



International Association of Colloid and Interface Scientists

Welcome to the IACIS Newsletter

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FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Welcome to the 91st IACIS Newsletter

Since the January newsletter the geopolitical has changed drastically. This also affects members of our community. It also threatens international cooperation. Where open science has been very important in the last few years, there are discussions now whether science should be open and whether data should be protected. I

hope that in our field we keep on working together and find ways to do so.

In this newsletter we have a new item; “historical perspectives”. This was initiated by Greg Warr, and some very exciting topics are lined up. If you would like to contribute, please get in touch. I am also excited that there is a new edition of the Colloidal Domain. A book launch event is being held this month in Lund. I am really looking forward to seeing this new version of my favorite textbook.

Finally, we received an opinion piece by Martien Cohen Stuart and Maarten Biesheuvel. They argue that Hamaker did not get appropriate credits in the development of the DLVO theory. They would like to learn about your opinion about this topic. In this newsletter you can read about how to contribute to this discussion.

Wishing you all the best,
Your newsletter editor, [Saskia Lindhoud](#)

SHOWCASE YOUR PUBLICATION

During the pandemic there was a lack of opportunities for young scientists to present their work at international conferences. Therefore we started to invite PhD students to showcase recent publications in the IACIS Newsletter. We have decided to continue this Newsletter item, because it gives an opportunity for young scientists to explain their recent discoveries. The idea is to write a short text in which you explain about your PhD topic, your recent publication and why it is interesting for our community. Detailed guidelines can be found [here](#).

Please contact your [Newsletter editor](#) if you have any questions

Colloidal Assembly at Liquid–Liquid Interfaces toward Engineered Microreactors for Green Catalysis

My name is Jaewon Shin, a PhD candidate in Chemical Engineering at Sungkyunkwan University, supervised by Prof. Jin Woong Kim.

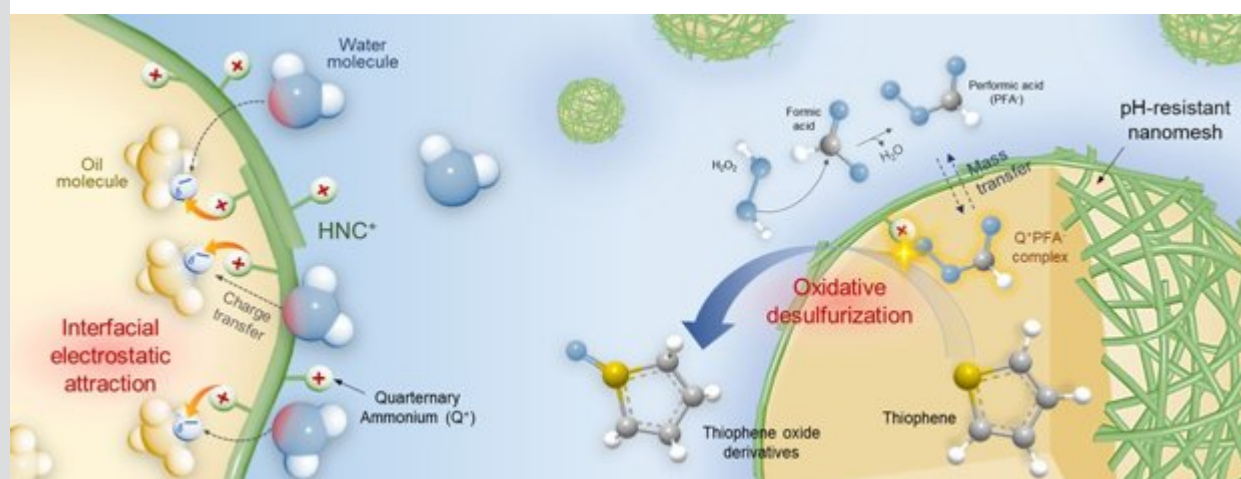
Why do we still accept a trade-off between catalytic efficiency and sustainability? In conventional systems, the liquid-liquid interface acts as a passive bottleneck, limiting mass transfer, complicating product recovery, and contributing little to the reaction itself. My goal is to transform this inert boundary into an active, selective, and

reusable catalytic platform through rational design of colloid-assembled microreactors.

This vision is realized in our recent work published in *Advanced Materials*, where cationic nanocellulose engineered a catalytically functional oil-water interface for oxidative desulfurization. Driven by electrostatic self-assembly at the intrinsically negative interfacial charge, nanocellulose spontaneously forms a robust nanomesh with well-defined pores and high adsorption energy, promoting selective biphasic diffusion, sustaining phase-transfer catalysis under ambient conditions, and retaining structural integrity in harsh environments.

