

September / October 2004      Issue No 4  
The ACS International E-Newsletter  
ACS Office of International Activities

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## **C O N T E N T S**

### **INTERNATIONAL CURRENTS**

**Foreign Science**

**Evaluating the safety of a nanofuture**

**Targeting methane emissions**

### **REGIONS**

#### **EUROPE**

GAFOC 3: The 3<sup>rd</sup> German-American Symposium on the Frontiers of Chemistry

Finding the people to make industry work

EPA Marshall scholarships

#### **AMERICAS**

FLAQ 2004

U.S. and Mexico Tackle Border Pollution

Pan-American Advanced Studies Institutes Program

#### **AFRICA**

The African Genome Initiative

### **CHEMICAL CALENDAR**

### **SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION**

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### **INTERNATIONAL CURRENTS**

For a discussion of the effect of L-1 visas on scientists and engineers see

[http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/feature\\_pol.html?id=c373e9fdc6c82cd6](http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/feature_pol.html?id=c373e9fdc6c82cd6)

[8f6a4fd8fe800100](#) (This article first appeared in the July 2004 ACS Capitol Connection <http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acsdisplay.html?DOC=government\capitolconnection\connection.html>). If you are attending a meeting in the US and require a visa, please bear in mind that the application process may require time and you should anticipate delays. For more information on visas, visit the International Activities web site at [http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acsdisplay.html?DOC=international%5Cvisa\\_denied.html](http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acsdisplay.html?DOC=international%5Cvisa_denied.html)

### **Foreign Science**

Global epidemics, international pollution controls, visa delays for traveling scientists: These are just a few of the controversial science issues that U.S. diplomats face every day. What some officials fear is that too few of these diplomats understand the science they encounter or how to craft the most appropriate policies.

In response to these concerns, representatives from the Department of State, the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), and several professional societies and universities met last month at the American Chemical Society (ACS) headquarters in Washington, D.C., to discuss how the scientific and educational communities could help improve science literacy among Foreign Service Officers. Go to :

<http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/cen/82/i31/html/8231acsnews.html>

### **Evaluating the safety of a nanofuture**

Nanoscience and nanotechnologies hold great promise, but much more risk assessment and research into health and environmental ramifications are needed, according to the United Kingdom's Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society. In a much-anticipated final report, experts ultimately saw "no case for the moratorium which some have advocated on the laboratory or commercial production of manufactured nanomaterials." However, the report recommends taking precautions until more is known about their risks.

Nanoscience and Nanotechnologies: Opportunities and Uncertainties, the final report released at the end of July, is at [www.royalsoc.ac.uk/policy](http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/policy). (From Environmental Science and Technology, Technology News, August 25, 2004 : [http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2004/aug/tech/rp\\_nanofuture.html](http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2004/aug/tech/rp_nanofuture.html))

### **Targeting methane emissions**

Eight countries are participating in a new, voluntary initiative to capture methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) emissions from landfills, coal mines, and oil and natural gas systems for use as an energy source. In July, the Bush Administration pledged up to \$53 million over the next five years to spur private-sector involvement in CH<sub>4</sub> projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The U.S. Congress has not yet considered the \$53 million pledge. See more at [http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2004/sep/policy/kc\\_methane.html](http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2004/sep/policy/kc_methane.html)

## **REGIONS**

### **EUROPE**

#### **GAFOC 3 : The 3<sup>rd</sup> German-American Symposium on the Frontiers of Chemistry**

The biannual Frontiers of Chemistry Symposium series, established by the American Chemical Society and its German counterpart, the gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker brings together 80 early career chemical scientists, all under age 40, from the United States and Germany to present and discuss their work. The series is unique because it affords participating scientists the opportunity to see the future of the discipline as it is being shaped by its rising stars.

Participants discussed the newest developments in more than a dozen topics, including genomics, nanomaterials, catalysis, tissue engineering and biomineralization, photonics, structural and functional analysis, and molecular recognition. The full conference program is on the web at [http://www.gdch.de/gdch/koop/gafoc/gafoc\\_3.htm](http://www.gdch.de/gdch/koop/gafoc/gafoc_3.htm).

A recent article in Chemical and Engineering News (June 14, 2004; <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/science/8224/8224sci2.html>) showed that science is increasingly becoming a worldwide endeavor.

