



The 18th American Peptide Society Symposium: Mark Your Calendars

We invite you to participate in the 18th American Peptide Symposium, July 19th through 23rd, 2003 in Boston MA. This year's theme is "Peptide Revolution: Genomics, Proteomics and Therapeutics," featuring keynote speakers Lewis Cantley (BIDMC, Boston), William Haseltine (HGS, Inc., Rockville), Robert Langer (MIT, Cambridge), and Janet Thornton (EMBL-EBI, London). For further information, please visit the symposium's website at <http://www.AmPepSymp.org>, or contact Symposium co-chairs Drs. Michael Chorev (michael_chorev@hms.harvard.edu) or Tomi Sawyer (tomi.sawyer@ariad.com).

Boston, MA is to be the site of the upcoming 18th American Peptide Symposium in July of 2003.

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Houben-Weyl Commemorates A Hundred Years of Peptide Chemistry

M. Goodman, A. Felix, L. Moroder and C. Toniolo (Eds.). *Synthesis of Peptides and Peptidomimetics, volume E22a*. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, xxvii + 901pp, 2002. The first of four Additional and Supplementary Volumes [E22a-d] to the 4th edition of *Methoden der organischen Chemie* (Houben-Weyl), in English. ISBN 3-13-219604-5.

by Dr. J.H. Jones, editor, *The European Peptide Society Newsletter*, No. 27 (July 1, 2002). Reproduced with permission.

The new Houben-Weyl project to survey the *Synthesis of Peptides and Peptidomimetics* was launched at the first International Peptide Symposium in Japan in 1997. It was billed to commemorate a hundred years of peptide chemistry since Emil Fischer's 1901 publication¹ of the preparation of glycylglycine by partial hydrolysis of diketopiperazine. In fact, Fischer's arch-rival² Theodor Curtius had characterised benzoylglycylglycine some twenty years previously³ as a by-product of benzoylating glycine silver salt. And the first planned reaction which has real analogy with the sort of peptide synthesis practised these last hundred years, an azide coupling, was described⁴ by Curtius in 1902. As Joseph Fruton said at EPS-19,⁵ "The public accolade went to Fischer, but the verdict of history has gone to Curtius". It is therefore perhaps fitting that the first volume of the new Houben-Weyl project has the date⁶ 2002 on its title page. In any case, although the genius of Emil Fischer looms large in the development of thinking about peptides and proteins, even the acclaimed paper of 1901 had Ernest Fourneau as co-author, and one might feel more comfortable about hanging the Centenary of Peptide Chemistry on Fischer if Fourneau⁷ had some of the limelight. After all, we remember both Bergmann and Zervas for the benzyloxycarbonyl protecting group, and

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“ ... the project has been a great success and the publication of this treatise is itself a major event in the history of peptide chemistry.”

although seventy years does not provide a resonant anniversary, some would say⁸ that modern peptide chemistry began in 1932.

On the other hand, Emil Fischer was undoubtedly photogenic, and provides a convenient, if slightly shaky, historical hook from which the publishers can suspend the publicity for the project.

Having gotten that antihagiographic polemic off my chest, I want to go on to say that, judged by the first volume (E22a) and website information available about the others (E22b-E22d) which are in the pipeline, the project has been a great success and the publication of this treatise is itself a major event in the history of peptide chemistry. Before I wax too effusive, however, I must declare a small interest. I was myself a contributor to the first volume, but writing only some 12 pages, amounting to little more than 1% of it and considerably less than 0.5% of the complete work. Further, the minor contributors like me were only the private soldiers in this campaign to bring the literature of the subject into digested subjugation and order, and, as in war, the responsibility and credit for success belongs to the generals – the editors who planned the whole thing and guided it through to fruition. As a contributor, I can testify that the planning and detailed editing was undertaken with great energy and care: Murray Goodman, Arthur Felix, Luis Moroder, Claudio Toniolo and the backup team of Guido Herrmann at Georg Thieme the publishers all deserve congratulations.

