceremonies. Artis had microsec speed at their preparation and ideas which, many times, jubilantly matched many of mine. From my delivery, it appeared that the attached ([Lecturers: Nicewicz](#)) received the most response.
- *Jaan Pesti*
  - On the day we completed BOS 2014 in Vilnius, Jaan was making the rest of the committee think of BOS 2016 in Riga. In the 2014-16 period, Jaan catalyzed step by step activities in the organization of speakers, soliciting and giving complete attention to the companies who supported us, and trumpeting (as he did with the sarv, Estonian = horn at return from coffee breaks) our conference to chemists worldwide. We of the committee follow the details of the venue for BOS with a passion, but BOS 2016 was so perfectly in order that we did not need a single word to Peteris, Ieva, Vita, and Duce, and their team. Jaan, whom we all support for his meticulous nature, was speechless. ☺ In one of the first emails apres BOS 2016, Jaan wrote in his methodical manner: “So please give me a list of potential speakers for BOS 2018.”

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- *Eugenijus Butkus*
  - Being in a neighbouring Baltic State, Eugenijus gave us direct reconnaissance possibility with phone calls and visits with Peteris. He also gave us very thoughtful counsel by email and skype in necessarily decisive decisions. And he reminded me of BOS 2000 when he wore our first t-shirt, now a collector's item (but I will part with one of mine for € 100). **Question 3** (BOS committee members): more a directive than a question: *bring this t-shirt to Tallinn for our 10<sup>th</sup> BOS celebration.*
- *Jonas Dunčias*
  - Although absent due to his son's song/dance fest participation in the Chicago Lithuanian Community, and regretfully (but understandably) not to be with us, as he mentioned, Jonas, in his un-cymballic manner, gave advice, prepared the beautiful poster (with Kertu in Tallinn and P, I, V), continued in his encouragement throughout, AND, gave us the Balskus Lecture because he reads the literature outside of organic chemistry. Dekoju uz viska, Jonai. We will see you in Tallinn in 2018.
- *Kertu Kosk* [kertu.kosk@ttu.ee](mailto:kertu.kosk@ttu.ee)
  - Suur tänu, Estonian = many thanks for the website and for working with Krista and all of us to its final glorious appearance (although somewhat late for which I assume 100%, well maybe 85% of the blame). Like Duce, Kertu is a silent but meticulous worker for whom "it cannot be done" is an anathema... and you shall witness the truth of these words of mine when you will participate in BOS 2018 in Tallinn.
- *Margus Lopp*
  - The first Estonian lecturer in BOS 2000 who has been with us since then, varying with ease several languages in discussing with speakers and participants and providing much of the ambiance of BOS. So, Margus, to you, **Question 4**: what will you do, what will you show us, as always but different, in 2018, compared to what (some of us) have seen in 2010.
- *Krista Voigt*
  - Already referred to above, Krista has been my very able assistant for 16 years. Being a minimalist (although you may attack this word, seeing the epistle ... so far), I will say, as I have said before too many, including our research group, *there is no life without Krista*. To give you a flavor of our relationship, here is Krista's email to me this morning:
    - "I hope that Queen's has a good therapy program when I retire from working with you"

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- **The Un-expectations**

- There were none. However, you may think differently and therefore **Question 5** (*everyone*): what was the most pleasant and most unpleasant occurrence to you? (Only one of each is allowed and all responses will be held confidential by the committee 😊)

- **The Pleasure**

- I bow to the photographer, for his visual tour de force of BOS 2016, visit: <http://www.boschem.eu/> but I add
  - The pleasure for us was to see you learn, appreciate, question, interact, and, of course enjoy BOS 2016.
  - Now to BOS 2018 which, with Jaan's very gentle prodding, is on our minds.
  - So
    - *Kol mes pasisveikinasime viens su kitu Taline*
    - *Kamēr mēs sveicināt viens otru Tallinā*
    - *Kuni me tervitavisem üks teistest Tallinnas*