

# **SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION, STABILITY AND PHOTOCATALYTIC ACTIVITY INVESTIGATION OF Ag- CONTAINING MATERIALS**

Doctoral (Ph.D.) theses

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## 1. Introduction and objectives

Earth's population has increased significantly in the last 120 years; along with it, water and food consumption increased exponentially. Water purification technologies have evolved significantly to ensure sufficient quantity and quality drinking water. In the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, traditional water treatment technologies became obsolete. The application of advanced oxidation processes was a breakthrough, especially heterogeneous photocatalysis, which is based on a semiconductor, excitable by different light sources with a specific wavelength.

The current work aimed to synthesize, characterize Ag-containing photoactive materials, and investigate their photocatalytic performance and stability. The combined effect of several synthesis approaches (solvothermal, precipitation and chemical reducing methods) and parameters (precursors and reaction conditions) were studied.

Another issues of the present work were the deposition of Ag nanoparticles on the surface of the semiconductor during either photocatalyst synthesis or photocatalytic reaction, and their effect on the photocatalytic activity and stability of semiconductors. Thereby, our objectives included synthesis, characterization, and investigation of the photocatalytic activity of three types of Ag-containing materials: silver halides, oxoacid salts of silver, and TiO<sub>2</sub> composites with Ag-containing nanoparticles.

The effect of the different shape-tailoring agents (cationic, anionic, and non-ionic polymer) and different halide sources on the photocatalytic activity and stability of the resulting silver halides were investigated.

The next objective was to enlighten the effect of the precursors on the synthesis of Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>. In the case of Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, the effect of the reaction temperature was investigated, whereas, in the case of Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, the precursor concentration (0.1 M ↔ 0.2 M) was analyzed.

The effect of different crystal phases of  $\text{TiO}_2$  was investigated in-detail on the formation of  $\text{Ag}/\text{Ag}_x\text{O}$  on the surface of the composites, in the  $\text{Ag}/\text{TiO}_2$  composite systems.

## 2. Experimental methods and procedures

Ag-containing materials were obtained by using different precursors. Solvothermal crystallization was applied for the synthesis of silver halides using different shape-tailoring agents (polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP); cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) and sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)) and various halides sources ( $\text{Cl}^-$ :  $\text{H}^+$ ;  $\text{Na}^+$ ;  $\text{K}^+$ ;  $\text{Br}^-$ :  $\text{H}^+$ ;  $\text{Li}^+$ ;  $\text{Na}^+$ ;  $\text{K}^+$ ;  $\text{Rb}^+$ ;  $\text{Cs}^+$ ;  $\text{I}^-$ :  $\text{Na}^+$ ;  $\text{K}^+$ ). A different synthesis approach was applied for the synthesis of  $\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3$  and  $\text{Ag}_3\text{PO}_4$ , namely the precipitation method. The precursors of Ag nanoparticles were added to  $\text{TiO}_2$  (rutile and anatase mixtures) to synthesize  $\text{Ag}/\text{TiO}_2$  composites. The Ag nanoparticles were obtained by  $\text{NaBH}_4$  reduction.

The crystal structure of the materials was determined using a *Rigaku MiniFlex Type II* powder X-ray diffractometer (**XRD**). The primary crystallite size values were also calculated using the Scherrer equation. The intensity ratios of the different Miller indexed reflections were also calculated and analyzed.

Scanning and transmission electron microscopes (**SEM**: *Hitachi S-4700 Type II* and **TEM**: *FEI Technai G2 20 X-TWIN*) were used to examine the morphological properties of the semiconductors and the potential presence of  $\text{Ag}/\text{Ag}_x\text{O}$  nanoparticles on the surface of the semiconductor.

A *JASCO 6200 Infrared spectrophotometer* (**IR**) was used to demonstrate the presence of surface residues of shape-tailoring agents. The appearance of the pyrophosphates in  $\text{Ag}_3\text{PO}_4$  samples was also investigated. Moreover, we used IR to monitor the reactant adsorption in the photocatalytic tests.

A *SPECS PHOIBOS 150 MCD photoelectron spectroscope* (**XPS**) was used to determine the different oxidation states of the surface atoms.

