

## Press release

Presse-Information • Information de presse

10/2018  
18 September 2018

<http://www.efce.org>

### EFCE presents Excellence Award in Fluid Separations to Dr. Leila Moura

**Dr. Leila Moura** has been named the winner of the **2018 EFCE Excellence Award in Fluid Separations** of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE).

The Award recognises her excellent PhD thesis “Ionic liquids for the separation of gaseous hydrocarbons” completed at CPE Lyon and Institut de Chimie de Clermont-Ferrand, France. Moura, who was supervised by Dr. Catherine Santini and Dr. Margarida Costa Gomes together with the French Institute of Petroleum - IFPEN, reviewed the use of a series of custom-synthesised ionic liquids in olefin-paraffin separation with a view to replacing energy-intensive distillation units.



She said: “I am extremely delighted to receive such great news. I am happy and very honoured to receive this award.”

Leila Moura obtained her Bachelor and Master degrees in Chemistry from the Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon, Portugal. After her PhD, one year in a postdoctoral researcher position in Environmental Chemistry at UCEIV, Dunkirk, France, and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, she currently works as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate (PDRA) in the commercial development of a colourimetric sensor for phosphate, under the supervision of Dr. Panagiotis Manesiotis at Queen’s University Belfast, United Kingdom.

Her core research interests include the synthesis, purification, characterization and application of ionic liquids, deep eutectic solvents, monomers, polymers, nanoparticles and hybrid materials for absorption and separation applications. She is especially interested in applications of ionic liquids and deep eutectic solvents as new materials that can reduce the environmental and energy impact of current operations, specifically in gas separation and scrubbing. Her work spans from fundamental thermodynamics, understanding the optimisation of the relationship between chemical composition and bulk properties, to the design of new solutions for engineering applications. These directly impact on the environment and on the industry bottom-line, profit.

In his nomination, Prof. Holbray stated: “Leila has demonstrated excellence in engineering through her PhD research, and continues to develop as a high-quality researcher and future leaders who can reach across disciplines and make effective links between academic and industrial research.”

The Award jury commented: "Dr. Moura's application was clearly written and organized and showed a high scientific level and industrial relevance of her research."

The Award is presented at the 11th International Conference on Distillation and Absorption – DA2018 held in Florence, Italy, on 16-19 September 2018.

The 2018 Excellence Award in Fluid Separations is generously sponsored by Covestro.



In addition, the Award jury gave special recognition to the runner-up, **Dr. Raquel Viveiros**, for her excellent PhD thesis "*Molecularly Imprinted Polymers - Their application in the Manufacturing of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)*" for which you achieved the second-best evaluation results. She was invited to participate in the award ceremony and the DA2018 conference as a guest of the EFCE Working Party on Fluid Separations and the DA2018 conference organiser and to present a poster.

Ends

## Related links

EFCE media centre (<https://www.efce.info/Media+Centre.html>)

EFCE Working Party on Fluid Separations  
(<https://efce.info/Working+Parties/Fluid+Separations.html>)

11th International Conference on Distillation and Absorption – DA2018  
(<http://www.aidic.it/da2018>)

## Notes to media

For further information, please contact:

Claudia Flavell-While  
tel: +44 (0)1788 534422  
email: [Claudia@icheme.org](mailto:Claudia@icheme.org)

## About chemical engineers

Chemical, biochemical and process engineering is the application of science, maths and economics to the process of turning raw materials into everyday products. Professional chemical engineers design, construct and manage process operations all over the world. Oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, food and drink, synthetic fibres and clean drinking water are just some of the products where chemical engineering plays a central role.

## About EFCE

Founded in 1953, The European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) is a non-profit-making association, whose object is to promote co-operation in Europe between non-profit-making professional scientific and technical societies in 30 countries for the general advancement of chemical engineering and as a means of furthering the development of chemical engineering. See [www.efce.org](http://www.efce.org)