20th American Peptide Symposium, Montréal 2007: Celebrating the Pathways of the Pioneers

The 20th American Peptide Symposium, to be held in Montréal on June 26-30, 2007, will honor those who have built the solid foundation of excellent science, good friendships, and solid professional alliances that have given peptide scientists from all over the world reason to gather together time and time again.

Already, the 20th APS organizers are off to an excellent start with a session planned to honor Dr. Ralph Hirschmann. Dr. Antonello Pessi, Distinguished Senior Investigator at the Merck Research Laboratories in Rome, has agreed to present the latest research in peptide science being performed at Merck. Moreover, Professor Amos B. Smith, III, Rhodes-Thompson Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, has agreed to present his collaborative research with Dr. Hirschmann.

Previous colleague of Dr. Hirschmann’s and past American Peptide Society President, Dr. Roger Freidinger recalls the positive influence Dr. Hirschmann had over the course of his career: “When I started at Merck, I had been trained as a synthetic organic chemist and had never made a peptide. Dr. Hirschmann told me that he thought it was time for someone to take an organic chemist’s approach to the peptide field, and he challenged me to do this. I believe his advice was on target, although I did not really appreciate it at the time, and I have endeavored to follow this direction during my career.” He continues, “I am truly grateful for the occasions when [Dr. Hirschmann] took time from his busy schedule to spend a few minutes with me talking about my current project. The advice I received was always of value. I know that he provided similar guidance to other young scientists, and he is remembered affectionately at Merck as one of the truly great scientists and leaders of the Research Laboratories.”

When Dr. Freidinger was asked about the tribute to Prof. Hirschmann at the 20th APS serving as a platform for a reunion of Merck scientists, he replied, “It is very appropriate that Dr. Hirschmann will be honored at the 20th American Peptide Symposium. I look forward to meeting many of our former Merck colleagues at this meeting.”

Stay tuned for additional news of events to honor and to bring the pioneers of peptide scientists to the 20th APS meeting!

Co-Chairs: Emanuel Escher and William D. Lubell
20thAPS@umontreal.ca
Another aspect of the 20th APS is to present and promote the talent of the next generation of scientists in the field of peptide science. For example, Young Investigator Professor Jeffrey W. Bode, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California Santa Barbara, has agreed to speak on novel methods for peptide bond formation in the session that will honor Ralph Hirshmann.

Among the other Young Innovators that have already agreed to lecture at this meeting are Professor Christian Schafmeister of the University of Pittsburgh, Professor Matt Bogyo of Stanford University, Professor Anna Mapp of the University of Michigan, Professor Anneliese Barron of Northwestern University, Professor Molly Shoichet of the University of Toronto, and Professor Mei Hong of Iowa State University.

This lineup of talent will complement the students who will be eligible to apply for travel awards and compete in the Young Investigator Symposium. This year, the format of the Young Investigators' Symposium will be integrated such that these young investigators will be presenting their work throughout the symposium.

Another aspect of the meeting is the poster sessions where scientists share their experimental results in a less formal setting. Dr. Rosa Melendez, 1999 first place winner of the Young Investigators' Poster Competition, shares: “Interaction and exchange of ideas with other scientists is very important and can lead to fruitful collaborations whether you choose an academic or industrial career. Having been recognized with the 1st prize at the poster competition was very gratifying.”

Information about abstract submission for the Young Investigator Symposium and posters will be posted on the Symposium website in the fall of this year.

**20th APS Session Topics**

- Peptides for Youth, Unmet Medical Needs of Tomorrow
- Folding, Recognition and Catalysis
- Peptide, Protein, and Peptidomimetic Synthesis (Session in honor of Ralph Hirshmann)
- Library Generation, Analysis, and Combinatorial Chemistry
- Peptide Materials Science
- Peptides and Membrane Proteins
- Peptides and Immunity
- Peptides and Infectious Disease
- Peptide Leads to the Drugs of Tomorrow
- Delivery: Peptide Drug to Physiological Target
- Production and Formulation of Peptide Drugs
- Peptides as Diagnostics, Probes, and Biomarkers
- Proteomics
Europeans Return to Spread L’Esprit of the 20th APS

Next-generation peptide scientists do their part! Montréal students Carine Bourguet, a French doctoral student, and Dr. Teresa Lama, an Italian postdoctoral associate, will be carrying the flag of the 20th APS to the European Peptide Society Meeting in Gdansk this fall. Commenting on their mission, Dr. Lama stated, “Symposium is a Latin word which, in an entomological sense, means drink together; in this light, a symposium is a way to meet old friends and to make new ones.” In addition to presenting their scientific research, these student volunteers will represent Montréal and the 20th APS meeting at the American Peptide Society exhibit table. Sharing gifts, distributing information, and relaying the festive spirit of Montréal, they hope to entice as many participants as possible to the 20th APS meeting!

