

Cosmetic Education Begins in Bulgaria

PLOVDIV, Bulgaria—Members of the Bulgarian Association of Cosmetologists (BAC), a member society of the International Federation of Societies of Cosmetic Chemists (IFSCC), absorbed information from leading experts on skin delivery and formulation at a two-day educational lecture.

The event was part of the Ecaterina Merica Cosmetic Education Programme, an outreach program installed by the IFSCC in Amsterdam in 2007. This program allows societies from economically challenged countries, whose cosmetic scientists often cannot attend IFSCC congresses or conferences, to host two speakers to provide educational training. Romania and Bulgaria were identified and the BAC chose Prof. Johann Wiechers, PhD, and Luigi Rigano, PhD, to each hold one-day lectures in Plovdiv, a hub for the cosmetics industry in Bulgaria. In addition, the event coincided with both the 9th Romanian International Symposium on Cosmetic and Flavor Products in Iasi, Romania, and the Bulgarian Rose Festival.

Wiechers opened the program with a series of lectures on skin delivery. He described how a chemical either penetrates the skin or stays on top of the skin; he also illustrated ways that chemists could use this knowledge to target the delivery of chemicals into skin. Wiechers then discussed the effects of formulation types, emulsion droplet

sizes, and ingredient choices on the delivery of actives into the skin. His explanation was a mix of theory and practice as he showed attendees how to use less active and yet obtain improved efficacy.

After the first day of lectures, attendees gathered for a traditional Bulgarian dinner and dancing. And while Wiechers and Rigano are two of the industry's brightest scientists, according to attendees, they are also talented Bulgarian folk dancers.

Rigano drew attendees back the next day for a lecture on formulating cosmetic emulsions. His strategy was to automatically build safety into product formulas, to consider sensorial performance and evaluation clues, and to clearly identify all the required product characteristics when considering their relative weight in the formula. According to Rigano, formulation begins by choosing a category of ingredients for the desired product characteristic, followed by finding the right concentration of ingredient, and finally, identifying the specific raw material to impart the desired function. Rigano noted that during the formulation process, side experiments can be conducted to evaluate the performance of unknown groups of raw materials. When these trials are completed, the project can resume with

verification that the desired efficacy parameters have been fulfilled. These trials, followed by evaluation, will lead to better approximation and a successful end formulation project.

The two-day program attracted nearly 75 attendees, according to BAC president Pavel Makedonski, who found the event to be unique and beneficial to association members. He quoted Confucius, stating, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Although the BAC has a short history, Makedonski maintains that it has made its first step toward more active involvement in the IFSCC, adding that 18 new members resulted from the event. Makedonski added that he hopes the IFSCC continues the Ecaterina Merica Cosmetic Education Programme for many years to come.



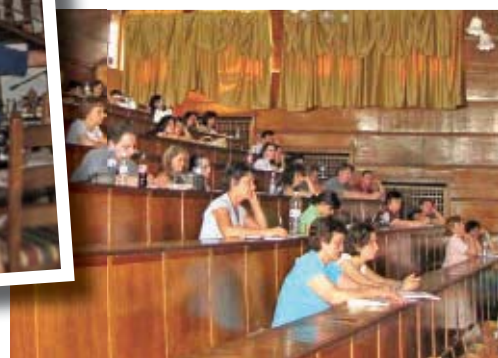
Bulgarian folk dancers entertained attendees during dinner at the BAC's two-day educational lecture on delivery and formulating.



Attendees gathered after the first day of lectures for traditional Bulgarian cuisine.



After dinner, Wiechers (left), Rigano (right) and other attendees demonstrated their moves with a cast of Bulgarian folk dancers.



Nearly 75 attendees participated in the two-day educational event.