

## IIS News

The International Isotope Society Awards for 1994 were presented on 23 June at the Symposium Banquet of the 5th International Symposium on the Synthesis and Applications of Isotopes and Isotopically Labelled Compounds held in Strasbourg France 20-24 June 1994.

MELVIN CALVIN AWARD 1994 (to Professor Chin-Tzu Peng, USA)\*

The second MELVIN CALVIN AWARD was presented to Professor Chin-Tzu Peng on behalf of the International Isotope Society by Dr. Tony (EA) Evans, a Past President of the IIS and the first recipient of this award in 1991. The inscription "FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCIENCE OF ISOTOPES AND ISOTOPLICALLY LABELLED COMPOUNDS AND IN RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE INTERNATIONAL ISOTOPE SOCIETY", reflects the high merit of this award. Chin-Tzu Peng was born in Sian, the ancient capitol of China. He graduated in chemistry from Fu Jen University, Beijing in 1942 and subsequently obtained a scholarship and necessary permission from the Chinese Ministry of Education for advanced study abroad. He went to the USA in 1948 and obtained his Ph.D. at the University of California Berkeley in 1952. Then, as a Post Doctoral research scientist at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), he rapidly developed a strong interest not only in the synthesis of isotopically labelled compounds but also in the measurement of radioactivity by liquid scintillation counting, especially of weak beta emitting radionuclides. This latter interest led to numerous publications and his involvement in establishing training courses on liquid scintillation measurements at UCSF, and subsequently in the organisation of two international conferences on this topic. Following a sabbatical in 1966-67 in England at the Universities of Leeds (with Professor Dainton) and of Sheffield (with Dr. B. Stevens), in 1968 he became a full Professor at UCSF in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Chemistry. In the early 1960's Chin-Tzu Peng first developed his continuing main current research interest in studying the mechanisms of hydrogen isotope exchange reactions with gaseous tritium.

During his 40 years of research, Chin-Tzu Peng has authored and co-authored more than 110 publications pertaining to his work with isotopes. Amongst his collaborators are scientists at the National Tritium Labelling Facility, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and the Tritium Technology Laboratory of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, all in California, as well as receiving financial support from the USA National Cancer Institute.

Professor Chin-Tzu Peng is a member of the American Chemical Society, and he has been a member of the IIS and its Advisory Board since the Society was founded in 1986. He is also an Advisory Board member for the Journal of Labelled Compounds and Radiopharmaceuticals, the Official Journal of the IIS. He is currently Chairman of the IIS Funding Committee as well as an Advisory Board Member. Although he retired from his position at UCSF in July 1993, he continues to pursue his research interests at the State University at San Jose, California.

\* The MELVIN CALVIN AWARD, in honour and with permission of Professor Melvin Calvin, distinguished scientist and Nobel Laureate, is made by the International Isotope Society from time to time as appropriate, to elected members of the Society nominated for long and distinguished contributions in the field of isotopes and for service to the Society. Any member of the IIS may nominate, at any time, another member of the Society suitably qualified to be considered as a recipient of the MELVIN CALVIN AWARD.

INTERNATIONAL ISOTOPE SOCIETY AWARD 1994 (to Dr.Dale W.Blackburn, USA) -  
Dr.Dale Blackburn received the second INTERNATIONAL ISOTOPE SOCIETY AWARD which was presented to him on behalf of the IIS by Dr.Alex Susan, a Past Secretary of the Society and the first recipient of this Award in 1991. This AWARD, given especially to elected members for outstanding service to the IIS, is inscribed "FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE FOUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIETY AND FOR SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TECHNOLOGY OF ISOTOPICALLY LABELLED COMPOUNDS".

Dale Blackburn graduated in Pharmacy in 1948 and is a registered pharmacist in the State of Indiana USA. In 1954 he obtained a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from Purdue University, Indiana, where he started his career as an Assistant Professor. His industrial career commenced in 1956 when he joined Smith, Kline and French Laboratories in Philadelphia as a Senior Organic Chemist in their process research department. Following his promotion to Associate Director of Specialised Technologies, he formed a radiochemistry group at the SK & F Laboratories in 1957. He subsequently became Associate Director of Radiochemistry in 1981, a position from which he retired in 1986.