The first Houben-Weyl treatment of peptide synthesis was originally planned, around 1960, to be a component of a single volume of the fourth edition, but as the sixties passed it became clear that a whole volume was necessary, and when it was finally published under the editorship of Erich Wunsch in 1974, it was two massive volumes, XV/1 and XV/2. There was a similar expansion while work was in progress on E22, which was planned to appear as two volumes, but will in fact comprise four (E22a-E22d) when complete, which will hopefully be within the next twelve months. Whereas the monumental work of 1974 was pretty well exhaustive, the even more monumental work which has begun to emerge is not, even for publications since. It is comprehensive in its coverage – over a wider front because of the inclusion of peptidomimetic chemistry, which has burgeoned in the meantime – but critical and selective in policy.

Although the previous Houben-Weyl volumes XV/1 and XV/2 will retain their value in many respects as a means of accessing the earlier literature, E22 will be a stand-alone authority on the whole field of peptide and peptidomimetic synthesis. The language of E22 is English, an ironic change with the publicity being linked to Emil Fischer, at a time furthermore when peptide chemistry in his native land is very vigorous indeed. The standard of the English employed is excellent, and only rarely does a slight awkwardness of composition or usage slip through to hint that some of the material was conceived and perhaps even drafted in German. Few readers will notice such things, and the only feature which may irritate some is the occasionally intrusive repetition of safety warnings. In a litigious age, the desire of all concerned to protect themselves against accusations of negligent failure to warn is well appreciated. But when it results, for example, in the ritual recitation seven times in a space of three pages (E22a, pp 429-431), like litany responses, of the hazards of hydrazine, it approaches absurdity. On the other hand, it is not at all absurd that the safety warnings about BocN₃ are longer than the experimental description –

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actually the best advice about BocN₃ is “use something else if you possibly can, and if you must use BocN₃, then for goodness sake don’t distill it”. The serious point here is that it is dangerous to give the impression of having included exhaustive safety warnings, because any such attempt is doomed to fail. It fails here, for instance, by not sounding the alarm every time benzene or HF is mentioned, and by describing procedures involving some hazardous reagents (such as oleum, chlorine, ethyl isocyanate, *t*-butyl nitrite, oxalyl chloride) without warnings. The real danger is that novices may fall into the trap of following a prescribed procedure without thinking and assessing hazards for themselves.

The contents of E22a are as follows:

Preface

1 Scope of the Volumes

1.1 Historical Aspects

1.2 State of the Art and Strategies

2 Protection of Functional Groups

2.1 Amino Group

2.2 Carboxy Group

2.3 Amido Group

2.4 Photo-Cleavable Protecting Groups

2.5 Enzymatic Cleavable Protecting Groups

2.6 Other Side Chain Protections

3 Peptide Bond Formation

3.1 Azides

3.2 Active Esters

3.3 Acyl Halides

3.4 Anhydrides

3.5 Carbodiimides

3.6 1,1'-Carbonyldiimidazole

3.7 Phosphonium Salts

3.8 Uronium Salts

3.9 Miscellaneous Reactions

4 Synthesis of Peptides

4.1 Synthesis of Peptides in Solution

4.2 Enzymatic Synthesis

4.3 Synthesis of Peptides on Solid Support

4.4 Ugi's Four Component (4C) Synthesis

That is perhaps a predictable syllabus for the first volume, but within these headings there are many rather original first-time reviews of important specialist topics. Each section comprises a critical review, followed by carefully selected protocols with sufficient detail for repetition, and a corresponding bibliography. The three outstanding volumes will complete coverage of peptide synthesis and extend to protein synthesis, peptidomimetics, design principles, conjugated peptides, reactive peptides and natural products involving peptides and so on: the whole gamut of peptide – and protein – driven synthetic organic chemistry, in fact.

The volumes are priced separately, and so can presumably be bought separately, but the

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conception is clearly a unified one, and for example only the last volume has indexes. E22a has an extremely detailed Table of Contents extending to 19 pages, but it is not easy to find material on specific reagents without an index. EEDQ, for example, still has a following, but your reviewer could not find it mentioned anywhere in chapter 3, although some useful references were eventually discovered under a misleading heading in section 4.3. With the promised substance index in E22d, and the electronic version which is expected after hard copy publication is complete, such difficulties will be solved, but picking and choosing among the volumes would appear to be ill-advised. Despite the cost – 7400 Euros for the full set at the regular price, but only 6660 Euros to subscribers – everyone engaged in the area will want easy access, and for research groups of any size it will be cost effective investment, not a luxury.

