

JANUARY 2005

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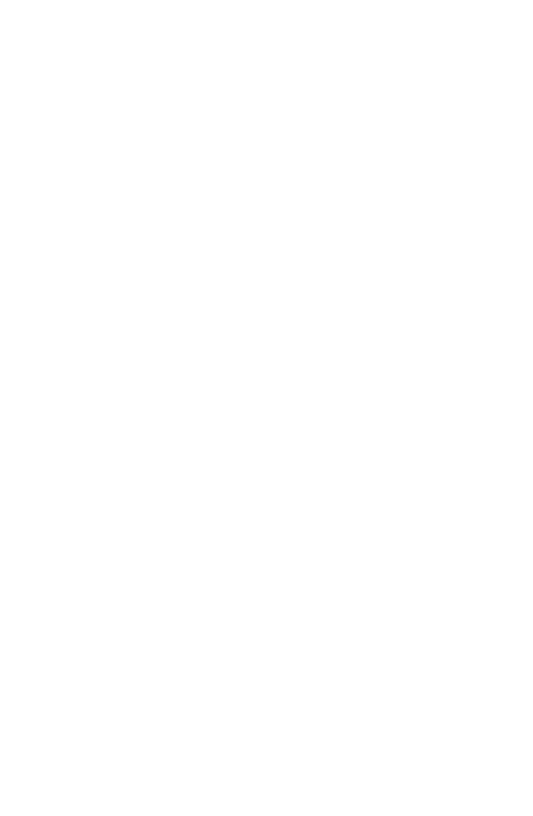
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ACS NORTH JERSEY SECTION

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PERIODICALS POSTAGE



Education



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SPRING SEMESTER EVENING GRADUATE COURSES Classes 6:15-8:45 PM • Semester Begins January 18, 2005

MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY — Ch 685 (Mon.)

Modern aspects of drug discovery, enzyme inhibition and receptor antagonism; pharmacokinetics; structure activity relationship; recent case studies. Prereq. — Organic Chemistry

Prof. A.K. Ganguly, formerly Sr. V.P., Schering-Plough

GREEN CHEMISTRY FOR SYNTHESIS — Ch 740 (Tues.)

Unconventional energy efficient technology, redesigning traditional reactions and well established large scale procedures, microwave techniques, solvent free reactions, water-based reaction media, etc. Prof. A. Bose

PRINCIPLES OF PROTEOMICS — Ch 781 (Thurs.) New

Bioanalytical methods used to study expression, interaction, modification and function of proteins; microarray technologies and their applications.

Prereg. — Biochemistry, Modern Biology Prof. N. Kumbaraci

Also offered:

Advanced Physical Chemistry — Ch 520 (Mon.)

Advanced Inorganic Chemistry — Ch 610 (Fri.)

Advanced Organic Chemistry II — CH 641 (Tues.)

Advanced Instrumental Analysis — Ch 660 (Weds.)

Thermodynamics & Kinetics — Ch 620 (Tues.)

Macromolecules in Modern Technology — Ch 672 (Thurs.)

Biochemistry I — Ch 580 (Weds.)

Biophysical Chemistry — Ch 582 (Thurs.)

Computational Biology — Ch 668 (Mon.)

Immunology — Ch 686 (Tues.)

For Application: Graduate School (201) 216-5234 For Information: Deptartment (201) 216-5528

THE INDICATOR-JANUARY 2005

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EDITORIAL DEADLINES

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THE INDICATOR-JANUARY 2005

January Calendar

NEW YORK SECTION

Friday, January 7, 2005

High School Teachers Topical Group See page 13.

Thursday, January 13, 2005 Chemical Marketing & Economics Group See page 13.

Saturday, January 22, 2005 NY Section-Wide Conference See page 14.

Tuesday, January 25, 2005 Biochemical Topical Group *See page 15.*

Deadline for items to be included in the March 2005 issue of *The Indicator* is January 14, 2005.

NORTH JERSEY SECTION

Thursday, January 6, 2005 Careers in Transition See page 6.

Monday, January 10, 2005 Teacher Affiliates Executive Committee See page 6.

Tuesday, January 11, 2005 Chem Central See page 6.

Wednesday, January 12, 2005 NoJ Chromatography Group See page 7.

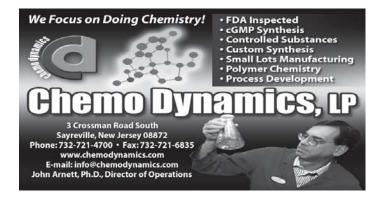
Tuesday, January 18, 2005 ChemTAG See page 7.

