



Attendees at the February 15th APS Council Meeting

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AmPepSoc Council Meeting, February 15 in San Diego, Covers Symposia, Awards, and More

On Saturday, February 15th, the AmPepSoc Council gathered at the Town and Country Resort Hotel in San Diego, familiar to many Society members as the site of the 17th American Peptide Symposium (AmPepSymp) in 2001. There the Council met to deal with the various business affairs of the Society—including the upcoming 18th Symposium in Boston on June 19th through 23rd.

Symposium co-chairs Dr. Michael Chorev and Dr. Tomi Sawyer (the latter joining the meeting by phone) reported that work on the 18th AmPepSymp is in full swing and going very well, with about 600 abstracts submitted so far, and commitments from numerous exhibitors and sponsors. Administrative procedures are functioning well, including a new online judging procedure for oral lecture requests that is streamlining work for Program Committee members.

The planners are especially excited about new programming features for this Symposium. Four themed sessions (Sunday through Wednesday) will honor luminaries from our Society, including Drs. Karle, Sakakibara, Merrifield, and Hirschmann. A set of evening workshops initiated by program committee members is another unique feature. Among

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APS Council

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Drs. Roger Friedinger, President-Elect, and Arno Spatola, Secretary



Dr. Richard Houghten, Treasurer

other programming possibilities for Boston is an NIH grant workshop by Dr. Phillip Smith, previously held in San Diego.

At the 18th AmPepSymp, the complete five-volume set of Houben-Weyl's *Synthesis of Peptides and Peptidomimetics* will be unveiled. Society President, Dr. Murray Goodman, editor-in-chief for this series, announced to the Council that the first three volumes are already available, with Volume Four and the Index volume currently in the galley proof stage. The complete set, in development for six years, features the work of many Society members and highlights the vitality and growth of the organic chemistry of our field.

The Council also discussed advanced planning for the 19th AmPepSymp, scheduled for June 18-23, 2005, in San Diego. The co-chairs for that meeting are Drs. Jeffery Kelly from the Scripps Research Institute and Tom Muir of Rockefeller University.

Dr. Charles Deber, also joining the meeting by phone, announced on behalf of the Awards Committee that Dr. William DeGrado has been selected for the 2003 R. Bruce Merrifield Award (see article elsewhere in this newsletter). Dr. DeGrado will receive the Award at a gala ceremony at the 18th AmPepSymp. A new chair for the Awards Committee will also be chosen by the Council at that time, to administer both the Merrifield and the du Vigneaud Awards.

One of the other hats Dr. Deber wears is Editor-in-Chief of *Peptide Science*, now the new official AmPepSoc journal (see article elsewhere in this newsletter). He invited the Council, and the entire membership of our Society, to consider *Peptide Science* as a venue for your highest quality material. Original research articles have begun to appear with the first issue of 2003 (volume 71, no. 1). Dr. Deber also encourages members to contribute to the publication's highly successful "Current Trends" series.



Dr. Michael Chorev, Co-Chair, 18th APS Symposium

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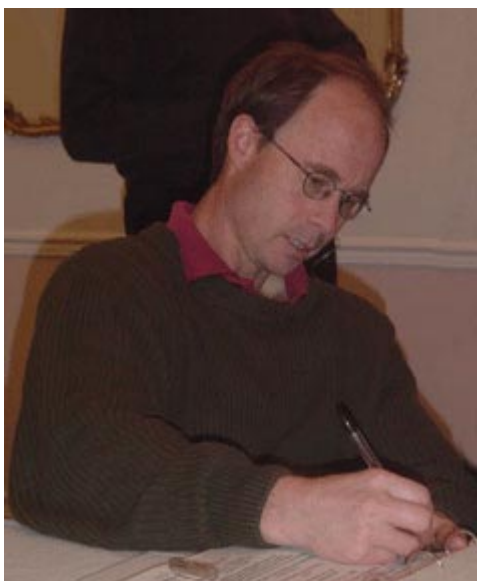
Dr. Robin Offord

All this increased activity will require a new co-editor for Peptide Science. Dr. Deber will head up a sub-committee comprising Drs. Freidinger, Aldrich, and Spatola to come up with a short list of candidates. The Committee welcomes suggestions from the Society membership, which can be emailed to Dr. Deber at deber@sickkids.ca.