A *JASCO-V650 UV-visible spectrophotometer* equipped with an *ILV-724* integrative sphere (**DRS**) was used to determine the optical properties of the samples. The first-order derivatives ( $dR/d\lambda$ ) of the spectra were calculated to determine the light absorption capacity of different crystal phases mixtures. The presence of the typical localized surface plasmon resonance bands of Ag nanoparticles and the characteristic absorption of  $Ag_2O$  were analyzed. The band gap energy values of the samples were calculated by using the Kubelka-Munk theory.

A *JASCO LP-6500* spectrofluorometer (with epifluorescence accessory: *EFA 383 module*) was used to identify the excitation properties at 325 nm irradiation wavelength.

The hydrophilicity of the catalysts was evaluated by using a *Dataphysics O.C.A. 15EC* type optical contact angle meter (*Dataphysics Contact Angle System OCA15Pro* software).

An aqueous solution of methyl orange, phenol, or oxalic acid was used to investigate the photocatalytic activity of the semiconductors. The photocatalytic measurement was performed in a double-walled *Pyrex* glass reactor equipped with a magnetic stirrer, continuous air supply, and thermostat at 25 °C. The concentration of the suspension was  $1 \text{ g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ . The photoreactor was surrounded with  $6 \times 6 \text{ W}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 365 \text{ nm}$ ) UV lamps and  $4 \times 24 \text{ W}$  (DÜVI 25920/R7S;  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 545 \text{ nm}$ ) visible light emitting lamps. The concentration change of phenol and oxalic acid was monitored using a *Merck-Hitachi L-7100* high-performance liquid chromatograph. On the other hand, the concentration change of methyl orange was examined using an *Agilent 8453* spectrophotometer ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 484 \text{ nm}$ ).

The samples were characterized again after the reusability process. The structural stability of the samples was analyzed by using two different recycling experiment types: sequential and regenerated catalysts mode.

### 3. Summary of the new scientific results

#### **T1. It was demonstrated that the anion from the halide source affected the photocatalytic activity and stability of silver halides**

T1.1 We have shown that a clear sequence can be established between the photocatalytic activity of silver halides, even though the synthesis of silver halides has been varied over a relatively wide range using different halide precursors (alkali and hydrogen halides) and different shape-tailoring agents. While AgCl degraded methyl orange between 0-33% efficiency, AgBr resulted in a 44-92% conversion rate, whereas AgI did not show any photocatalytic activity under the same conditions.

T1.2 It was shown that the formation of Ag nanoparticles on the surface of the silver halides depended on the type of AgX, since in the case of silver chloride Ag or Ag<sub>2</sub>O particles were formed during the synthesis, while in the case of silver bromide only during the photocatalytic processes. AgI did not show the formation of Ag or Ag<sub>2</sub>O. Furthermore, the synthesis of AgI resulted in the mixture of  $\beta$ -AgI and  $\gamma$ -AgI crystal phases.

T1.3 It was concluded that the applicability of AgCl and AgBr was questionable as photocatalysts due to the uncontrolled deposition of Ag-containing species on the surface of the semiconductor, which contributed to the inhibition of the photoactivity.

#### **T2. It was found that the shape-tailoring agents used in the synthesis affected the morphology and photocatalytic activity of AgCl and AgBr**

T2.1 It was found that the photocatalytic activity of the polyvinylpyrrolidone-modified samples was higher than those obtained in the presence of ionic cetyltrimethylammonium bromide and sodium dodecyl sulfate shape-tailoring agents, as these samples had the highest degradation efficiencies, regardless of

the type of silver halide. This can be related to the smaller particle size and polyhedral morphology induced by the presence of PVP during the synthesis.

T2.2 The samples modified with sodium dodecyl sulfate provided lower or equal conversion compared to the samples synthesized without any additives, despite the emerging polyhedral morphology achieved by using sodium dodecyl sulfate.

T2.3 It was demonstrated that the photocatalytic activity of the samples obtained in the presence of cetyltrimethylammonium bromide is affected by the different alkali metal bromides used. A volcano-type curve was obtained when analyzing the dependence of the photocatalytic conversion values from the used bromide source, the maximum value being at the samples achieved with using NaBr.