Thursday, January 20, 2005NJ Group of Small Chemical Businesses *See page 7.*

Saturday, January 22, 2005 Teacher Affiliates - A.P. Chem See page 8.

Monday, January 24, 2005 NoJ Executive Committee See page 6.

Monday, January 31, 2005 Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group See page 8.



NORTH JERSEY SECTION CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I would like to extend my greetings to all the members of the North Jersey Section of the ACS. I am honored to have this opportunity to serve you as chair of the largest local section of the ACS, with almost 7000 members.

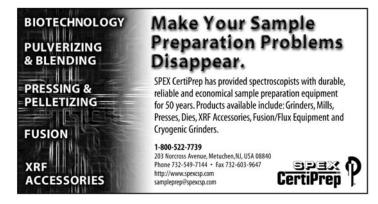
The year ahead is going to be an exciting one for the section, as we are sponsoring the Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting "Chemistry at the Crossroads of Science" at Rutgers University, which will be held May 22-25, 2005. This meeting will be a highlight of our section's events this year, and is sure to be a success. MARM will feature world class technical programming and symposia tailored to the interests of the Mid Atlantic Region. There will be posters, vendor exhibits, career programs, and special events during the meeting. Also, one day will be devoted to Science Education and Careers, and will feature programming for students, parents and teachers. In addition, some of our committees such as the MetroWomen Chemists Committee and the Younger Chemists Committee will have programming and special events. I hope that many of you will attend or participate in this regional meeting.

In addition to MARM, our many topical groups and committees, including the Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group, the Chromatography Group, the Organic Topical Group, Teacher Affiliates, Younger Chemists, etc. will continue their programming throughout the year. Our Careers In Transition Committee will continue their monthly meetings, in order to help our members with their career needs. We will also continue our public outreach activities such as Project SEED, National Chemistry Week, and the Chemistry Olympiad.

Without the many dedicated volunteers who commit their time and energy, these activities would not occur, and I would like to thank all those who volunteer during the year. However, we need more member support and volunteers for these activities, and I would like to encourage you all to get involved in the section. In addition, as the needs of our members change, along with the changes in local industries, we will need to plan new activities and programs. I hope that you will send me your ideas and suggestions for the section.

I look forward to leading the section in 2005. I wish you all a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2005.

Jacqueline Erickson 2005 Chair, North Jersey Section ACS



North Jersey Meetings

http://www.njacs.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SECTION MEETING

All ACS members are welcome to attend.

Monday, January 24, 2005

Time: 5:30 PM

Place: Fairleigh Dickinson University Rice Lounge, New Academic Bldg.

Madison, NJ

Dinner \$10.00 (Pizza and Soda)

For reservations, call (732) 463-7271 or email jppenna@aol.com and state your wish to make reservations for the ACS Dinner before Wednesday, January 19,

Dinner at the North Jersey Meeting is payable at the door; however, if you are not able to attend and did not cancel your reservation, you are responsible for the price of your dinner.



CAREERS IN TRANSITION GROUP

Job Hunting??

Are you aware that the North Jersey Section holds monthly meetings at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison to help ACS members? Topics covered at theses cost-free workshops are:

- · The latest techniques in resume preparation
- · Ways for improving a resume
- · Answers to frequently asked interview question and
- · Conducting an effective job searching.

The next meeting for the Careers In Transition Group will be held Thursday, January 6, 2005, in the Rice Lounge on the first floor of the New Academic Building. The meeting will start at 5:30 PM and end at 9:00. There will be a Dutch-treat dinner. To get the most from the meeting, be sure to bring transparencies of your resume.

Please contact vikuck@yahoo.com, if you plan on attending this meeting

TEACHER AFFILIATES

Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Monday, January 10, 2005

4:30 PM

Place: Chatham High School 255 Lafayette Avenue

Chatham, NJ

Contact: Diane Krone at (201) 385-4810 or kroned@optonline.net



CHEM CENTRAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2005

4:00 PM

West Windsor/ Plainsboro South Place:

High School

346 Clarksville Road Princeton Junction, NJ

Contact: Karen Shannon at karen.shannon@WW-P.org



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NORTH JERSEY CHROMATOGRAPHY GROUP

Retention Mechanisms in Reversed-Phase Chromatography: Utilization and Control of Secondary Interactions

