

## The Chair's Report and Newsletter

This year seems to have passed quickly, and although later than usual, I wanted to report on the year's activities and notable features.

### Award Winners

The Division of Biological Chemistry recently announced the winners of the Division and ACS publications sponsored awards. **Perry Frey** (Wisconsin) was announced as the winner of Biochemistry's Gordon Hammes award and lectureship. **Alanna Shepartz** (Yale) was announced as the first winner of ACS Chemical Biology's lectureship and will present her talk at the spring meeting in San Francisco in March. **Vahe Bandarian** (Arizona) was announced as the winner of the Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry. **Alice Ting** (MIT) was announced as the winner of the Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry. **Ron Raines** (Wisconsin) was announced as the winner of the Repligen Award in the Chemistry of Biological Processes. The Lilly, Pfizer and Repligen award lectures and symposia will take place at the fall meeting. Finally, Division member **Steve Benkovic** (Penn State) was awarded the ACS National Ralph Hirschmann Award in Peptide Chemistry. He has elected to present his work within the spring program of the Division of Biological Chemistry.

Nomination packages for the 2011 Lilly, Pfizer and Repligen awards must include a nomination letter, candidate's curriculum vitae and up to four letters of support. All of these must be assembled into a single .pdf file and emailed to Nigel Richards [richards@qtp.ufl.edu](mailto:richards@qtp.ufl.edu) no later than June 1, 2010.

### Spring Meeting

Program Chair, Suzanne Walker (Harvard) has put together a fabulous program for the March 2010 meeting in San Francisco. In addition to the Hirschmann and ACS Chemical Biology lectureships, four theme-based sessions have been organized by Tom Muir (Rockefeller), Wilfred van der Donk (Illinois). Kevan Shokat (UCSF) and Carolyn Bertozzi (Berkeley), who will be the final speakers in each session. Finally, in a continuing collaboration between the Divisions of Biological Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry, a symposium on New Drug Targets will be presented. I want to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne for her enormous efforts in organizing last fall's and this spring's meeting programs, which were, and certainly will be, exciting and extremely well attended.

### Meeting Support

In addition to supporting our Division's programming at the fall and spring ACS National meetings, the Division supports a number of International, National and Local and regional meetings via contributions. This year over \$10,000 was allocated for this purpose, including significant support provided to the Enzymes and Bioorganic Gordon Conferences as well as the Trends in Enzymology meeting to be held in Switzerland

this summer. The Texas Enzyme Conference meeting received support, as did the Isotopes Gordon Conference. In addition, at both the Enzymes and Bioorganic Gordon Conferences, the Division oversees the finances of the Founder's and Knowles Awards given to the outstanding poster presentation at the Mid-Winter Enzyme Mechanisms and Gordon Conferences. Finally, the Division has increased its support of student and postdoctoral travel awards to the Divisional meetings.

### **Division Elections**

For the second year, the Divisional elections were web-based, although with a new company providing the web site. Nigel Richards (Florida) was elected as the new Secretary and will start on January 1, 2010. Tom Wandless (Stanford) was elected to the Program Committee and will be the Program Chair in 2012 joining Chair Suzanne Walker and Marty Bollinger and Dewey McCafferty. Deborah Hung (Harvard) will serve on the Nominating Committee and Shana Kelly (Toronto) and Nicola Pohl (Iowa State) will serve on the Executive Committee. Finally, I want to thank the magnificent job that our outgoing Secretary, Martha Oakley, has done under extremely trying circumstances. Thanks, Martha.

### **Divisional Finances**

Thanks in large part to the former Treasurer, Eugene Mueller, the Division's finances are in great shape. While a small portion of our investment portfolio (~32%) was in the equity market, and thus transiently lost value, the majority of our portfolio is in cash or cash equivalents and was unaffected by the stock market indexes. Scott Silverman (Illinois) has done a tremendous job picking up where Eugene left off, and has made important contributions to enhancing the Division's resources. As 2010 will be the first year to reflect the modest increase in Divisional dues (to \$12.50 from \$10), Scott and I will continue to closely monitor the health of the Division's resources.

I want to thank all of the above-mentioned people for their hard work on behalf of the Division. I want to wish all the members of the Division a joyous holiday season.

John Blanchard