T2.4 The amount of PVP affected the photocatalytic activity of the silver halides as well. The most efficient sample was obtained at a molar ratio of Ag:PVP=1:1.63 (the other Ag:PVP molar ratios were as follows: 0.27; 0.546; 1.09; 1.63; 2.18, 2.72 and 3.27 relative to a unit of silver).

**T3. It was demonstrated that the cation salt of the halogen precursors indirectly affects the optical properties of the resulting materials. Using the K<sup>+</sup>-containing salts, regardless of the shape-tailoring and the silver halides, band gap energy values were the same.**

**T4. It was established that the types and concentration of the applied phosphate sources during the synthesis affected the photocatalytic activity and stability of Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>**

T4.1 It was demonstrated that the presence of NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> as opposed to Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> and Na<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> · 12 H<sub>2</sub>O resulted in the appearance of pyrophosphate (Ag<sub>4</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>), which may affect negatively the photocatalytic activity.

T4.2 Ag/Ag<sub>x</sub>O nanoparticles formed on the surface of Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> after the degradation processes. The appearance of the mentioned species had a weaker

deactivating effect than in the case of silver halides.  $\text{Ag}_3\text{PO}_4$  showed a much smaller decrease in activity in increased reusability compared to  $\text{AgBr}$ .

### **T5. It was shown that the $\text{TiO}_2$ crystal phase affected the nature and stability of Ag-containing nanoparticles**

T5.1 The ratio of  $\text{Ag}/\text{Ag}_x\text{O}$  nanoparticles on the surface of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  can be modified by the anatase: rutile ratio. It was confirmed by XRD, DRS, and XPS that  $\text{AgO}$  nanoparticles formed on the surface of anatase, while  $\text{Ag}$  nanoparticles were deposited on the surface of rutile regardless of the  $\text{TiO}_2$  crystal phase ratios used (AA:AR=0:100, 10:90, 25:75, 50:50, 75:25, 90:10 and 100:0 w/w%).

T5.2 The Ag-containing composites were found to be more efficient in the degradation of oxalic acid and phenol (under UV light irradiation) than commercial  $\text{TiO}_2$  composites when they contained anatase and rutile crystal phases together. In the case of Ag-containing composites, a conversion of 19-50% was achieved during the degradation of oxalic acid, while in the degradation of phenol it was between 36.7-50%, in contrast to the commercial composites, where degradation of oxalic acid resulted in only 6.8-24% conversion and 32.5-43% for phenol. The composition of 75% anatase and 25% rutile showed outstanding activity in the photocatalytic degradation of phenol and oxalic acid.

T5.3  $\text{Ag}$  nanoparticles on the surface of rutile can slowly transform into  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  nanoparticles after several months or directly after the photocatalytic degradation of a model pollutant. The as-obtained  $\text{Ag}_2\text{O}$  nanoparticles can be reverted to  $\text{Ag}$  after another photocatalytic test. Interestingly,  $\text{AgO}$  remains stable both in time and during photocatalytic degradation of oxalic acid.

#### 4. Applicability of the scientific results

The aim of this doctoral thesis was to obtain different types of silver-containing materials. The effect of the synthesis parameters on the photocatalytic activity and stability of the materials was analyzed in-detail. Comprehensive characterization demonstrated that some Ag-containing microcrystals can be synthesized with high purity. The obtained materials and composites are suitable for other types of applications despite the difficulties shown during their application in visible and UV light-driven photocatalytic processes. The properties of the semiconductors were analyzed after the degradation processes as well. It was found that in several cases (AgCl, AgBr, and Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>), the materials have lost entirely/partially their photocatalytic activity and transformed into other Ag-containing compounds. The AgI and Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> microcrystals were stable compared to other materials mentioned above. In addition, Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> has proven to be a re-usable photocatalyst, and Ag/Ag<sub>x</sub>O nanoparticles formed on their surface increase its efficiency. It was also shown that the ratio of different TiO<sub>2</sub> crystal phases affected the ratio of Ag/Ag<sub>x</sub>O nanoparticles, which could be a new application of TiO<sub>2</sub>.



