

## IIS NEWS

### MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ISOTOPE SOCIETY HELD IN TORONTO, CANADA 2 - 6 SEPTEMBER 1991

The fourth in the series of International Symposium relating to the Synthesis and Applications of Isotopes and Isotopically Labelled Compounds was held in the Hilton International Hotel in downtown Toronto 3 -6 September 1991. This was the second highly successful international meeting to be organised by the IIS following the equally successful European meeting in Innsbruck, Austria in July 1988 (see *Journal of Labelled Compounds and Radiopharmaceuticals* 25(10)(1988)1173); the first two Symposia in the series were held in 1982 and 1985 at Kansas City, USA and were organised under the auspices of other sponsoring organisations.

More than 400 scientists and accompanying persons from over 20 countries attended this 4th International Symposium co-chaired by Professor Erwin Buncel (Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario) and Professor George Kabalka (University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA) together with their supporting organising committee of Dr John Allen (France), Mr Michael Arnold (Canada), Professor Tom Baillie, (USA and IIS President for 1991), Dr Dale Blackburn (USA - IIS Secretary/Treasurer), Dr Alexander Susan (USA - IIS Executive Secretary) and Ms Jennifer Watt (Canada - Conference Coordinator). An "Early Bird Mixer" in the Hilton Hotel on the evening of 2 September enabled participants to meet "old" and new acquaintances with mutual interests in isotopes, and was much enjoyed by all.

The Scientific Programme began with the first of four Plenary Lectures. In the first Plenary Lecture Dr Tony Evans (Amersham International, UK) reviewed selected major events in his talk entitled "50 Years of Radiochemical Tracers". In the subsequent Plenary Lectures Dr William Eckelman (NIH - USA) discussed "Receptor Binding Radiotracers that are sensitive to changes in receptor concentrations" especially directed towards receptors in the brain. Professor John Caldwell (St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, UK) in the third Plenary Lecture provided an interesting account of "Recent Advances in the use of isotopes in biomedical pharmacology". Dr Philip Williams (National Tritium Labeling Facility - Berkeley, California USA) stepped in the the last moment to give the fourth Plenary Lecture in the unavoidable absence of Professor Robert Gale (University of California, Los Angeles, USA). Dr Williams reviewed the formation and work of the National Tritium Labeling Facility including some very early pictures of staff at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory including Alvarez and Cornog who first identified tritium as being a radioactive isotope of hydrogen. The fifteen scientific sessions consisting of invited papers and contributed talks together with over 100 Posters admirably provided a vast array of up-to-date information on the synthesis and applications of isotopes and isotopically labelled compounds.

An Exhibitors' Evening on the 3 September provided an additional opportunity for participants to see and discuss their requirements with staff of the 19 organisations exhibiting.

A highlight of the meeting was the Symposium Banquet on the 4 September held in the Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel. Following the delights of smoked salmon, chicken and fruits Dr Alfred Bader (Chairman of Sigma-Aldrich Company) gave a very entertaining keynote address on "The Adventures of a Chemist Collector" reviewing the restoration of some of the paintings he had collected over the years and their history. This was followed by the presentation of IIS awards to scientists and members of the IIS. The first award was presented by Dr John Allen to Dr Louis Pichat (CEA France) for his outstanding contributions to the synthesis of organic compounds labelled with carbon-14 and tritium. The second award was presented by Dr Dale Blackburn to the IIS Secretary Dr Alexander Susan for his dedicated work as the catalyst in the founding of the IIS and in initiating and helping the development of Local Chapters of the IIS around the world. The prestigious Melvin Calvin Award for outstanding contributions to the science of isotopes and isotopically labelled compounds and in recognition of distinguished service to the IIS was presented on behalf of the IIS by Professor John Jones to Dr Tony Evans a Founder Member and Past President of the IIS and world authority on tritium labelled compounds.

A meeting of the IIS Board of Trustees and Advisory Committee Members took place on 3 September chaired by the President of the IIS Tom Baillie, at which meeting the activities of the IIS during the past 3 years were briefly reviewed by the Executive Secretary of the Board of Trustees Alex Susan. The success in forming numerous local Chapters of the Society around the world including China and the Soviet Union was especially noted. The current financial position and balance sheet were presented by the treasurer Dale Blackburn who showed the healthy financial state of the Society. Further income was expected from the Toronto Symposium, and no increase in Membership Fees are planned for 1992. Also expected as a result of the Symposium was an increase in the number of full members from the current just over 300 and 36 Associate (Company) Memberships. An important Agenda item discussed at this meeting was the recommendations made by Alex Susan for improvement of the current system for the election of Officers in order to meet the needs of a growing Society. After lengthy debate, it was decided that as the Election of future Officers of the Society was still in progress no announcements on this issue would be made before the end of October 1991. All IIS Members will be notified of the election results as soon as these are available. The Committee Members supported the proposal to recommend endorsement by the IIS Members that the 5th International Symposium on the Synthesis and Applications of Isotopes and Isotopically Labelled Compounds would be the next major international event for the Society to be held in Strasbourg France in 1994 with Dr J Allen (France) and Dr R W Voges (Switzerland) as co-chairmen. It was also recognised that 1996 marked the centenary of the discovery of radioactivity by Henri Becquerel and that the IIS would consider some activity to mark this occasion.

The IIS General Membership Assembly took place on September 4 and was chaired by Alex Susan; the Agenda consisted mostly upon proposed revision and "tidying" up of the IIS Constitution and Bylaws presented by the Chairman of the By-Laws Committee, John Kepler (USA), to meet the current requirements and development of the Society. These were discussed in detail and also recommended for endorsement by the IIS Members for vote since a constitutional quorum at this Assembly was not met. A copy of the revised Constitution and Bylaws will be sent to each IIS Member.

All the points raised in discussion at the Board of Trustees and Advisory Committee meeting were put to and endorsed by the membership at the General Assembly meeting held on 4 September.

A meeting was held of the Board of Trustees and Chairman Dr C C Huang and members of the IIS Board of Publications on 5 September to review actions for closer collaboration with John Wiley & Sons as publishers of the Official Journal of the IIS the Journal of Labelled Compounds and Radiopharmaceuticals. Subsequent discussions between Dr Tom Baillie (President IIS), Dr Huang and Dr Michael Davis Publishing Editor JLCR (John Wiley & Sons) confirmed that the IIS President and Chairman of the IIS Publications Committee would qualify automatically as members of the Journal Editorial Advisory Board. In addition the JLCR would list Officers of the IIS, include IIS membership forms, provide announcements of society meetings including local Chapter Meetings and give reports of meetings, all as regular features. This would be in addition to the IIS Newsletter published independently by the Society twice per year.

The Proceedings of the 4th International Symposium will be published again by Elsevier and orders should be placed directly with Elsevier, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Publication is expected by the end of 1991.

The Society thanked and is indebted to the following organisations for financial support for the Toronto Symposium in addition to the two major sponsors Amersham International plc UK (Amersham Corporation USA) and Ontario Hydro Canada

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The Social Programme for accompanying persons included a visit to Niagara Falls and to the CN Tower in Toronto.

The International Isotope Society sends good wishes to all its members, welcomes new members and looks forward to your participation in the 1994 International Symposium at Strasbourg as well as in other local meetings of the Society remembering that "the more you put into the Society the more you will get out of it".

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