



International Association of Colloid and Interface Scientists

Welcome to the IACIS Newsletter

In this newsletter you will find the following topics:

- From the IACIS president
- From your newsletter editor
- Showcase your publication
- Historical Perspectives "Fifty Years of SFA"
- ECIS Webinar 16 October
- Conference announcements and updates
 - [COINS2026](#)
 - [ECIS 2026](#)
 - [Nanoplasthub 2026](#)
 - [8th World Tribology Congress](#)
 - [53rd biennial assembly of the German Colloid Society 2026](#)
 - [Sepawa Congress 2026](#)
 - [Okinawa colloids 2026](#)
 - [SCI Formulation Forum 8th annual event](#)
 - International Symposium on Polyelectrolytes ISP2027
 - [Welcome to Formula XIII](#)

[I prefer to read the pdf](#)



From the IACIS President



The Scientist at the Interface of Tradition and Change

In preparing some recent reflections on scientific work and academic careers, I found myself returning to a simple question: what does it mean to be a scientist today?

The environment around us is changing. Scientific work is becoming more tool-rich, networked, data-intensive, and visible. We now have the opportunity to use machine learning, physics informed and data driven models, AI-assisted search and writing, open data, and augmented visual digital communication. Publication remains central,

but datasets, models, protocols, software, visual explanations, industry translation, and public engagement increasingly shape how ideas travel.

What should we preserve? The classical scientist is not obsolete. Good research still depends on deep expertise, patience, rigorous experiments and theory, and respect for evidence. In colloid and interface science progress still comes from well-posed questions, careful measurements, and thoughtful interpretation. These are not old-fashioned habits; they are the foundations that make scientific claims trustworthy.

What should we adapt and adopt? The future scientist needs a practical operating system for working with both depth and reach. We should use AI-assisted literature mapping to see connections across fields, automated image analysis to handle richer experimental data, reproducible code to make models more transparent, and shareable datasets to let results become useful beyond one paper (this should be built into the design of the work from day 1). We should also communicate the same idea in multiple forms: a rigorous article for experts, pedagogical rigor in explanation for students, a short pitch for industry, and a “why now?” argument for funders. Just as importantly, we should build collaborations that expose blind spots, and expand our methods (especially with data-rich tools and AI capabilities).

What should we abandon? We should avoid shallow synthesis without deep reading, metric chasing over durable knowledge, tool dependency without verification, and excessive networking without meaningful commitment. We should also resist the pressure to accelerate every output. Some parts of science still require slow judgement, repeated testing, and the humility to say that a claim is not yet ready.

For IACIS, the path forward is not to choose between classical and modern science. It is to model a better combination: classical depth with expanded tools, stronger communication, broader collaboration, and responsible use of emerging technologies. The strongest modern scientist may not be the one who leaves classical science behind, but the one who carries its best traditions into a changing world.

Alidad Amirfazli, Toronto, Canada
President, IACIS



FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Welcome to the 92nd IACIS Newsletter

In this newsletter we have again a historical perspective. This time Roger Horn has written a piece about 50 years of Surface Force Apparatus. As Wageningen University alumna I found it interesting to learn that Lunten conferences go back that long.

This time we have a showcase from Poland. I am always looking for showcases, if you are interested in writing one, feel free to contact me.

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

SHOWCASE YOUR PUBLICATION

PhD students are invited to showcase their recent publications in the IACIS Newsletter. This feature provides an opportunity to introduce your PhD research, highlight a recent publication, and explain its relevance to the IACIS community. Detailed guidelines for submission can be found [here](#). Please contact your [Newsletter editor](#) if you have any questions.