## 4. Publications and conference participations

Hungarian Scientific Bibliography (MTMT) identifier: 10062468

### Publications related to the scientific topic of the dissertation

[1] **Zs.-R. Tóth**, K. Hernadi, L. Baia, G. Kovács, Zs. Pap: *Controlled formation of Ag-Ag<sub>x</sub>O nanoparticles on the surface of commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> based composites for enhanced photocatalytic degradation of oxalic acid and phenol*,

Catalysis Today, in press, 2020 (DOI: 10.1016/j.cattod.2020.06.051)

**IF=5.825**

[2] **Zs.-R. Tóth**, Zs. Pap, J. Kiss, L. Baia, T. Gyulavári, Zs. Czekes, M. Todea, K. Magyari, G. Kovács, K. Hernadi, *Shape tailoring of AgBr microstructures: effect of the cations of different bromide sources and the applied surfactants*,

RSC Advances, 2021, 11, 9709-9720 (DOI: 10.1039/D0RA09144H)

**IF=3.119**

[3] **Zs.-R. Tóth**, S. K. Maity, T. Gyulavári, E. Bárdos, L. Baia, G. Kovács, S. Garg, Zs. Pap, K. Hernadi, *Solvothermal crystallization of Ag@AgCl microcrystals: the effect of different chloride sources/shape-tailoring agents*,

Catalysts, 2021, 11(3), 379 (DOI: 10.3390/catal11030379)

**IF=3.520**

[4] **Zs.-R. Tóth**, D. Debreczeni, T. Gyulavári, I. Székely, M. Todea, G. Kovács, K. Magyar, L. Baia, Zs. Pap K. Hernadi, *Rapid synthesis method of Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> re-usable semiconductor*

manuscript in preparation

$$\Sigma \text{IF} = 12.464$$

### Other publication:

[1] Zs. Pap, **Zs. R. Tóth**, V. Danciu, L. Baia, G. Kovács, *Differently shaped Au nanoparticles: A case study on the enhancement of the photocatalytic activity of commercial TiO<sub>2</sub>*,

Materials, 8 (2015) 162-180.

**IF=2.788**

[2] **Zs.-R. Tóth**, G. Kovács, K. Hernádi, L. Baia, Zs. Pap, *The investigation of the photocatalytic efficiency of spherical gold nanocages/TiO<sub>2</sub> and silver nanospheres/TiO<sub>2</sub> composites*,

Separation and Purification Technology 183 (2017) 216–225.

**IF=3.927**

[3] **Zs.-R. Tóth**, Zs. Pap, V. Danciu, V. Cosoveanu, L. Baia, G. Kovács, *Detailed investigation of phenol degradation on Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> composite materials*,

Journal of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology 19 (2019) 407-413.

**IF=1.134**

[4] K. Magyari, **Z. R. Tóth**, Zs. Pap, E. Licarete, D.C. Vodnar, M. Todea, T. Gyulavári, K. Hernadi, L. Baia, *The impact of copper oxide nanoparticles on the structure and applicability of bioactive glasses*,

Journal of Sol-Gel Science and Technology, 91 (2019) 634–643.

**IF=2.008**

[5] A. Szabó, L. P. Bakos, D. Karajz, T. Gyulavári, **Zs.-R. Tóth**, Zs. Pap, I. M. Szilágyi, T. Igricz, B. Párditka, Z. Erdélyi, K. Hernadi, *Decoration of Vertically Aligned Carbon Nanotubes with Semiconductor Nanoparticles Using Atomic Layer Deposition*, Materials, 12 (2019) 1095.

**IF=3.057**

[6] K. Magyari, Zs. Pap, **Z. R. Tóth**, Zs. Kása, E. Licarete, D. C. Vodnar, K. Hernadi L. Baia, *Insights into the effect of gold nanospheres, nanotriangles and spherical nanocages on the structural, morphological and biological properties of bioactive glasses*, Journal of Non-Crystalline Solids, 522 (2019) 119552.