Photos wanted! We call on those who have attended previous meetings to send the symposium organizers your most memorable photographs! The photos that make you say, “That was a meeting to remember!” They will be posted on the American Peptide Society website and exhibited at the symposium. (Send your most memorable photos to 20thAPS@umontreal.ca) The best photographs will be selected at the first ever American Peptide Society Documentary Photo Competition.
20th American Peptide Symposium, Montréal 2007:
Welcome to the International Island City of Montréal

Since the French explorers Jacques Cartier and Samuel de Champlain met the Native Americans in the 14th and 15th centuries, Montréal has been an important international gathering point for the sharing of ideas and the exchange of culture. Today, Montréal remains an important international city that features four universities, acts as a main economic center for Canada, and hosts a variety of culture from fine cuisine to high fashion. In the summer of 2007, Montréal will continue in this tradition of bringing people together as the host of not only the 20th American Peptide Society meeting, but also the International Jazz Festival, International Fireworks Competition, the Canadian Grand Prix and more!

The 20th American Peptide Symposium will be held at the Palais des congrès. This convention center is situated in the heart of Montréal. The Palais has architecture that embodies the character of Montréal itself: festive, creative, artistic and resolutely contemporary.

For accommodations, special group hotel rates will be available to the 20th APS delegates at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and the Marriott SpringHill Suites Hotel, both within walking distance of the Palais des congrès. The Hyatt is located across from the Place des Arts and the Complex des Jardins, and offers walking distance access to art museums, music halls, and shopping malls. Nestled in the Old Port, the Marriott is centrally located in this romantic, historic part of the city, where horse-drawn carriages pass by on the cobblestone streets side by side with automobiles.

Attendees are invited to bring their families to enjoy in all aspects of the city, scientific and cultural!

Sponsorship Opportunities

Want to be more involved in this exciting symposium? The American Peptide Society is pleased to offer sponsorship opportunities for organizations that want to increase their visibility among the leading research scientists. From T-shirts to tote bags, lecture sessions to workshops, from breakfast to lunch to dinner, there are opportunities-a-plenty for you to promote peptide chemistry, the symposium, and your company. For more information, please contact the organizers at 20thAPS@umontreal.ca.

Looking forward to meeting you in Montréal!
Bruce Merrifield: In Memoriam

Bruce Merrifield, John D. Rockefeller Jr. Professor Emeritus at The Rockefeller University, died Sunday, May 14, 2006, at his home in Cresskill, NJ, after a long illness. He was 84. Thus, the peptide community lost one of the most innovative scientists of the 20th century.

In the 1960s, Merrifield earned world renown for the development of a rapid, automated procedure for synthesizing peptides and proteins which he named solid phase peptide synthesis. This method makes it possible to do in a matter of days what would previously have taken years to achieve, if at all. Merrifield’s discovery has been credited with making possible the systematic exploration of the structural bases of the activities of enzymes, hormones and antibodies. In recent years, the method has been especially important for the rapid discovery of new, active therapeutics.

First reported in 1962, solid phase peptide synthesis uses an insoluble solid support to anchor the carboxyl terminal amino acid of the peptide. Merrifield and his colleagues, John Stewart and Maurice Manning, along with his graduate students Garland Marshall and Arnold Marglin, demonstrated the validity and generality of the technique with syntheses of bradykinin, desamino-oxytocin, angiotensin, and insulin. Concurrently, Merrifield worked with Stewart and Nils Jernberg to design and build a machine to automate the method. In 1969, Merrifield and Bernd Gutte announced that they had used the machine for the first synthesis of an enzyme, ribonuclease A, consisting of 124 amino acids. This work proved not only that medium size proteins can be synthesized by the stepwise solid phase method, but that the primary sequences of proteins determine their tertiary structures and ultimately their biological activities.

Researchers all over the world have been using the procedure to make other important molecules, including somatostatin, beta-endorphin, ACTH, and trypsin inhibitor. The technique is also used to study the effects of synthetic antigenic peptides on the production of specific antibodies, work that has important implications in disease research.

Merrifield dedicated a large part of his research to refining solid phase synthesis in order to tackle ever more difficult challenges. He and his colleagues worked on an important group of peptide antibiotics and on the design and synthesis of good antagonists of the hormone glucagon, which may be useful for the control of blood sugar in diabetics.