Speaker: David Bell

Pennsylvania State University

and Supleco

The majority of high-performance liquid chromatographic (HPLC) analyses are performed using octadecylsilane (C18) stationary phases. When C18 phases do not provide the retention or selectivity required for a given analysis, the analyst may choose to use an alternative stationary phase chemistry. Although there has been much research aimed at fundamental understanding of retention mechanisms on alkyl phases, less is known about stationary phases with polar functional groups. To best select and utilize the various stationary phase chemistries available, it is paramount to understand the molecular interactions that impart retention and selectivity differences. In recent years, polar-embedded and fluorinated stationary phases have become popular alternatives to C18 packings. The polar columns, however, are commonly employed without a firm understanding of interactions that contribute to retention and selectivity.

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2005

(\$15.00 for Students).

Dinner: 6:30 PM Times:

Seminar: 7:30 PM Somerset Marriott Place: \$30.00 for Dinner

To register online, go to

www.njacs.org/chroma.html. Open seating for those not attending dinner.



ChemTAG MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2005

4:00 PM Time:

Watchung Hills High School 108 Stirling Road

Warren, NJ 07059 Contact: Vicky Hubner at

vhubinger@whrhs.org

THE NEW JERSEY GROUP OF SMALL CHEMICAL BUSINESSES

Emergency Preparedness at a Chemical Manufacturing Site - Steps toward Process Safety for the Small Chemical Company

Speaker: Mike Yarnell

OSHA Compliance Assistant Avenel Area Office Member, OSHA Chemical Specialized Response Team

There is vast amount of information resident at the OSHA area office that can help a manufacturer, in particular a small chemical manufacturer, take steps to protect employees and facility from a chemical disaster. Here is your chance to get a valuable overview of protective and preventive practices you can implement now, and pitfalls to avoid, to help guarantee continued operation in case of an emergency. The presentation will include an overview of the Incident Command System as well as information on OSHA's role in case of emer-

The presentation nicely complements the presentation at our September meeting by Greg Thompson, Amerada Hess, on how a manufacturer of chemical products can develop a basic security plan for the vulnerable areas of a facility, and what resources are available to management for implementation. It also takes up where Kris Hoffman, the local OSHA Compliance Officer for our region, left off last January with his excellent profile of the technical and compliance resources available electronically from

In addition to being trained to Process Safety Management, Level 1, Mike Yarnell is a member of the 10 person Chemical Specialized Response Team, set up under Homeland Security, which functions as the nationwide response to chemical disasters and terrorist attacks. As a Compliance Officer, his function is to provide manufacturers, and other business owners, the benefit of extensive technical expertise and field investigation experience by implementing outreach programs for the business community. He has many years' experience in Industrial Hygiene, including being a Regional Industrial Hygienist, which makes the organizational assistance and development of partnerships and alliances with industry that he implements all the more

(continued on page 8)

THE NEW JERSEY GROUP OF SMALL CHEMICAL BUSINESSES

(continued from page 7)

Date: Thursday, January 20, 2005 Times: Networking - Cash Bar 5:30 PM Dinner - Attendee Introductions

6:30 PM Presentation 7:15 PM Q & A - Networking - Dessert 8:00 PM

Place: Holiday Inn, North Frontage Rd. Newark, NJ

On north side of Newark Airport \$45 for members of NJGSCB \$55 for non-members In advance or at the door.

For map and directions, see www. NJChemBus.org

All Reservations must be in advance either at Web Site: www.NJChemBus.org or call Rhoda Kriesel at 973-509-3290.

Reserve by January 17, 2005. Please reserve early. Cancel 48 hours in advance or be invoiced.

Payment: Make your check payable to, and mail payment to: NJ Group of Small Chemical Businesses, P.O. Box 423, Summit. NJ 07902.



TEACHER AFFILIATES

The Teacher Affiliates of the North Jersey Section, Inc. of the American Chemical Society will be presenting a full day workshop specifically geared to give teachers the tools they need to teach AP Chemistry.

The workshop will focus upon the following aspects of teaching AP Chemistry:

- + AP Textbooks, resources and websites for teaching AP Chemistry
- + Advice from an A.P. Chemistry Grader
- Scheduling of Content Chemical Reactions
- + Equilibrium Problems and Hands-on
- Equilibrium Activities
- + Hands-on Lab Experiments and the Required Lab Exam Question

Date: Saturday, January 22, 2005

Times: 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM Place: Chatham High School 255 Lafayette Avenue Chatham, NJ

To register for this event or for more information, contact: Brenda Rosenau, Somerville High School, 222 Davenport Street, Somerville, NJ 08876, (908) 218-4108, email: bkrosenau@aol.com



MASS SPECTROMETRY **DISCUSSION GROUP**

Symposium: "Accurate Mass Measurement of Natural Products, Peptides, Proteins and Biomarkers"

Sponsored by: Bruker Daltonics Inc.

