Be the Next Peptide Idol!

The Co-Chairs of the 20th American Peptide Society Symposium, “Peptides for Youth,” in Montréal, June 26-30, 2007 at the Palais des congrès, are proud to unveil a new event at the Symposium, “Peptide Idol.”

This year, finalists of the Young Investigator Poster Competition will compete for the top prize in “Peptide Idol.” The seven best candidates from the poster competition will show their posters full screen in the lecture hall, and present their posters in 17-minute presentations featuring seven minutes of presentation and ten minutes of discussion, with a panel of three experts in the field of each presentation.

The experts and audience will be allowed to provide scores and the votes will be tabulated. The winner of the poster competition will be announced at the Closing Banquet.

What’s in it for you?

• 1st prize is a $4,000 Caribbean Cruise ($4,000 travel voucher will be issued with conditions)
• 2nd prize is an iphone with a one year contract
• Other prizes to be determined

Eligibility: Young Investigators are graduate or post-doctoral students or independent researchers less than four years beyond their graduate/post-doctoral research training. Membership in the American Peptide Society is mandatory for participation in either event.

YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT BY FEBRUARY 28!

For more information, visit the Symposium website at http://www.20thAPS.org.

(More Symposium news on page 2)
20th American Peptide Symposium Confirmed Speakers

George Barany  
University of Minnesota

Annelise Barron  
Northwestern University

Sylvie Blondelle  
Burnham Institute

Jeff Bode  
University of California, Santa Barbara

Matt Boggo  
Stanford University

Sylvain Chemtob  
Université de Montréal

Ben Cravatt  
The Scripps Research Institute

Waleed Danho  
Hoffman La-Roche

Lila Gierasch  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Mei Hong  
Iowa State University

Joseph Joyce  
Merck Research Laboratories, West Point

Jeff Kelly  
The Scripps Research Institute

Gavin MacBeath  
Harvard University

Anna Mapp  
University of Michigan

Garland Marshall  
Washington University in St. Louis

Morten Meldal  
Carlsberg Laboratories

Les Miranda  
Amgen Inc.

Daria Mochly-Rosen  
Stanford University

Tom Muir  
Rockefeller University

Antonello Pessi  
Instituto di Ricerche di Biologia Molcolare

Lynn Regan  
Yale University

Uri Saragovi  
McGill University

Chris Schafmeister  
University of Pittsburgh

Molly Shoichet  
University of Toronto

Amos Smith, III  
University of Pennsylvania

Chris Soares  
Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Natalie Strynadka  
The University of British Columbia

Steven J. Swanson  
Amgen, Inc.

David Tirrell  
California Institute of Technology

Anne S. Ulrich  
Joint appointment at University of Karlsruhe and Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe

Jim Wells  
University of California

Helma Wennemers  
University of Basel

Important Dates and Deadlines

Call for Abstracts  
November 15, 2006 - February 28, 2007
Letters of Acceptance: April 1, 2007

Late-Breaking Abstract Submission  
May 5, 2007 - June 5, 2007

Travel Award Submission  
Deadline: February 28, 2007
Notification of Acceptance: April 1, 2007
Travel Award recipients will be posted on-line at the Symposium Updates tab

Young Investigator Mini-Symposium and Poster Competition Submissions  
Deadline: February 28, 2007
Notification of Acceptance: April 1, 2007

Registration for Participants and Exhibitors  
Early: November 15, 2006 - February 28, 2007
Regular: March 1, 2007 - June 10, 2007
After June 10, registrations will only be accepted on-site
20th American Peptide Symposium: Traveling to Canada

Proof of citizenship is required when entering Canada. To determine which documents you require, please contact the Canadian Embassy or Canadian Consulate in your country. Please visit the following website for more information: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/offices/missions.html. Visitors should ask about visa requirements before departing, as these documents are not available at the border.

New Requirements for Travelers To Enter or Re-enter The US

Effective January 8, 2007, U.S. citizens traveling by air between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda will be required to present a valid U.S. passport.

Please visit the Transportation and Travel page of our website, http://www.20thAPS.org, for a PDF of a letter that you can print out and use at Customs while traveling as proof that you are attending the 20th American Peptide Society Symposium, a meeting that is officially registered with the Canadian government.