Building on this framework, we extend toward electrochemically active platforms using reduced graphene oxide and magnetically recoverable reactors from magnetite platelets for sustainable chemical industries.

J. Shin, *et. al.*, Charge-Directed Nanocellulose Assembly for Interfacial Phase-Transfer Catalysis. *Adv. Mater.* 2025, 37, 2418325.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/adma.202418325>



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Surfactant Packing and the Longevity of Good Ideas

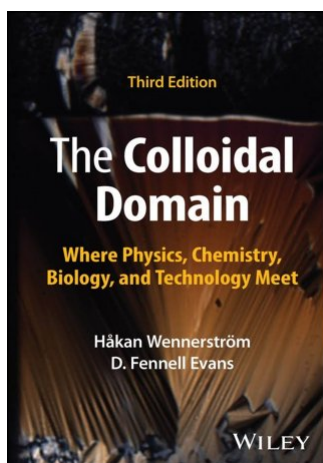
Fifty years after the publication of the landmark 1976 Israelachvili–Mitchell–Ninham paper on amphiphile self-assembly, Stephen Hyde has written a Perspective (linked here) for the IACIS Newsletter reflecting on why this ambitious work continues to shape how we think about micelles, bilayers and beyond. Combining historical context with personal recollection and geometric insight, the article retraces how thermodynamics and molecular shape were fused into the now-ubiquitous packing parameter. Discussing both the paper’s profound successes and missteps, Hyde highlights the enduring power of simple geometric ideas, the importance of its experimental underpinnings, and how its conceptual framework has permeated fields ranging from soil chemistry to lipid nanoparticles. The result is not only a reassessment of a classic paper, but a reminder of how ideas age in science — sometimes awkwardly, sometimes imperfectly, and sometimes with remarkable grace.

The full article: [Israelachvili, Mitchell and Ninham's "Theory of self-assembly of hydrocarbon amphiphiles into micelles and bilayers"](#), [fifty years on](#), can be found on the IACIS website

Stephen Hyde is Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Chemistry at the University of Sydney, having previously worked in the Department of Applied Mathematics at The Australian National University for ~30 years. Among his many seminal contributions, Stephen co-authored *The Language of Shape. The role of curvature in condensed matter: Physics, Chemistry and Biology*.

This article is the first in an occasional series of short reflections on landmark papers, events, and ideas in colloid and interface science. Contributions might revisit classic publications, recall formative meetings, or offer a personal perspective on work that has shaped our field and continues to resonate today. Submissions are not refereed, but the Newsletter Editor may consult with members of the IACIS Council regarding their inclusion or suggest revisions where appropriate. Colleagues from all career stages are encouraged to contact the Newsletter Editor if they are interested in contributing to this series.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS



Book release: third edition of the Colloidal Domain

In this new edition all chapters have been revised with inclusion of novel developments and original results.

Special emphasis on:

- * Chemical potential as a central concept in the description of colloidal systems
- * Experimental methods for studying surfaces and interfaces
- * The molecular aspect of electrostatic interactions
- * A comprehensive overview of scattering methods
- * A classification of interparticle forces based on molecular mechanisms
- * Function of bilayer systems in a biological context
- * Association behaviour of biopolymers
- * Amyloid formation as a colloidal instability
- * Synthesis of colloidal particles
- * Liquid-liquid phase separation as a general phenomenon
- * Emphasizing role of monolayer spontaneous curvature in emulsions and foams

OPINION PIECE BY MARTIEN COHEN STUART AND MAARTEN BIESHEUVEL

Hamaker's Forgotten Role in "DLVO" Theory

Maarten Biesheuvel and Martien Cohen Stuart have carefully examined the literature regarding the development of the theory of colloidal interactions, which they have published on ResearchGate as **The theory of colloidal interactions should not be called DLVO theory but is the Hamaker theory** ([10.13140/RG.2.2.31984.21765](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.31984.21765)). In this article they argue that Hamaker, in a series of papers published in 1936–1938, not only gives a clear conceptualisation of the theory of colloidal interactions as the sum of repulsive electrostatic and attractive dispersion force contributions but also presents and interprets the familiar diagrams of interaction energy as function of separation between particles. This work pre-dates the publications of both Derjaguin and Landau, and Verwey and Overbeek by 5–10 years. Therefore, they propose that theory should be named after *Hamaker* rather than after D, L, V, and O.

The authors welcome additions, corrections, comments and questions on ResearchGate or via email to [Maarten Biesheuvel](mailto:maarten.biesheuvel@tue.nl) and [Martien Cohen Stuart](mailto:martien.cohenstuart@tue.nl).

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Below an overview of interesting conferences for the IACIS community. Include your conference?

[CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR](#)

A banner for the 10th International Soft Matter Conference (ISMC 2026). It features a circular logo on the left with the text 'ISMC 2026' and 'GOA India'. To the right of the logo, the text 'ISMC 2026' is written in a large, bold, white font. Below this, the text '10th International Soft Matter Conference' is written in a large, white font. At the bottom, there is a small calendar icon followed by the text 'May 25-29, 2026' and a location pin icon followed by the text 'BITS Pilani - K K Birla Campus, Goa, India'. The background of the banner is a photograph of a tropical landscape with palm trees and a body of water.A banner for the 'neutrons & food' conference. It features a large, white, dome-shaped structure on the left. In the center, the text 'neutrons & food' is written in a large, blue font. To the right of the text, there is a circular logo with a green leaf and a blue fork. Further right, there is a colorful, abstract image of a particle or molecule. On the far right, there is a photograph of a person in a white lab coat and green gloves, holding a test tube. The background of the banner is a photograph of a tropical landscape with palm trees and a body of water.A banner for the Bombannes 2026 conference. It features a photograph of a coastal landscape with a blue sky and a body of water on the left. In the center, there is a small, red, dome-shaped structure. To the right of the structure, there is a graph showing a red curve on a blue background. On the far right, there is a photograph of a person in a white lab coat and green gloves, holding a test tube. The background of the banner is a photograph of a tropical landscape with palm trees and a body of water.

Bombannes 2026

17th European Summer School on
"Scattering Methods Applied
to Soft Condensed Matter"

"Les Bruyères", Carcans-Maubuisson, Gironde, France
June 2026

15th International Colloids Conference

7-10 June 2026 | Sitges, Spain

Submit abstracts by 23 January 2026

15th International COLLOIDS CONFERENCE

7-10 June 2026
Sitges, Spain



ECOF19

19th European Conference on
Organized Films

June 14-18, 2026, LECCE •
Italy



The 9th European Conference on Organised Films (ECOF 19) will be held in Lecce from June 14-18, 2026

Main topics:

- Langmuir monolayers, LB and LS multilayers
- Self-assembly and self-organised systems in 2D and 3D environments
- Supramolecular architectures and functional nanosystems
- Nanostructures, nanofabricated films, and molecularly organized materials
- Nanoparticles, graphene and 2D materials for smart hybrid coatings and interfaces
- Biological, biomimetic, and light-responsive systems
- Hierarchical and hybrid architectures for energy and information processing

Important dates:

October 20th, 2025: Pre-registration (free) and call for abstracts open

February 28th, 2026: Abstract submission deadline

March 15th, 2026: Abstract acceptance and communication to authors

March 1st - April 30th, 2026: Early Registration

May 1st-May 31st, 2026: Late Registration

25TH SYMPOSIUM ON SURFACTANTS IN SOLUTION (SIS) 2026 (50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION)

The 25th International Symposium “Surfactants in Solution” (SIS 2026) will take place in Madrid, Spain, from 14–19 June 2026, marking the 50th anniversary of this distinguished conference series. Since its inauguration in 1976 in Albany, New York, under the chairmanship of Kash Mittal, the SIS meetings have grown from a

pioneering initiative in the United States into a truly global and interdisciplinary forum for the colloid and interface science community. Over the decades, SIS has traveled across continents, reflecting both the international scope and the evolving scientific challenges of surfactant and interfacial systems. The symposium has been hosted in cities such as Knoxville, Potsdam, Lund, Bordeaux, New Delhi, Ottawa, Varna, Caracas, Jerusalem, Stockholm, Barcelona, Seoul, Berlin, Melbourne, Edmonton, Coimbra, Jinan, Norman, Lublin, and most recently Goa in 2024. This geographical diversity mirrors the broad scientific reach of the SIS community, and its commitment to fostering exchange across cultures, disciplines, and career stages.

Throughout its history, SIS has provided an exceptional platform for researchers to present new advances, discuss emerging trends, and build lasting collaborations. A unique hallmark of the SIS community has been its ability to bridge fundamental research with real-world applications, stimulating innovation in fields ranging from materials and energy to health, formulation science, and industrial processes. The upcoming SIS 2026 edition, hosted at the Faculty of Chemical Sciences of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain, will celebrate five decades of scientific excellence and community building. This anniversary meeting aims not only to honor the legacy of the series, but also to highlight the exciting new directions shaping the future of surfactant and interfacial science.

We warmly invite the global Colloids and Interfacial Science and Technology communities to join us in Madrid in June 2026 to commemorate this remarkable milestone and to share another inspiring scientific and cultural experience.



**25th International Symposium
Surfactants in Solution
Madrid, Spain**

June 14th-19th, 2026

**100th American Chemical Society Colloid
and Surface Science Symposium**

ACS
Chemistry for Life®

The 100th ACS colloids meeting will take place from June 21-24, 2026 on the campus of the University of Delaware.