Dr. Deber also reported on PEM III (the Peptide Engineering Meeting), a satellite to the 18th AmPepSymp, which is being organized by Drs. Toniolo, Mihara, and Deber at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in Toronto. Additional sponsorship has come from the University and Hospital for Sick Kids. The Conference Proceedings will appear in a special issue of Peptide Science.

President-Elect Dr. Roger Freidinger, in his Nominating Committee Report, presented that committee's new roster: Wayne Cody, Charles Deber (vice chair), Arthur Felix, Lila Gierasch, Dale Mierke, Peter Schiller, and Daniel Veber (chair). The Nominating Committee is also working on a ballot to be voted on by the Society, including a slate of candidates for the next President-Elect and Council membership. This ballot, when ready, will be emailed to all active Society members. In other Council business, Treasurer Dr. Richard Houghten noted in his report that the overall trend in Society membership numbers continues upward.

Under New Business, the Council voted to honor Rao Makineni, who turns 70 this year, with a special Makineni Lecture, with provisions for endowment of a permanent lecture series. The Council also voted to contribute \$5,000 to a project of the Biophysical Society to encourage new federal funding for research bridging the gap between the physical/computational and the biological sciences.



Dr. Jeffrey Kelly, Co-Chair, 19th APS Symposium

FASEB: Report From Your APS Representative

Dr. John Smith

FASEB (the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology) has been very busy working for the benefit of research/clinical scientists and the global community, who are supported by biomedical research investments by the Federal government. Among the organization's recent activities:

FASEB developed a consensus report recommending actions necessary to maintain the quality and productivity of biomedical science funded by the Federal government (<http://www.faseb.org/opar/fund2004/fedfund04.pdf>). Your FASEB representative, John Smith, chaired the committee, which developed recommendations for funding the biomedical research carried out in Veterans Administration healthcare facilities. The research carried out at the nation's VA facilities is an important contributor to the overall productivity of US medical schools.

John also chaired a subcommittee of FASEB's Science Policy Committee (SPC), which examined the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Investment Criteria for Research (<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/gpra/Basic%20Research.html>). This effort led to presentations by representatives of OMB (Thomas Reilly) and NIH (Dr. Lana Skirboll) at the SPC Face-to-Face meeting in October 2002. The issue of developing appropriate objective criteria for evaluating the efficiency of Federal government investments in research is being carefully monitored by FASEB, and the work of the SPC in this area of public policy has only just begun.

Other recent FASEB activities:

(1) Public affairs and national lobbying

- Urged passage of FY2003 funding legislation <http://www.faseb.org/opar/ppp/fedfund.html> and developed recommendation for FY2004 funding <http://www.faseb.org/opar/fund2004/fedfund04.pdf>
- Defended human embryonic stem cell research and therapeutic cloning <http://www.faseb.org/opar/cloning.pi.page.html>. Opponents of therapeutic cloning have reintroduced legislation in the new Congress. For arguments against this legislation, see <http://www.faseb.org/opa/ppp/brownback.html>
- Worked to preserve NIH/NIAID oversight of bioterrorism research <http://www.faseb.org/opar/bioterrorism/>. FASEB is also developing comments on proposed rules for registration of select agents.
- Supported animal research and opposed overly-restrictive regulation <http://www.faseb.org/opar/animal.research.education.html>
- Endorsed NIH data sharing policy http://www.faseb.org/opar/news/docs/baldwin_5x29.pdf. FASEB also sent letters to NIH Director Elias Zerhouni and NHGRI Director Francis Collins regarding the posting of genomic sequence data.
- Opposed plans for ORI survey of "perceived" misconduct in research <http://www.faseb.org/opar/research.integrity.html>

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FASEB

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(2) Science Policy Committee

- Training and Career Opportunities. Promoted individual development plan for post-doctoral fellows and developed guides for mentoring.
- Information on these and other actions relating to training may be found at <http://www.faseb.org/opar/Graduate.Education.html>
- Published an article on diabetes research as part of the Breakthroughs in Bioscience series. Copies of these articles for general audiences are available for distribution by FASEB society members. They may be viewed on the web at <http://www.faseb.org/opar/break/>. A new poster celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Watson-Crick paper will be published soon. Watch the FASEB home page for more information.

