



Functional nanomaterials in Industrial Applications: Academic - Industry Meet

Editorial preface:

A special issue on themes (i) Nano-energy / Environmental for a better Society and (iii) Nano-catalysis for Green technology

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Abstract

The contributors to this special issue are from early carrier researchers to experts in their relative areas from across the world and represent a current and up to date research overview on functional nanomaterials in energy / environmental for a better society and nano-catalysis for green technology. The topics were the two important themes in our 1st International symposium entitled Functional Nanomaterials in Industrial Applications: Academic – Industry Meet (29-31 March 2016), University of Central Lancashire, Preston, United Kingdom. A special focus issue on theme 2 (Nanomedicine for Health and Diagnostics) will be published in the journal “Nanomedicine” by Future Medicine in November 2016.

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1. About the symposium

1st International symposium “Functional Nanomaterials in Industrial Applications: Academic – Industry Meet” aimed to bring researchers from both academic and industrial organisations on a single platform for paving a strategy and come up with an exploitation plan for the ultimate goal i.e. benefit for the society. It was an important dissemination activity of an international project “Functional Hybrid Nanocomposites for the separation of toxic and microbial contaminants from water” funded by UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). The symposium aimed to discuss three major Nano-themed areas such as (i) Nano-energy / environment for a better society; (ii) Nano-medicine for health & diagnostics; (iii) Nano-catalysis for green technology. Around 200 abstracts were received from around the globe. An overview of UKIERI project (Grant No: DST/INT/UK/P-82/2014) and the symposium full abstract proceedings can be found by browsing the links [1-2].

2. About the host organisation



The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) in Preston was founded in 1828 [source link 3] and today it is one of the UK’s largest universities. With a student and staff community approaching 38,000, it is the fifth largest employer in the North West of England. In 2010 UCLan became the first UK modern university to appear in the QS World University Rankings. In 2015 the Centre for World University Rankings placed UCLan in the top 3.8 percent of all worldwide universities, highlighting the progress the institution has made in providing students with real-world learning experiences and reflecting the institution’s broad pool of academic talent.

Amongst its programme portfolio of some **400 undergraduate and 200+ postgraduate courses**, UCLan has been at the forefront of developing degrees in emerging disciplines such as Fashion and Forensic Science to more recent additions such as Dentistry and, new for 2015, undergraduate Medicine which is being delivered in the UK’s newest Medical School. Aerospace Engineering is another new programme, part of UCLan’s commitment to grow its portfolio of engineering-related courses, and is coupled with the development of a £30 million+ **Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC)**. The aim is to provide a rich source of new graduates that reflect the economic priorities of the North West, the UK and indeed the global economy. The EIC forms a key pillar of the University’s £200 million **Campus Masterplan** which over the next 10 years will create a world-class educational environment that blends new facilities with the creation of public, green spaces to benefit the University, the City of Preston, and the economy of the North West. UCLan’s plans are being informed by the local, regional, business and civic communities, with whom it continues to build close relationships.

Research and knowledge exchange activities are all recognised as being of exceptional quality. The impact is perhaps best seen in the results of the **2014 Research Excellence Framework**: all 16 subject areas in which UCLan’s research was assessed were judged to contain ‘world leading’ quality.

3. About Nano-bio research at UCLan (www.senlabs.org)

Nano-biomaterials Research group at the University of Central Lancashire was founded in 2008 when Dr Sen moved from the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK. Currently, Dr Sen, Reader in Nanomaterials Chemistry is leading the group and it is dedicated to researching in the area of nanomaterials and their applications in separation science, drug delivery, industrial catalysis and bio-sensors. Currently, the group is running three multinational projects in collaboration with world leaders from academia and industries. The group has run several multinational projects with top researchers around the world and published more than 50 high-quality peer review journal articles, several patents, book chapters etc. The group is also active in a local outreach programme in collaboration with Young Scientist Centre (YSC) at UCLan (https://nanowateratuclan.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/outreach-activity_school-and-public-event-template-without-date.pdf) and successfully coordinated one international workshop in August 2016 (<https://nanowateratuclan.org/an-international-workshop-on-magnetic-nanoparticles/>).

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