“Peptides for Youth” Symposium Innovates Yet Again: A General Assembly

Readers of the Newsletter will be pleased to read the note from the Chairs of the 20th Symposium, on the front page of this newsletter, about the remarkable new “Peptide Idol” youth-oriented competition that they have added to their program.

In addition, the APS Council, with the enthusiastic support of the Symposium Chairs, will organize a General Assembly of all APS members during the Symposium. The Council hopes that as many members as possible will attend and contribute their views. With such a large number of people entitled to attend, and a necessarily limited time slot, we must be realistic in our expectations for this meeting, but at the very least, it should be possible to flag ideas and insights as to what is going well with the APS, what is not going well, and what new projects we could undertake.

One subject that comes to mind is the perennial one of how to serve members better, and foster exchanges between peptide scientists, in non-Symposium years. Also, what more could the APS do to support young peptide scientists? Are we missing the chance for any promising new initiatives in the public understanding of what we do?

These are just suggestions: the membership should take the opportunity to lead the debate. To keep the meeting within some kind of coherent structure, we invite members to mail the Secretary (robin.offord@medecine.unige.ch) between now and June 18 to suggest the topic that they would most like to discuss. If possible, please use the header “General Assembly.” The two most popular suggestions will be chosen for debate. A third topic will be chosen from the remaining suggestions by a show of hands in the Assembly.

Please help us to make the Assembly a success.

Robin Offord
Secretary, American Peptide Society
Thinking About Your Future?  
The Student Affairs Committee Can Help!

The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) consists of graduate students and post-doctoral associates, with the objective of providing insights, programs, and resources geared toward the needs of the young investigator membership of the scientific community. Towards this objective, the SAC leadership in previous years has initiated several programs at the APS symposia.

- **Job Fair** in order to assist in the introduction of potential employers to graduate students and post-doctoral fellows looking to advance in their careers. This activity is provided free of charge to assist young scientists in identifying employment opportunities and potential academic and industrial employers. Additionally, positions at a more experienced level are sometimes included in this job fair for individuals looking to make parallel job transitions. Interested scientists and potential employers who want to participate in the Job Fair may register at the SAC Job Fair booth.

- **Competitive Poster Competition** with cash prizes (see page 1 of this newsletter). This is a forum for young investigators to gain experience in presenting their exciting and cutting-edge research projects to established investigators with diverse multidisciplinary backgrounds, including participation in a question and answer session. This training ground provides the young investigator with an experience that may be utilized in future quests for postdoctoral or fulltime employment positions as careers advance.

- **Young Investigators’ Mini-Symposium** provides graduate students and post-doctoral associates an opportunity to orally present research at a national symposium. This process includes abstract submission, selection of oral presentations by the Selection Committee, the excitement of receiving an invitation for an oral presentation, and the nervousness of presenting their cutting-edge research to their peers, meeting attendees, and leaders in the field. While this first experience is sometimes nerve-wracking, it is a stepping-stone to gaining the necessary confidence and exposure required for a successful scientific career in academia and industry. This year’s format will differ from previous symposia in that participants will not be in a separate session, but will present their talks interspersed throughout the week’s scientific program.

For additional information, please visit http://www.20thAPS.org or contact the committee Co-chairs.

*Ryan Holder, Amgen, jholder@amgen.com*
*Jung-Mo Abn, University of Texas, Dallas, jungmo@utdallas.edu*

About the APS Student Affairs Committee

The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) of the American Peptide Society consists of graduate students and post-doctoral associates dedicated to providing insights, programs, and resources geared toward the needs of the young investigator in modern peptide research. SAC programs are open to student, post-doctoral, and independent researchers who are APS members, and at the time of the Symposium are less than four years beyond their graduate/post-doctoral research training. New members are always welcome.

The Current SAC Members are:
- Florence Brunel, Ph.D., The Scripps Research Institute
- Teresa Lama, Ph.D., University of Montreal
- Krista Wilson, University of Florida
- Carine Bourguet, University of Montreal
- Fernanda Marques Burke, University of Michigan
- James Patterson, University of Indiana
- Eunice Murage, University of Texas at Dallas

On behalf of the Student Affairs Committee, we look forward to seeing you in Montreal.

