



DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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

Secretary: N. G. J. Richards

January 2010

Message from the Chair John Blanchard – Recapping 2009

2009 passed very quickly and, although later than usual, I wanted to report on last year's activities and events of note for the Division of Biological Chemistry.

First, the Division announced the winners of the Division and ACS publications sponsored awards. **Perry Frey** (Wisconsin) was selected as the winner of Biochemistry's Gordon Hammes award and lectureship, and he will deliver his lecture at the fall ACS meeting in Boston in August 2010. **Alanna Schepartz** (Yale) was chosen to be the first winner of ACS Chemical Biology's lectureship, and she will present her talk at the spring ACS meeting in San Francisco in March 2010. **Vahe Bandarian** (Arizona) received the Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry, **Alice Ting** (MIT) was named the winner of the Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry, and **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 all take place at the fall ACS meeting in Boston later this year. Finally, Division member **Steve Benkovic** (Penn State) was awarded the ACS National Ralph Hirschmann Award in Peptide Chemistry, and he has elected to present his work within the spring 2010 program of the Division of Biological Chemistry. Details for nominating individuals for the 2011 Lilly, Pfizer and Repligen awards are outlined later in this newsletter.

The Program Chair in 2009, Suzanne Walker (Harvard), has assembled 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 the fall 2009 and spring 2010 national meeting programs, which were, and certainly will be, exciting and extremely well attended.

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. Last year over \$12,000 was allocated for this purpose, including significant support for the Enzymes and Bioorganic Gordon Conferences. Financial support will also be provided to the Trends in Enzymology meeting, which will be held in Switzerland this summer. The Texas Enzyme Conference meeting received support, as did the Isotopes Gordon Conference. In addition, the Division administered the Founders and Knowles Awards at the Winter Enzyme Mechanisms and Bioorganic Gordon Conferences, respectively. Finally, the Division increased its support of student and postdoctoral travel awards to Divisional meetings.

For a second year, the Divisional elections were web-based although with a new company providing the web site resource. Nigel Richards (Florida) was elected as the new Secretary and began his tenure on January 1, 2010. Tom Wandless (Stanford) was elected to the Program Committee joining Marty Bollinger (2010-2011 Program Chair), Suzanne Walker and Dewey McCafferty. Deborah Hung (Harvard) was elected to 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 our outgoing Secretary,

Martha Oakley, who performed a magnificent job under extremely trying circumstances. I look forward to seeing all the Division officers in San Francisco next March.

Thanks in large part to the former Treasurer, Eugene Mueller, the Division's finances remain in great shape. Although a portion of our investment portfolio (~9%) was in the equity market, and thus transiently lost value, the majority of our portfolio remains in cash or cash equivalents that were

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. In addition, the 2010 finances will be the first to benefit from 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.

Founders Travel Awards

Tom Bruice, Bill Jencks, and Myron Bender, as a mechanism 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, and this loss was felt keenly by many senior participants at that conference. The interest in recognizing Bill's many contributions to mechanistic enzymology, in a manner that would help to ensure the vibrancy of the community that he helped to create, resulted in the creation of the "Founders Travel Award", which will support the participation of students and/or post-docs at 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 then moved to become a postdoctoral fellow with Tadhg 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".

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

239th National Meeting, March 21 - 25, 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).

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 240th ACS National Meeting from August 22-26, 2010. The level of support is \$500, which can be used to offset travel costs and registration fees. Detailed information about these awards is given later in this Newsletter.

Future National Meetings

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.

41st Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM)
<http://www.marmacs.org/2010/index.html>
April 10 - 13, 2010. Wilmington, DE

42nd Central Regional Meeting (CERMACS)
<http://www.cermacs2010.org/>
June 16-19, 2010, Dayton, OH

Joint 65th Northwest/22nd Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting (NORM/RMRM)
<http://norm-rmrm2010.wsu.edu/>
June 20-23, 2010, Pullman, WA

37th Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM)
http://pluto.potsdam.edu/nerm2010/index.php/Main_Page/
June 2-5, 2010, Potsdam, NY