John Jones

¹E. Fischer and E. Fourneau, *Berichte*, 1901, 34, 2868.

²On the tensions between Emil Fischer and Theodor Curtius, see T. Wieland and M. Bodanszky, *The World of Peptides. A Brief History of Peptide Chemistry*, Springer-Verlag, 1991, p. 32.

³T. Curtius, *J. prakt. chem.*, 1881, 24, 239 and 1882, 26, 145.

⁴T. Curtius, *Berichte*, 1902, 35, 3226.

⁵J. S. Fruton, in *Peptides* 1986, ed. D. Theodoropoulos, 1987, p. 29.

⁶In the bibliographic small print, however, the date of publication is stated as 19.12.2001.

⁷Ernest Fourneau (1872-1949) was a Frenchman who had a distinguished career as a medicinal chemist in France: *Bull. Soc. chim France*, 1950, 953.

⁸For a brief essay on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Z group, see J. S. Fruton, *Trends Biochem. Sci.*, 1982, 7, 37.

PEM III — Toronto, July 15-18, 2003

The Third Peptide Engineering Meeting (PEM III) will be held in Toronto, Canada, July 15-18, 2003. The Meeting, which is an American Peptide Society-sponsored event, has been scheduled as a satellite conference to the 18th American Peptide Symposium, to take place in Boston July 19-23, 2003.

Following the format of the first two PEM conferences (Osaka, 1997; Capri, 2000), PEM III will be organized jointly by the American, European, and Japanese Peptide Societies. Speakers invited by the three Societies will cover topics ranging from structure-based approaches to peptide/protein interactions, to development of peptide biomaterials.

PEM III is being hosted by the Structural Biology and Biochemistry Division of the Research Institute at the Hospital for Sick Children, and co-hosted by the Department of Biochemistry of the University of Toronto. The conference Organizing Committee consists of Charles Deber (Toronto, APS; Chair), Hisakazu Mihara (Tokyo, JPS); and Claudio Toniolo (Padua, EPS).

Details of the scientific program, and registration, will be announced early in 2003. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Charles Deber (deber@sickkids.ca).

2003 Bruce Merrifield Award Request for Nominations

The Bruce Merrifield Award for outstanding career achievements in peptide research will be given in 2003 by the American Peptide Society. The Award will be presented at the 18th American Peptide Symposium, Boston, July 19-23, 2003.

Nominations for the Merrifield Award are now requested. The formal nominating documents should include:

- ◆ A written statement/letter of nomination of no more than 1,000 words.
- ◆ The nominee's Curriculum Vitae and list of publications.
- ◆ Up to five selected reprints of the nominee's research publications.
- ◆ One additional ('seconding') letter in support of the nominee.

Complete nominating documents (original + 7 copies) should be received by November 30, 2002. Those wishing to submit names of potential candidates to the Awards Committee for consideration for formal nomination are also encouraged to do so.

Please address all inquiries, nomination materials, and correspondence to:

Dr. Charles M. Deber

Chair, APS Awards Committee

Research Institute - Structural Biology & Biochemistry

Hospital for Sick Children - Hill Wing Room 3427A

555 University Avenue

Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X8 Canada

e-mail: deber@sickkids.ca

EUROCOMBI 2 — June 29th - July 3rd, 2003

The European Society of Combinatorial Science (ESCS) cordially invites you to participate in EUROCOMBI 2, the Second European Symposium on Combinatorial Science, in Copenhagen June 29th through July 3rd 2003.

To view the program and to register please visit the symposium's website at <http://www.crc.dk/escs>. Click on the "Accommodation" link to reserve hotel space. During the summer in Copenhagen hotels fill up quickly, so please make your lodging arrangements promptly.