The solid phase principle has also been adapted to the synthesis of oligonucleotides as well as carbohydrates and other organic molecules. In recent years, the method has been especially useful for multiple syntheses of peptides, and for combinatorial synthesis of peptide and non-peptide libraries that are important for the rapid discovery of new active drugs.

In 1984, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Merrifield “for his development of methodology for chemical synthesis on a solid matrix.”

In 1998, Merrifield was named one of 75 “distinguished contributors to the chemical enterprise” by Chemical & Engineering News, the news magazine of the American Chemical Society, in a special issue marking the magazine’s 75th anniversary. In 2003, the Journal of the American Chemical Society listed Merrifield’s classic 1963 paper, in which he first described the solid phase synthesis technique, as the fifth most cited paper in the journal’s 125-year history. Most recently, in June 2006, this classic paper was recognized by the Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society as a Chemical Breakthrough Publication.

Merrifield was born in Fort Worth, Texas on July 15, 1921. The next year his family moved to southern California where he grew up. He received a B.A. in chemistry in 1943 and a

(continued on Page 6)
Bruce Merrifield: In Memoriam

Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1949, both from the University of California at Los Angeles. He worked as a chemist at the Philip R. Park Research Foundation from 1943 to 1944. During his graduate years he was a teaching assistant in chemistry at UCLA from 1944-1948, and a Research Assistant at the new UCLA medical school from 1948 to 1949.

In 1949, Merrifield came to The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, now The Rockefeller University, as an assistant in the laboratory of Dr. D.W. Woolley. He spent the rest of his scientific career at The Rockefeller University. Merrifield credited Dr. Woolley and The Rockefeller University for providing support that enabled him to devote several years to the development of the solid phase method. In 1983, he was named John D. Rockefeller Professor and became emeritus in 1992. In 1993, Merrifield published his scientific autobiography “Life During the Golden Age of Peptide Chemistry.”

In addition to the Nobel Prize, Merrifield received numerous awards, including the Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research (1969), the Gairdner Foundation International Award (1970), the American Chemical Society Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry (1972), the Nichols Medal (1973), the American Peptide Society’s Alan E. Pierce Award (1979), the Science Award from Big Brothers, Inc. of New York City (1988), the Royal Society of Chemistry Medal (1987), the Ralph F. Hirschmann Award from the American Chemical Society (1990) and the Glenn T. Seaborg Medal from UCLA (1993). He was inducted into the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry’s Nobel Hall of Science and received its Albert A. Michelson Award in 1985. The American Peptide Society has named its highest award for Dr. Merrifield.

Merrifield served in 1968 as the first Nobel Guest Professor in Uppsala, Sweden. He was awarded numerous honorary doctorates, including an honorary doctor of philosophy degree by Uppsala University (1970) and honorary doctor of science degrees by the University of Colorado (1969), Yale University (1971), Newark College of Engineering (1972), Medical College of Ohio (1972), Colgate University (1977), Boston College (1984), Fairleigh Dickinson University (1985), Bowling Green State University (1986), UCLA (1986), Adelphi University (1987), University of Montpellier, France (1988), Delaware Valley College (1991), The Scripps Research Institute (1998) and The Rockefeller University (1998). Merrifield was elected a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 1972. He was a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Alpha Chi Sigma, the American Chemical Society, the American Society of Biological Chemists, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the American Peptide Society and the American Institute of Chemists. He served on the editorial boards of the International Journal of Peptide and Protein Research, the Journal of Peptide Science and Letters in Peptide Science.

After becoming an emeritus, Merrifield spent the next 10 years working at the bench on several projects. His frequent advice to his graduate students was to never leave experimental research, because the most innovative ideas are conceived at the bench. Merrifield’s dedication, courage, and optimism provided inspiration to generations of scientists who worked in his laboratory, and to all who became acquainted with him through his steadfast participation at conferences such as the American Peptide Symposia.

Bruce Merrifield is survived by his wife, Elizabeth nee Furlong, 6 children, and 16 grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

The Rockefeller University
George Barany
Svetlana Mojsov
FASEB News

On June 4-6, the FASEB Science Policy Committee and FASEB Board of Directors meetings were held in Washington, DC. Fred Naider (American Peptide Society’s representative to the FASEB Board of Directors) and John Smith (an American Peptide Society member and FASEB Vice President-Elect for Science Policy) attended.

