

PRESS RELEASE

International Symposium on Biopolymers – ISBP2022

Sion, 16 September 2022

The 18th International Symposium on Biopolymers (ISBP), jointly organised by the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (HES-SO) and the University of Stuttgart, was held at the Energypolis Campus in Sion from 13 to 16 September. The event attracted more than 160 researchers, industry experts and start-ups from around the world who came to share their knowledge and showcase the latest innovations and discoveries in the field of bioplastics.

ISBP2022 highlighted current research areas in the field of biopolymers, i.e. polymers derived from biomass and/or biodegradable materials. Some of the most common biopolymers include polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs), cellulose, starch and other polysaccharides, and these are used in many industries such as medicine, cosmetics, packaging and food. In recent years, billions of dollars have been invested in efforts to develop and implement solutions for producing these natural PHA materials in large quantities and on an industrial scale, with a clear focus on their biodegradability, which is considered a highly valuable advantage.

The four-day programme included more than 95 lectures, including lectures on biosynthesis, innovation in fermentation technology, and the use of biopolymers in drug delivery, cosmetics, packaging and sustainable textiles, as well as lectures on the biodegradation and recycling of biopolymers.

Professor Manfred Zinn of the HES-SO Valais-Wallis School of Engineering in Sion, who organised the event, describes a highly successful symposium this year: “Participants from 29 different countries shared their knowledge and learned about the most recent advancements that will shape the future of biopolymers – for example using waste products such as CO₂ to produce them. During this symposium, participants demonstrated that there are many ways to modify the properties of these polymers. Such modifications will allow us to determine the polymers’ elasticity and strength, which in turn will open up new areas of application – and that is something entirely new.”

This symposium is one of the most highly regarded in the field. It has been held every two years since its inception in Toronto in 1988. The researchers will meet again at the next symposium, which will be held in Malaysia in 2024.

For further information, please contact Prof. Manfred Zinn, organiser of the symposium, by calling +41 (0)76 495 52 03.