If you are interested in exhibiting, please read the information and follow the instructions on the homepage. If you or your organization are willing to support the meeting as a sponsor, please contact Morten Meldal at mpm@crc.dk and you will receive an official invitation to sponsor the meeting.

To register as an ESCS society member, please visit <http://www.combichem.org>.

*“FASEB is our eyes,
ears, mouth, and
brain in
Washington.”*

APS and FASEB: A Dynamic Working Partnership

What is FASEB? FASEB is the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology. The mission of FASEB is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve, through their research, the health, well-being and productivity of all people.

FASEB comprises twenty-one societies with more than 60,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. There are thirteen member societies and six associate member societies.

Because the American Peptide Society's membership is below the 2,000 member threshold required of regular members, our society is currently an Associate Member of FASEB. As such we have full access to all the services, standing committees, and science advocacy efforts of FASEB, but we are not voting members. Hence, we are not eligible to serve as officers.

However, you are represented on the two major committees of FASEB. Fred Naider is a member of the Science Policy Committee (i.e., FASEB's policy "think-tank" committee), and John Smith is a member of the Public Affairs Executive Committee (i.e., FASEB's policy and advocacy oversight committee).

Check out FASEB's web site (<http://www.faseb.org>) for a complete listing of its activities, including public affairs, career resources, meetings and conferences, member directory, *The FASEB Journal*, and minority access to research careers.

What does FASEB do for the members of the American Peptide Society? FASEB is our eyes, ears, mouth, and brain in Washington. The Office of Public Affairs (OPA), headed by Dr. Howard Garrison, is staffed with some of the best biomedical science policy experts in the Nation's Capital. These bright young individuals keep track of all developments in the legislative and executive branches, as well as the agencies that might affect your ability to fund your scientific ideas. FASEB also has a full-time OPA staff member, Patrick White, located on Capitol Hill. His presence has given voice and provided access to the officers of FASEB and thereby allows them to inform key legislators of the biomedical research community's concerns, as well as to offer helpful advice to them.

Here are some of FASEB's activities:

- ◆ FASEB leads the advocacy effort to double the budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) during a five-year period. This doubling will be complete in fiscal year 2003. FASEB is now working with the leadership of the NIH and the Congress to assure that a "soft-landing" will be achieved after completion of the doubling, by recommending continuation funding in the range of 8-10% per year (Korn *et al.*, *Science* 296:1401-1402, 2002).
- ◆ FASEB has also joined with the chemical, physics, and mathematics communities to support a doubling of the budget of the National Science Foundation.
- ◆ FASEB has been a strong supporter of a moratorium on human cloning. It has also emphasized the importance of allowing therapeutic cloning (i.e., stem cell nuclear transfer (SCNT; <http://www.nih.gov/news/stemcell/primer.htm>). SCNT provides a basis for future scientific breakthroughs in the cell biology and production of cloned tissues for the alleviation of some chronic diseases.
- ◆ FASEB publishes an annual Federal Research Funding Report (<http://www.faseb.org/opar/fund2003/fedfund03.pdf>). This is one of the most influential science advocacy documents provided to Congress annually. Its thoughtful recommendations are widely

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used by U.S. legislators as they set budget and appropriation levels to fund science at the NIH, NSF, Veterans Administration, US Dept. of Agriculture, Dept of Energy, NASA, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

- ◆ FASEB recently evaluated the impact of a proposed increase in regulatory burden, which would have greatly increased the cost of scientific research in U.S. research institutions, and it drafted a summary of the issues and suggested a course of action that would be less disruptive than that proposed.
- ◆ FASEB recently organized a symposium on “Training and New Investigators: What are the Issues, Where are the Facts?” The symposium gave an overview of current trends in graduate education, postdoctoral training, and career development, summarized the experience of the NIH regarding new investigators, and reviewed the involvement of foreign students and science in U.S. biomedical research.
- ◆ FASEB was also active in garnering the support of Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) to block legislation that would have unduly regulated the use of rats, mice, and birds in research. The legislation that was being proposed would have placed major administrative cost on research institutions and not substantively affected animal care, which is already maintained at a humane level and governed by detailed administrative procedures.
- ◆ FASEB has voiced its strong opposition to a proposed boycott of Israeli science, which began as an open letter published in the April 6 issue of the *Guardian*. Such a boycott would have set a precedent that would be detrimental to science and the world.
- ◆ FASEB has also taken a strong stand against genetic discrimination in employment and health insurance.