*Ryan Holder*
*Jung-Mo Abn*
A Tribute to Bruce Merrifield

A symposium “A Tribute to Bruce Merrifield: Celebrating His Scientific Life and Achievements” was held on November 13, 2006 at The Rockefeller University in New York. Scientists came from around the world to pay tribute to the man who revolutionized how peptides are synthesized.

Dr. Paul Nurse, President, and David Rockefeller, Board of Trustees of The Rockefeller University, opened the symposium. A highlight of the morning session was the presentation of the American Chemical Society Award for Chemical Breakthroughs to The Rockefeller University commemorating Bruce Merrifield’s widely cited 1963 paper introducing solid phase peptide synthesis (J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1963, 85, 2149-2154). This was followed by the presentation of tribute plaques from the American Peptide Society to The Rockefeller University and to Elizabeth Merrifield by APS President Jane Aldrich. Arthur Felix gave a brief biography of Bruce Merrifield, and the audience viewed a video of Dr. Merrifield talking about the development of solid phase synthesis and the challenges that he faced. The morning session concluded with personal reminiscences by Dr. Merrifield’s former associates Drs. John Stewart (University of Colorado), Maurice Manning (Medical College of Ohio), Arnold Marglin (Weymouth, Massachusetts), Robert Hodges (University of Colorado) and Cecille Unson (the Rockefeller University).

The afternoon session consisted of presentations by esteemed colleagues of Dr. Merrifield’s from around the world that illustrated the impact of his discovery:

- Drs. Garland Marshall (Washington University): “Across the Bench from Bruce – the Early Years”
- Bernd Gutte (University of Zurich): “Solid Phase Synthesis for a Lifetime”
- George Barany (University of Minnesota): “Chemistry of Carbamoyl Disulfides”
- Richard DiMarchi (Indiana University): “Think Different - Ps 118:22-23”
- James Tam (Scripps Research Institute – Florida): “To Protect or Not Protect: A Journey to Synthetic Proteins”
- David Andreu (Pompeu Fabra University): “The Merrifield Contribution to the Field of Antibiotic Peptides.”

Attendees at the symposium also had the opportunity to view important items related to Dr. Merrifield’s historic discovery including his original laboratory notebook describing his initial ideas about solid phase peptide synthesis and their implementation, an early instrument for automated solid phase peptide synthesis developed in his laboratory, and his Nobel Prize medal. The symposium was an excellent tribute to a great man who was not only an exceptional scientist, but who also left a legacy in the scientists he trained and the research his accomplishments inspired.

In Memoriam

Elkan R. Blout: A True Statesman of Science

On December 20, 2006, Elkan R. Blout died at the age of 87 after a brief illness. Each of us who knew him sampled only one small component of a life that encompassed many careers. In those careers, Elkan’s passion for science, his personal warmth, his creativity, his ability to work with people and to get them to work together, and his aptitude for finances and business all combined to leave a multifaceted and impressive legacy.

In the field of peptide science, we have been touched by Elkan’s second career: his work on poly-alpha-amino acids and their conformational propensities, which presaged the still ongoing goal of relating amino acid sequence to three-dimensional structures of proteins; his pioneering use of cyclic peptides to model structural features in proteins and natural products; and his fundamental contributions to spectroscopy, from electronic, to vibrational, to nuclear magnetic resonance. We also appreciate the extent to which Elkan built alliances across the globe, with strong ties to Russian (then Soviet Union) scientists, Israeli scientists, Italian scientists, and so on. Those of us who had the opportunity to work with him also know that he had superb ability as a mentor and advisor, encouraging and questioning without ever conveying anything but a positive attitude.

But most of us did not realize how bold a move Elkan made from the practical chemistry of dye molecules in his first career at Polaroid, working with Edwin Land on instant color films. He seamlessly transitioned to conformational studies of protein models; he was a poster
In Memoriam

Elkan R. Blout
(continued from page 5)
child for chemical biology before the term was “in vogue.”

