

ACS International News

ACS Office of International Activities
September/October 2008

In collaboration with the American Chemical Society Committee on International Activities, the ACS Office of International Activities publishes ACS International News in electronic form on a bimonthly basis. It is designed to provide information on activities, networks, resources, products and services related to international aspects of chemical sciences, technology, engineering and innovation.

For information on international meetings and conferences, we invite you to visit <http://www.acs.org> and click on "Meetings" along the top to search and view opportunities.

Please share this email with your colleagues, and we also hope you will consider contributing content for future editions. Send your ideas and suggestions to intlacts@acs.org.

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INTERNATIONAL CURRENTS

Join the ACS Member Network!

The ACS Member Network is an online networking tool that facilitates more effective collaboration among ACS members and scientific professionals. The ACS Member Network allows you to develop your own personal network of ACS members; share research and publications information; and find friends and colleagues faster and easier than ever before. It is FREE and available to all ACS members. To join the network of the world's largest scientific society for chemical professionals please visit <http://www.acs.org/MemberNetwork>.

Important News for International Travelers. New Automated System Implemented for the Visa Waiver Program (VWP)

The VWP enables citizens of certain countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. The Department of Homeland Security has implemented a new Electronic System for Travel Authorization (**ESTA**) to screen passengers traveling to the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program. The Department of Homeland Security will begin accepting voluntary **ESTA** applications on August 1, 2008 and it is anticipated that **ESTA** will become mandatory for VWP travelers on January 12, 2009. Please visit http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/ or http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html to learn more.

Global Challenges/Chemistry Solutions

Global Challenges/Chemistry Solutions is a series of podcasts describing some of the 21st Century's most daunting problems, and how cutting-edge research in chemistry matters in the quest for solutions. This sweeping panorama of global challenges includes dilemmas such as providing a hungry, thirsty world with ample supplies of safe food and clean water; developing alternatives to petroleum to fuel society; preserving the environment and assuring a sustainable future for our children; and improving human health. Learn more at: http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_SUPERARTICLE&node_id=2098&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1

SciFinder Scholar is now in 90% of all universities worldwide

Launched in 1998 by Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), a division of the American Chemical Society, SciFinder Scholar is an online research tool that allows college students and faculty to access CAS' databases of disclosed chemistry and related information from multiple scientific disciplines, including biomedical sciences, chemistry, engineering, materials science, agricultural science and others. SciFinder is now in 90% of all universities worldwide granting a minimum of a 4-year degree in chemistry. This milestone was reached as Kean University in Union, New Jersey adopted SciFinder Scholar to serve the science research needs of its faculty and students, becoming the 1500th subscriber. Learn more about SciFinder at:

<http://www.cas.org/products/sfacad/index.html>

Globalization: A Perspective from Executives of the US and the EU.

On Monday, August 18, 2008, during the American Chemical Society's National Conference in Philadelphia, The ACS Division of Business Development and Management (BMGT) hosted a globalization workshop to discuss the present and future of the chemical industry. The event, a collaboration between BMGT and the Division of Professional Relations (PROF), attracted a vast number of attendees who enjoyed the perspectives of both, U.S. and EU Executives and their remarkable presentations. The select list of panelists included Roger F. Jones, Terry Payne, and Timothy Weckesser. Mick Hurrey, moderator and host of the event gave his impressions after the workshop. "Globalization is something that affects all of us across all sectors of government, industry, and science. However, unlike issues like sustainability or fresh drinking water, etc., globalization is a state of being that we cannot control or stop from happening" said Dr. Hurrey. He added that "Unlike global scientific issues such as sustainability or renewable energy, globalization is not a problem that needs to be solved, but rather something we need to embrace and define ways of becoming more efficient".