What does the American Peptide Society do for FASEB? The American Peptide Society pays FASEB dues for each of its members. Currently, it pays \$100 per year for each of you. These dues support all the activities described above. Additional costs are incurred by the Society to send its representatives to various required committee meetings at FASEB headquarters in Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Naider is a member of the Science Policy Committee, and he participates in its meetings and monthly conference calls. He is well respected by the leadership of FASEB, is an influential member of this committee, and serves as the Editor of FASEB’s *Breakthroughs in Biocience* series (<http://www.faseb.org/opar/break/>). These *Breakthroughs* are high quality, science education publications that are distributed widely to educators, the public, and legislators. The publication’s goal is to demonstrate the value of biomedical research to enhancing the quality of our daily lives and its role in the improvement of the practice of medicine. Dr. Naider is recognized as the creative force behind this excellent publication.

Dr. Smith attends Board of Directors meetings as the American Peptide Society’s representative. He also participates in monthly conference call as a member of the Public Affairs Executive Committee. During the past two years, Dr. Smith was Co-Chair (2000) and then Chair (2001) of the National Institutes of Health Committee of the FASEB Federal Funding Consensus Conference. This twenty-one member committee works to develop funding recommendations on behalf of the NIH. This is a key FASEB committee, and the American Peptide Society is at the forefront of this important advocacy effort.

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Dr. Smith is also currently chairing a committee that is evaluating the potential positive and negative impact of the Office of Management & Budget's (OMB) criteria for research investment. This OMB initiative evolved from the President's Management Agenda (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2002/mgmt.pdf>). The OMB has developed a measurement tool to evaluate the quality, relevance, and performance of science and technology funded by the US government (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/mgmt-gpra/spring.html>). Currently, the goal of this metric is to evaluate the management of science and technology at the program (not the individual investigator) level (e.g., at the level below an institute at the NIH). We are working with the FASEB's Office of Public Affairs to monitor the development and evolution of this evaluation mechanism by the OMB's Performance Measurement Advisory Council (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/mgmt-gpra/>) in order assure that any measurement tool is used fairly and will not adversely affect the ability of our members to carry out research.

The American Peptide Society is highly respected by the leadership of FASEB, because it contributes meaningfully and consistently to its advocacy efforts and to its committee deliberations. Among the six Associate Members of FASEB, the American Peptide Society is clearly one of the most actively involved.

Legislative Update: Federal Appropriations News

Thanks to the lack of a bicameral budget resolution and a long-disputed FY02 supplemental bill, the annual appropriations process has gotten off to a slow start this year. But both the House and Senate Appropriations panels will have full agendas when Congress returns from the July Fourth recess early next week. First up will be the conference on the FY02 supplemental, which should be completed by the end of the week. As for the FY03 spending bills, the House has gotten a jumpstart on the Senate, approving two FY03 bills - Defense and Military Construction - on the floor last week. Four other House spending bills - Agriculture, Treasury-Postal, Interior and Legislative Branch - are scheduled for full committee markups next week, with floor action possible the week after. Meanwhile, the Energy and Water spending bill is in line for subcommittee markup.

With the prospect of protracted floor debates on some of the annual spending measures, it is uncertain whether the House Appropriations Committee can finish all FY03 bills by the end of the month - when the summer recess is scheduled to begin. Complicating the situation is the fact that moving some of the larger domestic bills, such as the VA-HUD and Commerce-Justice-State appropriations measures, may be difficult given their tight allocations - which are below the request contained in the Bush administration's FY03 budget proposal.

