

The 17th Nordic Rheology (Society) Conference of 2008 was held between the dates of 27th to 29th August in Copenhagen, Denmark. This year, the conference was held at the Faculty of Life Sciences (LIFE) at Copenhagen University and was organized by the Department of Food Science in collaboration with the Centre for Advanced Food Studies (LMC). The special theme of this year's conference was thus, not very surprisingly, Food Rheology. However, truly the NRS annual conference is a forum for Rheologists working in many different fields. The conference attracted 122 delegates and had 22 presentations and more than 20 posters, not to mention three internationally recognized guest speakers.

The conference began, as each year, with a rheology course on the 27th of August. This year the course was more extensive than in previous years and it focused especially on the use of rheology in industry. Richard Ipsen and Anders Karlsson, both from the Department of Food Science, LIFE first lectured the basics of viscometry and oscillation tests – what does it do and what's it good for in food science and industry? Professor Allen Foegeding, North Carolina University, USA continued with an interesting lecture about sensory texture based on rheological and fracture properties. Professor Eric Dickinson, University of Leeds, UK then gave a fascinating lecture on the stabilizing role of biopolymers in food emulsions. The session ended with a nice talk given by Henrik Kragh, Danisco A/S, about the use of rheology in industry.

The evening part of the program included a welcome reception with beer tasting in the Marble Hall at the Institute of Life Sciences. The conference delegates were welcomed by Richard Ipsen and Alan Friis who both wished us all a successful conference in Copenhagen. A veeeery long, fascinating and informative talk on beer and its manufacture was then given by Henrik Siegumfeldt, Department of Food Science, LIFE. The event was much appreciated by the conference delegates and it ended with a nice buffet being served to the delegates who were starving after a long day with presentations.

The actual conference started in the morning on the 28th of August with the first invited keynote speaker Allen Foegeding who presented the audience with the importance of "Sensory texture based on rheological and fracture properties: applications in model foods and cheese".

In total, three plenary lectures were given by renowned scientists at the conference, opening each of the half-day scientific sessions. Each will talk about their special area of interest. The morning session of the first day continued with a talk given by Richard Ipsen in which he gave his personal view of the past and visions for the future for food rheology. The rest of the day was filled with 8 oral presentations grouped into two sessions: 1) Rheology and sensory perception and 2) Rheology of food hydrocolloids. This year, two poster sessions were included in the program of day one and two. Posters for the 2008 conference were automatically entered into a special draw for a prize for the best poster. This competition was the initiative of TA Instruments who alone judged the best poster after announcing a thrilling top 5 list. The delegates then had to wait until the end of the conference dinner before TA instruments would reveal which delegate would be presented with a fantastic prize, a brand new rheometer.

After the afternoon session the delegates gathered in the harbour area of downtown Copenhagen for a beautiful sail on the Copenhagen Canals. The boat trip would take the delegates to the location of the conference dinner. The conference dinner was held at the island restaurant of Tre Kroner on Thursday 28th. Before settling down to eat the party was welcomed with a guided tour around the island. The delegates were told that the more than 100 years old sea fort Middelgrundsfortet was built during the reign of King Christian IX. Middelgrundsfortet is the biggest and most preserved sea fort in Denmark and it is also the world's largest artificially built island without abutment. It is placed in the Sea of Oresund with a fantastic view overlooking the sea and a historical, maritime atmosphere. Their professional chefs had prepared a lovely menu, served with suitable good wines from the wine cellar.

At the end of the dinner, the attention of the delegates was called for by the retiring president of the NRS, Niall W. G. Young of Danisco A/S. In his last annual speech the president of the NRS emphasized the importance of the strong interaction with industry. No Carl Klason or Young Rheologists Award was made by the Society this year. The delegates were therefore encouraged to nominate candidates for next year's conference through the Society's website [www.nordicrheology.org](http://www.nordicrheology.org).

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**Figure 1 (left):**  
Michael Melingo from TA instruments presenting Martina Lille from VTT Food Material Science, Finland with the prize for the best poster.

**Figure 2 (middle):**  
Eric Dickinson and Ian Norton catching their breath and chatting with each other under informal circumstances during a coffee break.

**Figure 3 (right):**  
Claus Larsen from TA instruments presenting the latest advances in instrumentation to Martina Lille.

rheologysociety.org. Niall then ended his short speech by wishing the new board a successful upcoming period.

The conference dinner was then rounded off by Michael Melingo from TA instruments who finally revealed that Martina Lille from VTT Food Material Science, Finland was awarded with the prize for the best poster. The fantastic prize, a rheometer was a TA instruments AR 1500ex. Hat's off to TA instruments! As last year the Society also made an award to the best presentation as judged by the Invited Speakers. This year the honour and distinction went to Katja Nevalainen from Tampere University of Technology, Finland. Oleinitec AB rewarded the best presentation with a free participation and accommodation to ORTEC Nordic Rheology Course in Bornholm, Denmark. The Finnish delegate team thus won the grand slam at the NRS 2008 conference.

The second day of the conference was opened by the second keynote lecture given by Professor Ian Norton, University of Birmingham, UK. The lecture presented the delegates with an excellent overview of "Rheological control and understanding necessary to formulate healthy everyday foods". In addition, the audience was also fascinated by the work done on studying the aspects of dysphagia. The conference then continued with session 4: Rheology of dairy products which lasted until the first coffee break. With the caffeine level significantly increased the delegates once again took a seat in the lecture hall to listen to session 5: Rheology of particles and suspensions. The third keynote lecture started after a refreshing lunch and poster session 2. The keynote lecture was given by Eric Dickinson. The talk on "Protein-Stabilized Emulsions and Whipped Emulsions: Aggregation and Rheological Aspects" presented the delegates with an even deeper insight into the area of his renowned expertise. The rest of the afternoon session (Session 6) of the second day was filled with submitted presentations that focused on rheology and health. Mats Stading, SIK, followed in Ian Norton's tracks by presenting a new kitchen rheometer and rheological properties of food for people

suffering from swallowing disorders. Ulf Björkman, KTH, closed the session with an interesting talk on Metzner's method for generalised Newtonian flows.

As every year, the delegates were also given a chance to catch their breath, to network with each other under informal circumstances during the coffee and lunch breaks. In the exhibition area connected to the lecture rooms leading rheometer and analytical device suppliers Malvern Instruments Nordic AB, MediRox AB, Perten Instruments, Oleinitec AB, Thermo Scientific, and TA Instruments took the opportunity to present the latest advances in instrumentation. This has now become an annual and much appreciated event at the NRS conferences.

The Annual Meeting of the Nordic Rheology Society attracted many of the delegates this year. Among the topics treated was next year's election of a new board for the Society, followed by an interesting open discussion about further expansion of the Society. The NRS board was also pleased to announce that no less than five Students were presented with the student grants for attending the conference and holding either an oral presentation or poster presentations. Before closing the conference, the conference organizers Richard Ipsen, Niall Young and Sarah Mason were then duly thanked for their hard work and efforts in organizing a successful conference. The final word was given to the delegates in the afternoon in the form of an invitation to meet up once again in 2009. The 18th Nordic Rheology Conference will be held in Reykjavik August 18-20, 2009. Further details will be posted on the NRS website throughout the coming year.

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