

Referee Chemist list

The AOCS Examination Board has announced an addition to the list of 1983-84 Official Referee Chemists. Alain Karleskind and Michel J. Blanc of Laboratoires Wolff, 15 Rue Charles Paradinas, 92110 Clichy, France, have been added to the list as certified in "Tallow and Grease." The certification is valid through June 1, 1984.

Committee spotlights

Environmental concerns

The Environmental Short Course, to be presented Saturday, April 28, 1984, just before the AOCS' 75th anniversary meeting in Dallas, is one of the ways AOCS strives to meet its members' needs for information and direction regarding environmental matters.

Committee activities, technical seminars during annual meetings and short courses provide AOCS members with a chance to present and discuss individual and common problems, as well as major environmental legislation and regulations as they relate to the industry as a whole.

Two committee groups have direct responsibility for these activities: The Environmental Control Committee, headed by Earle Fritz of Union Camp, and the Environmental Subcommittee of the National Program Planning Committee, headed by Michael Boyer of Applied Engineering and Science. Boyer is serving as chairman for the April 28 short course.

The Environmental Control Committee deals with current issues and individual problems. At the 1983 AOCS annual meeting, the subcommittee heard a talk by an expert in the field of environmental law. Such presentations are often arranged and made to this group. Its membership is comprised of senior environmental staff of the various companies engaged in the processing of fats, oils and detergents, as well as consultants and equipment suppliers knowledgeable in this field.

The Environmental Subcommittee of the National Program Planning Committee functions primarily as an organizer of technical seminars, symposia and short courses directed at member education. Technical sessions dealing strictly with environmental control are held at annual meetings approximately every other year. Other individual papers, addressing process and quality control issues and the impact of environmental control, are presented in other sessions at every annual meeting.

The short course planned for Dallas will draw specialists from throughout the industry as speakers who will discuss environmental regulation, problem identification and potential solutions.

Committee interaction provides for technology transfer of research conducted by individual members through their companies. The AOCS serves to coordinate these activities. Several key issues that have been addressed by AOCS members in recent years are:

1) Industrial process wastewaters generated in the fats, oils and detergent industry are often high in organic

strength because of oil and grease present. Considerable research has been devoted to determining the compatibility of these wastes with domestic sanitary wastes for treatment in publicly owned treatment facilities. These efforts have been very successful in establishing the acceptability of combined treatment and saved the industry substantial capital dollars in unnecessary additional on-site treatment facilities.

2) Use of barometric cooling towers for various processes has resulted in substantial odor-emission problems. Research by member equipment suppliers has resulted in the development of closed-loop tower systems to eliminate these problems. Such systems add additional loads to the process wastewater, but this is easier to handle, as indicated above.

3) For those plants that must treat wastewater to a higher degree because of the unavailability of sanitary sewers, several techniques somewhat unique to this industry have been developed by members and applied successfully in full-scale applications within the industry. These include various biological and physical-chemical methods. An acid hydrolysis-oil separation technique has been applied very successfully at several plants and actually provided a reasonably attractive return-on-investment when considering BOD surcharge reductions as well as oil and grease recovery, in some instances.

Bailey Award to C. R. Smith

Cecil R. Smith, Jr., research leader at the USDA Northern Regional Research Center, has been named the 1984 recipient of the Alton E. Bailey Award, presented annually by the North Central Section of the AOCS to recognize outstanding research and exceptional service in the field of lipids and associated products.

Smith was cited "for greatly increasing the fundamental knowledge of the diversity, structure and chemistry of lipids of higher plants."

Smith received his B.A. and M.S. degrees at the University of Colorado and his doctorate from Wayne State University in 1955. He joined the NRRC staff in 1956 after spending a year as a postgraduate research associate at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. He has authored approximately 150 publications dealing with unusual lipids, alkaloids and other natural products.

Smith has been a member of the AOCS since 1962. He also holds memberships in the American Chemical Society, Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, the Society for Economic Botany, and the American Society of Pharmacognosy.

Smith's acceptance lecture for the Feb. 16, 1984, dinner meeting was entitled, "Discovery of New Fatty Acids and Other Lipids in Plants—A Retrospective View."

Board Report

During its November meeting, the AOCS Governing Board handled mainly routine business, according to a report from James Lyon, Executive Director of the society.