As a scientist, Dale Blackburn is a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Pharmaceutical Association and the Health Physics Society. He was also a founding member of the Organic Reactions Catalysis Society in 1965, and subsequently, as Chairman of the Group, he organised the 12th Conference on the Catalysis of Organic Reactions, San Antonio, Texas. He edited the text "Catalysis of Organic Reactions" resulting from this meeting and is author or co-author of more than 25 publications on topics including radiochemical synthesis and analysis, pharmaceutical analysis, organic synthesis, laboratory design and selective catalytic hydrogenation. More recently he has acted as

consultant on radiochemistry, design of radiochemical laboratories, on aspects of radiation safety and has been an expert witness on environmental safety issues. Dale Blackburn is one of the founding members of the International Isotope Society which was incorporated in the State of New Jersey, USA in 1986. He was elected Treasurer of the Society from its inception and subsequently re-elected to this Office in 1988, 1991 and again at the recent meeting in Strasbourg. He has been instrumental in the development of all the financial programs for the Society, in establishing the membership data base, and in devising a membership renewal system which has resulted in the Society membership growing from 147 in 1987 to its current 667 members. As Treasurer, he has guided the Society to its current sound independent financial base, established the present non-profit tax-exempt status for the Society, and installed independent auditing of the Society's Annual Accounts.

As Symposium Co-ordinator for the Strasbourg meeting, Dale Blackburn played a vital role in the financial planning and overall smooth running of the meeting, and as a member of the Board of Trustees he will continue his essential role in the ongoing progress and development of the IIS.

E. Anthony Evans  
September, 1994

## IIS News

### MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ISOTOPE SOCIETY (IIS) HELD AT STRASBOURG FRANCE JUNE 20-24, 1994

The fifth in the series of International Symposia relating to the Synthesis and Applications of Isotopes and Isotopically Labelled Compounds was held in Le Palais de la Musique et des Congres, Strasbourg, France, 20-24 June, 1994. This third highly successful international meeting organised by the International Isotope Society was the second such meeting in Europe, the first being held previously at Innsbruck, Austria in July 1988 ( see Journal of Labelled Compounds and Radiopharmaceuticals, 25(10) (1988)1173).

The format of this Symposium followed closely to that of the IIS Symposium held at Toronto, Canada in September 1991 (see Journal of Labelled Compounds and Radiopharmaceuticals, 29(12) (1991)1355). More than 500 scientists and accompanying persons from 27 different countries attended this 5th International Symposium co-chaired by Dr.John Allen (Synthelabo Recherche, France) and Dr.Rolf Voges (Sandoz Pharma Ltd., Switzerland). This was a Symposium with a truly international flavour (including more than 30 scientists from Russia and other parts of the former Soviet Union) and having a strong effective Organising Committee consisting of the two co-chairmen, Professor G.W.Kabalka (Univ. of Tennessee and President of the IIS), Dr.D.W.Blackburn (Conference co-ordinator and IIS Treasurer), Dr.K.W.M.Lawrie and Mr.D.Saunders (SmithKline Beecham, respectively UK and USA) as publications co-ordinators, Dr.D.J.Lester co-ordinating the exhibits and Dr.A.B.Susan as Sponsorship co-ordinator, together with a number of supporting staff at the "Palais des Congres". Following meetings of the IIS Board of Trustees and the Advisory Board on 19 June (reported on separately), a mixer was held at the Palais des Congres in the evening providing an excellent and most enjoyable start to the meeting enabling participants and accompanying persons from all parts of the world to quickly renew "old" and "new" acquaintances. A copy of the Symposium Handbook and Collection of Abstracts, an excellent colour brochure about Strasbourg and other useful information was provided to each Registrant in the Symposium "bag" (Compliments of the International Isotope Clearing House, Inc.).

