

November/December 2006  
The ACS International E-Newsletter  
ACS Office of International Activities

The ACS International E-Newsletter

American Chemical Society Office of International Activities publishes bimonthly and in electronic form the ACS International E-Newsletter. 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://chemistry.org/meetings> 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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## C O N T E N T S

### International Currents

#### **Chemistry Tour De Force in Hungary: Budapest congress provides European forum for the key challenges at the frontiers of chemistry today**

For centuries, chemists in Europe have been at the forefront of the molecular sciences, making discoveries that have changed the way we live and helping to tackle some of the most urgent problems facing the world today—for example, those relating to the environment, energy, health care, and medicine. Yet, despite the long history of chemistry in Europe, a congress on chemistry bringing together chemists from around Europe has never been held, until now.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/science/84/8442sci1.html>

#### **Química - A WIKI on Chemically Related Activity in America Latina**

The American Chemical Society has created a WIKI to catalyze the formation of communities of scientists with interests in America Latina, and to foster international collaboration and networking. Anyone is free to contribute to the WIKI by editing the content in a manner that is conducive to the sharing of knowledge and information regarding chemically related activities in the region. Use this WIKI to share ideas, connect with colleagues, and contribute information on chemistry in your country. Ready to get started? Check out:

<http://quimica.wikispaces.com/>

#### **Sustaining the Future of Global Scientific Excellence**

During the ACS National Meeting in San Francisco a group of experts on international scientific collaboration convened as part of ACS President Ann Nalley's Symposium, *Sustaining the Future of Global Scientific Excellence*. Speakers from industry, academia, professional associations, and government shared their experiences building collaborations, across the globe, in equipment exchange, professional-to-professional collaborations, and multinational education collaborative efforts.

[http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/feature\\_pro.html?id=c373e90eacdd7fc38f6a17245d830100](http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/feature_pro.html?id=c373e90eacdd7fc38f6a17245d830100)

#### **U.S. Universities Welcome Students from Other Countries, New Reports Show**

International students represent an important means for strengthening U.S. cultural diplomacy around the world, according to new reports that show that the United States continues to welcome more international students than any other country and that a growing percentage of the doctorates U.S. universities award are earned by students who are not residents of the United States.

[http://unesco.usmission.gov/ED\\_11132006\\_DCFILE.cfm](http://unesco.usmission.gov/ED_11132006_DCFILE.cfm)

## **Regional News and Resources**

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

#### **US-Africa Materials Institute (USAMI)**

The USAMI is a virtual institute that was created in 2003 with sponsorship from the Division of Materials Research of the National Science Foundation. Since then the USAMI has organized over 40 visits by African materials researchers to work with their counterparts in the U.S. The institute has also sponsored visits by U.S. researchers and students to work with their counterparts and attend workshops or conferences in Africa.

<http://usami.princeton.edu/index.shtml>

#### **Southern African Biofuels Association**

The Southern African Biofuels Association (SABA) is a non-profit organization created to facilitate the establishment, production, and use of a viable biofuels industry in Southern Africa. Learn more about SABA at:

<http://www.saba.za.org/index.jsp>

### **Asia**

#### **Web Portal for U.S./China Standards**

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), in cooperation with the Standardization Administration of China (SAC), have created a Standards Portal. The Standards Portal is an online resource designed to provide information and educational materials on standardization—including conformity assessment and mandatory technical regulations. Check out the Portal at:

<http://www.standardsportal.org/splash/Default.aspx>

#### **Indian Firms Go Global**

The full-fledged entry of Indian producers into the pharmaceutical chemicals business is converging with the exit of Western chemical companies from the sector after steadily losing money in it since the late 1990s. The result is that low-cost Indian producers are grabbing up beleaguered, high-cost assets in the Western firms' wake.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/business/84/8439bus3.html>

#### **Preventing Costly Missteps in Drug Development**

The script for one of the most dreaded scenarios in new drug development reads like this: Company A sinks several hundred million dollars into putting a new drug onto pharmacy shelves. Only then do serious side effects appear, and force withdrawal of that drug from the market. Researchers in India now are reporting development of a new and more accurate method for predicting toxicity in the very early stages of drug development. Read the full article at:

