



BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY DIVISION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

<http://www.biochemdivision.org/>

Secretary: M. G. Oakley

February 2009

Message from the Chair John Blanchard - What Do I Do Now?

In the last two years, as Chair-elect under Carol Fierke, I have had the opportunity to see what the Chair does, as least from a comfortable distance with minimal responsibility. First of all, I am now responsible for writing these newsletters. Twice each year I will organize a Divisional meeting at the Spring and Fall ACS meetings where Program chairs discuss their upcoming meeting preparations, and finances and Divisional issues are discussed. The Division, under Carol's leadership, has provided the visionary leadership characteristic our recent Chairs in an effort to implement and establish new programs to benefit our members. The Division of Biological Chemistry is very much on the right track as a result of these recent discussions and actions. An increasing number of our members consider the Division to be their scientific "home base". We have dealt concretely with important issues concerning Division finances, instituted a program at the National Spring ACS meeting, established new lectureships sponsored by the ACS journals Biochemistry and ACS Chemical Biology, completely updated our web-site, and for the first time conducted our elections over the web. Our overriding aim has been the recruitment of young members through the opening of new avenues for their participation in Divisions affairs.

There is much more that might be done retain and build our membership. We need to increase the cooperation with the Divisions of Medicinal Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Computational Chemistry and the provisional Division of Catalysis, particularly in the area of program planning. We should explore the implementation web-based presentations of our Program content. We should expand our Spring program, and vigorously support other venues at which our members present their research. Finally we should work to establish new awards to recognize the accomplishment of our members.

In the last two years, I have had the opportunity to attend National ACS-sponsored meetings where issues of Divisional Leadership and Priorities were discussed. While I believe that our Division has never been in better shape, I have frankly expressed my concerns about how our membership could continue to afford to send their graduate students and postdoctoral research associates to National meetings when the cost of such trips now exceeds \$1,500 for registration, travel, hotel accommodations and per diems. There is not a single member of our Division, whether in academia or industry, who does not feel a certain financial unease in these trying times. Major pharmaceutical companies have announced large layoffs of their Research and Development staff. The NIH has suffered through four years of reduced support for basic, biomedical research, and percentile scores for funding have plummeted from about 25 percentile as recently as three years ago to less than 10 percentile in some institutes. Even given that the meeting was held before the largest of the stock market's most recent disastrous dislocations, this is a time of substantial concern to the various Divisions, including our own.

There are a number of possible solutions, but all require money. The ACS might be able to help by negotiating more favorable room rates with major hotel chains or making arrangements with the major air carriers to offer discounted airfare to meetings. Could the allotments from the National organization to the Divisions be increased with the specific purpose of supporting or assisting student/research associate travel for those presenting posters? Should the ACS's 160,000 members from all walks of the chemical sciences, be spending more of its time lobbying Congress for increased support of the NSF and NIH, and less on fighting open access policies for its journals? There are certainly things that I as

Chair can suggest. Should our dues be increased a few dollars per year, with all of the increased revenue being used to support junior scientist travel? Can we do more to increase our membership and thus our dues base? Can we increase co-sponsorship to take advantage of the new allotment rules? Can we do more to provide real and substantial benefits to our membership via web-based symposia presentations? I do not know the answers to these questions, but will work with the Divisional officers and councilors to try to find solutions.

I strongly encourage all members of the Division to join the ACS's Legislative Alert Network (LAN), which provides a mechanism to voice your support to your Senators and Representatives for support for important biomedical funding in the HHS funding bill. I can only hope that with the new change in our national leadership, a more sympathetic, and nonpartisan, ear toward science may reside inside the Beltway.

Finally, I want to thank the outgoing officers of the Division (Carol Fierke, John Richard, Eugene Mueller, Tadgh Begley, Eric Brown, Christine Chow, Squire Booker, Paul Hergenrother, Sheila David, and Lila Gierasch) and the continuing officers for their service to the Division and to welcome the newly elected officers. Their names and titles are listed below. I look forward to seeing them in Salt Lake City in March.