The Scientific Program was formally opened on 20 June by the IIS President (Professor George Kabalka) and by Dr.John Allen (Co-chairman Organising Committee) with the first of the 4 Plenary Lectures being delivered by Dr. Rolf Voges (Sandoz, Switz.) who highlighted the growing recognition and importance of stereoselectivity in drug metabolism, in his talk entitled "Stereoselective Procedures in the Synthesis of Enantimerically Pure Isotopically

Labelled Compounds" - a topic that was referenced numerous times in subsequent talks. The second Plenary Lecture was presented by Professor B.Maziere (CEA,France) entitled "Functional Imaging in Pharmacological Studies" again highlighting the properties of stereoselective drug action. His talk replaced the one originally scheduled due to the indisposition of Prof.A.Syrota (CEA, France). In the third Plenary Lecture, Prof.D.W.Young (Univ.of Sussex, UK) presented a very well illustrated talk entitled "Stereospecifically Labelled Compounds as Tools for Investigating Metabolic Processes", in spite of his slight "disorientation" on the speaker's platform and disappearing over the side! Fortunately he came to no harm. The fourth Plenary Lecture entitled "Applications of Isotope Labeling Techniques to Mechanistic Studies in Drug Metabolism and Toxicity" was expertly and superbly delivered by Prof.Thomas Baillie (Univ.of Washington, Seattle USA). There were many excellent talks presented of a very high standard in each of the 7 parallel scientific sessions (14 Sessions in all spread over 4 days) by invited speakers together with more than 50 Posters presented in each of two Poster Sessions. This provided participants with a plethora of up-to-date information on the Synthesis and Applications of Isotopes and Isotopically Labelled Compounds, and provoking many fruitful discussions during the Symposium.

A number of participants attended a small reception (local rules unfortunately restricted the number to 100) at the Hotel de Ville (City Hall) in the evening of 20 June, at which the IIS was thanked on behalf of the Mayor of Strasbourg for holding the 5th International Symposium in the City of Strasbourg, the "seat" of the European Parliament. A suitable reply was given by Prof.Kabalka on behalf of the IIS.

A luncheon was provided by the Exhibitors for participants on 21 June, which provided an excellent and additional opportunity to review and discuss individual requirements with staff of the 25 organisations exhibiting.

The Symposium Banquet is always a highspot and this was held at the "Palais des Congres" on 23 June attended by more than 200, which was a smaller number than might have been expected, perhaps due to other gastronomic temptations in Strasbourg! Following the delights of a superb menu which included Le Foie gras de canard, Le filet de canard (duck) and various fruits, washed down with copious glasses of excellent wines, the Guest Speaker, the distinguished scientist and Nobel Laureate Professor Mel Schwarz (Brookhaven National Laboratory, USA) gave an entertaining and lighthearted talk entitled "A half-century of Particle Physics". However, by 11 pm most at the banquet were already "floating" amongst the "quarks", "muons" and "leptons". The talk was followed by presentations of the IIS 1994 Awards to Dale Blackburn for services to the IIS (by Dr.Alex Susan) and to Professor Chin-Tzu Peng (by Dr.Tony Evans) who received the Melvin Calvin Award for contributions to the

science of isotopes and for services to the IIS. The Awards are reported on separately in more detail.

The Proceedings of the 5th International Symposium will be published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd., Baffins Lane, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1UD England, and orders should be placed directly with them.

The IIS General Assembly Business Meeting was held at the "Palais des Congres" in the evening of 21 June (reported on separately).

The social program also included an excellent very popular all day Symposium Coach Tour on 22 June to Colmar and surrounding Alsatian countryside, with visits to the famous Unterlinden Museum and splendid lunch at the town of Riquewihr in a typical Alsatian restaurant and wine cellar! Another tour visited Baden Baden and the Black Forest area.

A major contributing factor to the overall success of the Symposium was the generous support from Sponsors and the IIS thanked and is indebted to the following organisations for financial support:

Amersham International plc; Du Pont-NEN Products; Packard Instrument Company; American Radiolabelled Chemical-ANAWA-Biotrend; EG & G Be&hold; Dr.Glaser AG Basel; International Isotope Clearing House Inc.; Sandoz Pharma; Synthelabo Recherche; Zeneca; Bioscan.Inc.; Cambridge Isotope Laboratories; Oread Labs Inc., and SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals.

The International Isotope Society thanks all those attending and actively participating in the Strasbourg Symposium and sends good wishes to all its members, welcomes new members and looks forward to your participation at the 6th International Symposium on the Synthesis and Applications of Isotopes and Isotopically Labelled Compounds to be held at Philadelphia, USA in September 1997, as well as at other local meetings of the Society in the intervening years.

E.Anthony Evans  
September, 1994