Effects of interfacial hydrogen bonding and electrostatic interactions on the adsorption and foaming properties in saponin mixtures

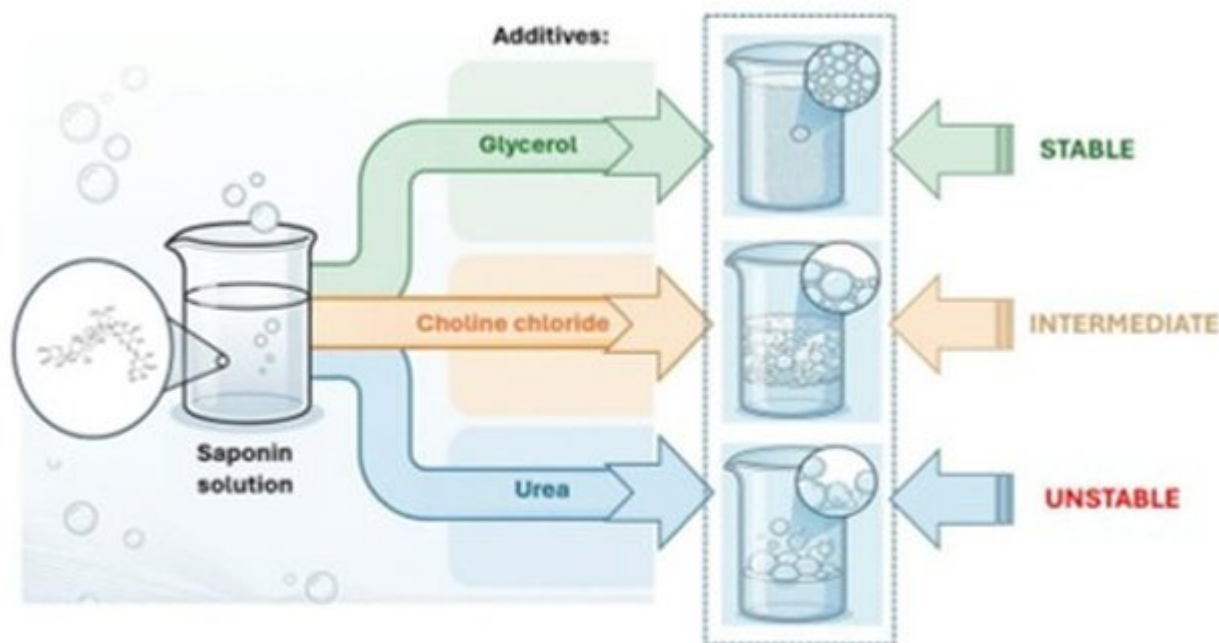
How can we decode complex molecular forces at natural interfaces to rationally design high-performance, sustainable soft materials?

My name is Weronika Kieres, and I am a PhD candidate at the Jerzy Haber Institute of Catalysis and Surface Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences. I work in the Laboratory for Multiphase Soft Matter Systems, headed by Assoc. Prof. Marcel Krzan, who is also my PhD supervisor, with Dr. Sonia Kudłacik-Kramarczyk serving as my co-supervisor. My doctoral research focuses on how hydrogen bonding and electrostatic interactions at interfaces can be used to design multifunctional biomaterials.

In our most recent paper, published in the *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science*, we combined multi-technique macroscopic measurements with vibrational sum-frequency generation spectroscopy and atomistic molecular dynamics simulations. We demonstrated how eco-friendly additives systematically reorganize the interfacial architecture of *Quillaja* saponins. Glycerol strengthens the cohesion of the saponin interfacial layer, urea weakens lateral hydrogen bonding and reduces surface elasticity, while choline chloride modifies interfacial charge and water organization. These findings highlight how fundamental interfacial science can be directly connected with the rational design of sustainable foams, emulsions, and soft materials for biomedical applications. They also provide the scientific foundation for my recently awarded project, in which I serve as the principal investigator and develop High Internal Phase Pickering Emulsions for potential chronic wound treatment.