Program

Combining the Versatility and Power of FTMS for the Investigation of Complex **Biomolecular Problems**

Speaker: Dr. Paul Spei Bruker Daltonics Inc. Billerica, MA

Accurate Mass Measurement: Taking Full Analytical Advantage of Nature's Isotopic Complexity

Speaker: Professor Alan G. Marshall Center for Interdisciplinary Magnetic Resonance National High Magnetic Field Lab Tallahassee, FL Department of Chemistry Florida State University Tallahassee, FL

Application of FTICR-MS to Natural **Product Structure Determination**

Speaker: Dr. Xidong Feng Wyeth Research Pearl River, NY

Monday, January 31, 2005 Times: Display of Bruker Instrumentation

5:30 - 9:30 PM

Social/Hors d'Oeuvres 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:15 PM Seminar 7:00 PM

Place: Somerset Marriott Hotel Somerset, NJ

None

Registration: Must register online at www.njacs.org/ms.html

For additional information, please visit our webpage at www.njacs.org/ms.html

CHEM ESSENTIALS

Are you A NEW Chemistry Teacher? A Teacher NEW to Chemistry? A Chemistry Teacher Who Is Looking for Something NEW?

Then CHEM ESSENTIALS Is for YOU!

The next Chem Essentials Workshop is on "Stoichiometry."

Date: Friday, February 11, 2005 Place: Somerville High School

Contact Patti Duncan at

PDuncan@hpregional.org or go to http://www.njacs.org/teacher.html for more details and a registration form.



RESULTS OF 2004 FALL **BALLOT FOR THE NORTH** JERSEY SECTION, ACS

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Secretary 2005-2007 Bettyann Howson 407 William Metz 208 Treasurer 2005-2007

430

189

Dorit Noether 553

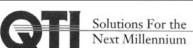
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SCENES FROM THE NORTH JERSEY SECTION — NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK



Organic Topical Group, September 2004 Meeting.

Lawrence J. Williams (speaker) with Jay Tagat (Chair).





SEED Students at September 2004 Meeting.

MORE SCENES FROM THE NORTH JERSEY SECTION — NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK



Small Chemical Business, September

SCENES FROM BENCH TOP TO PILOT PLANT SYMPOSIUM — OCTOBER 28, 2004 — MADISON HOTEL, MORRISTOWN, NJ



(L to R): Ann Gelormini (OTG), Stuart Mickel (Novartis, Basel), Robert Cain (Hoffmann-La Roche, Boulder, CO), David Kronenthal (BMS, New Brunswick, NJ), Ulf Dolling (Merck, Rahway, NJ), Michael Miller (OTG), Ramakanth Sarabu (OTG), Jake Song (OTG), Jay Tagat (OTG), and Jianshe Kong (OTG).



B2P Symposium Speakers: Drs. Stuart Mickel (Novartis, Basel), Robet Cain (Roche Boulder, CO), David Kronenthal (BMS, New Brunswick, NJ), and Ulf Dolling (Merck, Rahway, NJ).

MARM 2005

The 37th Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM 2005), hosted by the North Jersey Section, will be held at Rutgers University. Busch Campus, Piscataway, NJ, May 22-25, 2005. The theme of the meeting is "Chemistry at the Crossroads of Science" and will feature the most popular technical programming combined with the best features of a National ACS meeting tailored to the needs and interests of area scientists. Abstract submissions are sought from undergraduate and graduate students, and from professional industrial and academic chemists in all areas of chemistry.