The Science Policy Committee (SPC) meeting (chaired by John Smith) began with subcommittee reports and discussion of new and continuing initiatives in the following areas: Breakthroughs in Bioscience (chaired by Fred Naider), Training and Career Opportunities, Animals in Research and Education Issues, Stem Cells and Somatic Cell Nuclear Transport, NIH Issues, Clinical Research, and Educating about Evolution. The Breakthroughs are well-illustrated bioscience reviews meant for students and educators. Of interest, Johns Hopkins University has built a course around this series. The funding for the NIH is of particular concern for FASEB, since many of its members are funded from its grants and contracts. The doubling of NIH funding (1998-2003) allowed universities and research institutions to increase their infrastructure to an unprecedented level of competitiveness. For the past three years, the funding for the NIH has been below the level of inflation for biomedical research. Hence, although the NIH budget is the largest in its history, the number of R01 grants funding investigators, especially young investigators, is diminishing. FASEB is focused on reversing this dangerous funding trend, but the “perfect storm” of multiple competing priorities for the Federal government funding (i.e., Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, the Iraq war, and hurricane Katrina) is making it difficult for appropriators to favor the NIH, regardless of its clearly documented value.

The SPC also hosted a SPC/Board Symposium dealing with “Peer Review: Issues, Mechanisms, and Models”. There were three sessions: (1) current challenges and potential solutions for NIH grant review presented by Dr. Antonio Scarpa (Director, Center for Scientific Review, NIH) and Dr. Heidi Hamm (President-Elect of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology); (2) challenges, models, and mechanisms for high-risk and innovative research proposals in peer review presented by Dr. Gerald Rubin (Vice President and Director, Janelia Farm Research Campus, Howard Hughes Medical Institute) and Dr. Keith Yamamoto (Professor and Executive Vice Dean, School of Medicine, University of California-San Francisco); and (3) peer review of clinical research: trends and outcomes of peer review of clinical research applications: is there a problem and how can it be addressed? By Dr. Theodore Kotchen (Special Advisor on Clinical Research, Center for Scientific Review, NIH) and Dr. Janet Hall (Chair, FASEB SPC Clinical Research Subcommittee, and Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School).

The Board of Directors meeting ratified the vote for President-Elect (Robert Palazzo, ASBMB) and Vice President-Elect (Mark Lively, ABRF). The President and Vice President for 2006-2007 are Drs. Leo Furcht (ASIP; Professor, University of Minnesota) and John A. Smith (American Peptide Society; Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham). FASEB consists of 22 member societies and >85,000 members.

FASEB continues to have financial management issues due primarily to becoming cash poor as the result of building additional office and parking space on the campus a few years ago. The organization is now highly dependent on earnings from its endowment and

(continued on Page 8)
membership dues. It is likely that membership dues will need to be gradually increased during the years ahead. In our opinion, FASEB’s Office of Public Affairs, which is one of the leading biomedical research policy “think tanks” in the USA is a wonderful investment for all the members of the American Peptide Society, who are engaged in biomedical research or manage its implementation. The FASEB Journal has been rejuvenated under the editorship of Dr. Gerald Weissmann (New York University). FASEB is preparing to publish a white paper dealing with conflict of interest, as it affects biomedical scientists.

The Office of Public Affairs, the crown-jewel of FASEB, has been actively engaged in the scientific and public policy issues affecting a number of areas of interest to the member societies of FASEB. Areas OPA has been involved with include federal funding of research; decision making at NIH; education about evolution; training and career development and the MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) program; access to scientific publications; biosecurity; and communications to broaden FASEB’s reach to the scientific community and the public. A complete detailed list of these activities can be found under FASEB on the APS website: http://www.americanpeptidesociety.com/pages/faseb.asp.

Fred Naider, FASEB Board of Directors Representative from APS

Peptide Science: Your Journal Thanks You

The American Peptide Society official journal Biopolymers: Peptide Science is publishing topical, exciting research at the forefront of peptide chemistry and biology. We thank you for your ongoing choice to help make our journal serve our community optimally. We continue to publish a mixture of reviews (called the “Current Trends in Peptide Science” series, ably edited by Charles Deber), original research articles, compilations of meeting presentations, and special theme issues. We believe strongly that this mixture of publications offers a unique advantage to the journal and enables it to give you more information than a traditional journal format. It also gives you a ‘home’ for articles you would like to publish, or theme issues that you would like to organize, that themselves are geared to your peptide community.

What’s coming?

☐ We will publish papers from the PEM4 meeting in Japan in association with the 43rd Japanese Peptide Society meeting in November, 2006. We thank Dr. Hisakazu Mihara for partnering with us. These PEM4 issues will appear in early 2007.