**IF=2.929**

[7] A. Feraru, **Zs.-R. Tóth**, K. Magyari, Zs. Pap, M. Todea, M. Mureşan-Pop, D.C. Vodnar, E. Licarete, K. Hernadi, L. Baia, *Composites based on silicate bioactive glasses and silver iodide microcrystals for tissue engineering applications*, Journal of Non-Crystalline Solids, 547 (2020) 120293.

**IF=2.929**

[8] A. Szabó, T. Gyulavári, **Zs.-R. Tóth**, Zs. Pápa, J. Budai, K. Hernadi, *The effect of various substrates and catalyst layer deposition on the incorporation of nitrogen into carbon nanotube forest structures*, Thin Solid Films, 709 (2020) 138194.

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[9] A. Dreanca, M. Muresan-Pop, M. Taulescu, **Zs.-R. Tóth**, S. Bogdan, C. Pestean, S. Oren, C. Toma, A. Popescu, E. Páll, B. Sevastre, L. Baia, K. Magyari, *Bioactive glass-biopolymers-gold nanoparticle based composites for tissue engineering application*, Materials Science & Engineering C, 123, 112006

**IF=5.880**

[10] A. Szabó, L. Nánai, **Zs. R. Tóth**, K. Hernadi, *Simplification of the CCVD method used in the growth of carbon nanotube forests on titanium substrate*, Solid State Sciences, in press, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.solidstatesciences.2021.106648>

**IF=2.434**

[11] Z. Kovács, Cs. Molnár, T. Gyulavári, K. Magyari, **Zs. Toth**, L. Baia; K. Hernadi, Zs. Pap *Solvothermal synthesis of ZnO spheres: tuning the structure and morphology from nano- to micro-meter range and its impact on their photocatalytic activity*, Catalysis Today, submitted manuscript

**IF=5.825**

$$\sum \text{IF} = 29.116$$

$$\sum \sum_{\text{total}} \text{IF} = 41.58$$

$$\sum \text{Citations} = 31 \text{ (Independent: 15)}$$

**National and international conference participations:**

[1] **Tóth Zsejke Réka**, Kovács Gábor, Pap Zsolt, Danciu Virginia, Vulpoi Adriana, Magyar Klára, Dombi András, Hernádi Klára, Baia Lucian: *Különböző formájú arany nanorészecskék hatása kereskedelmi fotokatalizátorok aktivitására*

XIX. International Conference on Chemistry, Baia Mare, Romania (2013) – poster presentation

[2] **Tóth Zsejke Réka**: *Különböző alakú arany nanorészecskék hatása kereskedelmi fotokatalizátorok aktivitására*

XVII. Erdélyi Tudományos Diákköri Konferencia,  
Cluj Napoca, Romania (2014) – oral presentation

[3] **Tóth Zsejke Réka**, Kovács Gábor, Pap Zsolt, Virginia Danciu, Dombi András, Hernádi Klára, Lucian Baia: *Kereskedelmi TiO<sub>2</sub> és különböző alakú arany nanorészecskék által alkotott kompozitok fotokatalitikus aktivitása modell szennyezők lebontására és a keletkező köztitermékek vizsgálata*

XX. International Conference on Chemistry, Cluj Napoca, Románia (2014) – poster presentation

[4] **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**: *Különböző alakú arany nanorészecskék hatása kereskedelmi fotokatalizátorok aktivitására*

XXXII. Országos Tudományos Diákköri Konferencia, Kémiai és Vegyipari Szekció,  
Veszprém, Hungary (2015) – oral presentation

[5] **Tóth Zsejke Réka**, Kovács Gábor, Pap Zsolt, Virginia Danciu, Dombi András, Hernádi Klára, Lucian Baia: *Kereskedelmi TiO<sub>2</sub> és különböző alakú arany és ezüst nanorészecskék által alkotott kompozitok fotokatalitikus aktivitásának vizsgálata*

XXI. International Conference on Chemistry, Şumuleu, Romania (2015) – poster presentation

[6] **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**: *The influence of Ag and Au nanoparticles shapes on the activity of commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalysts*

13<sup>th</sup> International Conference „Student for Students”  
Cluj Napoca, Romania (2016) – oral presentation

