

37th IUPAC Congress—travel grants

Young scientists from developing countries and less developed countries may apply for travel and accommodation grants to participate in the 37th IUPAC Congress. These grants are co-sponsored by IUPAC, UNESCO and the German Chemical Society (GDCh). Applicants for grants are encouraged to participate actively with a poster contribution (deadline 1 March 1999; see details on the Internet <<http://www.gdch.de>>). There will be a special programme to bring together grantees and young host scientists from European countries. Details can also be found on the conference web pages.

New observer countries

The applications of the Cuban Chemical Society and the Pancyprian Union of Chemists for Observer Country status have been approved by the EC/Bureau.

Roland Andersson Named Executive Director of Chemical Institute of Canada

Terry Rummery, Chair of the Board of the Chemical In-

stitute of Canada (CIC), is pleased to announce the appointment of Roland Andersson, as Executive Director. Roland graduated from the University of Winnipeg in 1976 with a 4-year BSc in chemistry. He has over 20 years of management experience in the chemical field, acquired through responsibilities in research and development, operations, marketing and administration, in both chemical manufacturing companies and non-profit organizations.

He became involved early on in his career with the Canadian Manufacturers of Chemical Specialties Association (CMCS). Roland participated in the development and communication of industry positions to government on such issues as the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) and Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS). He was active on the Board from 1985 to 1994, which included his 1990–1991 term as Chair.

His operational and marketing experience in the chemical field led him to the Major Industrial Accidents Council of Canada (MIACC) in 1994 in the newly created position of Marketing Director. In a membership campaign, more than 15 trade associations and 80

companies joined the MIACC in three years, an accomplishment that Andersson credits to the Board's strong team spirit. He became Director of Technical Programmes in 1995. Through the voluntary efforts of a Technical Management Committee, supported by the Board and membership, Roland coordinated the development and implementation of a national programme for the voluntary control of major hazards.

Forming Andersson & Associates in 1997, he has undertaken national and international projects with The Canadian Chemical Producers' Association (CCPA) on climate change, for Environment Canada on promoting Accelerated Reduction and Elimination of Toxics (ARET) to industry, and for the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) in the development of an international marketing and funding strategy.

A new name for the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry

The scientific, technological and organizational changes in health care that are taking place in most countries challenged the IFCC Executive Board to consider the advantages of updating the name of the federation. The basis for this proposal arose during the development of the IFCC strategic plan. While the IFCC will continue to strive for excellence in the profession of laboratory analysis—two considerations about the organization's role have emerged. On the one hand, there is increasing use of techniques of chemical and molecular biology in related fields, which are not strictly subsumed in clinical chemistry. On the other, there is a huge increase in the potential use of laboratory data and diagnostic possibilities in preventive medicine. This requires substantial integration of demographic and clinical-medical information regarding the patient.

These reasons supported the decision of the IFCC

Executive Board to ask the national societies affiliated with the IFCC to vote on extending its name to the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. A majority of those voting approved this proposal in September 1997.

The Executive Board of the IFCC noted that it must be made clear that this name change in no way implies that laboratory sciences are the exclusive province of medical doctors. While it is clear in all countries that only physicians can provide therapy, diagnostic process today require the integration of skills in biochemistry, physiopathology, chemistry, physics, and so forth. These professional contributions are then used by some physicians for the final diagnosis and by other physicians in prescribing treatment.

Isotope geochemists—Website

Those of you who are interested in the use of stable isotopes in geochemistry should be aware of a website server ISOGEOCHEM at <<http://geology.uvm.edu/isogeochem.html>>. It is a useful way of getting information on any isotopic problem through its 'chat-line', and also provides information on conferences, positions vacant, short courses, student opportunities, suppliers and stable isotope laboratories. A particularly useful aspect is the 'archive' link which allows you to search for discussion on any previous item. ISOGEOCHEM has over 1100 subscribers in some 40 countries.

Obituary

Prof. O. Wichterle, the father of soft contact lenses, died on 18 August 1998 in the Czech Republic. Prof. Wichterle was the first President of the Macromolecular Division, 1967–71.