In his third, fourth and fifth careers, Elkan went beyond the laboratory and made
major contributions to society, using his unique combination of basic science knowledge,
sound scientific judgement, and early industrial experience at Polaroid. He stewarded the
finances of the National Academy of Sciences for twelve years in his role as Treasurer,
single-handedly giving the Academy financial autonomy through good investments so that
this important scientific body could freely pursue issues crucial to society.

In his next career, Elkan served as Dean of Academic Affairs at the Harvard School of
Public Health and led the school through a major renaissance in scientific research and
education. And long after most of us would have slowed down, Elkan was chosen by David
Kessler to serve as Senior Advisor to the Food and Drug Administration to bring more basic
science grounding within the agency, and according to Kessler his impact was huge. This
last career took place between 1991 and 1999, while Elkan was entering his eighties. In all
of these positions, Elkan generated much affection and appreciation for his solid scientific
judgment and his kindness in dealing with people.

Elkan will be missed by more people and in more ways than any one of us can fathom.
He was a true statesman of science, and our field was so much the better for his presence.

Elkan Blout was a Founding Editor of Biopolymers. A special issue of Biopolymers
dedicated to his memory is being prepared, with guest editors Barbara Brodsky, Charles
Deber, and myself.

Lila M. Gierasch
Editor-in-Chief, Biopolymers: Peptide Science

Miklos Bodanszky

Professor Miklos Bodanszky, a
chemist who made significant contribu-
tions to the field of peptide chemistry, died
on February 7, 2007, at the age of 91, of
heart failure.

Dr. Bodanszky introduced new
methods for the synthesis of peptides. He
devised a new strategy, now widely
accepted, for the construction of peptide
chains by stepwise additions of protected
activated amino acids, and applied it in
the synthesis of the peptide hormone
oxytocin and in the first synthesis of the
gastrointestinal hormone secretin. He
was the author of numerous scientific
papers and of several books dealing with
peptide chemistry.

A native of Budapest, Hungary, Miklos
Bodanszky received his doctorate at the
Technical University of Budapest, where
he later became a lecturer in medicinal
chemistry. He left Hungary at the time of
the 1956 uprising and came to the United
States to join Professor V. du Vigneaud in
the Department of Biochemistry at
Cornell University Medical College in New
York City. Subsequently, he formed and
led a peptide research group at the
Squibb Institute for Medical Research.
From 1966 until his retirement in 1983
he taught at Case Western Reserve
University in Cleveland, Ohio, where he
was the Charles Frederic Mabery
Professor of Research in Chemistry.

Dr. Bodanszky was the first recipient
of the Alan Pierce Award (now the Bruce
Merrifield Award), was honored by
scientific societies in the U.S. and abroad,
and was named a foreign member of the
Hungarian Academy of Sciences. After
retirement, he returned to Princeton, N.J.,
where he continued to contribute to the
literature of peptide chemistry. His wife,
Agnes, who was also his coworker and
frequent coauthor, died in 1989. He is
survived by his daughter, Dr. Eva
Bodanszky.
Isabella Karle Wins 2007 Merrifield Award

The American Peptide Society is very pleased to announce that Isabella Karle has been chosen to receive the R. Bruce Merrifield Award for 2007 for the development of a method for determining molecular structures of small molecules by X-ray analysis, and for innovative studies of peptide conformation. Previously called the Alan E. Pierce Award and sponsored by the Pierce Chemical Company from 1977-1995, the Merrifield Award was endowed by Dr. Rao Makineni in 1997. This award will be presented during the 20th APS Symposium to be held in Montréal, June 26-30, 2007.

Isabella Karle (nee Lugoski) is one of the pioneers in the area of small molecule structural biology, who developed the method on which so many important concepts in peptide structure and function were corroborated. Without her pioneering contributions to this field, much of the wonderful work that followed would not have been possible.