[7] **Tóth Zsejke Réka**: *Au- és Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> nanokompozitok fotokatalitikus hatékonyságának vizsgálata*

XIX. Erdélyi Tudományos Diákköri Konferencia,  
Cluj Napoca, Romania (2016) – oral presentation

[8] **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára, Baia Lucian, Kovács Gábor  
*Kereskedelmi TiO<sub>2</sub> fotokatalizátorok, arany nanoketrecsékkel való módosítása és aktivitására való hatása*

22<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Analytical and Environmental Problems  
Szeged, Hungary (2016) – poster presentation

[9] Fodor Szilvia & **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára, Kovács Gábor, Baia Lucian: *Különböző geometriájú nemesfém nanorészecskékkel módosított TiO<sub>2</sub> fotokatalizátorok hatása fenol bontásában*

V. Környezetkémiai Szimpózium, Tihany, Hungary (2016) – oral presentation

- [10] **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára, Baia Lucian, Kovács Gábor: *Nemesfém/TiO<sub>2</sub> kompozitok alkalmazása szerves szennyezők lebontására és fotokatalitikus H<sub>2</sub> fejlesztésre*  
XXII. International Conference on Chemistry, Timisoara, Romania (2016) – oral presentation
- [11] **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára, Lucian Baia, Kovács Gábor: *TiO<sub>2</sub> aktivitásának befolyásolása Au és Ag nanorészecskékkel és a keletkezett kompozitok fotokatalitikus aktivitásának vizsgálata*  
XV. Erdélyi Természettudományi Konferencia  
Cluj Napoca, Romania (2016) – poster presentation
- [12] **Zsejke-Réka Tóth**, Péter-Szabó Márk, Klára Hernádi, Lucian Baia, Zsolt Pap  
*Synthesis and photocatalytic activity of silver-halide nanoparticles*  
5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Environmental Applications of Advanced Oxidation Processes  
Prague, Czech Republic (2017) – poster presentation
- [13] Eszter Orbán, **Zsejke-Réka Tóth**, Zsolt Pap, Gábor Kovács, Klára Hernádi, Virginia Danciu, Lucian Baia: *Application of TiO<sub>2</sub>/WO<sub>3</sub> composites in the photocatalytic degradation of dye molecules*  
5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Environmental Applications of Advanced Oxidation Processes  
Prague, Czech Republic (2017) – poster presentation
- [14] **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára, Lucian Baia, Kovács Gábor: *Ezüst-halogenid (AgX, X=Cl, Br) látható fényben aktív fotokatalizátorok előállítás, jellemzése és alkalmazása modellszennyezők lebontására*  
XXIII. International Conference on Chemistry, Deva, Romania (2017) – poster presentation
- [15] Kovács Zoltán & **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára, Lucian Baia, Kovács Gábor: *AgBr/ZnO fotokatalizátorok jellemzése és fotokatalitikus aktivitásának vizsgálata*  
XXIII. International Conference on Chemistry, Deva, Romania (2017) – poster presentation
- [16] **Zsejke-Réka Tóth**, Gábor Kovács, Lucian Baia, Zsolt Pap, Klára Hernádi: *Synthesis, characterization and photocatalytic activity of spherical gold nanocages/TiO<sub>2</sub> and silver nanospheres/TiO<sub>2</sub> composites*  
3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Nanoparticles/Nanomaterials and Applications,  
Lisbon, Portugal (2018) – poster presentation
- [17] **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**  
*Metilnarancs színezék bontása látható fényben aktív Ag alapú katalizátorok felhasználásával*  
Interdiszciplinaritás a Kárpát – Medencében ELTE MÁSZ PhD-konferencia,  
Debrecen, Hungary (2018) – oral presentation
- [18] **Zsejke-Réka Tóth**, János Kiss, Klára Hernádi, Lucian Baia, Gábor Kovács, Enikő Eszter Almási, Zsolt Pap: *Stability investigations of AgBr photoactive materials*  
II. Sustainable Raw Materials International Project Week And Scientific Conference,  
Szeged, Hungary (2019) – oral presentation
- [19] **Zsejke-Réka Tóth**, Zsolt Pap, Emilia Licarete, Klára Hernádi, Lucian Baia, Klára Magyari: *Effect of differently shaped gold nanoparticles on the bioactive glasses*

