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SACI NEWS

The International Year of Chemistry (IYC) is now well under way. Many countries are involved with activities and these can be found on the IYC webpage. The SA committee on IYC meets every two months and is monitoring SA activities. Check the SACI website for information. Recently SACI purchased IYC lapel badges and these will be given out to members at various functions throughout the year. More later.

Neil Coville

News from the President

Forgive me for reiterating a comment I made earlier about the SACI Newsletter. The responses I receive from Members regarding the newsletter are a real and genuine reminder to me of the influence it has for all our members and I am grateful for the many comments I receive. Whilst on the subject of reminders, may I again send out an invitation to all Members to write and send in all sorts of anecdotes during their terms on either Council, EXCO or serving on committees for conferences, workshops and the like for the updated monologue I am writing on the history of SACI over the last 25 years to commemorate our 100 year centenary in 2012. All those who are able to recollect events of interest dating from 1987 onwards, please send these to either myself or Laila

In reading snippets from a variety of scientific Journals and other informative sources, the vital importance chemistry plays in our daily lives never ceases to amaze me. Even if one were to take only a few countries and what innovations have been forthcoming, the ingenuity of scientists is astounding and we have a great deal to thank them for. To name but a few; CO₂ is being used after it has been activated to act as an oxygen source for the oxidation of alkenes into useful products in Korea, a new protein secreted by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* could become both a marker for the infection as well as a target for new vaccines, it has been discovered that anti-inflammatory drugs viz., ibuprofen, aspirin and naproxen might be responsible for the reduction in the effectiveness of antidepressants and thus have important implications for sufferers of mental illnesses who also have inflammatory conditions and finally and perhaps more applicable to South Africa, recent developments in organic solar energy conversion technologies have demonstrated to possess some distinct advantages over the more conventional semiconductor technologies.

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News from the President

I am currently considering attending, from a personal invitation, a conference in the Hague organised by a United Nations body known as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Among the many items for consideration will be best practice ways of protecting chemical plants from potential security threats, prevention of the misuse of toxic materials, whether emerging areas in chemistry offer potential threats and how to address these. At this stage the funding is expected to come from the organisers and it will remain a mystery until I get final confirmation.

The reason I mention this is to highlight the importance that SACI is being accorded as a participating body on the international stage and although this event might not feature that highly in some circles, we are being asked to make inputs that could have an important impact in later years. To me it is vital that SACI is able to play a role on issues dealing with chemistry and its allied industries.

SACI is always thinking of ways at increasing its membership of both its valuable Members in all categories and its Patron and Company Members. We view our recruitment drives very seriously and have over the years attempted various strategies even the wining-and-dining route. However, and all too often, this does not have the desired outcome. Our main source of members is from the tertiary institutes and here the young chemists' forums play such a vital and appreciate role. We thus encourage and support all their efforts to attract and retain graduates from Universities and Universities of technology and it is heartening to notice how our representation has changed for the better over the past 20 or so years to become a truly representative institution. Having made mention of that, it still remains our goal to increase the Patron and Company membership.

We are currently attempting a more direct approach which involves members of Council to physically make appointments with the perceived individuals who would be most approachable and present our case to them of the benefits and good reasons for them to join and become partners. As one may imagine, this takes time and since our Members are academics, this is a precious commodity not easily given away. I, as President, make my appeals whenever the opportunity arises, but the Council Members who make this a mission are thanked most sincerely for their time and our hope is that their efforts will soon bear fruit.

Any good suggestions from Members on how best to manage and effect recruitment drives will be most welcome and can be sent to Laila.

Ivan R Green

President

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Microscopy Society of Southern Africa

49th Annual Conference of MSSA will be hosted by the CSIR/DST National Centre for Nanostructured Materials, at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria. See below for more information.

Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (FASC) news

FASC was given prominence on the ACS website for its role in the event. “FASC and other African nations and Chemistry Societies played a critical role in obtaining UNESCO and UN support for the declaration of 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry (IYC). The Federation was founded with the mission of promoting the advancement of the chemical sciences and the practice of chemistry that could be directly instrumental in the development, aspirational achievement, and objectives of the people of Africa. FASC seeks to achieve its aims both through networking their seven national member Chemistry Societies and one regional Society (with eight national members) amongst themselves and also with sister international and regional societies; and by creating, supporting, and sustaining international and regional sustainable development initiatives. The Federation’s specific objectives are to:

- promote and maintain effective communication throughout the community of chemists and chemical scientists in Africa
- promote collaborative activity among member societies and among the individual members of these societies
- maintain and promote high professional, educational, and ethical standards
- disseminate chemical knowledge
- act in an advisory, consultative, and representative capacity in relation to African institutions and regional initiatives
- promote cooperation with other international organizations and similar regional and international networks
-

On the occasion of their third FASC international Congress, in celebration of the IYC, and in support of their strategic plan, the Federation was pleased to announce the publication of their first issue of the biannual *African Journal of Chemical Education* (AJCE) at the start of 2011. The journal is intended to provide a mechanism to enable colleagues conducting research into and holding an interest in chemical education—the study of how best to teach the topic of chemistry to students—to more effectively communicate on developments in their field.

For more information on FASC, its conferences, and its *African Journal of Chemical Education* please visit their website at www.faschem.org.”

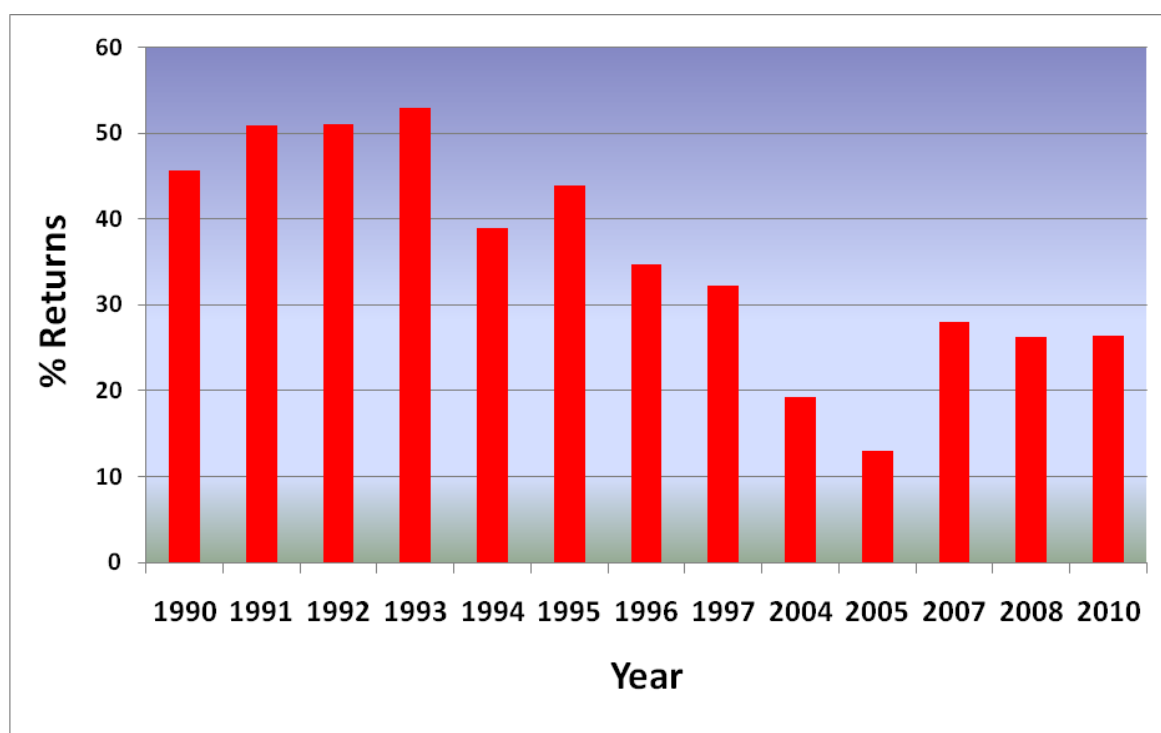
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SACI Salary Survey

The annual salary survey of before-tax income of SACI members is now available to members. It covers the period 1st January to 31st December 2010. Of the 500 members polled, there were 132 valid returns giving a 26% response. Student responses have not been included and will be the subject of a separate review.