An enormous step forward in solving structures by X-ray diffraction was made by J. Karle and H. Hauptman (Nobel Prize, 1985) who solved the phase problem that related phase information to the experimentally measured intensities. However, an important problem still remained before practical applications could be realized, because the relationships between phases and intensities were contained in an infinite set of mathematical inequalities containing transcendental functions. During the 1950s and 1960s, Isabella Karle developed the bridge between pure mathematics requiring an infinite number of data and a practical application that made use of experimentally measured X-ray intensities that always contain some degree of error and are not infinite in number. Two of her publications of 1963 and 1966 (co-authored with J. Karle) were chosen for special recognition by Citation Index Classics for the largest number of citations and greatest influence on life sciences.

It is important to note that until Isabella Karle devised this experimental procedure and carried out structural determinations of crystals that did not contain a center of symmetry or a disproportionately heavy atom, it was not possible to determine the structures of such crystals. The history of this new development shows very clearly that for the first time her work made it possible to determine small molecule structures, and in the mid 1960s, she was the only one doing so. The cited studies were possible only because of Isabella Karle’s bridging of theory to experiment.

Numerous, significant physical organic and biochemical applications followed that made use of the procedures of Isabella Karle, and some of the most important discoveries came from her own research programs. By solving high-resolution crystal structures of various cyclic and linear peptides, she established many of the fundamental principles governing the conformations of peptides. She showed the first example of the hydrogen bond now called the Type 1 beta-turn, and provided precise geometric data that characterized the back bone reversals in cyclic hexaglycyl (Karle and Karle, 1963). In the same

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structure she established the existence of four distinct conformers existing side by side. She also found four coexisting conformers in crystals of enkephalin (1983) that contained extended beta sheet structures. These discoveries corroborated the flexible nature of the backbone chain whether present in an extended linear peptide or in a cyclic form.

The impact of Isabella Karle’s work led to an explosion in the number of complex crystal structures solved, extending to all classes of molecules. Her work has provided experimental corroboration for many other methods for structural determination (for example, NMR structural determination), and provided high-resolution structures against which new algorithms in computational chemistry were measured. It is hard to imagine a more profound contribution to structural biology, especially in the area of peptide structure, conformation and biology, than Isabella Karle’s work.

Samuel Gellman Wins 2007 Hirschmann Award

Prof. Samuel H. Gellman of the University of Wisconsin at Madison has been announced as the winner of the 2007 Ralph F. Hirschmann Award in Peptide Chemistry. The award will be presented at the American Chemistry Society National Meeting in Chicago in March 2007.

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. His service to the chemical community has included a term on the National Institutes of Health Medicinal Chemistry Study Section (1999-2002). He is also 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.

The purpose of the Hirschmann Award is to recognize and encourage outstanding achievements in the chemistry, biochemistry, and biophysics of peptides. The award is sponsored by Merck Research Laboratories.
Upcoming APS Elections

The time is approaching for the biennial election of Society Officers, Councilors, and Nominating Committee members – thank you for your nominations. The candidates have been contacted by the 2007 Nominating Committee and a final slate will be presented at the February Council Meeting. Once again, the entire voting process will be in electronic format for your convenience. Voting will open on April 26, 2007 and close on June 11, 2007. Please remember that your membership must be current in order to exercise your voting rights. You will receive email notification when the candidate information is posted on the APS web site.

2007 Makineni Lecturer

The Awards Committee is in the process of selecting the 2007 Makineni Lecturer. The Makineni Lectureship is dedicated to Rao Makineni, a longtime supporter of peptide science, peptide scientists, and the American Peptide Society. The Lectureship honors an individual who has made a recent contribution of unusual merit to research in the field of peptide science, and is intended to recognize original and singular discoveries rather than cumulative or lifetime contributions. The Lectureship is endowed by PolyPeptide Laboratories and Murray and Zelda Goodman (2003); the Lecture is scheduled to be presented at the Montreal Symposium on Tuesday, June 26.

Society Memberships Switch to Two-Year Cycle

Just a reminder to renew your Society membership for 2007-2008 if you have not already done so. As discussed in the Fall, 2006 newsletter, because many of its activities are on a two-year cycle, the Society has converted its budget from an annual basis to a two-year period and all memberships will now be for two years (2007 and 2008). This will save administrative costs, for example by eliminating a membership renewal drive for even-numbered years. It also will make it possible to plan non-Symposium activities more effectively because we will know what our resources will be for the full two-year cycle.