Chair-Elect: JoAnne Stubbe,
Secretary: Martha Oakley
Treasurer: Scott Silverman
Program Committee: Dewey McCafferty,
Nominating Committee: Paul Thompson
Councilors: Tamara Hendrickson and Paul Carey,
Alternate Councilors: David Lynn and Milan Mrksich
Executive Committee: Cynthia Burrows and Phil Cole

Founders Travel Awards

Tom Bruice, Bill Jencks, and Myron Bender, to foster collegial interactions within the community of chemists and biochemists interested in understanding the chemical basis for enzymatic catalysis and the regulation of enzyme action, founded the Winter Enzyme Mechanisms Conference in 1969. The passing of William P. Jencks on January 5 of 2007 coincided with the 20th meeting of the Winter Enzyme Mechanisms Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida. Bill's loss was keenly felt by many of the senior participants at this conference, who understood that he was present at the creation of their gathered community of enzymologists. There was interest at this meeting in recognizing Bill's many contributions to Mechanistic Enzymologist in a manner that would help to ensure the vibrancy of this community that he had helped to create.

An important outcome of this interest is the "Founder's Travel Award", to support the participation of students and/or post-docs at meetings of the Winter Enzyme Mechanisms Conference. The ACS Biological Chemistry Division will manage the investment of funds contributed for this award and has established the process for the competitive selection of the awardees.

Dr. Jeremiah Hanes was selected as the recipient of the first Founders Travel Award. This award was presented to Dr. Hanes on January 4, 2009 at the 21st meeting of the Winter Enzyme Mechanisms Conference in Tucson, Arizona. Dr. Hanes completed his Ph.D with Ken Johnson at the University of Texas, and is currently a postdoctoral fellow with Tadgh Begley at Cornell University. The audience at this conference paid close attention to Jeremiah's stimulating talk on the "Characterization of a New Vitamin B₆ Biosynthetic Pathway".

The Gordon Hammes ACS *Biochemistry* Lectureship

Dr. Bill Eaton, Chief, Laboratory of Chemical Physics, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

This lectureship is administered jointly by the Editor-in-Chief of *Biochemistry* and the Division of Biological Chemistry of the American Chemical Society. The objective of the lectureship is to honor, at an annual ACS meeting, the contributions of an individual who has had a major impact on scientific research at the interface of chemistry and biology particularly in the realm of biochemistry, biological chemistry

and molecular biology. The award is also intended to foster closer relations between the ACS Publications Divisions and the ACS Division of Biological Chemistry.

The inaugural Gordon Hammes ACS *Biochemistry* lecture will be presented at the 238th ACS National Meeting by Dr. Bill Eaton, whose biophysical studies on problems biological interest are cut from the same mold as the work of Gordon Hammes. The choice of Dr. Eaton recognizes his innovative spectroscopic and kinetic studies on proteins, which have yielded deep insights into protein self-assembly, allosteric ligand binding and the elementary events in protein folding.

The second Gordon Hammes ACS *Biochemistry* lecture will be presented at the 240th ACS National Meeting, August 22-26, 2010, Boston, MA. The Division encourages nominations of worthy candidates

Eligibility: Candidates should meet the above criteria and have published at least one paper in *Biochemistry*.

Nominations: A nominator should send the curriculum vitae of the candidate, a list of publications, a letter explaining the special achievements of the candidate, and arrange for a minimum of two additional letters of support. All nomination material should be sent to:

Martha G. Oakley
Department of Chemistry
Indiana University
212 S. Hawthorne Dr.
Bloomington, IN 47405
oakley@indiana.edu

Use on subject line for EMAIL message: DBC Awards

or the Editor-in-Chief of *Biochemistry*:

Richard N. Armstrong, Editor
Department of Biochemistry
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
832 RRB
Nashville, TN 37232-0146
journalbiochem@vanderbilt.edu

Deadline - June 1, 2009

The ACS Chemical Biology Lectureship

An announcement of a lectureship cosponsored by the Division of Biological Chemistry and ACS *Chemical Biology* is planned for the early Spring of 2009.

Meetings of the Division of Biological Chemistry at National Meetings of the American Chemical Society

237th National Meeting, March 22 - 26, Salt Lake City UT. James Stivers, Department of Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine will serve as the Chair of the Program Committee for this meeting (jstivers@jhmi.edu). The program consists of over 80 talks and more than 300 posters and includes sessions co-sponsored by four different divisions. The Division's officers are very excited about the continued and growing enthusiasm for our spring program! Division plans to organize program for the 2010 (San Francisco) Spring ACS Meetings. This will complete an initial 3-year trial period, at which time the Division will make a decision about future programming.

