



## Nomenclature Terminology and Symbols

29 January 2010

Dear Professor Corish,

Virgil, the Roman author, is reported to have said, "You ought to be able to state your plan in a few succinct sentences." In that regard, and in behalf of the American Chemical Society Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols, we urge the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry to consider modifying the provisionally recommended name for new element  $Z = 112$  (Copernicium) with a minor variation, Copernicum.

We would not in any way be proposing this if the discoverers were not receptive to the choice as well. Our prior communication with them indicates that the preference for Copernicum is clear. Our Committee, of course, perhaps as much as any group, understands the reluctance of nomenclature guardians to violate rules such as the recently introduced one in which new element names should end in "ium", as reflected in the proposed "Copernicium". We recognize that slightly variant element names are unlikely to cause confusion or be ambiguous. As there are already several elements ending in "um", Copernicum, closer to the honoree's name, Copernicus, does not present any true difficulty and should not be fundamentally objectionable. (The existing and immediately preceding element names, all ending in "ium", do not present any similar circumstance.) It would be appropriate if our colleagues in the IUPAC Inorganic Chemistry Division would be flexible on what is really a minor but aesthetic and intellectual point.

Sincerely,

Peter Rusch, Chair, ACS Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols

Paul J. Karol, past-Chair,            "

Clark Dehne, past-Chair,            "

cc: J. Francisco, President, American Chemical Society

C. Bradley, Committee Liaison

S. Hofmann, GSI



The University of Dublin  
Trinity College



John Corish  
*Emeritus Fellow and former  
Professor Physical of Chemistry*  
Telephone +353-1-8961776  
Facsimile +353-1-6712826  
Email: jcorish@tcd.ie  
Email: jcorish@tcd.ie

School of Chemistry  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2  
IRELAND

Professor Peter Rusch, Professor Paul J. Karol, and Professor Clarke Dehne,  
Nomenclature Terminology and Symbols Committee,  
American Chemical Society,  
1155 Sixteenth Street,  
N.W. Washington,  
D.C. 20036,  
U. S. A.

February 18<sup>th</sup> 2010.

Dear Professors Rusch, Karol and Dehne,

*Re: The naming of the element with atomic number 112*

First, thank you for your letter and interest regarding the naming of the element with atomic number 112 on behalf of the Nomenclature terminology and Symbols Committee of the American Chemical Society.

I write to inform you that after consideration of your submission together with all the others received on the subject and of the referees' reports on the Provisional Recommendation the name copernicium with the symbol Cn will now be formally approved by IUPAC as proposed by the discoverers of the new element.

With best regards

Yours sincerely

John Corish