

Editor's LETTER

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Road Trip to Boston

American Chemical Society (ACS) offices are bustling with activity. Shipping trunks are appearing in hallways, which means it's time for the 234th ACS National Meeting and Exposition. We will be there along with the new members of the *ACS Chemical Biology* (ACS CB) team and many of our editorial board members. This meeting is sure to be a great one for those scientists interested in research at the interface of chemistry and biology. The summary of the technical program can be found in the June 25, 2007, issue of *Chemical & Engineering News*. If you're a younger chemist, check out the program on the Many Faces of Chemistry, which highlights various international career opportunities. ACS CB is complementing this program with features on the web and in print that focus on education and careers for those scientists working at this interface.

The ACS divisions have developed excellent programs for the meeting. The symposia of the Division of Biological Chemistry (www.biochemdivision.org/home) tackle many

subjects, such as frontiers in chemical biology, chemical approaches to protein function, nucleic acid enzymology, and molecular imaging. The division is also hosting three impressive award symposia honoring, and organized by, the 2006 award winners. The Repligen Award Symposium is being organized by Michael Marletta, a member of our editorial board. Michael won the 2006 Repligen Award in Biological Processes for his work on nitric oxide and its various roles in the cell. The Lilly Award Symposium is being organized by another editorial board member, Anna K. Mapp. Anna received the 2006 Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry for the development and implementation of novel chemical and biological strategies to provide molecular-level insight into transcriptional regulation. Neil Kelleher, an ACS CB author, has organized the Pfizer Award Symposium. Neil won the Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry for his developments in the use of mass spectrometry, which have significantly enhanced the repertoire of experimental techniques available to study large catalytic machines. The assorted topics covered in these three exciting symposia will attract a large and scientifically diverse group of scientists.

As for many recent ACS meetings, the divisions have teamed up to offer many symposia at the interface with biology. The Division of Physical Chemistry is cosponsoring two symposia to discuss biological ion channels and single-molecule techniques. The Division of Analytical Chemistry is presenting sessions on chemical approaches to protein function; molecular imaging; emerging technologies and capabilities of metabolomics; nanobiochemistry and technology; and new chemical and biosensing approaches for cellular analysis. The Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry is cosponsoring a symposium on RNA-interference-based



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therapeutics, a symposium on nucleic acids as drug targets, and three award symposia. Those interested in natural products should review the symposia from the Division of Biochemical Technology and the Division of Organic Chemistry, which are presenting sessions on the mechanism of action of natural products and peptide natural products, respectively. Many of these divisions are also presenting awards at symposia throughout the meeting, so drop in to congratulate your colleagues.

For the junior scientists who need a break from the scientific sessions, the Younger Chemists Committee has also planned a full schedule of talks examining the Many Faces of Chemistry. These sessions will discuss international opportunities for chemists and the changing face of the bio-pharma industry, among other topics.

To complement the presentations at the national meeting and focus more attention on careers for junior scientists, *ACS CB* is running two special features. In our Ask the Expert feature on the web, we present three scientists from industry, Ulrich Stilz (Sanofi-Aventis), Mary Katherine Raymond Johansson (Biosearch Technologies), and Hans Johansson (Biosearch Technologies). They are ready to answer your questions about careers in large and small biopharmaceutical companies. Read the profile of these scientists in the June issue of *ACS CB*. If you want to learn more about how to get a job in academia or at a primarily undergraduate institution, pick up a copy of the August issue, which features a special section on careers and chemical biology education. We hope that these web and print career features help our younger chemists achieve their career goals.

There is much to pique the interest of chemical biologists at the 234th ACS National Meeting, so see you in Boston!



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