The meeting will feature invited speakers at major symposia including "Bench to Pilot Plant", "Visions in Chemistry" (sponsored by Aventis). "Environmental & Green Chemistry", "Pharmaceutical Profiling", "Protein Family-Targeted Medicinal Chemistry- The Practice of Medicinal Chemistry in the Age of Chemogenomics". "Advances in Organic Chemistry", "Organometallic Catalysis". "Novel Instrumentation and Applications of Mass Spectrometry in ADME Studies", "Functional Proteomics and Cell Signaling", "Biomarkers: Quantification. Correlation and Bioanalytical Issues", "Applications of LC-MS in Drug Discovery/Development". "Solid State and Materials Chemistry", "Nanoscience and Technology and Solid State & Materials Chemistry/Surface Chemistry", "Materials Chemistry/Inorganic & Organic Polymers" and "ADMET at the Crossroads of Drug Discovery". There will also be a special symposium, sponsored by the Organic Chemistry Division, honoring a Cope Scholar Awardee. Several chemical engineering mini-courses will also be offered by ACS & AIChE. The Waksman Antibiotic Drug Discovery Process will receive an ACS National Landmark Award for developing the cure for TB and many other infectious diseases. The Waksman National Chemical Landmark Symposium will mix history with modern antibiotic discoveries. The Regional



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Innovation awards will also feature a related

Sunday, May 22, 2005, designated "Science Education and Career Day," will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the New Jersey Science Teachers Association. High-school students, their parents and their teachers from throughout the region are encouraged to attend. Events will include chemistry and physics demonstrations, showings of the IMAX film "Volcanoes of the Deep" with commentary by the science advisor for the film, student and industrial panels to discuss college and career opportunities in several areas, symposia in several disciplines centered about the theme "100 Years Then and Now," workshops for teachers, poster presentations and lunch with a scientist. The program will provide unique opportunities for students, teachers, and scientists from diverse disciplines to mix with each other in an informal, informative atmosphere.

In addition to technical symposia there will be a number of special events including an awards banquet on Wednesday evening where 50-year members will be honored along with the winners of a number of ACS regional awards. Special lunches will be held for Senior Chemists and the Women Chemists Committees. There will also be a "Roving Feast" Monday & Tuesday evenings. May 23rd & 24th, in conjunction with special programming, vendor exhibits and posters. Student Affiliates will have a full program for sharing their research, outreach programs, eminent scientist lecture and life in their chapter.

The online abstract program and advance registration opens November 16th. Abstracts will be accepted until March 15th. Submit online through the MARM 2005 website at www.marmacs.org, and visit the website for periodic program updates. For more information, please contact the Technical Program Co-Chairs, Les McQuire at leslie.mcquire@pharma.novartis.com or Joseph Potenza at jpotenza@rutchem.

Abstracts & Registration presently being accepted.

New York Meetings

www.newyorkacs.org

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS TOPICAL GROUP

Science Materials for Science Teachers

Speaker: Doreen Bader

Resarch Scientist/ Environmental Educator NYC Department of **Environmental Protection**

Friday, January 7, 2005 Date: Social and Dinner 5:45 PM

Caffe Pane e Cioccolato

10 Waverly Place at Mercer St.

(southwest corner) New York, NY

(You eat, you pay, cash only, no credit cards)

Meeting 7:15 PM Time: New York University

> Silver Center Room 207 32 Waverly Place (southeast corner Washington Square East)

New York, NY

Security at NYU requires that you show a picture ID to enter the building. In case of unexpected severe weather, call John Roeder (212) 497-6500, between 9 AM and 2 PM to verify that meeting is still on; (914) 961-8882 for other info.

Note: For those who prefer indoor attended parking, it is available at the Melro/Romar Garages. The entrance is on the west side of Broadway just south of 8th Street, directly across from Astor Place. It is a short, easy walk from the garage to the restaurant or meeting room.



CHEMICAL MARKETING & ECONOMICS (CM&E) GROUP

Outlook for the U.S. and World Petrochemical Industry

Speaker: Andrew Swanson

Vice President

Nexant/Chem Systems, Inc.

White Plains, NY

Date: Thursday, January 13, 2005

Times: Cocktails 11:30 AM Luncheon 12 noon

Presentation 1:15 PM The Chemists' Club

40 West 45th Street New York City

\$35 discount price for Members

who reserve by Tuesday, January 11, 2005 (12 noon). \$50 for Guests and Members (at the door without reservations)

To reserve: Please reserve early to be eligible for discount price. Call Probe Economics at (914) 923-4505, or via e-mail to: cmegroup@yahoo.com. To pay online (via PayPal), go to the CM&E Website: http://home.nyc.rr.com/chemmarkecon/



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2005 SECTION-WIDE CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday, January 22, 2005

Place: Fordham University, Flom Auditorium, Walsh Library

441 East Fordham Road, Bronx, NY

Cost: Free to all

We hope you can join us!

9:30 AM Arrival and Refreshments - Welcome to the ACS, New York Section's 2005

Section-wide Conference and to Fordham University.