As a promotion to this new membership structure, the annual dues rate for the 2007-2008 cycle will be the same as the annual rate in 2005 and 2006, i.e. the dues for 2007-2008 are:

- General members $300
- Postdocs $190
- Retired members $190
- Students $130

Membership dues can be paid by check or online at the Member Services section of the Society website http://www.AmPepSoc.org. Renewing your membership now will ensure that your subscription to *Biopolymers: Peptide Science* is not interrupted.

Current APS membership is required of all registrants for the American Peptide Symposium. Your membership dues can also be paid at the same time as your symposium registration, if not done earlier in the year. For more information, please visit http://www.20thAPS.org and click on the Registration section.
The American Peptide Society invites you to become a member!

The American Peptide Society provides a forum for advancing and promoting knowledge of the chemistry and biology of peptides. Our official journal, *Biopolymers: Peptide Science*, publishes original research papers and review articles on all aspects of peptide science.

Benefits of membership include:

- A subscription to *Biopolymers: Peptide Science* (both the print edition and access to the electronic edition for all of 2007 and 2008)
- Discounted subscription rate for the following journals:
  - Chemical Biology & Drug Design
  - International Journal for Peptide Research & Therapeutics
  - Protein and Peptide Letters
  - Current Protein & Peptide Science
  - Current Proteomics
- Free professional position and resume posting on the website
- Membership in the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
- Reduced membership rates for students and postdocs
- Travel grants to symposia for qualified graduate students and postdocs

For further information, visit our web site at http://www.ampepsoc.org

or contact
American Peptide Society
26070 Tourelle Place
Valencia, CA 91355 USA
e-mail: aps_member@tpims.org
**Peptide Science: En Route à Montréal!**

The American Peptide Society official journal *Biopolymers: Peptide Science* continues to publish topical, exciting research at the forefront of peptide chemistry and biology. Don’t let your own work be passed by! We’d love to consider your recent research for publication in an upcoming issue; and remember, your manuscript will appear on-line as soon as it is accepted.

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.

We hope everyone enjoys the “new face” of *Biopolymers: Peptide Science*; along with our mother journal, *Biopolymers*, we have changed the cover and the layout of *Peptide Science* for an updated look.

What’s coming?

- Shortly you will be receiving a wonderful compilation of papers from the recent 4th Peptide Engineering Meeting held in Yokohama together with the 43rd meeting of the Japanese Peptide Society. We thank Professor Hisakazu Mihara for all of his efforts both in the organization of this meeting and in putting this issue together. The papers in this issue span the broad coverage of this outstanding meeting, which included an array of topics under the umbrella of “Peptide Science and Engineering in Chemical Biology.”
  
  It is abundantly clear that our field is fresh and full of vitality, and that peptide scientists across the globe share goals of understanding, mimicking, and engineering peptides for a range of applications in biology and medicine.

- After this issue, *Peptide Science* is pleased once again to publish the abstracts issue for the upcoming 2007 American Peptide Symposium meeting to be held in June in Montreal.

- Guest editors Svetlana Mojsov and George Barany are putting together an issue of *Peptide Science* to honor the memory of Bruce Merrifield. This priceless compendium will appear in summer 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, and I also welcome nominations (or self-nominations!) of young scientists to help edit this issue.

  *Lila M. Gierasch, Editor-in-Chief, Peptide Science*
Highlights of FASEB Public Affairs Activities: October-December 2006

The APS strongly supports FASEB, and by doing so, we enable its work to defend the interests of us all. In the final quarter of 2006, FASEB, among its other public affairs activities:

- Worked actively with Congressional representatives and their staffs to successfully revise proposals for NIH reauthorization that would have been harmful to investigator-initiated extramural research.
- Applauded passage of NIH Reform Act of 2006 on December 11, and thanked the ranking Senate and House members for their work—see http://opa.faseb.org/pdf/NIHReauthorPasses12.11.06.pdf
- Completed federal funding recommendation reports for NIH, NSF, DOE, USDA, VA and NASA for FY2008 during the Board Meeting.
- Engaged in advocacy in the media on funding issues.
- Supported moves to pass the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, engaged in advocacy with all House members, and when the act was passed, thanked the House for doing so.
- Worked publicly to contribute to the debate on conflict of interest, particularly regarding academic-industry collaborations.
- Engaged in advocacy on Stem Cell research issues.
- Widely distributed a Take a Stand for Science evolution palm card—see http://opa.faseb.org/pdf/palmcard_9x15_back.pdf

The Breakthroughs in Bioscience series continues to play a strong role in the public understanding of science, and in the encouragement of scientific vocations. For instance, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation requested several hundred copies of the Breakthroughs devoted to breast cancer/tamoxifen in order to distribute them to its staff.