The full program for the Division's Spring Meeting is available on our Website at <http://www/biochemdivision.org>.

238th National Meeting, August 16-20, 2009 – Washington, DC. Suzanne Walker (Suzanne_Walker@hms.harvard.edu), Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Harvard Medical School, as Program Chair. In addition to the poster sessions, symposia are planned involving the following organizers:

Repligen Award honoring **Frank Raushel:** Deciphering Enzyme Specificity: Form Finds Function

Pfizer Award honoring **Virginia Cornish:** Chemical Synthetic Biology

Lilly Award honoring **Scott Silverman:** New Functions and Natural Mechanisms in Biological Chemistry

Murray Goodman Award *Honoree to be announced during the winter of 2009.*

Gordon Hammes ACS Lectureship honoring **William Eaton**

Other Symposia:

Macromolecular Machines (Daniel Kahne, Organizer)

Seeing Inside Cells (Alanna Schepartz, Organizer)

Natural Products (Christopher Walsh, Organizer)

Mass Spec-based Proteomics (Neil Kelleher, Organizer)

Enzyme Catalysis: New Directions in Mechanism and Function (Judith Klinman, Organizer)

All of the Division of Biological Chemistry symposia are composed of invited talks.

Poster Presentations. Posters will be presented at several sessions during the week of the ACS meeting. The division encourages submission of abstracts for posters. Contributions on topics related to the themes of the organized symposia are particularly encouraged.

Submission of Abstracts. The instructions for submissions of abstracts for poster and oral presentations are given towards the end of this Newsletter.

Travel Awards. The Division offers travel awards for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to attend the 236th ACS National Meeting from August 17-21, 2009. The level of support is \$500 along with a complimentary registration. Detailed information about these awards is given on toward the end of this Newsletter.

FUTURE NATIONAL MEETINGS

239th ACS National Meeting, March 21-25, 2010, San Francisco, CA. Suzanne Walker, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Harvard University will serve as the Chair of the Program Committee for this meeting (suzanne_walker@hms.harvard.edu).

240th ACS National Meeting, August 22-26, 2010, Boston, MA. J. Martin Bollinger, Jr, Department of Biochemistry, Pennsylvania State University will serve as the Chair of the Program Committee for this meeting (jmb21@psu.edu).

241st ACS National Meeting, March 27-31, 2011, Anaheim, CA. J. Martin Bollinger, Jr, Department of Biochemistry, Pennsylvania State University will serve as the Chair of the Program Committee for this meeting (jmb21@psu.edu).

242nd ACS National Meeting, August 28-September 1, 2011, Denver, CO. Dewey McCafferty, Department of Chemistry, Duke University, will serve as the Chair of the Program Committee for this meeting (dewey@duke.edu).

Regional ACS Meetings

Regional meetings of the American Chemical Society provide young chemists, particularly graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, the opportunity to make professional contacts and hone their presentation skills in a relatively low-key atmosphere. The Division of Biological Chemistry encourages its members to participate in the following regional meetings.

35th Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM)
<http://www.glrm2009.org/>
May 13 – 16, 2009, Chicago, IL

41st Central Regional Meeting (CERM)
<http://www.cermacs2009.org>
May 20 – 23, 2009, Cleveland, OH

Joint 64th Northwest (NORM)
<http://www.chem.plu.edu/norm2009>
June 28 – July 1, 2009, Tacoma, WA

37th Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM)
<http://membership.acs.org/n/nerm/>
October 7 – 10, 2009, Hartford, CT

44th Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM)
<http://www.mwrm2009.org/>
October 21 – 24, 2009, Iowa City, IA

61st Southeast Regional Meeting (SERMACS)
<http://www.sermacs2009.org/>
October 21 – 24, 2009, San Juan, Puerto Rico

65th Southwestern Regional Meeting (SWRM)
<http://swrm.info/>
November 4 – 7, 2009, El Paso, TX

Support for Meetings

The Division of Biological Chemistry provides grants to its members of up to \$1500 to support the expenses of a one-day symposium at any ACS Regional meeting and of up to \$2000 to support larger conferences. Members interested in organizing a symposium or conference in 2009/2010 should provide an outline for the proposed program to:

Martin Bollinger
Department of Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
Pennsylvania State University
336 Chemistry Building
University Park, PA 16802

jmb21@psu.edu

These proposals will be reviewed twice a year at the Division's Officer meetings, which are generally held during the Spring and Fall ACS meetings.