9:50 AM Greetings from the 2005 Chair of the

ACS New York Section. James W. Canary

10:00 AM Award Presentations:

Service Plaque and Pin to the 2004 NY Section Chair

New York Section Outstanding Service Award for 2004

Nichols Foundation Chemistry Teacher Award for 2004

Salutes to Excellence Award

Jean Delfiner

High School Teachers Topical Group

Salutes to Excellence Award Joan A. Laredo-Liddell

High School Teachers Topical Group

Salutes to Excellence Award New York Academy of Sciences

10:30 AM Report of the 2005 Elections Nominating Committee. Jill K. Rehmann

(Presentation of Candidates)

10:45 AM Keynote Address

11:45 AM Coffee Break (Enjoy the Poster Prsentations of our Project SEED Students)

12:00 AM ACS, New York Section Committee Planning Sessions for 2005.

Break out into committee groups to share ideas for future activities. All attendees are welcome to join in the discussions of the various committees.

Educational Activities (Chemical Education, Continuing Education, Graduate Student Posters, High School Olympiad, National Chemistry Week, Nichols Foundation Teacher Award, Project SEED, Public Outreach, Student Affiliate) Chair: Sr. Mary L. Maier

Member Affairs (Awards, Employment and Professional Relations, NYACS History, Indicator, Membership, Minority Affairs, Outstanding Service Award)

Chair: Ralph Stephani

Program Review (Subsection and Topical Discussion Group Chairs)

Chair: Anne T. O'Brien

<u>Public Affairs</u> (Academe and Industrial Relations, Community Relations and Publicity, Congressional Science Counselors, Environmental Chemistry, Fund

Raising, Information Technology, Speakers Bureau)

Chair: Frank R. Romano

12:45 PM Reports from the Chairs of the Committee Planning Sessions.

1:00 PM Conclusion of the Meeting. Join with colleagues for lunch at a local

restaurant.

To inquire about the Section-wide Conference, please call the New York Section Office at 516-883-7510 or e-mail Marilyn Jespersen, Office Administrator, at: njesper1@optonline.net

Directions and parking information are on the NY Section website:

http://www.newyorkacs.org

Scientists, teachers and students of all levels are invited to participate.

BIOCHEMICAL TOPICAL GROUP

— JOINT MEETING WITH THE

NYAS BIOCHEMICAL PHARMACOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP

Emerging New Approaches to Anti-Angiogenic Therapies For Treating Cancer

Organizers: Marla Weetall, Ph.D.

PTC Therapeutics and Kenneth LaMontagne, Ph.D. Johnson & Johnson PRD

The presence of capillaries in tumors and the process of tumor angiogenesis had been noted as early as the 1860s. But it was not until 1971, that Judah Folkman stated in the New England Journal of Medicine that tumors are angiogenesis-dependent.

Importantly, he recognized the potential for therapeutic intervention. Recent clinical trials have proven the validity of that statement and indicate that anti-angiogenic therapy will be a mainstay of cancer treatment —

a fourth arm with surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy.

The purpose of this symposium is to discuss emerging new data that enables scientists to better utilize and to better identify angiogenic therapies for treating cancer.

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Time: 1:00 – 5:35 PM

Place: New York Academy of Sciences

Main Hall

2 East 63rd Street (between Fifth and Madison Avenues)

New York, NY

Space is limited. Reserve a seat on-line at http://www.nyas.org/events or telephone 212.838.0230 x 322.

NYAS Members and BPDG Affiliates may attend BPDG meetings free of charge.

Non-members may attend for a fee of \$20 per event; Student Non-members for \$10.

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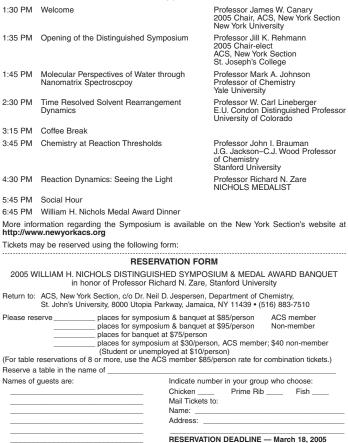
Stanford University, Stanford, California

Date:

Friday, April 1, 2005 1:00 PM Registration, 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM Symposium Time:

5:45 PM Reception, 6:45 PM Award Dinner Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains, NY

PROGRAM



Please make checks payable to: ACS, NEW YORK SECTION Check for \$__

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HUDSON-BERGEN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

The Hudson-Bergen Chemical Society hosted an excellent meeting on October 22 at Fairleigh Dickinson University, which was attended by over 50 students and members. The talk, "Microbes Survive, Technologists Connive, and Companies Thrive" was given by Dr. Arnold L. Demain of Drew University.