30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Society for Biomaterials,  
Dresden, Germany (2019) – poster presentation

[20] **Zsejke-Réka Tóth**, Alexandra Feraru, Zsolt Pap, Milica Todea, Dan C. Vodnar, Klára Hernádi, Lucian Baia, Klára Magyari: *Optimization of the synthesis of noble metal-based microcrystals and applicability studies bioactive glass-based composites*

30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Society for Biomaterials  
Dresden, Germany (2019) – poster presentation

[21] **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Debreczeni Diána, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára, Milica Todea, Dan. C. Vodnar, Lucian Baia, Magyari Klára: *Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> tartalmú bioaktív üveg kompozitok előállítás, jellemzése és antibakteriális hatásának a vizsgálata*

XXVI. International Conference on Chemistry, online (2020) – oral presentation

### **National and international conference participations as co-author:**

[1] Szilvia Fodor, **Zsejke Réka Tóth**, Zsolt Pap, Lucian Baia, Virginia Danciu, Adriana Vulpoi, Klára Magyari, András Dombi, Klára Hernádi, Gábor Kovács: *The influence of Pt/Au nanoparticles' shape on activity of commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalysts*

European Materials Research Society Spring Meeting, Lille, France (2014) – poster presentation

[2] Kovács Gábor, **Tóth Zsejke Réka**, Fodor Szilvia, Pap Zsolt, Danciu Virginia, Dombi András, Hernádi Klára, Baia Lucian: *Differently shaped Pt/Au nanoparticles: activity enhancement of commercial TiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalysts*

8<sup>th</sup> European Meeting on Solar Chemistry and Photocatalysis: Environmental Applications –  
Thessaloniki, Greece (2014) – poster presentation

[3] Pap Zsolt, Kovács Gábor, Székely István, Kedves Zsolt, Saszet Kata, Hampel Boglárka, Fodor Szilvia, Orbán Eszter, Kovács Zoltán, Hernádi Klára, Dombi András, Kása Zsolt, **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Vajda Krisztina, Karácsony Éva, Virginia Danciu, Adriana Vulpoi, Veronica Coşoveanu, Lucian Baia: *Nano-sized photocatalysts and their composites – shape tailoring and activity*

XX. International Conference on Chemistry, Cluj Napoca, Romania (2014) – oral presentation

[4] Pap Zsolt, Kovács Gábor, **Tóth Zsejke-Réka et al.**: *The Functioning Mechanism of Photocatalytic Systems from the Charge Transfer Point of View. "The Adventure of the Electron"*

XXI. International Conference on Chemistry, Şumuleu, Romania (2015) – oral presentation

[5] Pap Zsolt, Fodor Szilvia, Gyulavári Tamás, Kovács Gábor, **Tóth Zsejke-Réka, et al.** *Új nanokompozitok és nanoszerkezetek a víztisztításban*

XXII. International Conference on Chemistry, Timisoara, Romania – oral presentation

[6] Péter-Szabó Márk, **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára, Kovács Gábor: *Ezüst-bromidok előállítása és fotokatalitikus aktivitásának vizsgálata*