A more complete list of FASEB’s Public Affairs activities for the quarter is available at http://www.americanpeptidesociety.org/pages/FASEB.asp. This list was compiled by John Smith, our long-standing representative on FASEB’s Science Policy Committee. John has now had to leave the Committee in order to take on the Vice-Presidency of FASEB, and we thank him for all that he has done both for the scientific community as a whole and for the visibility of APS within FASEB.

Protein Society
7th European Symposium Sweden, May 12-16

The 7th European Symposium of The Protein Society (From Proteins to Proteome) will be held May 12-16, 2007, in Stockholm-Uppsala, Sweden. Key topics of the symposium include protein folding; membrane proteins; proteomics; protein bioinformatics; structural proteomics; biomaterials; protein domains; protein synthesis and degradation; protein aggregation and disease; flexible proteins; protein networks; new methodology; hot structures; protein-DNA/RNA interactions; protein design; chemical biology, peptidomimetics; comparative evolution—the human proteome; and the Human Proteome Resource and similar large-scale projects. Please visit http://www.proteinsociety.org for program updates.
International Liaison Committee Meeting Highlights
September 6th, 2006

The Peptide Societies International Liaison Committee met on September 6th, 2006, during the 29th European Peptide Symposium in Gdansk, Poland. Present were delegates representing the Australian, European, Japanese, American, and Korean Peptide Societies. Delegates of the Chinese Peptide Society were unable to attend.

The European Peptide Society reported on their Symposium in progress: a total of 900 participants and 60 exhibitors were in attendance, enjoying a program of 65 general lectures, 3 award lectures, and 13 lectures presented by young investigators. Preparations for the 30th European Peptide Symposium, to be held August 31-September 5, 2008 in Helsinki, were already underway, with the hope that 1000 people would attend. The EPS has also met with great success sponsoring small national and regional meetings with 100 to 200 attendees, in locations including Denmark, Germany, Greece and Italy.

The Australian Peptide Society reported that work is proceeding satisfactorily for the 7th International Australian Peptide Symposium, combining the 4th International Peptide Symposium and 2nd Asia Pacific International Peptide Symposium, to be held in Cairns from October 21 to 26, 2007. Plans include a number of satellite meetings on such topics as Ligation Chemistry, Solid-Phase Synthesis, and Protein Folding; other possible satellite meeting topics include Venoms, Peptidomics/Proteomics, and Peptidomimetics. Several hundred participants are expected. The Australian Society is also continuing its support for the formation of an Asia-Pacific regional organization, along with delegates from China, Japan, and Korea.

The Japanese Peptide Society reported on its 43rd Symposium, coupled with the 4th Peptide Engineering Meeting, which was held in Yokohama on November 5-8, 2006. Some 500 attendees from all continents were expected to attend. Satellite meetings included the 2nd International Symposium on Biomolecules and Related Compounds on November 10-12, and a meeting entitled “Membrane-permeable peptides: Chemistry, biology, and therapeutic applications” on November 10-11, both in Kyoto. The Japanese Society has scheduled its 44th Peptide Symposium for November 7-9, 2007 in Toyama. It will also host the 5th International Peptide Symposium in Kyoto, most likely in November 2010.

The Korean Peptide Society reported that its Society Meeting will be held November 30 through December 1, 2007. They also presented information on the bi-annual Asia Pacific Peptide Symposium; they will be hosting the 3rd Symposium in that series in 2009 at a date and location to be announced.