Legislative Update

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Notwithstanding such hurdles, Senate Appropriations Chairman Byrd has said he intends to move all thirteen annual appropriations bills through his committee before the August recess. So far, only two have made it out: the FY03 Interior and Military Construction appropriations bills. Next week, the Treasury-Postal and Legislative Branch spending bills are expected to move through the full Senate Appropriations panel, but it remains unclear when those bills will go to the floor. Senate Majority Leader Daschle has laid out an ambitious July agenda that could leave little room for floor debate on appropriations bills.

Julie Gerberding To Be Appointed CDC Director

HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson will announce the appointment of Julie Gerberding as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today in Atlanta, sources confirmed yesterday. Gerberding currently is the agency's acting director for science and one of four members of the management team that has been running the agency since Jeffrey Koplan resigned in March. Thompson created the team, headed by acting director David Flemming, to separate CDC's terrorism response from other functions and facilitate the smooth flow of emergency funds through the agency.

CDC's FY 02 funding grew to \$6.8 billion with the addition of emergency funds following September 11, including around \$1 billion to build infrastructure at the state and local level and funds for purchases of smallpox and other vaccines and drugs. Gerberding, with National Center for Infectious Diseases Director James Hughes, has been heading the agency's terrorism response in addition to her ongoing duties. In that position, public health leaders have praised her grasp of the obstacles facing CDC, including educating first responders and health professionals in preparation for large-scale bioemergencies, whether due to terrorism or natural emergencies.

Over the last few months, Gerberding has worked to improve CDC's communication with media to ensure reports on public health threats were accurate, particularly regarding the anthrax bioterrorism events. The first woman to head the agency, Gerberding joined CDC in 1998 as director of the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, where she developed patient safety initiatives and other programs to prevent infections, antimicrobial resistance and medical errors. An infectious disease specialist, she is on leave from the University of California at San Francisco, where she is an assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology and biostatistics, and she is an associate clinical professor of medicine at Emory University in Atlanta.

Gerberding has degrees in chemistry and biology and an M.D. from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She completed her internship and residency in internal medicine at UCSF and earned a Master's in Public Health from UC Berkeley in 1990.

Society News Briefs

The APS Council met on June 1, 2002 in Boston. This meeting served as a site visit for the 18th American Peptide Symposium to be held July 19-23, 2003. Tomi Sawyer and Michael Chorev, co-chairs of the 18th Symposium, presented an overview of their scientific and administrative plans for the meeting. The Boston Marriott Copley Square Hotel will be the venue for the entire meeting, and the Council toured the facilities that will be used.

The Council approved the 19th American Peptide Symposium for San Diego, June 25-30, 2005. Jeffery Kelly of the Scripps Research Institute and Tom Muir of the Rockefeller University will co-chair the meeting. The Council also approved the 20th American Peptide Symposium for Montreal, June 2007. Emanuel Escher and William Lubell will co-chair the meeting.

Current membership of the APS is 737. New annual dues for the 2003 membership year were approved and will be \$125 (Full member), \$50 (Student), and \$75 (Post-doc and retired). Membership chairman Ben Dunn is planning a campaign for new members. The Council adopted *Biopolymers: Peptide Science*, published by John Wiley, as the one official journal of the APS, effective January 1, 2003. The new APS web site (<http://ampepsoc.org>), is progressing well and shall have gone live in September, 2002.

Election of New Council Members

In the election held in November, 2001, new councilors elected were Jane Aldrich (University of Kansas) and Ben Dunn (University of Florida). Richard Houghten (Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies) was re-elected Treasurer of the Society and Roger Freidinger (Merck Research Laboratories) was elected President-elect. Thank you to Dan Rich (University of Wisconsin) and Teresa Kubiak (Pharmacia), who have completed their terms on the council.

Symposium Honors Dr. Ralph Hirschmann

A symposium was held at the University of Pennsylvania on May 9, 2002 to honor Ralph Hirschmann, Makineni Professor of Bio-organic Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, on the occasion of his 80th birthday. The symposium was attended by many of Ralph's colleagues and friends. Scientific speakers included Dan Rich, K. C. Nicolaou, Dan Veber, Joel Huff, Stephen Benkovic, Robert Ramage, Isabella Karle, and Gilbert Storck. Following a reception and dinner, Paul Anderson highlighted accomplishments in Professor Hirschmann's career at Merck and the University of Pennsylvania.

