

Portuguese Chemical Society – the first 100 years

One of the oldest, largest, and most active learned societies in the country...

The Portuguese Society of Chemistry (Sociedade Portuguesa de Química, SPQ) aims at promoting chemical research, chemical applications, and chemical knowledge, including the public understanding of this science. Founded in Lisbon on 28th December 1911 by a group of prominent Portuguese chemists led by Ferreira da Silva, from Oporto University, it now has a membership close to 2,000 comprising university and other higher education professors, researchers, applied chemists and chemical engineers, high school teachers, and students.

With headquarters in Lisbon, and regional delegations in the towns of Oporto, Coimbra, Aveiro and Braga, SPQ has a website, www.spq.pt, an electronic newsletter, a printed bulletin ('Química'), and publishes books, booklets, DVDs and other teaching aids.

With the support of the Ministry of Education, SPQ is the national organiser of the Chemistry Olympiads for many years. At present there are two different competitions (two age groups) involving a total of 3,000 students and 250 schools. The winning teams from the older group are trained and accompanied by SPQ mentors to the International Chemistry Olympiad and to the Ibero-American Olympiad. SPQ also cooperates with the Ministry of Education with respect to the national exams, and its members frequently present talks and give demonstrations at schools on specific chemistry topics.

SPQ is the national adhering organisation for the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry



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(IUPAC). It is also a member of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) and of the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC).

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SPQ is a member of the ChemPubSoc Europe consortium for the publication of high profile chemistry research journals, comprising at present eight research periodicals and one electronic journal. In particular, SPQ owns 8% of the flagship journal 'Chemistry'.

Every two years SPQ organises a National Chemistry Meeting, as well as many specialised meetings also on a two year basis (usually in different years), namely on organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, physical chemistry, analytical chemistry,

catalysis, medicinal chemistry, photochemistry, carbohydrates, food chemistry, chromatography, history of chemistry and free radicals. Transnational meetings are also organised, such as the Luso-Galician Meeting and several Portuguese-Spanish meetings.

2011 is also the International Year of Chemistry. SPQ is actively engaged in its commemorations, and a rich and nationwide programme, updated daily, can be found on SPQ's website. A major initiative for elementary and secondary level schools by the Portuguese branch of UNESCO is also supported by SPQ.



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