Chemistry Department Master Lecture: Prof. Martin Kotora Shares New Methods in Drug Synthesis

Campus focus

The Department of Chemistry held a master lecture on September 18 at 2:00 p.m. at Hsu Shou-Chlien International Conference Center, inviting Prof. Martin Kotora from our sister school Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, to present a talk titled: "Catalytic Activation of Small Molecules Towards Aromatic and Heteroaromatic Compounds." The lecture explored the impact of organic light-emitting materials on drug synthesis. Prof. Martin Kotora, who holds a PhD from the Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, is currently a professor at both Charles University and the Czech Academy of Sciences and the holder of the Rudolf Luke□ Prize for achievements in organic chemistry from Czech Chemical Society. He was pleased to share his research findings with faculty and students at Tamkang University. Professor Jen-Chieh Hsieh from the Department of Chemistry mentioned that he had the opportunity to meet Prof. Kotora last year at a major international organic chemistry conference in Kyoto, Japan, and immediately extended an invitation, which Prof. Kotora gladly accepted.

Prof. Hsieh noted that the lecture content was related to drug manufacturing, a critical topic for future development. In addition to the lecture, Prof. Kotora also arranged visits to other academic institutions, including Academia Sinica. Chemistry Department Chair, Prof. Chih-Hsin Chen highlighted the importance of advancements in drug synthesis technology for improving public health, emphasizing the need for more accessible and cost-effective methods, and expressed gratitude for Prof. Kotora's generous sharing of his expertise.

Charles University (Czech: Univerzita Karlova), founded in 1348, is the oldest university in Central Europe and the highest-ranking academic institution in the Czech Republic. It is a world-renowned comprehensive research university with over 50,000 students. The university is a member

of leading academic alliances, including the Coimbra Group, Europaeum, and the Institutional Network of the Universities from the Capitals of Europe. 4 of its alumni have won the Nobel Prize, including the famous scientist Albert Einstein, who is one of its notable alumni.

Po-Han Yang, a second-year master's student who attended the lecture, remarked, "Prof. Martin's team works on small-molecule heterocyclic compounds, which are also a focus of our lab's research. These compounds have significant potential for development and application in industrial materials and pharmaceuticals. After hearing his presentation, I realized that the world of chemistry is not as straightforward as one might think. Outsiders might see it as simply mixing different substances and heating them to get a product, but for researchers, every attempt feels like a gamble. This lecture also gave me a deeper understanding of the immense time and effort required to publish a paper in a prestigious journal.


淡江時報


TKU