

Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

Volume 25 No. 3

Chair's Message

Our 2002 Annual Report was sent to ACS-National in early February. I thank Karl Marhenke for all his hard work in preparing this report and coordinating all the 2002 information in triplicate copies, as required by ACS.

Your ACS-SCV Program Committee (Sally Peters, Jack Riley, George Lechner, Shirley Radding, and I) met in late January to begin to plan our monthly dinner meetings and activities through Spring 2004. Lately, our dinner meetings and seminars have been very well attended, thanks to you and this committee. I hope this trend continues, so please send your speaker suggestions to us. Did you know that our section will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2004? Indeed, we will plan a special event for our anniversary!

We are looking for a dinner meeting location in South San Francisco for early 2004. In keeping with our current guidelines, the location would need to be reasonably priced as well as easy to drive to. The location would need to accommodate dinner and a seminar for around 50-70 people. The theme for this dinner will be biotechnology. We are also looking for an interesting speaker who can address the frontiers of biotechnology to our audience. If you can recommend a speaker and/or location, please contact George Lechner, Chair-Elect, at his e-mail address, george.lechner@usa.xerox.com.

We have begun to collect ideas

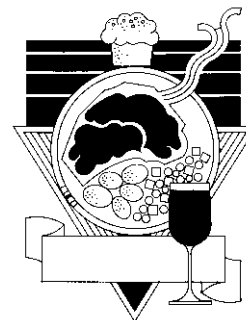
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March Dinner Reminder Stem Cell Research

For the March monthly dinner meeting, Dr. Thomas B. Okarma of Geron Corporation will be discussing the progress and promise of human embryonic stem cells. The dinner will be held at the Biltmore Hotel & Suites on March 13th, starting at 6:00 pm with social hour, a 7:00 dinner, and the lecture will be held at 8:00. The dinner choices for the evening will be either Chicken Romano (grilled chicken breast with pasta primavera) or cheese Tortellini.

Please make your reservations by March 10th, online (www.scvacs.org) or by contacting Shirley Radding (408-246-2564, 408-296-8625 FAX). If you are unable to honor your reservation, please notify Shirley by March 10th to cancel your reservation. Otherwise, an invoice for the dinner will be sent to you.

April Dinner Meeting



Date: April 24, 2003

Time: 6:00 Social hour

7:00 Dinner

8:00 Lecture

Location: Biltmore Hotel & Suites
2151 Laurelwood Road
Santa Clara, CA 95054
408-988-8411

Speaker: Stanford University Student
Affiliate Members
2002-2003 Affiliate Program

Cost: \$27.00

Choice of Teriyaki Steak or
Vegetarian Crepes

Reservations: www.scvacs.org
Shirley Radding
408-246-2564
408-296-8625 Fax

Reservations should be made by April 20th, stating attendee names, company affiliation, address, number in party, and menu selection. If you are unable to honor your reservation, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting. To attend the lecture only, no reservations are needed.

Chair's Message, continued from front page

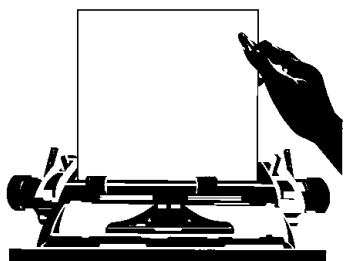
for our section's activities during National Chemistry Week in October 2003. This year, the theme is "The Atmosphere and Beyond". Possible meeting sites may be NASA-Ames Research Center and De Anza College Planetarium. If you have any ideas or want to help plan National Chemistry Week activities, please contact our National Chemistry Week Coordinator, Asfia Qureshi at her e-mail address, asfiaq@yahoo.com.

Many members have found local section meetings an excellent venue for job networking. At the March dinner meeting during dessert, an open forum will be offered to any member who wishes to announce an employment opportunity or who is looking for employment. A member can speak for approximately two minutes on their job announcement. If this forum is successful in March, we will continue to offer this feature at future meetings.

Our local Chemistry Olympiad competition will be held on Saturday, April 26, at Santa Clara University. More details regarding this event will be mailed to every high school in our section, soon. Thanks to Sally Peters for coordinating this event and Linda Brunauer for hosting this event at Department of Chemistry at Santa Clara University.

Glow stick update: I have made arrangements to provide glow sticks to three schools in our section. I thank Pharmaceutical Outsource Solutions for donating 200 glow sticks. For more information on the glow sticks activity, please see the February 2003 Newsletter. Also, I hope to have the activity posted on our web site soon.

