

Travel report

My name is Sebastian Geissler and I am a PhD student at the Department of Biomaterials at University of Oslo. At the 8th meeting of the Scandinavian Society for Biomaterials in May 2015 in Latvia, I had interesting discussions with Dr. Mats Hulander (Chalmers University of Technology) and Professor Pentti Tengvall (University of Gothenburg) about problems I had in my PhD project with characterizing modified metal surfaces. During these fruitful conversations, both were very helpful and offered me to visit their laboratories in order to work on solutions regarding these problems.

Some time later, I visited both laboratories in Gothenburg. The group at Chalmers is equipped with a quartz crystal microbalance with dissipation monitoring (QCM-D), and since my department in Oslo was considering buying the same instrument, I was able to get trained on the instrument and do first test runs.

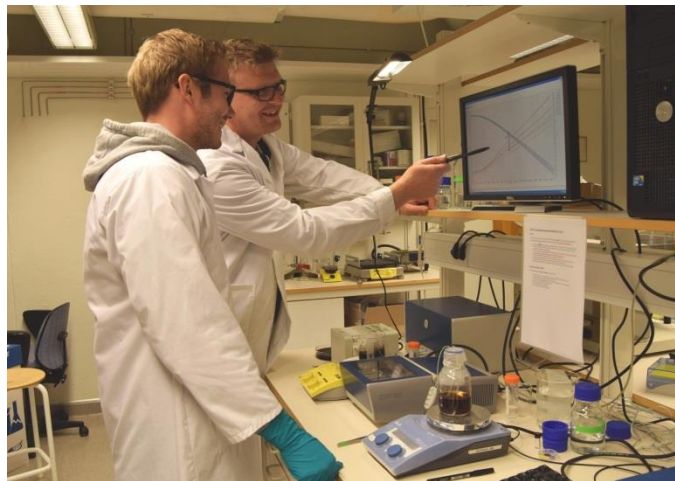


Figure 1. Dr. Mats Hulander from Chalmers University of Technology giving me a hands-on training on the QCM-D.

Visiting Professor Tengvall's group at University of Gothenburg, I benefitted from the vast experience of Professor Tengvall in characterizing metal surfaces and the performed ellipsometry studies helped me understand our surface modification system better. Many further discussions led to a continuous collaboration which is going to result in a common publication.

All of this would not have been possible without the financial support provided by the travel grant of the Scandinavian Society for Biomaterials. I can strongly recommend making use of this funding opportunity, particularly to young scientists who want to gain experience outside their own research group. I would like take this opportunity to express my thanks to all involved persons and to the Scandinavian Society for Biomaterials!