Fabulous Future with Fluorine

The Nineteenth Biennial American Chemical Society Winter Fluorine Conference, sponsored by the Division of Fluorine Chemistry, will be held at the TradeWinds Island Grand Resort in St. Pete's Beach, Florida on January 11-16, 2009. Conference and Housing registration are now open through 11 December 2008. Online abstract submission is also open with a deadline of October 6, 2008. Learn more at: <http://membership.acs.org/F/FLUO/19WFC/INDEX19WFC.HTM>

Merger Activity Keeping Up In '08. Billion-dollar chemical acquisitions continue, but the number of deals is down

Industry consolidation has continued to gain momentum this year in spite of the fragile global conditions of the credit markets, a clear indication of the globalization of the industry. Although the number of deals has been reduced, companies will continue to strive to remain competitive by means of Mergers and Acquisitions. Learn more at:

<http://pubs.acs.org/isubscribe/journals/cen/86/i34/html/8634bus2.html>

Summer INASP Newsletter Now Available

The International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) has published the 36th edition of its newsletter. Published 3 times a year, the INASP newsletter is sent out free of charge in print and is also available on the network's website. The newsletter presents articles, news and alerts on topics of interest to the information development community. The theme of this issue is The Modern Digital Library: Information literacy and institutional repositories. Read the full text version of the newsletter at: <http://www.inasp.info/uploaded/documents/No-36-Newsletter.pdf>

Green fuel for the airline industry

The raising cost of oil fuel has become a big problem for the airline industry. It increases the operating costs, hurting not only the carriers, but also the passengers' pockets. However, the cost of oil is not the biggest challenge the industry faces. International efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions have created a new challenge for the industry to find alternative solutions to kerosene. Additionally, oil isn't a renewable resource and experts agree that oil production is reaching its peak and will begin its inevitable decline. As a consequence, airlines will not only have to worry about the price of oil, but also about having enough of it to operate their planes. It has become an issue of sustainability and the airlines must find solutions soon in order to survive. Learn more at: <http://environment.newscientist.com/channel/earth/energy-fuels/mg19926691.700-green-fuel-for-the-airline-industry.html>

REGIONAL NEWS AND RESOURCES

Africa and the Middle East

New network to raise profile of Muslim women scientists

The Islamic Network for Women Scientists (INWS) has been launched to promote the role of Muslim women scientists in science and technology development.

The announcement was made at a meeting of the Consultative Council for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Science and Technology in the Islamic Countries held in Rabat, Morocco last week (28 July). Learn more at: <http://www.scidev.net/en/middle-east-and-north-africa/news/new-network-to-raise-profile-of-muslim-women-scienc.html>

Asia

ACS Visits China Again. This time, society officials and journal editors go to China's national meeting

On his first visit to China, ACS President Bruce E. Bursten, attended the CCS national meeting in Tianjin where he had the opportunity to hold a one hour meeting with CCS President Chunli Bai. The meeting helped strengthen relationships and served as the appropriate scenario to discuss new initiatives to increase scientific exchanges between China and the U.S. Along with President Bursten, a large delegation of ACS journal editors and editorial board members also traveled to Taijing, a clear signal of ACS interest in increasing its presence in China. Learn more at: <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/acsnews/86/8635acsnews2.html>

Thailand Resorts to Nanotech

After the approval of a national nanotechnology programme in 2003, the government of Thailand has identified nanotechnology as one of its 3 "core technology areas" that compress the country's 10 year framework for science and technology. Despite the shortage of scientist and engineers, Thailand has begun to aggressively invest in the field. Learn more at: <http://www.nature.com/nnano/journal/v3/n8/full/nnano.2008.225.html>

Latin America and the Caribbean

Activity-Based Chemistry Education Workshop

Approximately twenty secondary and tertiary chemistry instructors and education students participated in a two-day "Activity-Based Chemistry Education" workshop at the FLAQ/PRChem 2008 meeting in Puerto Rico. The workshop, a collaboration between CQPR and ACS, was led by Dr. Jerry Bell, Senior Scientist in the ACS Education Division. The activities carried out by the participants and the content of the workshop were based on the ACS general chemistry textbook, *Chemistry* (also *Química*). Most of the activities used simple, easily obtained, and inexpensive materials that make them accessible to most teachers and classrooms. Half of the workshop focused on atomic and molecular properties and their observable consequences while the other

half centered on energy and entropy analyses that provide an understanding of and ability to predict the direction of chemical change.