Maureen Scharberg



CALL for NOMINATIONS Shirley B. Radding Award

The Santa Clara Valley Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) announces the call for nominations for the 2003 Shirley B. Radding Award.

First awarded in 1994 to its namesake, the Shirley B. Radding Award annually honors someone who has been a member of the ACS for at least 20 years. Nominees must have demonstrated dedicated, unselfish leadership, service and significant contributions over a sustained period of time to industrial, applied or academic chemistry and to the American Chemical Society through elected or appointed positions at local, regional and national levels.

The award consists of an honorarium of \$1,000 and a suitably inscribed memento. Nominations should consist of at least one letter of nomination stating how the nominee's work relates to all aspects of the award. It is recommended that seconding letters accompany the nomination.

Nominations are due on or before May 1, 2003, and must be mailed to:

Radding Award Committee
Santa Clara Valley Section
American Chemical Society
P. O. Box 395
Palo Alto, CA 94302

National Chemistry Week Funding

Are you or your company interesting in funding National Chemistry week for the local section this year? If so, please contact Asfia Qureshi for more details on this exciting community outreach opportunity (asfiaq@yahoo.com or 650-526-3031)!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS The Harry and Carol Mosher Award

The award was established in 1980 by the Santa Clara Valley Section of the ACS to (1) recognize and encourage outstanding work in chemistry, (2) advance chemistry as a profession, and (3) recognize service to the ACS. The award is named for the late Professor Harry S. Mosher of Stanford University, Palo Alto, California and Dr. Carol W. Mosher of SRI International, Menlo Park, California, husband and wife, charter members and long-time supporters of this section.

The first scientists to receive this award were Doctors Harry and Carol Mosher in recognition of the inspiration of their example. The committee noted that the Moshers, including a brother, Dr. William A. Mosher, also a chemist and former Chairman of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Delaware, are outstanding examples of the qualities to be recognized and honored by this award.

Any scientist residing in the United States who is a member of the ACS is eligible to be nominated for the Mosher Award. Five copies of the nomination, including printed materials (reprints) should be furnished for distribution to the award Selection Committee. The nomination and its accompanying material must be sent to Award committee by May 31, 2003.

Chair, the Mosher Award Committee
Santa Clara Valley Section-American Chemical Society
P.O. Box 395, Palo Alto, California 94302

PATENT TRUTHS Wills, Gifts, Trusts and Estates

1. Most chemists are unaware of extent of Donald and Mildred (Mid) Othmer's philanthropy. Much of this text is taken from the *Chemical Heritage Foundation* book, Donald F. and Mildred Topp Othmer. Don Othmer was from Omaha, Nebraska and eventually received his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan. After a time at Eastman Kodak in Rochester, he became increasingly frustrated watching the technology he invented (and for the patents he received \$10 each) producing millions for the company. He left and joined Brooklyn Poly as a professor. In the 40's, he joined with Dr. Raymond Kirk to launch the multi-volume Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology. Kirk died shortly thereafter. About 1950, Othmer married Mildred Topp the local career woman buyer for the family Topp's Department Store of Omaha. About 1955, Don and Mid had each accumulated about \$25,000 in savings and Mid's mother strongly suggested they invest it with the bright young man down the street who seemed to know something about investing – Warren Buffett. Yes, they were apparently original investors in Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway. They were frugal (some say too much so) and didn't spend the rapidly accumulating funds. They had no children. The ACS Othmer headquarters building in Washington is a creation from their personal estates. Don died at age 91 in 1995 in New York City. Mid died at age 95 in 1998 in an Omaha nursing home after several years dealing with Alzheimer's. Their combined estates were worth about \$800,000,000. Almost all of it went to charity. Brooklyn Poly received about \$200 million and quadrupled its endowment. The Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) in Philadelphia received about \$100,000,000 – which explains much about the recent renovation of the CHF center. Visit CHF online

at www.chemheritage.org.

