

INTERNATIONAL ISOTOPE SOCIETY NEWS

Most readers will know that the International Isotope Society (IIS) has been founded and is now an officially recognised International Society incorporated November 1986 in the State of New Jersey, USA. Since that time the IIS has gone from strength to strength with now well over 150 members and associate members. New members joining is a weekly event and if you have not joined the IIS and wish to do so please contact either me or the IIS Secretary-Treasurer, Dr Dale Blackburn, 144 Ramblewood Road, Moorestown, New Jersey 08057, USA.

The main activity of the IIS in 1988 is the Third International Symposium on the Synthesis and Application of Isotopically Labelled Compounds scheduled to take place at Innsbruck, Austria 17-21 July with associated industrial exhibits. By the interest shown already, this symposium promises to be a highly successful one with interesting scientific and social programmes. This Symposium of course follows the two previously successful meetings in the series held at Kansas City, USA in 1982 and 1985, as a good many of you who attended will remember.

Such Symposia will of course continue to be the principal activity of the IIS and the main outlet for the oral presentation of original papers and review lectures. However, as written in the Mission Statement of the IIS, other functions of this society call for providing additional forums for its members to get acquainted, to discuss matters of general interest, and also to voice their opinions with regard to government regulations or other problems of the related industries. The Executive Committee of the IIS encourages the IIS members to gather in regional meetings in the U.S. and abroad on matters of general interest or on specific technical topics, as often as needed.

At this stage of its development, the IIS relies entirely upon the good will and enthusiasm of its members to voluntarily organize and convene in meetings of local/regional chapters. A first such chapter was organized by myself early 1987 on the East Coast of the United States. More than 80 new members of the IIS convened on the campus of the Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corporation on April 28, 1987 for a half-day meeting to discuss a matter of utmost importance for all IIS members - Low Level Radioactive Wast (LLRW) Disposal. Prof. Melvin Calvin, Nobel Prize Laureate, delivered a key-note address to the above-mentioned gathering and Mr Ken Bloomfield, representing Labserco (Canada) and Berthold Instruments (U.S.) gave a technical presentation on "Tritium (Carbon-14) Air Flow Monitoring Systems". Finally, animated discussions followed the presentations given by several speakers attempting to define the legislative aspects of LLRW (M. Burns, Washington D.C.), ecological implications from LLRW (Dr J Matuszek, Albany, NY), biomedical implications from LLRW (Dr J Siegel, Philadelphia, PA), and volume reductions of LLRW (Dr J Hsu, NEN/DuPont, USA).

The second meeting of the East Coast chapter-USA of the IIS convened on September 18, 1987 at Hoffmann-LaRoche, NJ, USA and was organized by Dr Arnold Liebman (the current secretary of this IIS Chapter) around the topic of "Recent Developments on Radio-Thin Layer Chromatography Scanning". Drs Seth Shulman, Bioscan, Inc. and Edward Rapkin, IN/US Service Corporation presented recent instruments distributed by their companies and Messrs Bob Copolino (Berthold Instruments) and Mark Appel (Radiomatic/Canberra) exhibited similar such high-tech tools.

At this meeting, Dr R Heys (Smith Kline Beckman, USA) invited the audience to the company's headquarters for a third meeting to take place early April 1988 while Mr G Rotert (Abbott Laboratories, Chicago) expressed the desire to organize another IIS chapter for the Midwest region of the USA. Dr Howard Parnes (Syntex, California) is currently completing his work on organizing the third U.S. chapter of the IIS covering the whole West Coast. As the IIS continues to grow, these chapters can then be broken into smaller groups enabling more frequent gatherings due to the smaller geographical areas.

However, it is to be hoped that similar chapters will be formed and meet in appropriate areas outside the USA.

All information regarding local meetings of the IIS chapters or proposed meetings should be submitted to me for inclusion in these IIS News items which I plan to submit for publication in this Journal periodically as items of special interest to members become available. Please do send such information to me.

Thank you.

Alexander Susan
Executive Secretary
Sandoz Research Institute
Sandoz Inc
59 Route 10
Building 403 Room 112
East Hanover
New Jersey 07936
USA