☐ Young peptide scientists note! Biopolymers: Peptide Science will publish an issue organized and authored by our next generation of stars. Please bring this to the attention of postdoctoral fellows and graduate students: I welcome proposals for issue contents with our younger scientists in the driver’s seat. We plan to use this format to publish papers from the Young Investigators presentation of the next Peptide Symposium . . . and it is available to anyone who wants to take the initiative and put forward a persuasive plan!

With a heavy heart, we join our whole community in saluting the career and cherishing the friendship of our colleague Bruce Merrifield, who died in May. In spring 2007, Peptide Science will publish an issue dedicated to Bruce’s memory. This compendium of articles will be guest edited by George Barany and Svetlana Mojsov, and will serve as a living memory of Bruce’s many contributions and the many colleagues and trainees whose lives and careers he touched.

Lila Gierasch, Editor: Biopolymers: Peptide Science
2006 Vincent du Vigneaud Award Winners

The American Peptide Society’s Vincent du Vigneaud Awards were presented to Barbara Imperiali and Samuel H. Gellman on February 23, 2006, as part of the Gordon Research Conference on the Chemistry and Biology of Peptides, chaired by Drs. Robert Hodges (University of Colorado) and Dale Mierke (Brown University), and held in Ventura, California. These prestigious awards, generously sponsored by Bachem, recognize outstanding achievements in peptide research.

Barbara Imperiali

Barbara Imperiali is the Class of 1922 Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Imperiali received her B.Sc. in Medicinal Chemistry at University College London. She then proceeded to earn her Ph.D. in Synthetic Organic Chemistry in 1983 at MIT, working under the supervision of Professor Satoru Masamune. Following this, she carried out postdoctoral studies at Brandeis University with the late Professor Robert Abeles. Dr. Imperiali began her professional career as an assistant professor at Carnegie Mellon University in 1986. In 1989, she joined the faculty at the California Institute of Technology where she earned the rank of Professor of Chemistry in 1997. In July 1999, Professor Imperiali assumed her current appointment at MIT. Barbara Imperiali is the recipient of a Sloan Fellowship (1993), a Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award (1993), the ACS Cope Scholar Award (1996) and the Caltech Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching (1998). At MIT she has been awarded the School of Science Prize for excellence in undergraduate education (2002) and she has recently been named a Margaret MacVicar Fellow (2003) in recognition of her contributions to education at the Institute. In 2001, Imperiali was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2004 she was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Recently, Professor Imperiali has received the ACS Breslow Award for Achievement in Biomimetic Chemistry.

Research in the Imperiali group is concerned with diverse aspects of protein structure, function and design. One area of investigation focuses on co-translational protein glycosylation. A second program is targeted at the design and implementation of new chemical probes into the study of complex biological systems.

Samuel H. Gellman

Samuel H. Gellman earned his A.B. from Harvard University in 1981 and his Ph.D. at Columbia University, under Ronald Breslow, in 1986. After an NIH post-doctoral fellowship at the California Institute of Technology with Peter Dervan, Gellman joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an Assistant Professor in 1987. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1993 and to Professor in 1995. Gellman is currently Evan P. Helfaer Professor of Chemistry and Ralph F. Hirschmann Professor of Chemistry, and he serves as Chair of the Organic Division in the Department of Chemistry. Gellman’s honors include an Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award from the American Chemical Society in 1997. Gellman’s service to the chemical community has included a term on the National Institutes of Health Medicinal Chemistry Study Section (1999-2002). He is a member of the editorial advisory boards of the Journal of Organic Chemistry, the European Journal of Organic Chemistry, Biomolecular & Organic Chemistry, Biopolymers-Peptide Science and Chemical Society Reviews.

(continued on Page 10)
Samuel H. Gellman  
(continued from Page 9)

Gellman’s laboratory has played a leading role in the development of artificial oligomers (“foldamers”) with protein-like structures and functions; this work has helped to identify a new frontier at the chemistry-biology interface. Much of the foldamer research from Gellman’s group to date has focused on beta-amino acid oligomers (“beta-peptides”). Beta-peptides display all three of the regular secondary structures observed in proteins, helix, sheet and reverse turn. When the beta-amino acid residues are properly chosen, beta-peptides manifest greater conformational stability at short lengths than is observed for alpha-amino acid peptides. Gellman and co-workers have shown that the beta-peptide folding rules can be used to design molecules that mimic the functions of naturally occurring peptides, e.g., host-defense peptides. Gellman’s group is active also in more conventional areas of protein design. They have played a pioneering role in the development of short peptides that fold autonomously to beta-sheet conformations in aqueous solution. These model systems have been used to probe the features that control the stability of beta-sheet secondary structure. In addition, Gellman’s laboratory has developed a new method for protein refolding that is the basis of commercially available kits, and a new class of amphiphiles for solubilization and crystallization of membrane proteins.