(Back row, left to right) Professor Mihaela Leonida of FDU, who organized the program, and Dr. Arnold L. Demain of Drew University, speaker, with some of Professor Leonida's FDU students.

Dr. Irving J. Borowitz: Dr. Arnold L. Demain, speaker: Carol Sutherland, teacher; and Dr. Tristan Williams. Post-Doc in Chemical Engineering, University of Delaware and resident of Australia. (Photos courtesy of Dr. Grace B. Borowitz)





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Call for Nominations

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The Award will be presented at the general meeting of the Section in May 2005.

Submit nominations and seconding letters , before February 2, 2005, to F. Dammont, P.O. Box 20453, Newark, NJ 07101. For more information, please call (973) 482-5744.

Others

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Chemical Biology: Intervention in Cells Using Chemical Principles

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Date: Friday, January 14, 2005 Time: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Place: Hunter College

City University of New York 68th Street at Lexington Avenue West Building, Room 714 HW New York, NY

Symposium website: http://genecenter.hunter.cuny.edu/symposium2005

Admission is free. Register online at the symposium website.

Morning Session

Greeting

Opening remarks

Chemical Genetics (Keynote Address)
Stuart L. Schreiber, Ph.D.
Harvard University

Engineering Biosynthetic Pathways for Natural Products to Generate Novel Antitumor Derivatives

Jose A. Salas, Ph.D. University of Oviedo, Spain

Genomic Screening of Natural Products
Akira Kawamura, Ph.D.

Hunter College, The City University of New

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Afternoon Session

Biomedicinal Chemistry of Tropical Small Molecules with Life-Altering Activities

Eloy Rodriguez, Ph.D. Cornell University

Better Pharmaceuticals through Biophysical Chemistry

Carmichael C. Roberts, Ph.D. Surface Logix, Inc., Boston

Activity-Based Protein Profiling: Chemical Strategies for Functional Proteomics

Benjamin C. Cravatt, Ph.D.
The Scripps Research Institute

Stem Cell Scenarios: Bone Marrow to Brain and Brawn

Helen M. Blau, Ph.D.

Stanford University Medical Center

Poster Session: "The New York World of Chemical Biology"

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Computational Tools for Accelerating Drug Discovery

By: William J. Welsh
Norman H. Edelman Professor
in Bioinformatics
Department of Pharmacology
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
University of Medicine & Dentistry
of New Jersey (UMDNJ)
Director, The UMDNJ Informatics

Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2005
Time: Pizza, Soda and Networking
6:00 PM

Seminar 7:00 PM

(continued on page 20)

Education





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NJIT SEMINAR

(continued from page 19)

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(Bldg #13, NJIT campus map) Cost: Food Cost: \$5 per person

Contact Carol Venanzi by January 18,

Driving Directions to NJIT: http://www.njit. edu/about/visiting/driving.php

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Public Transportation: http://www.njit.edu/ about/visiting/public trans.php

NJIT Campus Map: http://www.njit.edu/ campustour/

For MACCS-related questions, contact: Donna Bassolino-Klimas, donna@stone. congenomics.com

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EARLY INVESTIGATIONS OF METHANE

By Kevin Olsen, Montclair State University

During a November evening in 1783, a large open boat carried a group of men out onto a mill pond near the town of Rocky Hill, New Jersey. Once in the center of the pond, a man in each end of the boat lit a strip of paper and held it a few inches above the water's surface while the others took long poles and began stirring up the mud on the pond's bottom. A few minutes later, bubbles of methane rose through the water, caught fire, and for a brief moment flames spread out over the

Thomas Paine did not record what George Washington said when the strip of burning cartridge paper in his hand set fire to the millpond's surface, just as well perhaps, since it probably was not suited to a respectable magazine like The Indicator. Besides, Paine was busy on the other end of the boat, holding his own piece of burning paper.

A genial disagreement the night before brought Washington, Paine, and a group of officers out to the millpond. But within a few years, the subject of "impure" and "inflammable air" was of serious concern.