Congress of the Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations (FLAQ 2008)

The Colegio de Químicos de Puerto Rico (CQPR) jointly held the fourth Congress of the Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations (FLAQ 2008) with the annual 67th PRChem Conference & Exhibition in San Juan, Puerto Rico on July 27 – August 1, 2008. This joint scientific event provided scientists and students a venue to collaborate and exchange ideas, build global networks, and display the latest technology advances. As part of the FLAQ scientific program, the American Chemical Society (ACS) hosted a Biofuels and Bio-based Products Chemistry and Environmental Impacts Symposium and an Activity-Based Chemistry Education Workshop. For more information on FLAQ, please visit:

<http://www.flag2008.org/index.php?node=183>

Biofuels and Bio-based Products Chemistry and Environmental Impacts Symposium

The ACS partnered with the Brazilian Chemical Society, the CQPR, and the Royal Society of Chemistry at FLAQ 2008 to host the Biofuels and Bio-based Products Chemistry and Environmental Impacts Symposium on July 29. Dr. Paulo Vieira from the Federal University of São Carlos and former president of the Brazilian Chemical Society opened up the symposium with his plenary talk on *Frontiers in Biomass Conversion and Bio-based Products* while Jim Sieber from the USDA Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) closed the symposium with his plenary session on *Bioconversion/ Bioenergy Chemistries: Opportunities & Challenges*. Nine other speakers from the U.S., UK, and Brazil gave stimulating presentations on their biofuels research. The symposium ended with fruitful discussions and thought-provoking questions. Please visit http://portal.acs.org/portal/fileFetch/C/WPCP_010789/pdf/WPCP_010789.pdf for more.

Las carreras de Química en América Latina. Dos agendas que enfrentar

En un trabajo realizado por José Antonio Chamizo, en el cual se revisó la situación actual de las carreras de Química en diferentes universidades latinoamericanas, se logro establecer, entre otras cosas, que existe un grave aislamiento profesional de los egresados del área. Chamizo formula algunas recomendaciones para enfrentar los retos propios de la región. Learn more at: <http://www.rieoei.org/2322.htm>

Europe

Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)

On June 1, 2007, the European Commission adopted a new law related to chemicals and their safe use, called Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH). This law will be phased in over the next ten years. REACH creates a unified, EU-wide policy for regulation of chemicals, which should simplify and facilitate trade between EU member countries of chemicals and chemical-containing products. REACH has been monitored with great interest by U.S. industry and government alike, as the new regulatory system is likely to impact companies that export chemicals or chemical-containing products to the EU. Of particular interest is the compilation of a list of “substances of very high concern”, as products containing these substances may face rejection from European markets. Information regarding the REACH regulation can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach_intro.htm

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has been created under the new REACH legislation. (homepage: http://reach.jrc.it/european_chemicals_en.htm) This new agency is responsible for

the administration of REACH regulations. REACH guidance documents are available online, which provide information related to obligations and compliance, for industry and regulatory agencies. http://reach.jrc.it/index_en.htm

The EC has also published a simple flier for those concerned about the potential impacts of REACH, which can be downloaded from:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/pdf/reach_me_flyer_en.pdf

ReachLink created to facilitate the registration of Chemicals under REACH

After the creation of REACH (the European Union's new program to register, evaluate, and authorize chemicals) in 2007, and in order to help stakeholders with the registration of substances process, CEFIC and the German (VCI), French (UIC), Italian (Federchimica), UK (CIA) and Spanish (FEIQUE) Chemical Associations founded ReachLink SA.