Request for Nominations for the 2007 Merrifield Award

The Awards Committee of the American Peptide Society is seeking nominations for the 2007 Merrifield Award. This award recognizes the lifetime achievement of a peptide scientist, whose work exemplifies the highest level of scientific creativity. You may nominate an individual by forwarding his/her name to:

John A. Smith, M.D., Ph.D., M.M.M.  
Chair, American Peptide Society Awards Committee  
Department of Pathology  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
619 South 19th Street, WP 230  
Birmingham, AL 35233-7331  
Email: jas@uab.edu  
Fax: (205) 975-6861

After receiving a nominee’s name, the Awards Committee will coordinate the acquisition of the required nomination materials (primary nomination, secondary nomination, candidate curriculum vitae, and 1,000 word summary of the contributions of the candidate to the field of peptide science). All these required nomination materials must be received by September 1, 2006, so please make your nomination as soon as possible.

Other Awards Received by APS Members

American Chemical Society – awards presented at the 231st American Chemical Society National Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, March 26-30, 2006:

- George Barany (University of Minnesota) – Ralph F. Hirschmann Award in Peptide Chemistry
- Richard DiMarchi (Indiana University) – ACS Barnes Award for Excellence in Chemical Research Management
- Lila M. Gierasch (University of Massachusetts) – Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal
- Barbara Imperiali (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) – Ronald Breslow Award for Achievement in Biomimetic Chemistry

If you, or someone you know, is the recipient of a scientific award that should be posted here, please let us know!
2006 Winner of the ACS Ralph F. Hirschmann Award in Peptide Chemistry:
Prof. George Barany, University of Minnesota

Purpose: To recognize and encourage outstanding achievements in the chemistry, biochemistry, and biophysics of peptides.

Sponsored by Merck Research Laboratories

Professor Barany’s research interests involve peptide synthesis (particularly the solid-phase method), protecting groups for organic functionalities (with an emphasis of the concept of orthogonality), the chemistry of thiols, disulfides, and polysulfanes, functionalization of soluble and insoluble polymers, and mass spectrometry. Described in over 300 scientific publications and 21 patents, his research areas range from the chemical synthesis of garlic constituents to studies on the mechanisms of protein folding to methods for chemical combinatorial libraries to advances in the preparation of anti-sense DNA and RNA to the development of DNA and PNA arrays for the multiplex detection of genetic diseases. Barany has authored a number of seminal review articles on various aspects of the peptide field.

American Peptide Society Service Highlights:
- APS Council Member (1993-1999)
- Co-Created with M. Songster first APS web site (1996)
- Co-Chair 16th American Peptide Symposium held in Minneapolis, MN (1999)
- Co-Authored with Gary Gisselman the first-ever opera about peptides for 16th APS: Peptide Ångst: La Triviata

Hirschmann Award Recipients:
1990 Bruce Merrifield
1991 Elkan R. Blout
1992 Louis A. Carpino
1993 Daniel H. Rich
1994 Stephen B. H. Kent
1995 Shumpei Sakakibara
1996 Steven G. Clarke
1997 Murray Goodman
1998 Isabelle L. Karle
1999 Harold A. Scheraga
2000 Daniel S. Kemp
2001 Daniel F. Veber
2002 Victor J. Hruby
2003 Roger M. Freidinger
2004 Richard A. Houghten
2005 James P. Tam
2006 George Barany
Bentham Science:
Special Journal Offer for Society Members

Bentham Science, publishers of Current Pharmaceutical Design, proudly announces discounted subscriptions for American Peptide Society members for the following journals:
- Current Protein & Peptide Science
- Protein & Peptide Letters
- Current Proteomics
For further information, please visit the Member Benefits section of the Society website: http://www.ampepsoc.org.

Free Professional Position and Resume Posting on Our Website

This service is provided free of charge to assist scientists in identifying employment opportunities and potential academic and industrial employers. Interested scientists and potential employers who want to participate, can go to the Employment section of the Society’s website: http://www.ampepsoc.org.

Natural Peptides to Drugs (NP2D)
2nd International Congress

The event took place in Zermatt, Switzerland again. Although somewhat remote, it is well worth the journey just to see the famous Matterhorn and to spend time in this beautiful alpine village without cars. The added bonus was to meet friends from around the world and to discuss our passion for peptides.