Benjamin Franklin first heard of marsh gas while journeying across New Jersey in 1764. He was skeptical at first. Later by happy coincidence. Franklin was calling on a friend who had just returned from setting marsh gas on fire. He explained that by poking holes in the bottom of a muddy pond with his walking stick, gas would be released, which was then set on fire with a candle flame. To prove his story, he showed Franklin the singed ruffles on the clothing he was wearing.

A year later the Royal Society received a letter from Dr. Samuel Finley, fifth president of Princeton University or as it was then known, the College of New Jersey. Finley recounted how a man employed a local mill discovered that the marsh gas could be set on fire and how he repeated the experiment. The Royal Society read the letter but did not print it in their Transactions. According to Franklin, it was considered "too strange to be true."

Franklin himself was a loss to explain the phenomena. He speculated that volatile oils from pine trees might somehow be transported to the bottom of the pond. But if that were the case, what did transport the oil and why couldn't it be smelled either on the surface or in the sediments?

Franklin seems to have forgotten the matter until 1774 when he met with Joseph Priestley while in London. Priestley was intrigued by the phenomena and invited Franklin to contribute a letter for inclusion in his book Experiments and Observations on Different Kinds of Airs.

By the 1790's the causes of Yellow Fever were being hotly debated by physicians. They knew that people living closer to the water were generally more susceptible to the disease but its exact cause was unknown. We know now that increased trade with the Caribbean in the first years after the Revolution brought the disease to the port cities. At the time, whether the disease originated in North America or the Caribbean was also debated.

With remembrances of his boat trip with Washington on the Rocky Hill mill pond, Thomas Paine joined the debate. In 1806 he published, The Cause of Yellow Fever and the Means of Preventing it in Places Not Yet Infected With It. Addressing his essay to the Board of Health in America. Paine argued that since the disease was non-communicable, it was unlikely to have been transported from the Caribbean.

Paine went on to suggest that the "impure effluvia" found in river bottom mud was the cause of Yellow Fever. This mud contained great quantities of "impure" and "inflammable air" which could be released by disturbing the sediments. It was known at the time that this material was a hydrocarbon or as it was known at the time "carbureted hydrogen gas."

He argued that new wharf construction in the seaports released huge amounts of combustible matter in the river bottoms. Paine's solution to the Yellow Fever outbreaks was to cease using dredged sediments as fill and construct all new wharfs from stone arches. Arches would allow

(continued on page 22)

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EARLY INVESTIGATIONS OF **METHANE**

(continued from page 21)

the tides to flush the river bottoms clean and so remove the cause of the fever.

Thomas Jefferson praised Paine's essay as "one of the most sensible performances on that disease that had come under his observation"

Yellow Fever of course remained a serious threat to human health for many more decades.

The crucial turning point in the centuries long battle against Yellow Fever would create one of New Jersey's most admired heroines. Clara Maass (1876 - 1901) was the daughter of German immigrants and an 1895 graduate of the Newark German Hospital School of Nursing. A civilian nurse for the US Army, she spent the Spanish-American War at hospitals in Florida, Georgia, and Cuba. Maass was serving at the Army's First Reserve Hospital in Manila when she became interested in Yellow Fever.

In the 1890's, it was still believed that Yellow Fever was caused by poor sanitation. Under Chief Army Sanitary Officer William Gorgas, the city of Havana underwent a major cleaning in an effort to eradicate the disease. When this failed, Gorgas proposed that inoculation might better protect the public. Meanwhile, an increasingly desperate American government appointed a Yellow Fever Commission chaired by Major Walter Reed

Maass traveled to the Las Animas Hospital in Havana to join Gorgas's staff.

By 1900 it was understood that Yellow Fever was carried by mosquitoes but it was still thought that inoculation would prove an effective defense. To test this theory, Maass agreed to be bitten by an infected mosquito in order to develop immunity. Her subsequent case of Yellow Fever was considered too mild for an effective demonstration. She volunteered to be bitten again and this time, the fever was fatal. Clara Maass was only twentyfive years old.

Walter Reed later credited Maass's death with demonstrating to both physicians and the public that eradicating mosquitoes was the most effective means of combating Yellow Fever. The Newark German hospital was renamed the Clara Maass Memorial Hospital in 1918 and continues to honor memory as the Clara Maass Medical Center.

Methane has long been recognized as a biomass fuel. Today about 10,000 homes in northern New Jersey are supplied with natural gas generated in the Hackensack Meadowlands landfills.

During the 1950's and 1960's Swamp Gas was frequently proposed to explain away sightings of UFO's. Whether this is the explanation of the many UFO's seen in the New Jersey remains a mystery.





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