

Reflections on the Origins and Growth of WATOC

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Abstract

The first congress of WATOC, known at the time as the World Association of Theoretical Organic Chemists, was held in Budapest, Hungary in 1987. In the intervening 35 years, WATOC Congresses have spanned the globe, having been held in Toronto, Canada (1990), Toyohashi, Japan (1993), Jerusalem, Israel (1996), London, UK (1999), Lugano, Switzerland (2002), Cape Town, South Africa (2005), Sydney, Australia (2008), Santiago de Compostela, Spain (2011), Santiago, Chile (2014), Munich, Germany (2017) and (most recently) Vancouver, Canada (2022).

In this presentation, I will reflect on how WATOC, now known as the World Association of Theoretical and Computational Chemists, has developed from its humble origins in the 1980s to its position today as arguably the major international organization in the field of theoretical and computational chemistry.