This year’s event took place between April 18 and April 21, 2006 and was just as compelling as the first rendition, which occurred between November 30 and December 3, 2004. Antibiotic peptides, apoptosis inhibitors, as well as tumor targeting agents, obesity treatment options, diabetes drugs, pain treatments, impotence drugs and peptide toxins in many forms were all on the agenda. Many attendees of the first NP2D congress made it back for the second one. There was a healthy mix of academic and industrial participation. Lectures took place in the morning and evening time. This left much time to socialize in the afternoon and night time. Attendees numbered between 100 and 200 - an intimate affair well deserving of an encore. The organizing committee, under the leadership of Reto Stoecklin, did a wonderful job.

Jose de Chastonay, President
BACHEM, Inc.

43rd Japanese Peptide Symposium /
4th Peptide Engineering Meeting (43JPS/PEM4):
Peptide Science and Engineering in Chemical Biology
Yokohama, Japan, November 5 - 8, 2006

The 43rd Japanese Peptide Symposium (43JPS) will highlight many of the recent developments in the broad area of peptide science and engineering with a particular emphasis on how these advances are being applied to future prospects in chemistry and biology. Specific topics to be covered include synthetic innovation of peptides and proteins, peptide and protein design and engineering, structure-activity relationships for chemical biology, peptide and cell engineering, peptide and drug discovery, peptidomics and proteomics including post-translational modification, peptide libraries and protein chips, peptides in health and medical science, and peptides and nanobiotechnology. This conference will cover cutting-edge research presented by a wide range of distinguished speakers, as well as poster presentations by scientists from all over the world.

For more information, please visit http://peptide-soc.jp/43JPS4PEM.html

Symposium chair:
Hisakazu Mihara

Jose de Chastonay, President
BACHEM, Inc.

Bentham Science:
Special Journal Offer for Society Members

Bentham Science, publishers of Current Pharmaceutical Design, proudly announces discounted subscriptions for American Peptide Society members for the following journals:
- Current Protein & Peptide Science
- Protein & Peptide Letters
- Current Proteomics
For further information, please visit the Member Benefits section of the Society website: http://www.ampepsoc.org.

Free Professional Position and Resume Posting on Our Website

This service is provided free of charge to assist scientists in identifying employment opportunities and potential academic and industrial employers. Interested scientists and potential employers who want to participate, can go to the Employment section of the Society’s website: http://www.ampepsoc.org.

Natural Peptides to Drugs (NP2D)
2nd International Congress

The event took place in Zermatt, Switzerland again. Although somewhat remote, it is well worth the journey just to see the famous Matterhorn and to spend time in this beautiful alpine village without cars. The added bonus was to meet friends from around the world and to discuss our passion for peptides.

This year’s event took place between April 18 and April 21, 2006 and was just as compelling as the first rendition, which occurred between November 30 and December 3, 2004. Antibiotic peptides, apoptosis inhibitors, as well as tumor targeting agents, obesity treatment options, diabetes drugs, pain treatments, impotence drugs and peptide toxins in many forms were all on the agenda. Many attendees of the first NP2D congress made it back for the second one. There was a healthy mix of academic and industrial participation. Lectures took place in the morning and evening time. This left much time to socialize in the afternoon and night time. Attendees numbered between 100 and 200 - an intimate affair well deserving of an encore. The organizing committee, under the leadership of Reto Stoecklin, did a wonderful job.

Jose de Chastonay, President
BACHEM, Inc.

43rd Japanese Peptide Symposium /
4th Peptide Engineering Meeting (43JPS/PEM4):
Peptide Science and Engineering in Chemical Biology
Yokohama, Japan, November 5 - 8, 2006

The 43rd Japanese Peptide Symposium (43JPS) will highlight many of the recent developments in the broad area of peptide science and engineering with a particular emphasis on how these advances are being applied to future prospects in chemistry and biology. Specific topics to be covered include synthetic innovation of peptides and proteins, peptide and protein design and engineering, structure-activity relationships for chemical biology, peptide and cell engineering, peptide and drug discovery, peptidomics and proteomics including post-translational modification, peptide libraries and protein chips, peptides in health and medical science, and peptides and nanobiotechnology. This conference will cover cutting-edge research presented by a wide range of distinguished speakers, as well as poster presentations by scientists from all over the world.

For more information, please visit http://peptide-soc.jp/43JPS4PEM.html

Symposium chair:
Hisakazu Mihara
Workshop on Biophysics of Membrane-Active Peptides: April 1-4, 2007

This is the second of a series of meetings bringing together researchers from the various fields of membrane biophysics and peptide biochemistry that started with the title “Workshop on biophysics of membrane-permeabilizing and membrane-translocation peptides” in Berlin, in April 2005. The 2007 venue will be: Lisbon, Science Museum (19th century lab and lecture room).