A web site with links to information on the Benefits of Biomedical Research was created http://www.faseb.org/opar/ppp/rev_bene.html.

Houben-Weyl Five-Volume *Synthesis of Peptides and Peptidomimetics* Now Complete

After six years, the five-volume set of **Houben-Weyl** *Synthesis of Peptides and Peptidomimetics* is complete. The first three volumes are now available; Volume Four and the index volume are in the galley proof stage. The entire five-volume set will be formally presented at the 18th APS Symposium in Boston.

Synthesis of Peptides and Peptidomimetics is to represent the most valuable extracts from more than 100 years of peptide synthesis, first reported by Emil Fischer in 1899. In 1974, **Houben-Weyl** published *Synthese von Peptiden* edited by Professor Erich Wunsch. This field of chemistry has changed dramatically since then, and the new English language volume will reflect the current challenges of a discipline which is at the center of modern chemistry and biology.

The five-volume set, edited by the internationally renowned peptide chemists Professors Murray Goodman, Arthur Felix, Luis Moroder, and Claudio Toniolo will comprise a critical selection of synthetic methods in a consistent style.

Synthesis of Peptides includes protecting groups, peptide bond formation, the synthesis of peptides and proteins detailing general and specific methods, and analytical techniques used to determine the structure and composition of peptides.

Synthesis of Peptidomimetics features side and/or main-chain modified peptides, peptides with secondary structure mimetics and inducers, de novo peptide structures, macropeptide structures, and reactive peptides.

Synthesis of Peptides and Peptidomimetics will be indispensable for every synthetic chemist.

Further details about the set, plus a full table of contents, may be viewed at the Houben-Weyl website, <http://www.houben-weyl.com/thieme-chemistry/hw/info/volumes/e22.shtml>



Professor Thomas W. Muir

SAC Provides Young Investigator Opportunities at 18th APS Symposium

The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) consists of graduate students and post-doctoral associates, and is dedicated to providing insights, programs, and resources geared toward the needs of the young investigator membership of the peptide community.

At the 18th American Peptide Symposium the Young Investigators' Mini-Symposium will provide a forum for early career peptide scientists to present their findings to a wide audience of peers, mentors and leaders in the field of peptide research. The Mini-Symposium will take place on Saturday, July 19th 2003, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM with a reception to follow.

We are delighted to announce that this year's Mini-Symposium will culminate with a keynote talk by Professor Thomas W. Muir of the Rockefeller University. Dr. Muir's research has focused on the chemical basis of protein structure and function, with particular emphasis on engineering proteins utilizing creative chemistry. Professor Muir will present a scientific lecture enhanced with insights into his early career, choices made and motivations found.

During later poster sessions eligible young investigators' will compete in the Poster Competition. The investigators will present their poster and field questions from a panel of judges. Winners are announced during the Closing Banquet of the Symposium, cash prizes are at stake! Members of the Society can assist with the Poster Competition by volunteering their time and talent to serve on the panel of judges. Donations and sponsorship opportunities are also available and are accepted on behalf of the Society to continue these events.

SAC programs are open to student-members of various international peptide societies around the world: students, post-doctorals, and independent researchers who, at the time of the Symposium, are less than three years beyond their graduate/post-doctoral research training. On behalf of the Student Affairs Committee we look forward to seeing you in Boston!