Joint 66th Southwestern/62nd Southeast Regional Meeting (SWRM/SERMACS)
<http://www.acsswrms.org>
December 1-4, 2010, New Orleans, LA

45th Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM)
<http://membership.acs.org/Wichita/2010MWRM.htm>
October 27-29, 2010, Wichita, KS

Other Meetings

1st Southeastern Enzyme Conference, April 10, 2010, Atlanta, GA. Giovanni Gadda, Department of Chemistry, Georgia State University will serve as the Chair of this meeting.
chemistry.gsu.edu/sec/index.htm

Trends in Enzymology, June 13-17, 2010, Ascona, Switzerland. Teresa Fitzpatrick, Department of Plant Biochemistry & Physiology, University of Geneva, and Paul Fitzpatrick, Department of Biochemistry, UT Health Science Center, San Antonio will serve as the co-Chairs of this meeting.
www.tine2010.com

Pacificchem, December 15-20, 2010, Honolulu, HI.
www.pacificchem.org

22nd Enzyme Mechanisms Conference, January 2-6, 2011, St. Pete Beach, FL. John Richard, Department of Chemistry, SUNY Buffalo will serve as the Chair of the Program Committee for this meeting.
www.enzymemechanismsconference.org/22emc

Support for Meetings

The Division of Biological Chemistry provides grants to its members to support symposia at ACS Regional meetings and for conferences in research areas of interest to the Division membership. Members interested in organizing a symposium or conference in 2010-2011 should provide an outline for the proposed program to:

J. Martin Bollinger
Dept. 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 meetings of the Division Officers, which are generally held during the spring and fall ACS meetings.

The division provided support for the following symposia and meetings held in 2009.

21st Enzyme Mechanisms Conference. January 3 - 6, 2009, Tucson, AZ

2009 Central Regional Meeting of the ACS (CERMACS), Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry Symposium. May 22, 2009, Cleveland, OH

2009 Bioorganic Chemistry GRC. June 14-19, 2009, Andover, NH

2009 Gordon Research Conference on Enzymes, Coenzymes and Metabolic Pathways. July 5 - 10, 2009, Waterville Valley, NH

29th Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference. October 10, 2009, Chicago, IL

2009 Southeast Regional Meeting of the ACS (SERMACS), Nucleic Acids Symposium. October 22, 2009, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Piyush Jain, Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Missouri-Kansas City (Simon Friedman)

Siddhesh Kamat, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M (Frank Raushel)

Harmanpreet Kaur, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Windsor (Bullent Mutus)

Corissa Lamphear, Department of Chemistry, Michigan (Carol Fierke)

Sarmistha Ray, Department of Chemistry, Yale (Alanna Schepartz)

Dr. Lianrong Wang, Department of Biological Engineering, MIT (Peter Dedon)

Chad Whitman, Department of Biochemistry, UT Southwestern (Jennifer J Kohler)

Jiangwei Yao, Department of Pharmacy, Michigan (Garry Dotson)

Travel Awards for 2009

The Division of Biological Chemistry promotes the work of our young talent (students and post-docs) through the award of Travel Grants. The following is a list of the recipients of Travel Grants to attend the fall ACS meeting in Washington DC in August 2009, along with the names of their affiliations and advisors.

Dr. Young-Hoon Ahn, Department of Pharmacology, Johns Hopkins University (Philip Cole)

Hongnan Cao, Department of Biochemistry, UC Riverside (Russ Hille)

Zhou Dai, Department of Chemistry, SUNY Stony Brook (Elizabeth Boon)

Jeffrey Day, Department of Chemistry, UC Davis (Claude Meares)

Dr. Piotr Grzyska, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Michigan State (Robert Hausinger).

Richard Hall, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M (Frank Raushel)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Division of Biological Chemistry Awards for 2011

Nominations are requested for the year 2011 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 Mapp (2007), Paul Hergenrother (2008), Scott Silverman (2009) and Alice Ting (2010).

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 Sampson (2005), James Berger (2006), Neil Kelleher (2007), Carsten Krebs (2008), Virginia Cornish (2009) and Vahe Bandarian (2010).