Co-chairs:

Miguel Castanho (Local organizer), Faculty of Sciences, Lisbon

Margitta Dathe,
Leibniz-Institute of Molecular Pharmacology (FMP), Berlin

2nd European Conference on Chemistry for Life Sciences
Faculty of Chemistry, University of Wroclaw
Wroclaw (Poland), 4-8 September 2007

Program Topics will include:

- Nucleic Acids Components for Biology and Medicine
- Structural Diversity of RNA and DNA
- Ribozymes and Riboswitches
- Non-coding RNAs in Gene Regulation and Disease
- SiRNAs for Therapy
- Ribonucleic Acids as Targets for Selection of Lead Drugs
- Drug and Pesticide Design
- Targeted Drug Delivery
- Metal Related Diseases and Metal Based Drugs
- Molecular Mechanisms of Neurodegeneration
- Metals and Oxidative Stress
- Impact of Metal Ions on Drug Action
- Radiopharmaceuticals and Contrast Agents
- Chemistry and Biology of Peptides and Proteins
- Structure, Dynamics and Folding of Peptides and Proteins
- Structure-Function Relations in Biomolecules
- Light and Life
- Photochemistry and Photophysic in Biochemical Sensing
- Chemistry and Photomedicine
- Environmental Photochemistry
- Molecular Systems and Logic Devices for Medical Diagnostics


Henryk Kozlowski
Conference Chairman
American Peptide Society Newsletter


President: . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Dr. Jane V. Aldrich
President-elect: . . . . . . . . . . Dr. Richard A. Houghten
Treasurer: . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Dr. Thomas J. Lobl
Secretary: . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Dr. Robin E. Offord
Immediate Past President: . . . . Dr. Roger Freidinger
Editor: . . . . Ellen T. Brenner (etbrenner@gmail.com)

We are always seeking items for your society’s newsletter—either scientific or personal, as long as they are relevant to the peptide field, the Society, and its members. Please email your news items, along with any photos or graphics, to the Editor, Ellen Brenner, at the above address. Items should be either Microsoft Word document attachments, or plain text included in the body of the email. Photos should preferably be in either JPEG or EPS format, and not embedded in a Word document.

7th Australian Peptide Symposium /
4th International Peptide Symposium /
2nd Asia-Pacific Peptide Symposium:
Cairns, Queensland, Australia, October 21–26, 2007

The 7th in the series of Australian Peptide Conferences will be an especially exciting event as it will be held jointly with not only the 4th International Peptide Symposium but also the 2nd Asia-Pacific Peptide Symposium. This major international event will be held from 21-26 October 2007 in the modern city of Cairns at the northern end of tropical Queensland, a wonderful location to explore some of Australia’s vast array of flora and fauna and natural treasures such as the Great Barrier Reef. Its ready access from Asia, Europe and the Americas make it a superb base from which to congregate with old colleagues and new friends to discuss all aspects of the many exciting and rapid advances in peptide research. These range from new synthetic procedures, biology, pharmacology and physiology to the discovery of peptides with novel biological properties, methods for their functional and structural analysis, innovative approaches to elucidate peptide-ligand interactions and new approaches to drug delivery, as well as the emergence of peptide mimetics and peptide-based therapeutics. With the sequencing of the genomes of an increasing number of mammalian species now complete, we are at a particularly rewarding time as the impacts of genomics, proteomics, and bioinformatics start to drive modern drug discovery.

We are particularly delighted to also announce that the meeting will be richly complemented by a series of outstanding mini-symposia that will be held either before or after the main event. These will provide a specific focus on selective subjects on peptide research. Such meetings provide the opportunity for delegates to not only stay longer in Australia but also to acquire greater information than may be available from a larger conference.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our sister societies in Japan, Korea and China who will be liaising with us on the planning of the conference and also our many sponsors, both big and small. These latter supporters are responsible for helping us ensure that costs will be kept to an absolute minimum and for providing generous student bursaries to allow as many younger delegates as possible to attend. Please take the time to visit their web sites and to support them too.

We are looking forward to being your hosts at what will be a true feast of peptide science and an outstanding experience both scientifically and socially. If you wish to receive regular updates of the conference planning, please register your interest on the symposium web site at http://www.peptideoz.org and we shall be pleased to keep you informed of the developments as they occur.

Ian Smith and John Wade
Conference Co-Chairs