2. Charles Schwab, for those of us 60 and older and from the industrial East, is not the local Stanford MBA who founded the local wildly successful discount stock brokerage company. The first Charles M. Schwab lived large over 100 years ago in Pittsburgh, PA and New York City. Schwab had little formal education but major gifts – a photographic memory he used to great advantage and a salesman's charm. He rose in his career using self-taught chemistry in specialty steels with Carnegie Steel to become a favorite of Andrew and in 1897 became the President of Carnegie Steel. When Carnegie

wanted to pursue his social ambitions, Schwab brokered the sale of the company in 1900 to J.P. Morgan and the Wall Street interests creating the first billion-dollar corporation – US Steel. He became its first president. In 1903, on a trip to Europe to visit steel plants, Schwab ventured into Monte Carlo and was seen gambling in the casino by several newspaper reporters. The "yellow journalism" of the day blew his actions out of proportion. By the time Schwab returned to the US, he was in serious disfavor with US Steel and Carnegie. He resigned, took his millions, and invested in a little steel company - Bethlehem Steel - and rode it up. Schwab Auditorium (soon to be 100 years old) at Penn State is one of his many contributions. It is estimated that Schwab earned over \$100,000,000 (most of it not taxed) during his lifetime. Yet when he died about 1936, his estate was insolvent by \$100,000. He knew how to spend his money, as well.

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Judges Needed

2003 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

May 13 and 14, 2003

Chris Moravec, Judging Chair for 2003, is making a call for volunteers to judge in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). ISEF brings 9-12th grade students from almost every state and 40 countries! This year, it will be held in Cleveland, Ohio. Though the judging pool is particularly short in the areas of botany, gerontology, microbiology, environmental sciences and the earth/space science; all and any category judge is asked for.

For more information and application, please visit the ISEF website: <http://www.sciserv.org/isef/judges/>

Web Sites for Patent Information

by Howard M. Peters

In the last few years, information about inventions, patents and intellectual property has become accessible to everyone via the Internet and its graphically based World Wide Web. Below are listed some popular Websites related to patented inventions and intellectual property, in general.

United States Patent and Trademark Office:

<http://www.uspto.gov>

Source Translation AND Optimization's (STOs) Internet Patent Search
– global patent:

<http://sunsite.unc.edu/patents/intropat.html>

Intellectual Property Magazine:

<http://www.ipmag.com>

Patent and IP Offices and Organizations:

<http://www.piug.org/select.html>

American Intellectual Property Law Association:

<http://www.aipla.org>

National Inventors Hall of Fame:

http://www.invent.org/hall_of_fame/1_0_0_hall_of_fame.asp

Patent venture services for product creators:

<http://www.4PatLaw.com>

A private firm with links to many reference sites:

<http://www.lightlink.com/bbm/index.html>

Devoted to displaying selected inventors
and their unconventional patented inventions:

<http://colitz.com/site/wacky.htm>

Alfred Nobel history and Nobel Peace Prize:

<http://www.nobel.se>

Chemistry in the 21st Century



38th Western Regional Meeting

October 15-17, 2003

Long Beach Hilton

Long Beach, CA

Sponsored by
the Southern California Section

Call for Papers

On-line Abstract Submission begins:

May 15, 2003

Abstracts Deadline:

August 8, 2003

Advance Registration opens:

May 15, 2003

Please visit our website

for more information:

www.westernregionalmeeting2003.org

Editor's Corner

Wow, many of the ACS technical divisions are very organized. As one of my New Years' resolutions, I was determined to collect and compile submissions from some of the divisions so that I can have them to insert in the upcoming newsletters. Unfortunately for me, many of the divisions were preparing for the New Orleans Meeting - even in January! Maybe that is a good sign for those of you heading there - but, for the newsletter we'll be out of the technical division column for a month or two, I'm afraid. I am sure that things will shape up before the autumn meeting.

In this issue, I would like to point out that the nomination date of the 2003 Radding Award has been changed. It's now May 1st.

For next month's dinner meeting, we'll be at the Biltmore where several students from Stanford University will present their undergraduate research.

Thanks again for your readership!



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AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
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<http://www.scvacs.org>

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send an email to SCVACS-newsletters-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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2003-05: Asfia Qureshi	650-526-3031	asfiaq@yahoo.com

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Director: **Shirley B. Radding** 408-246-2564 sradding@att.net

FUTURE MEETINGS

Apr 4-6	DMET in the 21st Century ACS ProSpectives St Petersburg, FL
Apr 23-27	ACS Spring National Meeting New Orleans, LA
Apr 24	SCV Dinner Meeting Stanford Student Affiliates
May 22	SCV Dinner Meeting Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi
Jun 15-18	ACS Colloid and Surface Science Symposium Atlanta, GA
Jul (TBD)	SCV Wine Tasting/ Awards Dinner
Sep 21-24	Combinatorial Chemistry ACS ProSpectives Leesburg, VA
Sep 25	SCV Dinner Meeting Dr. Ken Carter Material Science

For the latest information, please visit
SCV/ACS web site: www.scvacs.org



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