<http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/sample.cgi/jcis8/asap/html/ci060128l.html>

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

#### **ACS President seeks increased collaboration among Latin American chemical scientists**

ACS President Ann Nalley traveled to Cuba to attend the 27th Latin American Congress on Chemistry and the 6th International Congress on Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. Check out her presentation and views on collaboration:

<http://acswebcontent.acs.org/international/Alanzasparaelpromgreso.ppt>

<http://acswebcontent.acs.org/PDF//communications/collaborationRelease110606.pdf>

### **Brazil's Scientific Diaspora**

The Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology started an effort to organize a database of all expatriate scientists and engineers able to contribute to Brazil's innovation development. Get more information on this effort at:

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

### **Latin American universities ranked by research output**

A ranking of universities in Latin America was conducted by SCImago, a research group from the University of Granada and Carlos III University, both in Spain. The researchers looked at Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries in Latin America, identifying countries and institutions with strong publications records. Institutions were then ranked. Check out the ranking at:

<http://investigacion.universia.es/isi/isi.html>

### **Europe**

#### **European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures**

Last month the European Strategy Forum issued a first for European science: a report detailing 35 pan-European research projects that would tackle forefront challenges in physics, energy, biomedicine, social sciences, and materials. The report is intended to serve as a guide for scientists and policymakers as they contemplate the future of European R&D. More background information, and the report itself, can be found at:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/esfri/roadmap.htm>

#### **EMBO Life Sciences Mobility Portal**

The EMBO Life Sciences Mobility Portal is an information platform for European life scientists and those who want to come to Europe. Here you will find resources on funding, training and job opportunities.

[http://mobility.embo.org/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://mobility.embo.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)

#### **Initiative for Excellence**

Last month the German government announced the winners of its first round of funding in its Initiative for Excellence, which provides 1.9 billion euros to a group of carefully selected German institutions of higher education and research. The goal is to create "internationally visible research beacons" that strengthen German R&D. More information, and the list of winners, can be found at:

<http://www.bmbf.de/en/1321.php>

### **New Links**

#### ***Planning for Graduate Work in Chemistry is now available online***

This website is designed to guide both domestic and international undergraduate students, considering graduate work in chemical sciences, in selecting a program, which best meets their needs and aspirations. It provides advice on how to prepare for a successful work in graduate school, how and when to apply for admission, and to some extent, what to expect once enrolled in graduate school.

[www.chemistry.org/education/cpt/graduatework](http://www.chemistry.org/education/cpt/graduatework)

### **Funding Opportunities**

#### **Cooperative Activities in Chemistry between U.S. and German Investigators (NSF-DFG)**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG; German Research Foundation), which are counterpart national funding organizations in the U.S.

and Germany, respectively, seek to enhance opportunities for collaborative activities in chemistry between U.S. and German investigators. The NSF and DFG will accept collaborative research proposals that establish new cooperation between principal investigators from the U.S. and Germany. Projects must have clear relevance to areas supported by both NSF's Division of Chemistry and DFG's Division of Chemistry and Process Engineering.

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13627&org=MPS&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13627&org=MPS&from=home)

#### **IUPAC Prize for Young Chemists - 2007 Solicitation**

The IUPAC Prize for Young Chemists has been established to encourage outstanding young research scientists at the beginning of their careers. The prize will be given for the most outstanding Ph.D. thesis in the general area of the chemical sciences, as described in a 1000-word essay.

<http://www.iupac.org/news/prize.html>

#### **Doing Research at CHF**

The Chemical Heritage Foundation hosts scholars from all parts of the world through its Fellowship Program and Travel Grant Program. Through the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry, CHF offers fellowships in residence for both the academic year and the summer. See CHF website for more info and deadline: <http://www.chemheritage.org/research/research.html>

#### **SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION**

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://chemistry.org/international>.

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