Figure 1. Survey Returns 1990 – 2010



More details on the results are available from the SACI office.

Prof Graham E. Jackson

Members News

Congratulations to Dr Booth on his re-appointment as an accounting authority member for Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA) as a constituency based appointee. (April 2011 – March 2016)

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IYC Activities

Check the SACI webpage for activities both in SA and on the International scene.



International Year of CHEMISTRY 2011

Conference List

- 1) Second TCS International Conference incl. The East and Southern Africa Environmental Chemistry Conference and the Ninth Theoretical Chemistry Workshop in Africa**, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 5-7 Oct 2011 For information: Dr CA Mgina at mgina@chem.udsm.ac.tz; cmngina@yahoo.com;
- 2) On Metals and Materials Processing in a Clean Environment**. Between 4-7 December 2011. Call for papers have now been issued. An International Symposium is being organized to honor the very distinguished work and lifetime achievements of Prof. Derek Fray of University of Cambridge, UK. This symposium will be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 4-7 of December 2011. www.flogen.com/FraySymposium/download/ ; <http://www.flogen.com/FraySymposium>.
- 3) Congress GCI 2011 "A Greener Chemistry for Industry"** organised by the University of Lille 1 and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Lille, with the sponsorship of the "Chevreul Institute" and the "Cluster MAUD". The congress will take place at Polytech'Lille, in **Villeneuve d'Ascq, France, on December 12 to 14 2011**.
- 4) The 49th Annual Conference of the MSSA Microscopy Society of Sothern Afric**, CSIR Convention Centre, Pretoria, 5-9 Dec 2011, <http://www.csiricc.co.za>
- 5) XIX EuCOMC, 19thEuCheMSInternational Conference on Organometallic Chemistry** Toulouse, France. July 3-7, 2011 Contact and information ; eucomc2011@inp-toulouse.fr, <http://www.eucomc2011.org/>
- 6) 14ACC congress**. The Chemical Society of Thailand (CST) and the 14th Asian Chemical Congress (14ACC) committee will organize the 14ACC congress in Bangkok, Thailand, 5-8 September 2011 at Queen Sirikit National Convention Center under the theme "Contemporary Chemistry for Sustainability and Economic Sufficiency". This is an IYC event. www.14acc.org

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Conference List

7) **International Conference on Frontiers of Polymers and Advanced Materials (11th ICFPAM)**, 22 to 27 May 2011, Conference Centre of the University of Pretoria, South Africa. email:

conference@icfpam.co.za

8) **OPCW Conference** (Organization for the Prohibitions of Chemical Weapons). Associate Programme 2011: 21 July 2011 - 27 September 2011; The Hague and elsewhere. Contact:

<http://www.opcw.org/events-calendar/>; icb@opcw.org

9) **The 4th NanoAfrica Conference**. CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria, South Africa, date changed: <http://www.nanoafrica.co.za> or www.csiricca.co.za

10) **ADVANCED CARBON NANOSTRUCTURES. 10th Biennial International Workshop "Fullerenes and Atomic Clusters" & the Fourth International Symposium "Detonation Nanodiamonds: Technology, Properties and Applications"**. St Petersburg, Russia, July 04–08, 2011.

<http://www.ioffe.ru/ACN2011/>

11) **19th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPOSITES or NANO ENGINEERING**, July 24-30, 2011 in Shanghai, China. www.icce-nano.org

Workshops

(i) Chemical Engineering for Chemists

BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP BETWEEN CHEMICAL ENGINEERS AND CHEMISTS
10-12 May 2011

To register online visit www.witsenterprise.co.za

Enquiries: Mary Ngcobo, Tel: +27 11 717 9027 email: Mary.Ngcobo@wits.ac.za.