Fall Membership Drive

The American Peptide Society exists to serve its members through the sponsorship of the Symposium every two years, the Society journal, job postings on the Society's website, and activities of the Student Affairs Committee. In the fall of 2002, we will begin soliciting membership dues for the 2003-2004 period, and will offer incentives for bringing in new members. The Society can only be as strong as its membership, so please be ready to respond when the drive gets underway.



Ralph Hirschman

Recent and Upcoming Awards

- ◆ June 2001, Merrifield Award, Garland Marshall, presented at the 17th American Peptide Symposium.
- ◆ February, 2002: Vincent du Vigneaud Awards, Robert Hodges and Horst Kessler; presented at the Gordon Research Conference on the Chemistry and Biology of Peptides.
- ◆ April, 2002: Ralph Hirschmann Award, Victor Hruby; presented at the 223rd American Chemical Society National Meeting.
- ◆ May, 2002: Josiah Willard Gibbs Medal, Ralph Hirschmann; presented by the American Chemical Society Chicago Section.
- ◆ 2003, Cope Scholar Award, Jean Chmielewski, to be presented by the American Chemical Society. .
- ◆ 2003, Ralph Hirschmann Award, Roger Freidinger.



Garland Marshall



Roger Freidinger



Victor Hruby



Jean Chmielewski

Hruby Receives 2002 Cathay Award

Professor Victor J. Hruby of the University of Arizona Department of Chemistry was recipient of the 2002 Cathay Award, presented during the Seventh Chinese Peptide Symposium held in Dalian, Peoples Republic of China, during the week of July 2-6, 2002. Dr. Hruby received the award "in recognition of his outstanding contributions to peptide science." The award is sponsored by the H. H. Liu Educational Foundation, which promotes excellence in science and technology in China.

Life Transitions

- ◆ Dan Veber retired from Glaxo Smith Kline in January, 2002.
- ◆ Steve Brady retired from Merck on June 1, 2002.

American Peptide Society Newsletter

Published monthly by the American Peptide Society,
<http://www.ampepsoc.org>.

President: Dr. Murray Goodman
Treasurer: Dr. Richard Houghten
Membership Chair: Dr. Ben Dunn
Editor: Ellen T. Brenner (ellenbr@ispswest.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.

NIGMS/NCI Synchrotron Beamline Anticipates Full Operation in 2005

A synchrotron beamline for determining structures of proteins and other macromolecules, under joint administration of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the National Cancer Institute, will produce its first usable X-rays for crystallography in 2004 and will be fully operational a year later.

NCI teamed with NIGMS in initiating construction of a synchrotron beamline at the Advanced Photon Source (APS), located at the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago. NCI Division of Cancer Biology Deputy Director John Sogn presented an update of the project to NCI's Board of Scientific Advisors at a June 24-25 meeting.

In March, NCI and NIGMS leadership signed a memorandum of understanding with the APS to build beamline facilities. Preliminary design review was approved at the time, clearing the way for construction later this year. The German company ACCEL Instruments is under contract to build the beamline.

Sogn said the construction budget of approximately \$18 million would be shared equally between NIGMS and NCI. Should the costs exceed that amount, NIGMS will pay the excess, he stated. Once construction is complete, operation costs for the beamline are estimated to be \$4 million a year, of which NCI has committed \$1 million annually. NIGMS and NCI grantees will have access to the beam through a peer review process for research projects.

Half of the beam time will be allocated to peer-reviewed research, while 25% will be reserved for maintenance and staff use. Sogn said the remaining 25% would be divided between the two collaborating institutes for "special uses."

A special design feature of the planned beamline will double the number of usable experiments possible from the beam, Sogn explained. Two undulators, which produce the synchrotron radiation in the accelerator loop, will be offset slightly (0.06°) to produce two beams of radiation within the team's research area. With future throughput rates of one crystal structure solved per beamline per day made possible by advancing technologies like robotic sample changers, Sogn and BSA members suggested researchers would need more help in the often time-consuming protein purification and crystallization process.