



## ACS International News

ACS Office of International Activities  
November/December 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](mailto:intlacts@acs.org).

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### INTERNATIONAL CURRENTS

#### 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 (DHS) has implemented a new Electronic System for Travel Authorization (**ESTA**) to screen passengers traveling to the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program. DHS 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. Also, on October 17, President Bush announced the imminent expansion of the Visa Waiver Program to include the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, the Republic of Korea and the Slovak Republic. However, the United States government must still complete certain internal steps required by statute before the expansion can be completed. It is expected that nationals of the countries specified above will become eligible for the VWP in mid- November provided they possess a biometric passport and register on-line through ESTA. In the mean time, and until the expansion is completed, nationals of the mentioned countries must continue to acquire visas to travel to the United States. Please visit [http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id\\_visa/esta/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/) or [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without\\_1990.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html) to learn more.

### Chemistry International

*Chemistry International (CI)* is the newsmagazine of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). News about IUPAC, its chemists, its publications, its recommendations, its conferences and the work of its commissions and committees is published bimonthly in *CI*. The web version includes versatile navigations and indexes to the various sections of the newsmagazine. To learn more please visit <http://www.iupac.org/publications/ci/index.html>



## **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](http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_SUPERARTICLE&node_id=2098&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1)

## **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 from all over the world 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>.

## **REGIONAL NEWS AND RESOURCES**

### ***Africa and the Middle East***

#### **Rolande Hodel**

#### **In Africa, chemist's nonprofit organization hopes to increase access to life-saving drugs**

In a recent article, Linda Wang, Associate Editor of C&EN, takes a close look at ROLANDE R. HODEL, a German-born, U.S.-trained Chemist who now resides in the West African country of Cameroon and who, according to Wang, "wants to win a Nobel Prize—not in chemistry—but in peace". Hodel spends most of her time in Cameroon, pursuing her goal of helping Africa become an HIV/AIDS-free place by "empowering Africans to become self-sufficient in producing pharmaceuticals". This mission is carried out through the non-profit organization, AIDSfreeAFRICA ([www.aidsfreeafrica.org](http://www.aidsfreeafrica.org)), which she founded in 2003.

Read more about AIDSfreeAFRICA and Rolande R. Hodel at:

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/science/86/8641sciCTW.html>

### ***Asia***

#### **ACS-CCS sponsored Energy Research Frontier Symposium in Dalian, China**

ACS and the Chinese Chemical Society co-sponsored an Energy Research Frontier Symposium (ERFS) at the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics in Dalian, China, from November 3-6. Topics of the symposium included clean coal technologies, biomass energy, hydrogen fuel cell technology, photovoltaics and photocatalysis, as well as some discussion of the broader subjects of technological innovation and energy policy. Following one and a half days of lectures from invited speakers, the ERFS wrapped up with a roundtable discussion on the afternoon of November 6. During the roundtable discussion, participants were prompted to discuss the broader subject area of non-petroleum-based energy, including the environmental and policy issues involved in coming up with energy solutions, and also discussed opportunities for future collaboration. All agreed that in order to provide enough energy for the world while mitigating



environmental impacts, many approaches and many solutions are needed. There is no “one size fits all” for energy technology. Participants indicated a keen interest in tackling the issue of developing various alternative energy technologies in a collaborative manner. For more details, please see the ERFs website at: <http://www.erfs.dicp.ac.cn/index.php>

### **Gii-Water Symposium in Shanghai, China**

The American Chemical Society's Committee on Corporation Associates (CA) has partnered with the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) on the Global Innovation Imperatives (Gii) program. The program aims to address global challenges through community building for knowledge transfer and innovations based on chemistry. The first platform selected by CA and SCI is the global challenge of water.

In October 2008, ACS and SCI organized a Gii-Water Symposium during the Third International Symposium on Industrial Water Conservation, Waster Water Reduction, and Sewage Recycling Technologies in Shanghai, China.

Over the course of a two-day meeting, senior level attendees from industry, government and academe gathered in Shanghai to discuss the water conservation issues, waste water treatment issues, and technical research on water desalination in China.

Sessions included three Gii speakers Dr. Mark Shannon (UIUC), Dr. Gary Moses (Sud-Chemie), and Dr. Justin Pan (Arch Chemicals). The meeting was organized by Dr. YouQi Yang, Professor at Peking University and Senior Consultant for the China National Chemical Information Center and was followed by the International Exhibition at the ShanghaiMart.

The key Themes from the Gii Symposium were a better understanding and communication of the issues, increased governmental involvement, education to treat water as a total system, and the pricing of water.

For more information about the Gii program, please visit [www.thegii.org](http://www.thegii.org).

### ***Latin America and the Caribbean***

#### **Bytesize Science Podcasts**

The American Chemical Society (ACS) Office of Communications has launched Bytesize Science, an educational, entertaining podcast for young listeners. Bytesize Science translates cutting-edge scientific discoveries from ACS' 36 peer-reviewed journals into stories for young listeners about science, health, medicine, energy, food, and other topics. New installments of Bytesize Science are posted every Monday and available without charge. Some episodes are available in Spanish. For more information and to listen to the podcasts, please visit: [http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?\\_nfpb=true&\\_pageLabel=PP\\_SUPERARTICLE&node\\_id=2096&use\\_sec=false&sec\\_url\\_var=region1](http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_SUPERARTICLE&node_id=2096&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1)



## **SERMACS 2009**

The Puerto Rico Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is hosting the 61st Southeast Regional Meeting of the ACS (SERMACS 2009) which will be held on October 21-24, 2009 at the [Puerto Rico Convention Center](#) located in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The theme of SERMACS 2009 is "THINK POSITIVE, THINK GLOBAL, THINK CHEMISTRY". Learn more about the meeting and the Puerto Rico Section at <http://www.sermacs2009.org>

## ***Europe***

### **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 PhDs, PIs, and other lab members on research projects. Following this research experience, in August, 2008 they presented their results during a poster session at the Fall ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia. 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/>.

Applications for the 2009 program will be available in early November. For program updates and the most current information, please visit [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](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).

### **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](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](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](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](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/pdf/reach_me_flyer_en.pdf)

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **ACS PRF Scientific Education (Type SE) Grants**

Scientific Education (SE) and Supplements for Underrepresented Minority Research (SUMR) Scholar Award applications are due by 5:00 pm ET December 5, 2008 for consideration at the February 2009 PRF Advisory Board meeting. 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 the United States (or in Canada). The symposium topic must be "fundamental research in the petroleum field" to be eligible for support. The SUMR Scholar award is a supplement for existing ACS PRF research grants, intended to involve an undergraduate from an underrepresented minority group in a principal investigator's research project. Only current grant holders are eligible to apply. 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](http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_TRANSITIONMAIN&node_id=1265&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1)

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](mailto:intlacts@acs.org). You can find out more about ACS international programs at <http://www.acs.org/international>.

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