XXIII. International Conference on Chemistry, Deva, Romania (2017) – poster presentation

- [7] Gombkötő Dániel, **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára, Kovács Gábor, Szöllősi György: *Au-laponit-alapú kompozitok előállítása, szerkezeti és morfológiai vizsgálata*  
XXIII. International Conference on Chemistry, Deva, Romania (2017) – poster presentation
- [8] Magyar Klára, Nagy-Simon Tímea, **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Pap Zsolt, Adriana Vulpoi, Emilia Licarete, Radu A. Popescu, Hernádi Klára, Lucian Baia: *Bioaktív üveg-arany nanorészecske kompozitok biokompatibilitási teljesítménye*  
XXIII. International Conference on Chemistry, Deva, Romania (2017) – oral presentation
- [9] **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Kovács Gábor, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára: *Ezüst-halogenid ( $AgX$ ,  $X=Cl, Br, I$ ) látható fényben aktív fotokatalizátorok stabilitásának a vizsgálata*  
XXIV. International Conference on Chemistry, Sovata, Romania (2018) – poster presentation
- [10] Kiss János, **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Kovács Gábor, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára: *AgBr fotokatalizátorok alkalmazhatósága és szerkezetének befolyásolása*  
XXIV. International Conference on Chemistry, Sovata, Romania (2018) – poster presentation
- [11] Magyar Klára, Radu A. Popescu, Pap Zsolt, Kása Zsolt, **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, *et al.*: *Csontszövet regenerálódása réz tartalmú bioaktív üvegek felhasználásával*  
XXIV. International Conference on Chemistry, Sovata, Romania (2018) – oral presentation
- [12] Ravasz Alpár, Kedves Endre-Zsolt, **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Bárdos Enikő, Fodor Szilvia, Kovács Zoltán, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára, Lucian Baia: *MoO<sub>3</sub> hatása az AgBr, BiOI, Cu<sub>2</sub>O és ZnO fotokatalizátorok aktivitására*  
XXIV. International Conference on Chemistry, Sovata, Romania (2018) – poster presentation
- [13] **Tóth Zsejke-Réka**, Lucian C. Pop, Pap Zsolt, Hernádi Klára, Lucian Baia: *The synthesis and characterization of bioactive-glass composites with differently shaped gold nanoparticles*  
XXIV. International Conference on Chemistry, Sovata, Romania (2018) – poster presentation
- [14] Saurav Kumar Maity, **Zsejke-Réka Tóth**, Gábor Kovács, Zsolt Pap, Klára Hernádi, Seema Garg: *Synthesis, characterization and photocatalytic activity of Ag-based photocatalyst*  
16<sup>th</sup> International Conference “Students for Students”, Cluj Napoca, Romania (2019) – oral presentation
- [15] Alpár Ravasz, Endre-Zsolt Kedves, **Zsejke-Réka Tóth**, Enikő Bárdos, Szilvia Fodor, Zoltán Kovács, Zsolt Pap, Klára Hernádi, Lucian Baia: *Photocatalytic investigation of AgBr, BiOI, Cu<sub>2</sub>O and ZnO semiconductors' binary composites with orthorhombic MoO<sub>3</sub>*  
6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Environmental Applications of Advanced Oxidation Processes Portorož, Slovenia (2019) – poster presentation
- [16] **Zsejke Réka Tóth**, Klára Hernádi, Lucian Baia, Gábor Kovács, Zsolt Pap: *Formation of Ag-AgO nanoparticles on the surface of commercial TiO<sub>2</sub>*  
6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Environmental Applications of Advanced Oxidation Processes Portorož, Slovenia (2019) – poster presentation
- [17] Alexandra I. Dreanca, Marieta Muresan- Pop, **Zsejke Réka Toth**, Eموke Pall, Bogdan Sevastre, Marian Taulescu, Sidonia Bogdan, Dan C. Vodnar, Lucian Baia, Klara Magyar:

*Alginate-pullulan-glass composites with gold nanoparticles content-one step forward for tissue engineering applications*

30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Society for Biomaterials

Dresden, Germany (2019) – poster presentation

[18] Magyarai Klára, **Tóth Zsejke-Réka** *et al.*: *Arany nanorészecskéket tartalmazó bioaktív üveg – biopolimér kompozitok előállítása, jellemzése és alkalmazhatósága,*

XXVI. International Conference on Chemistry, online (2020) – oral presentation

[19] **Tóth Zsejke Réka**, Debreczeni Diána, Kiss János, Hernádi Klára, Pap Zsolt, Kovács Gábor: *Ag-alapú fotoaktív anyagok előállítása, jellemzése és alkalmazhatósági vizsgálata,*

XXVI. International Conference on Chemistry, online (2020) – oral presentation

[20] Anna Szabó, Lilla Nánai, **Zsejke-Réka Tóth**, Klára Hernádi, *Production of CNT forests by a simple layer building method on a conductive substrate,*

26<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Analytical and Environmental Problems, online (2020) – oral presentation