(<http://www.reachlink-eu.com/>). SIEFreach is the first ReachLink product, a software tool developed by IBM to facilitate the exchange of information between companies and users preparing to submit records to the European Chemicals Agency. The new instrument will also serve to standardize processes and minimize chemical testing. Learn more at:

<http://www.reachlink-eu.com/documents/Reachlink.pdf>

Transatlantic Frontiers of Chemistry Symposium 2008

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) successfully hosted the 2008 Transatlantic Frontiers of Chemistry Symposium at Cranage Hall, Cheshire, UK from July 31-August 3. The meeting gathered together over ninety early career chemists from across Germany, the UK, and the U.S. providing them with an opportunity for fruitful exchanges on *Chemistry in Society: How chemistry is meeting the health, energy, and environmental challenges facing us in the future*. Dave Garner, RSC President, Gordon McCarty, Director at Large of the American Chemical Society, and Klaus Müllen, Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) President launched the meeting with welcoming remarks. Read more about the meeting here:

<http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCConferences/TFOC/index.asp>

International Research Experiences for Undergraduates (IREU)

The American Chemical Society (ACS), in collaboration with the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) and the European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN), successfully completed the 2008 IREU program, made possible by funding received from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Fifteen U.S. students were placed at numerous German universities and research institutes under the German Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE) infrastructure. Three additional U.S. students were hosted (one each) by the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, the University of Perugia in Italy, and CPE-Lyon in France. Likewise, a total of eighteen European students were placed at U.S. universities involved in the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. The students spent approximately 8-10 weeks collaborating with their PhDs, PIs, and other lab members on research projects. Following that, they presented their research results at the Fall ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia on August 2008. Through discussions with the students at the National Meeting, ACS was able to hear firsthand accounts from the students about their experiences. Many of the students remarked that this experience had been a once in a lifetime opportunity that gave them the means to sharpen their research skills, work in a cross-cultural setting, and develop a global scientific perspective. To read about the students' experiences, please view the blog at <http://ireu2008.blogspot.com/>.

If you are interested in this program, applications for the 2009 program will be available in early November at our ACS website:

https://portal.acs.org/preview/appmanager/corg/memberapp?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_ARTICLEMAIN&node_id=1309&content_id=CTP_005109&use_sec=true&sec_url_var=region1.

Please check the website for program updates and the most current information.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Doctoral New Investigator (DNI) and New Directions (ND) Grants Programs

The Doctoral New Investigator (DNI) Grants Program aims to promote the careers of young faculty by supporting research of high scientific caliber, and to enhance the career opportunities of their undergraduate / graduate students, and postdoctoral associates through the research experience. The New Directions (ND) Grants Program aims to stimulate a *new direction* of research for established faculty, and to support the careers of their student scientists and engineers. The next submission window for the Research Grants for Doctoral Departments Program will be October 20, 2008 to November 21, 2008. For detailed information about the programs, please go to

http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_TRANSITIONMAIN&node_id=1264&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1.

ACS PRF Scientific Education (Type SE) Grants

Scientific Education (SE), Summer Research Fellowships (SRF) and Supplements for Underrepresented Minority Research (SUMR) application window opens 12pm EST on October 27, 2008. The SE program assists with the travel expenses of foreign (defined as non-U.S. and non-Canadian) scientists who participate in major symposia in this country (or in Canada). The symposium topic must be "fundamental research in the petroleum field" to be eligible for support. Learn more at:

http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_TRANSITIONMAIN&node_id=1265&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1

Welch Award in Chemistry

DEADLINE: 1 February 2009. The purpose of The Welch Award in Chemistry is to foster and encourage basic chemical research and to recognize, in a substantial manner, the value of chemical research contributions for the benefit of mankind. Learn more at:

<http://www.welch1.org/Awards/WelchAwardinChemist0943/index.asp>

The ACS International E-Newsletter is sent out every other month by email. Should you have questions, comments or suggestions for content, please contact the ACS Office of International Activities at intlacts@acs.org. You can find out more about ACS international programs at <http://www.acs.org/international>.

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