### **Finding the people to make industry work: UK skills report picks out needs echoed by other European countries**

It seems obvious: having a highly skilled workforce is crucial to the success of the chemistry-using industries. But how to ensure a continuing supply of skilled workers is not so obvious. That is why the Skills Network Group of the U.K.'s Chemistry Leadership Council (CLC) tackled the subject in its new report, "Skills for the 21st Century Chemicals Industry." Although the report is written for the U.K., it addresses concerns felt throughout the European chemical industry. See the full story in Chemical and Engineering News at <http://pubs.acs.org/isubscribe/journals/cen/82/i34/html/8234bus4.html>

### **EPA Marshall scholarships**

The U.S. EPA and the Marshall Scholarship Fund have teamed up to create new scholarships to further the work of students researching global environmental problems. Beginning this year, the EPA Marshall Scholarship Program will fund as many as three students for up to five years of graduate study, including two years at a British university. The proposed program of study must be demonstrably relevant to environmental protection, restoration, or stewardship; environmental public health; or ecosystem health. Applicants must be pursuing a graduate degree, and first consideration will be given to those whose work emphasizes collaborative approaches to solving international problems, technology exchange, or research to improve international dialog regarding the environment. For more information on the scholarships, which have an October 1 2004 application deadline, go to [www.marshallscholarship.org/applicationepa.html](http://www.marshallscholarship.org/applicationepa.html). (From Environmental Science and Technology, Business and Education News, 1 September 2004)

## **AMERICAS**

### **FLAQ 2004**

The 26th Latin American Chemistry Congress (Congreso FLAQ 2004) was held May 30 - June 2, 2004 in Salvador, Brazil. Established in 1924, the Federación Latinoamericana de Asociaciones Químicas (FLAQ) is a federation of national chemical societies in Latin America. More than 3,000 chemical scientists from all over Latin America attended the event. For more information on FLAQ 2004 see the article at

[http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/l/feature\\_acs.html?id=c373e9fda2be05e18f6a4fd8fe800100](http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/l/feature_acs.html?id=c373e9fda2be05e18f6a4fd8fe800100)

### **U.S. and Mexico Tackle Border Pollution**

The U.S. EPA is pledging greater cooperation with its Mexican counterpart (SEMARNAT) to combat pollution along the 2000-mile border. The border with Mexico has some of the worst environmental pollution in North America, a problem that is exacerbated by poverty and illiteracy. More in Environmental Science and Technology Policy News at

[http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2004/jul/policy/pt\\_border.html](http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2004/jul/policy/pt_border.html)

### **Pan-American Advanced Studies Institutes Program**

The Pan American Advanced Study Institutes (PASI) Program, is a jointly supported initiative between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Pan American Advanced Studies Institutes are short courses of two to four weeks duration, involving lectures, demonstrations, research seminars and discussion at the advanced graduate and post-doctoral level. For more information on the program and how to apply, go to <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2003/nsf03506/nsf03506.htm>

## **AFRICA**

**The Africa Genome Initiative** examines the historical, ethical and legal, educational, bio-medical and bio-technological implications of the Human Genome Project for Research and Development in Africa. At this site, you can also access two journals, the Journal of Genomics and African Society and The African Scientist. The web site can be found at <http://www.africagenome.co.za>

## **CHEMICAL CALENDAR**

## **CHEMINDIX 2004**

### **6<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Exhibition on Chemistry in Industry**

September 27-29, 2004

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Organized by the Saudi International Chemical Sciences Chapter of the American Chemical Society, ChemIndix will feature a full technical program concerning the petrochemical industry. For full details about the conference, go to the Chapter web site at <http://www.chem-ind.org/Pages/Chemindix.html>

### **First Annual Chemical Science and Commercialization Conference**

September 27 - 29, 2004

Moscow, Russia

The US Department of State is funding the first-ever Chemical Science & Commercialization Conference at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel in Moscow on Sept. 27–29, 2004. The conference is designed to inform Western chemical companies about the benefits of collaborating with Russian and Eurasian scientists and institutes, to help participants overcome potential pitfalls to successful collaborations, and to introduce potential partners. The conference is free and more information and registration instructions can be found online at <http://biistate.net/chemconference>. [C&EN 26 July 2004]

### **Green Solvents for Synthesis**

October 3-6, 2004

Bruchsal, Germany

The aim of the Green Solvents for Synthesis conference is to highlight innovative concepts for the substitution of volatile organic solvents in solution phase synthesis in academia and industry. Emphasis will be given to the development and application of alternative reaction media and phase-separable reagents (aqueous phase, ionic liquids, supercritical media, fluorinated phases, thermoregulated systems, soluble polymers etc.) in all areas of chemical synthesis. For more information, visit the conference website at: [http://events.dechema.de/Green\\_Solvents\\_for\\_Synthesis-lang-en.html](http://events.dechema.de/Green_Solvents_for_Synthesis-lang-en.html)

For links and information on forthcoming scientific meetings, the ACS chemistry.org events list can be found at

<http://center.acs.org/applications/meetinglocator/home.cfm>

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