For more information on these events, please refer to the Symposium web site (AmPepSymp.org). If you are interested in becoming a member of the Student Affairs Committee or volunteering for the Poster Competition please contact DeAnna Long at Peptides International (dwlong@pepnet.com). For information on the Young Investigator Mini Symposium, please contact Prof. Lila Gierasch (gierasch@biochem.umass.edu) or Ken Rotondi (ksr@chemistry.umass.edu) at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Student Members include Richard Agnes (U of Arizona), Bret Beyer (U of Florida) and Ryan Holder (U of Florida). New members wanted!

Job Wanted

The Student Affairs Committee sponsors the Young Scientist Job Fair in conjunction with the Symposium. This activity is provided free of charge to assist young scientists in identifying employment opportunities and potential academic and industrial employers. Interested scientists and potential employers who want to participate in the Job Fair may register at the Student Affairs Committee/Job Fair Booth during posted times and poster sessions. Additionally, positions at a more experienced level are sometimes included in this job fair for individuals looking to make parallel job transitions. Non-confidential "Candidates" and "Positions" files will be located at the Job Fair Booth for viewing by Job Fair participants. Also a message center will be available to facilitate contact between candidates and employers during the meeting. Candidates need to supply 3 copies of their CV in addition to the registration forms to participate. Forms and further instructions are available on the Symposium web site AmPepSymp.org.

For more information on the Job Fair please refer to Symposium web site. If you are interested in becoming a member or of the Student Affairs Committee please contact DeAnna Long at Peptides International (dwlong@pepnet.com).

Peptide Science Now Official Society Journal

The Editors and the Publisher of *Peptide Science* are pleased to announce that their publication has been designated as the official Journal of the American Peptide Society, effective January 2003.

As the AmPepSoc flagship journal, *Peptide Science* is immediately expanding its scope to include high-quality original research articles. With its new status, *Peptide Science* now welcomes your original research submissions. We would like to receive material representing the fullest breadth of peptide science, including synthesis, structure, biology, pharmacology, computational chemistry, and bioinformatics.

In preparing your manuscripts, please refer to "Instructions to Authors" in the back of any issue of *Peptide Science*, or on-line at <http://www.interscience.wiley.com/jpages/0006-3525/>, for details of article submission. All correspondence should be sent to:

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Peptide Science will continue to be published as separate volumes of *Biopolymers*. This will ensure the broadest possible distribution and abstracting of the Journal. We are also pleased to announce that John Wiley, the Publisher, will place its considerable resources at the disposal of the Editors to facilitate rapid access to accepted articles through its electronic proofing and on-line "EarlyView" publication system. This will ensure that availability of such articles is not restricted by the publication schedules for the hard copy of *Peptide Science*.

Note that *Peptide Science* will retain such established hallmarks as guest-edited collections around specific topics or arising from selected conferences and workshops, and invited reviews from key experts on "Current Trends in Peptide Science."

With the addition of original research articles, we expect that *Peptide Science* will continue to reflect the finest and most current research of the international peptide community.

American Peptide Society Newsletter

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Treasurer: Dr. Richard Houghten
Membership Chair: Dr. Ben Dunn
Editor: Ellen T. Brenner (ellenbr@ispwest.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.

DeGrado Awarded 2003 Merrifield Award

Dr. William DeGrado has been awarded the 2003 Bruce Merrifield Award for outstanding career achievements in peptide research. The Award will be formally presented to Dr. DeGrado at the 18th APS Symposium in Boston.

Dr. DeGrado is currently the George W. Raiziss Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of Pennsylvania, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in 1977.

Dr. DeGrado's research focuses on molecular design as an approach to understanding macromolecule structure and function. His primary research interest is in the de novo design of proteins, in which one attempts to design proteins from first principals. A second area of interest is the design of small molecules that inhibit the interaction of cells with the extracellular matrix by binding to a class of membrane proteins known as integrins. A third area of interest is in the structure and function of membrane-active peptides.

The Bruce Merrifield Award is annually given to a living scientist whose research, teaching, and service has had a substantial impact on the intellectual and practical development of peptide science. The Award recognizes scientists at a point in their careers where a substantial body of creative work is available and sufficient time has passed to place their work in perspective.



Dr. William DeGrado