Technical Enquiries: Dr. Bilal Patel, Tel: +27 11 717 7504, email: Bilal.Patel@wits.ac.za

(ii) Nanotechnology: Carbon Nanotechnology and Biomimicry

Presented by the School of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (3 and/or 5 day course); 1-5 August 2011. Information: Melissa Moodley, Wits Commercial Enterprise, Tel 011 717 4598, E-mail Melissa.Moodley@wits.ac.za

Registration forms at <http://hermes.wits.ac.za/enterprise/>

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Employment Opportunities:

iTHEMBA Pharmaceuticals

PO Box 21, Modderfontein 1645, Gauteng

Tel: +27 11 605 2635; Fax: +27 11 605 2779; Email: admin@ithembapharma.com

Analytical and Separation Scientist Drug Discovery - Chemistry

iThemba Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd., based in Modderfontein, Gauteng, South Africa was established to discover and develop new and affordable medicines for the neglected infectious diseases of Africa. An Analytical and Separation Scientist position is available immediately to work at our laboratories.

The role is to run and maintain iThemba's analytical capability and preparative HPLC instrument, to provide problem solving and best practice support for medicinal chemists and, where appropriate, to develop new analytical techniques.

You will have knowledge of both normal and reverse phase HPLC, including method development and system maintenance, preferably gained from several years experience in the biotech, pharma or CRO sector working in an analytical or ADME laboratory. A working knowledge of mass spectrometry and NMR would be an advantage. The successful candidate will have the drive and vision to establish and shape the analytical capability of the organization, and will also have excellent communication skills in order to work closely with a number of multidisciplinary drug discovery teams.

To be considered for these positions, you must be educated to a minimum of MSc level (or equivalent) in analytical chemistry. Additional, relevant postgraduate qualifications and/or industrial experience (in an accredited analytical facility) would be an advantage for these positions. A track record of publications in relevant journals will also be considered. You will also be required to have a thorough understanding of the health and safety regulations as pertaining to laboratory practice.

Period: Full time

Interested applicants should send a letter of application and a CV containing your full academic record to Dr. Chris Edlin at admin@ithembapharma.com by no later than May 21st 2011.

Start Date: Immediate

Salary: Competitive and in line with experience

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Employment Opportunities:

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Lecturer (Two posts) School of Chemistry

The School of Chemistry in the Faculty of Science cordially invites applications for two posts at the Lecturer level, specifically in the areas of **organic chemistry** and **analytical chemistry**.

Qualifications:

The minimum qualification for these posts is a PhD, preferably with post-doctoral or industrial experience, as well as expertise in the specified areas. An independent research record with supervisory and academic teaching experience would be an advantage.

Duties:

Duties entail teaching of general chemistry at first-year level, and teaching in all aspects of the appointee's branch of chemistry to Honours level. The appointee is also expected to be an active researcher. For all advertised positions, fluency in written and spoken English is essential.

Remuneration:

The level of appointment will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The package includes a provident fund, medical aid and bursaries, subject to University regulations. The successful applicants will be required to assume duties by 1 July 2011, or as soon as possible thereafter.

To Apply:

Submit a covering letter accompanied by detailed *curriculum vitae*, summary of completed research, plans for future research, certified copies of all educational qualifications and identity document with names and e-mail addresses of three referees, and a brief research proposal to: Miss Busisiwe Khumalo, Human Resources Officer, University of the Witwatersrand, Private Bag 3, Wits 2050.

Correspondence will be entered into with short-listed candidates only.

Short-listed applicants must be available for a personal or telephonic interview, and the presentation of a short seminar on the proposed line of research may be required. Applicants who have not been informed about the outcome of their application within one month from the closing date may regard their application as having been unsuccessful.

• E-mail: busisiwe.khumalo@wits.ac.za

• Fax: 086 523 4543

Closing Date: 31 May 2011

For more information: contact Professor JP Michael; e-mail joseph.michael@wits.ac.za

The University reserves the right to verify qualifications and credit standing.

 **Committed to excellence and equity**