The division provided support for the following symposia and meetings held in 2008.

Gordon Research Conference on Isotopes in the Biological and Chemical Sciences, February 2008, Ventura CA (Organizer: Daniel Quinn).

Bioorganic Chemistry Symposium, 2008 Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting, June 2008, Park City, UT (Organizers: Heidi Vollmer-Snarr and Young Wan Ham).

Gordon Research Conference on Bioorganic Chemistry, June, 2008, Andover, NH (Organizers: Wilfred van der Donk and Paul Richardson).

Trends in Enzymology 2008, July 2008, St. Malo, France (Organizer: Susan Miller).

Gordon Research Conference on Enzymes, Coenzymes and Metabolic Pathways, July,

2008, Biddeford ME (Organizers: Lizbeth Hedstrom and Nicole Sampson).

Second International Interdisciplinary Conference on Vitamins, Coenzymes, and Biofactors, October 2008, Athens, GA (Chair of Organizing Committee, Robert Phillips).

Nucleic Acids Symposium, 2008 Southeast Regional Meeting of the ACS, November 2008, Nashville, TN (Organizer, Michael Stone).

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Division of Biological Chemistry Awards for 2010

Nominations are requested for the year 2010 Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry, the Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry, and the Repligen Corporation Award in Chemistry of Biological Processes.

Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry:

Nominees shall have accomplished outstanding research in biological chemistry of unusual merit and independence of thought and originality. The nominee shall not have passed the 38th birthday by April 30, 2010, and shall be actively engaged in the line of research for which the award is made. This prize cannot be made to a person who received another award sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company for the same technical accomplishment.

Recent recipients: Jacqueline Barton (1987), Peter Walter (1988), Michael Cox (1989), George McLendon (1990), Peter Schultz (1991), William DeGrado (1992), Stuart Schreiber (1993), Peter Kim (1994), Jeremy Berg (1995), Gregory Verdine (1996), Alanna Schepartz (1997), John Kuriyan (1998), Chaitan Khosla (1999), Xiaodong Wang (2000), Jennifer Doudna (2001), Kevan Shokat (2002), Andreas Matouschek (2003), Benjamin Cravatt (2004), Dewey G. McCafferty (2005), Linda Hsieh-Wilson (2006), Anna K. Mapp (2007), Paul J. Hergenrother (2008), and Scott Silverman (2009).

Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry:

Nominees shall have accomplished outstanding work in enzyme chemistry where the presence of enzyme action is unequivocally demonstrated. The nominee shall be engaged in noncommercial work and shall not have passed the 40th birthday by April 30, 2010. This prize cannot be made to a person who received another award sponsored by Pfizer, Inc. for the same technical accomplishment.

Recent recipients: Gregory Petsko (1987), John Kozarich (1988), Kenneth Johnson (1989), James Wells (1990), Ronald Vale (1991), Carl Pabo (1992), Michael Gelb (1993), Donald Hilvert (1994), Gerald Joyce (1995), Andrew Karplus (1996), Daniel Herschlag (1997), Ronald Raines (1998), David Christianson (1999), Eric Kool (2000), Ruma Banerjee (2001), Karin Musier-Forsyth (2002), Dorothy Kern (2003), Wilfred van der Donk (2004), Nicole S. Sampson (2005), James Berger (2006), Neil Kelleher (2007) Carsten Krebs (2008) and Virginia Cornish (2009).

Repligen Corporation Award in Chemistry of Biological Processes:

Nominees shall have made outstanding contributions to the understanding of the chemistry of biological processes with particular emphasis on structure, function and mechanism. There are no restrictions on age or membership affiliation for the Repligen Award.