You can find the article here: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcis.2026.140757>

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HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Fifty Years of SFA

On 26 August 1976, a letter appeared in *Nature* authored by Jacob Israelachvili and Gayle Adams of the Australian National University in Canberra (1). The abstract said it all: “We have constructed an apparatus for measuring the forces between two

surfaces immersed in a liquid directly as a function of separation, and report initial results for the forces between two crossed cylindrical sheets of molecularly smooth muscovite mica in aqueous solutions of KNO₃.” The Israelachvili apparatus followed precursor instruments that had been developed by a succession of PhD students and researchers in David Tabor's group in Cambridge, including Anita Bailey, Jeofry Courtney-Pratt and Susan Kay, culminating in the experiments by Richard Winterton and then Israelachvili to measure van der Waals forces in air or in vacuum. The 1976 development in Canberra allowed force measurements to be made in liquids, which opened the door to a much wider range of different forces and phenomena being observed and measured. Full details of Jacob's experimental method and initial results were published a couple of years later in Faraday Transactions (2). His instrument later came to be known as the surface forces apparatus (SFA), and versions of it are in use in laboratories around the world to this day. Other experiments with the same objective of making force measurements in liquids have been developed over the years, some of them pre-dating the SFA, but none have shown the same longevity.

1. J.N. Israelachvili and G.E. Adams, Nature 262 (1976) 774.
2. J.N. Israelachvili and G.E. Adams, J. Chem. Soc. Faraday Trans 1 74 (1978) 975-2001

The full article: [Fifty Years of SFA](#), written by Roger Horn, can be found on the IACIS website

The author Roger Horn (roger.horn@iinet.net.au) started as a post-doc with Jacob Israelachvili in Canberra in 1978, and spent most of the rest of his career working with the SFA, first at the ANU, then the US National Institute of Standards and Technology, and finally the University of South Australia, before taking a managerial position at Deakin University (Melbourne) from which he retired in 2015.

This article is the second 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.

ECIS WEBINAR 16 OCTOBER

The 4th ECIS webinar will be held on 16 of October 2026 at 15.00-~17.00 and hosted by LINXS in Lund as previously. This will be a jointly given by Professor Peter Schurtenberger of Division of Physical Chemistry, Lund University, Lund, Sweden and Professor Emanuela Zaccarelli of CNR Institute for

Complex Systems and Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. Registration & link to webinar can be accessed through the LINXS home page: <https://www.linxs.se>

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

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

CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

Granada (Spain), 6th to 11th September 2026

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.



40th ECIS Spain Colloids 2026
6-11 September • Granada - Spain

NanoPlastHub 2026
17-19 SEPTEMBER 2026

SZEGED, HUNGARY

**International Forum
on Submicron Plastic
Contaminants**

Topics
Advanced remediation technologies
Interaction and migration with co-pollutants
Occurrence and impact in agriculture
Characterization and detection methods
Influence on biological systems
Formation and ageing in the environment
Preparation of reference materials
Polyfluorinated substances

<https://u-szeged.hu/nanoplasthub2026>
nanoplasthub@szte.hu



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](#)



53rd biennial assembly of the German Colloid Society 2026 Bayreuth, September 30th to October 2nd 2026

From Force To Function

In addition to these framework topics, the broad scope of the colloid and interface science will be covered with a range of lectures and poster on the topics:

- Surfactant Science, Membranes, Foams, Microemulsions, Emulsions, Amphiphilic Copolymers
- Polyelectrolytes
- Gelation, Hydrogels, Responsive Colloids
- Nanoparticles
- Theory / Modelling / Simulation of Colloids and Interfaces including Predictive Modelling and Artificial Intelligence / Deep Learning Approaches
- Applications and Sustainable Formulations of Colloidal Systems
- Wetting Phenomena
- Functional Interfaces and Bio-Interfaces



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.





Formula XIII
REGENSBURG
10th - 13th OCTOBER 2027

International Conference
on Formulation
at the Interface of Science and Industry

EuChemS
European Chemical Society

UR
Universität Regensburg

10th - 13th OCTOBER 2027
REGENSBURG - GERMANY

**Balancing Sustainability, Eco-design
and Economic Pressure:**

The Future Competitiveness
of Europe's Formulation
Industry

SUSTAINABILITY
AND ECO-
DESIGN

DIGITAL
FORMULATION
AND AI

FORMULATION
DESIGN AND
INNOVATION

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