

NTS Denver Council Report

As part of its continuing interest in the development of the International System of Units, known as the “new SI”, NTS organized a half day symposium in San Francisco titled: “Redefinition of the Mole and Kilogram: Impact on Chemistry”. The symposium, co-sponsored by the Analytical Chemistry Division and the International Activities Committee, featured five international experts, who addressed the scientific and pedagogical implications of the proposed redefinitions of the mole and kilogram.

At the San Francisco meeting, PowerPoint presentations were given to a number of ACS committees and divisions, explaining NTS expertise and capabilities. The NTS Communication/Outreach subcommittee undertook this task as a first step in identifying potential partners for collaboration.

In order to gauge the ACS membership’s view of NTS, the Long Range Planning subcommittee, in concert with ACS staff, has produced a survey, which will be distributed to ACS members. Results from this survey will assist NTS in developing programs responsive to ACS membership needs.

Following a request from the United States National Committee (USNC), NTS prepared and delivered a response to an IUPAC questionnaire, intended to support a study of the proposed redefinition of the mole, and how chemists perceived the effects of these changes. The questionnaire sought opinions on the suitability of current and proposed definitions for the terms *mole* and *amount of substance*. In general, NTS responded as “not satisfied” with either the current or proposed definitions for mole and amount of substance.

A representative of NTS was invited to attend a workshop of the Consultative Committee on the Amount of Substance- Metrology in Chemistry and Biology (CCQM), held in Paris in April of 2014. As its name implies, this committee is responsible for the definition of the mole. It makes recommendations on this and other metrological items to the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM). Based on interactions with CCQM personnel at this meeting, plans were formulated for collaboration with CCQM at a future ACS National meeting. CCQM has made plans to hold a 2015 meeting in Boston, coincident with the ACS Fall meeting. The ACS Board of Directors has adopted a resolution welcoming CCQM to meet simultaneously with ACS in Boston in August of 2015. This will be the first such meeting of CCQM held in this country.

Albert C. Censullo, Chair

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