Recipients: Gregorio Weber (1986), Thomas C. Bruice (1987), Robert Abeles (1988), Stephen Benkovic (1989), Harold Scheraga (1990), William Parson (1991), Frank Westheimer (1992), Jeremy Knowles (1993), Judith Klinman (1994), Wallace W. Cleland (1995), William P. Jencks (1996), James A. Spudich (1997), David Eisenberg (1998), Christopher Walsh (1999), Perry Frey (2000), Rowena Matthews (2001), Dale Poulter (2002), John Gerlt (2003), JoAnne Stubbe (2004), David E. Cane (2005), Vern Schramm (2006), Michael Marletta (2007), Hung-Wen (Ben) Liu (2008), and Frank Raushel (2009)

Submission of Nominations: A nominator should send the curriculum vitae of the candidate with a list of publications and a letter explaining the special achievements of the candidate. Additional letters of support for the specific candidate are desirable. Information about the nominating process is also posted at: <http://biochemdivision.org/>

The Deadline for Receipt of Nomination Materials is June 1, 2009 - *All materials should be sent to:*

Martha G. Oakley
Department of Chemistry
Indiana University
212 S. Hawthorne Dr.
Bloomington, IN 47405
oakley@indiana.edu

Nominations of Officers

The Nominating Committee (below) encourages nominations of candidates for the offices shown below for 2010. Please send your suggestions to any member of the nominating committee by May 1, 2009.

Anna Mapp (amapp@umich.edu)
Helen Blackwell (blackwell@chem.wisc.edu)
Paul Thompson (thompson@sc.edu)

Program Committee Member (4 year term)
Nominating Committee Member (3 year term)
Executive Committee (Two for 3 year terms)

Program Committee. The Program Committee Chair, Suzanne Walker, in consultation with the Program Committee (below) prepares the Divisional program for ACS National meetings. The committee requests suggestions for symposia for National and Regional ACS meetings.

Suzanne Walker (Chair)
(suzanne_walker@hms.harvard.edu)
J. Martin Bollinger (jmb21@psu.edu)
Dewey McCafferty (dewey@duke.edu)
James T. Stivers (Chair) (jstivers@jhmi.edu)

Travel Awards for 2008

The Division of Biological Chemistry promotes the work of our young talent through the award of Travel Grants. The following is a list of the recipients of Travel Grants to attend the 2008 ACS meeting in Philadelphia, along with the names of their affiliations and advisors.

Nicolette Honson, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, Ohio State College of Medicine (Jeff Kuret).

Guinevere Strack, Department of Chemistry and Biomolecular Science, Clarkson University (Evgeny Katz).

Elizabeth Harker, Department of Chemistry, Yale University (Alanna Schepartz).

Yi Cao, Department of Chemistry, University of British Columbia (Hongbin Li)

Aaron Leconte, Scripps Research Institute (Floyd Romesberg).

Randy Stockbridge, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Richard Wolfenden)

Subbarao Nallagatla, Department of Chemistry, Pennsylvania State University (Phil Bevilacqua)

238th ACS National Meeting, August 16-20, 2009 – Washington, D.C.

Suzanne Walker is the Program Chair. The call for papers appeared in the January 26 issue of C&E News and is posted on the web at (<http://www.acs.org/>). Abstracts for invited talks and poster presentations should be submitted online (<http://oasys.acs.org/>). This records the abstract in the automated OASYS system that is used to organize this meeting. Abstracts for the Washington, D.C. meeting can be submitted now and ending on **March 16, 2009**, at which time the website will be closed to submissions. Instructions for authors, including procedures for incorporating graphics or equations in the abstract, can be accessed at this website.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR ABSTRACT TO THE ACS WEBSITE IS March 16, 2009!

Travel Awards to Attend the ACS 238th National Meeting

The Division will offer travel awards on a competitive basis for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to attend the meeting and present a poster on their research. The selected travel awardees will be reimbursed up to \$500 for expenses and will receive a complimentary registration to the conference. Receipts must be submitted along with a request for reimbursement after the meeting. No more than two awards will be made to one laboratory.

The deadline for submission of an application for a travel award is April 13, 2009.

To apply for a Travel Award

- (1) Fill in the Travel Award Application on the next page
- (2) Attach a printed copy of your abstract.
- (3) Attach a one page CV.
- (4) Attach a signed letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor.
- (5) Send **ONE COMPLETE PDF FILE** of this material as *single* EMAIL attachment to the Program Chair at:

(Suzanne_Walker@hms.harvard.edu)

Be sure to use a subject line of "ACS Travel Awards" for your electronic application.

Application for a Travel Award for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows (deadline April 13, 2009).

Name: _____ Advisor: _____

Department _____ Graduate Student: _____ Postdoctoral Fellow: _____

Institution: _____ Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Is an Abstract attached? _____ Is a CV attached? _____

Is a recommendation letter attached? _____

The deadline for submission of an application for a travel award is April 13, 2009.