At the meeting a Special 100th CSSS History Symposium will be held.

Visit [colloids2026](https://colloids2026.org) for all the details.

20th European Student Colloid Conference Donostia – San Sebastián 29 June – 2 July 2026



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2026 COLLOID AND INTERFACE SYMPOSIUM



2026 Colloid and Interface Symposium

Dear all,

We're excited to invite you to the 2026 Colloid and Interface Symposium (COINS2026), hosted at the University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney) from 19–23 July 2026.

Abstract submissions and early bird registration are now open:

<https://www.coins2026.org>

We look forward to welcoming you in Sydney!
Best, A/Prof Anna Wang, on behalf of the COINS2026 organising committee

40TH CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN COLLOID & INTERFACE SOCIETY

40th Conference of the European Colloid & Interface Society

Hosted by the University of Granada The annual ECIS conference is the flagship event of the European Colloid and Interface Society (ECIS). Its 40th edition will be held in the historic city of Granada from September 6-11, 2026. We anticipate that the joint conference will attract over 700 established and early career scientists from academia and industry – from the UK, EU, USA, Australia, China, and beyond around the world. The conference themes are broad, ranging from fundamental studies to innovation-driven research, providing a stimulating platform for delegates to present and discuss the latest multidisciplinary research and applications in the field of colloid and interface science. Abstracts deadline is 17 April 2026 (23:59 CET) and the submission will be closed afterwards.



8th World Tribology Congress (WTC 2026)

The Organizing Committee of the VIII World Tribology Congress (WTC 2025) has decided to postpone the deadline for the submission of extended abstracts to January 31, 2026.

Author registration deadline: August 15th, 2026 – although participants may register later than this, only extended abstracts with the presenting author registered until August 15th, 2026, will be included in the Final Program and Book of Abstracts. Each registered presenting author can present up to a maximum of two extended abstracts (oral or poster) Early bird registration deadline: May 31st 2026

[Visit the website for more information](#)

OKINAWA COLLOIDS 2026

The Division of Colloid and Interface Chemistry of the Chemical Society of Japan was established in 1976 and has remained highly active ever since. Building on the solid foundation laid by its founding professors, successive generations have continued to contribute new layers of achievement, enabling the Division to grow and evolve into what it is today.

Through its diverse activities, research by the Division's members has exerted a significant impact not only within colloid and interface chemistry, but also across a wide spectrum of fields including polymer science, catalysis, electrochemistry, chemical engineering, soft matter, and active matter. As a result, the Division has developed into a vibrant, cross-disciplinary research community that truly embodies the concept of an "interface between academic fields." We sincerely invite you to join Okinawa Colloids 2026.

Websites: <https://okinawacolloids.jp/>

Dates: 1st – 6th November, 2026

Venue: Bankoku Shinryokan, Okinawa, Japan

Key Dates:

- Abstract submission deadline (Oral): 16th May, 2026
- Abstract submission deadline (Poster): 31st July, 2026
- Registration (Earlybird): 30th March, 2026 – 10th August, 2026
- Registration (Regular): 11th August, 2026 – 19th October, 2026

Plenary Speakers:

- Prof. Katsuhiko Ariga
- Prof. Hans-Jurgen Butt
- Prof. Dganit Danino
- Prof. Syuji Fujii
- Prof. Hendrik Heinz
- Prof. Christine Luscombe

- Prof. Erica Wanless

Technical Sessions:

1. Surfactants and Amphiphilic Materials
2. Molecular Films
3. Soft Matter and Biosystems
4. Fine Particles, Nanoparticles and Nanomaterials
5. Dispersion and Aggregation
6. Solid Surfaces: Wetting, Adsorption, Catalysis, Adhesion, and Electrochemistry
7. General Topics in Colloid and Interface Science

Featured Symposiums:

1. Langmuir Symposium
2. New Trends in Innovative Cross-Disciplinary Research Created by Interfacial Structure Analysis
3. Microgravity Exploration of Colloid Science for Space Life
4. Food Science from the Perspective of Colloid and Interface Science
5. Advances in Colloid and Surface Chemistry for Sustainable Polymer Materials
6. Understanding Life from Dynamics and Functions of Interfaces
7. Nanocelluloses: Science and Technology
8. Nanostructures-Based Interfacial Energy and Separation Science
9. Novel Theories and Measurements on Nanoconfined Molecules and Ions

Contact:

General Inquiry: admin@okinawacolloids.jp

About Program Content: program@okinawacolloids.jp

About Registration and Accommodations: regist@okinawacolloids.jp



Save the data

The next International Symposium on Polyelectrolytes, ISP2027, will take place in Strasbourg, France from July 5th - July 9th 2027.

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