The American Peptide Society reported on its 20th Symposium, to take place in Montreal in 2007, including its emphasis on young investigators. Attendance is projected to be in the 1100-1200 range. The American Society also reported that organizers had been chosen for the 2009 Symposium.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included approving changes to and ratifying the final draft of guidelines for organizing International Peptide Symposia. It was also announced that an Indian Peptide Society had recently been established, with V.S. Chauhan as President and P. Balaram as Vice President. The new Society plans to hold its first Symposium on February 22-23, 2007 in Hyderabad, India.

Protein Society 21st Symposium: July 21-25, 2007, Boston, Massachusetts

The 21st Symposium of The Protein Society will open on Saturday, July 21, 2007 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place in Boston, Massachusetts. The theme of the meeting “Proteins: From Birth to Death” will follow the life and works of proteins in the cell, from their birth on ribosomes, throughout their maturation through folding with and without the help of chaperones, to their ultimate demise through misfolding and degradation. Sessions will discuss the dynamic properties and functions of folded proteins, the relation of protein conformation to disease and their role in epigenetic inheritance. Sessions will also highlight emerging approaches to study proteins and proteomes, ranging from single molecules to the study of proteins in their cellular context. For additional information, please visit http://www.proteinsociety.org/symposium21st/.
American Peptide Society Newsletter


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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.

43rd Japanese Peptide Symposium / 4th Peptide Engineering Meeting

The 43rd Japanese Peptide Symposium and 4th Peptide Engineering Meeting (43JPS/PEM4) was held in Yokohama from November 5 to 8, 2006. The Japanese Peptide Society has been responsible for organizing the annual Japanese Peptide Symposium, as well as international symposia every two to three years. This year, 43JPS was held as a joint international symposium with PEM4. PEM has been organized as an international meeting since 1997 by the international committee including the late Professor Murray Goodman and under the auspices of the American, European, and Japanese Peptide Societies.

The 43JSP/PEM4 organizing committee planned this exciting conference with the main theme of Peptide Science and Engineering in Chemical Biology. In the post-genome era, world-wide research competition has resulted in novel bio-related science and technology innovations. The interface between peptide science and technology is one of the major and promising research trends in terms of understanding complex peptide and protein events in living organisms. Moreover, new diagnostic and therapeutic research has emerged from the study of the chemical biology of various bio-active peptides. The related technologies including biochips, proteomics, and nanobiotechnology have also become very important in post-genome research.

The conference highlighted many of the recent developments in the broad area of peptide science and engineering, with a particular emphasis on how these advances were being applied to future prospects in chemistry and biology. The 43JPS/PEM4 proceedings book (Peptide Science 2006) was published on the date of the conference, November 5, 2006.

I want to thank all the participants, as well as the members of the 43JSP/PEM4 committee, for their efforts and contributions to this international conference. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the American, European, Korean, Australian, Chinese, Indian, and Japanese Peptide Societies for their support of the conference.

Hisakazu Mihara,
43JPS/PEM4 Chair
Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan

Discovery to Drugs: The Peptide Pipeline

7th International Australian Peptide Symposium
Incorporating the 4th International Peptide Symposium and the 2nd Asia-Pacific Peptide Symposium
Cairns, Australia, October 21-25, 2007

This meeting will cover not only broad peptide research, but will also have a particular emphasis on emerging technologies such as proteomics, biosensors, bioinformatics, fluorescent technologies, and identification of new biomarkers, as well as novel applications of the more established techniques in keeping with our major theme “From Discovery to Drugs: the Peptide Pipeline.” On-line registration and abstract forms submission will shortly be available on the conference home page (http://www.peptideoz.org). If you have any queries, please contact the conference secretary, Mibel Aguilar at mibel.aguilar@med.monash.edu.au

We are pleased to announce that there are now four official satellite conferences that will be held either prior to or after the 4th International Peptide Symposium. These are: “Chemical Protein Synthesis”, “Modern Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis & Its Applications”, “Peptidomics” and “Protein Misfolding”. Each has its own web site which is accessible from the Australian Peptide Association site at www.peptideoz.org. These satellite conferences allow delegates the opportunity to further enhance the experience of visiting the region and learning more about specific topics in peptide science.

We look forward to welcoming you to Australia in October.

The Conference Organizing Committee