Repligen 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 Cleland (1995), William 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 Cane (2005), Vern Schramm (2006), Michael Marletta (2007), Hung-Wen (Ben) Liu (2008), Frank Raushel (2009) and Ron Raines (2010).

The Gordon Hammes ACS Biochemistry Lectureship:

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. There are no restrictions on age or membership affiliation for the Hammes lectureship, but candidates must have published at least one paper in Biochemistry. Recent recipients: William Eaton (2009) and Perry Frey (2010).

ACS Chemical Biology Lectureship:

This annual lectureship will honor the contributions of an individual who has had a major impact on scientific research in the area of Chemical Biology. The lectureship will be administered jointly by the Editor-in-Chief of ACS Chemical Biology, Laura Kiessling (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and the ACS Division of Biological Chemistry. There are no restrictions on age or membership affiliation for the lectureship. First recipient: Alanna Schepartz (2010).

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, 2010 - All materials

should be sent to:

Nigel G. J. Richards
Department of Chemistry
P. O. Box 117200
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
richards@chem.ufl.edu

Nominations of Officers.

The Nominating Committee:

Helen Blackwell (blackwell@chem.wisc.edu)
Deborah Hung (hung@molbio.mgh.harvard.edu)
Paul Thompson (thompson@chem.sc.edu)

encourages nominations of candidates for the following offices in 2010. Please send your suggestions to any committee member by May 1, 2010.

Chair Elect (2 year term, followed by 2 year term as Chair).

Program Committee Member (4 year term)

Nominating Committee Member (3 year term)

Executive Committee (Two for 3 year terms)

Councilors (Two for 3 year terms)

Alternate Councilors (Two for 3 year terms)

Program Committee. The 2010 Program Committee Chair, J. Martin Bollinger, 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.

J. Martin Bollinger (jmb21@psu.edu)
Dewey McCafferty (dewey@duke.edu)
Suzanne Walker
(suzanne_walker@hms.harvard.edu)
Tom Wandless (wandless@stanford.edu)

240th ACS National Meeting, August 22-26, 2010 - Boston, MA

J. Martin Bollinger (jmb21@psu.edu) is the Program Chair. The call for papers appeared in the January 22 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 Boston meeting can be submitted starting on January 25, 2010 and

ending on **April 1, 2010**, at which time the website will be closed to further 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 April 1, 2010!

Travel Awards to Attend the ACS 240th 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 awardees will be reimbursed up to \$500 for travel and registration expenses. Receipts must be submitted along with a request for reimbursement after the meeting. No more than two awards will be made to one laboratory.

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 J. Martin Bollinger at jmb21@psu.edu.

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

The deadline for submission of an application for a travel award is April 19, 2010.

Application for a Travel Award for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows (deadline **April 19, 2010).**

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? _____

List of Volunteer Grant Reviewers for the Center for Scientific Review at NIH

The Center for Scientific Review at NIH has requested that the Division of Biological Chemistry prepare a pre-screened list of senior, experienced, highly qualified members of our society willing to volunteer to serve as NIH reviewers. By providing CSR with a pre-screened list of senior scientists who volunteer to be study section members, we will be ensuring that CSR's SROs (Scientific Review Officers) will consider members of the Biological Chemistry Division when they select reviewers. As you know, the quality of NIH's peer review process depends mightily on the quality and expertise of the reviewers serving on our study sections. I therefore urge you to consider volunteering to serve as a reviewer.

The criteria for being a reviewer are straightforward. The CSR seeks reviewers that:

- (1) are experienced senior scientists,
- (2) have received major peer-reviewed research support either from NIH or an equivalent agency,
- (3) understand the grant review process, and are willing to serve as study section members.

If you are interested in being included on this list, please send the following information to Nigel Richards, Secretary, Biological Chemistry Division before the Fall ACS meeting (August 20, 2010). The Division Officers will prepare a pre-screened list at this time.

- (1) Name
- (2) Institution and business address
- (3) E-mail address
- (4) Web address
- (5) Area of expertise
- (6) Most appropriate study section of Integrated Review group, if known
- (7) Recent funding sources

Send to:

Nigel G. J. Richards
Department of Chemistry
P. O. Box 117200
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
richards@chem.ufl.edu
