

SPECTROSCOPY SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH



300 Penn Center Boulevard, Suite 332, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-5503

Phone: (412) 825-3220 • FAX: (412) 825-3224

Email: sspinfo@pittcon.org • www.ssp-pgh.org

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September 17, 2008

The September SSP Meeting was called to order at 7:53 pm by Chairman Dave Pensenstadler.

Introduction Dave noted that there are a lot of people on the Site Trip to Chicago at this time. He welcomed everyone and their guests. Dave noted that last year Chairman Mitch Johnson started an idea by dedicating the Technical Program to David Alder. He was a local area medical doctor who used spectra analysis years before anyone else. We think he's truly the Father of Modern Spectroscopy.

Dave has chosen to dedicate this year to those scientists who have received the prestigious Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award and went on to win the Nobel Prize. They are as follows:

- Gerhard Herzberg 1962/ 1971
- Kai Seigbahn 1982/ 1981
- Paul Lauterbur 1987/ 2003

So this year we are going to be dedicating our Technical Program to those three.

John Jackovits noted that there was a 4th, a chemist from Cal Tech. He was unsure of the year. Dave thanked him and said we'll add that to the list.

Budget The first item is to approve our operating budget for 08/09. Dave noted he is very pleased to report that we received the same as the SACP, \$550,000, about a 5.7% increase over last year.

Dave noted that he would quickly like to review the highlights of the budget.

- 110 is Wrap Up/ Kick Off which last year was broken into two categories to keep better track of expenses.
- 125 the parking category has increased this year, so there are extra funds there.
- 220 was increased as we're going to print a comprehensive directory this year.
- 263 postage was decreased because we're going green and will migrate onto the website. Dave asked that we please check our website periodically. There is a wealth of information there. If someone wants a hard copy, we will be happy to send it to them. There are 28 sent out every month, while everything else goes out by email. We're going green.

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Dave explained that the portion discussed so far represents operating expenses, which are a little less than 23% of our overall budget, which is pretty good for a non-profit.

- 345 Project SEED, this was new last year and is funding for one student from a disadvantaged background for summer research. It is administered by ACS and handled through Duquesne University. It is a very worthwhile program. Two students have already gone on to college.
- 430 College Equipment Grants have increased by \$7,000 this year. Costs for new equipment are continuing to increase.
- 500 Elementary Science Olympiad was increased by \$8,500. This funding is for elementary schools to develop and operate science based programs for all students in 4th, 5th and 6th grades and has been wonderfully successful.
- Items under Membership Education have been increased to reflect inflation for travel and lodging.
- Tripartite was increased to match the SACP increase.
- Film and Tape library increased due to increasing costs.

So all together our budget is \$550,000. Dave asked for a Motion to accept the budget.

John Jackovits moved and Dean Tzeng seconded.

Any opposed? None. Dave thanked the members.

Dave also said he'd like to also tell all committee Chairmen to please spend your money.

Liaison Reports: Dave noted that most of the people on that committee are probably in Chicago right now.

Pittcon 2009: Dave read a report provided by Ed Ladner for Pittcon 2009. There are 172 days left! Preparations are well underway in this group and the team is preparing for a 2 day site visit to Chicago, which begins tomorrow. They will review all signage requirements, and locations, chairmen will meet with McCormick Place and GES reps to begin to lay out the office and work areas.

The ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry will be co-programming with Pittcon for a third consecutive year.

The Society for Applied Spectroscopy will again provide two symposia in our program. For the first time we are working with the Japanese Instrument Manufacturer's Association, JAIMA and the Japanese Society for Analytical Chemists for full day symposia on nanotechnology.

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Congratulations to Mitch Johnson for getting Dr. Whitesides for the plenary speaker. He is in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Harvard. He has received numerous awards, most recently the Priestly Medal in 2007, and in 2008 the Whelan Medal from the University of Chicago. In 2008 he received the Outstanding Achievement Award in Nanotechnology from Ohio State. And in 2008 he also won the Nanoscience Prize from the International Society for Nanoscale Science Computation and Engineering.

Ed encouraged everyone to make plans to attend Pittcon 2009 March 8 – 13 and join us as the Pittsburgh Conference celebrates 60 years of showcasing scientific innovations.

Pittcon 2010: Dave noted that Annette Wilson is on the site visit also. She asked Dave to note that the 2010 conference will be held from February 28 to March 5 in Orlando. The site trip will be arranged in the December timeframe.

Pittcon 2011: Dave noted that our Conference President is Penny Gardner. No report this month.

SACP Chair William Sharpe stated that the next SACP Technical Meeting will be on Monday October 6th with our guest Dr. Henry White from the University of Utah. He will be talking about the Chemical Amplification of Electrical Signals in Nanopore Sequencing of Nucleic Acids.

ACS Pittsburgh Local Section Chair, Fu Tyan Lin, is in Chicago and he wanted us to announce the Pittsburgh Award Winner for ACS Local is Steven Weaver from the University of Pittsburgh, and it is well deserved.

SAS: John Jackovitz noted that they will hold the Governing Board Meeting in Reno next month on October 1, so he'll attend as the SAS Pittsburgh Section rep. He reminded us that SSP is the Pittsburgh Section of SAS.

John noted he'll report in writing on the meeting in the next Specks. Also, he'll give a detailed report on the Coalition for Bridging the Sciences, to interested members.

Carnegie Library: No Report.

Carnegie Science Center: Dan Wilson provided the following report. The SciTech Festival at Carnegie Science Center has now evolved into a year-round initiative to further science education for all ages and features the growth areas of Pittsburgh: Biotechnology, IT, Robotics, Advanced Materials Processes, Environmental Technology, and Nanotechnology.

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SciTech Days for secondary school children are held in the spring and fall, with the next dates being November 11-14. The Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair held in the spring also is considered part of the SciTech Festival. For more information, check the festival's web pages at www.scitechfestival.com

Council Reports

Secretary's Report: Maggie Hall reported that we've received a number of thank you cards. Edinboro University expressed appreciation for our financial support. Family Resources noted they appreciated the financial support. The Young Israel of Pittsburgh Congregation acknowledged our generous donation in memory of Dr. Aryek Melnick. The contribution will support the outreach, just as Dr. Melnick did. Mary Catherine Scanlon was very pleased to present the Keivin Scanlon Award and she was pleased about the recipient. She also enjoyed meeting old friends at the event. Maggie read part of the card from a good friend of ours. He thanked the society for the fruit basket and many get well cards. Everything is coming along well but it is a long process. Walt Sumansky said thanks to a wonderful group of people.

Charles Holified asked that Maggie Hall report on the Faraday Lecture while he's out of town. Bob Becker from Kirkwood High School, St. Louis, is the speaker. The event on Tuesday evening November 18th is open and free to the public. There are a number of flyers outside where you signed in. If you could please help by posting them at your work bulletin board, we'd appreciate that.

Committee Updates

Meeting Arrangements: Jan Pfeiffer is away. Dave thanked the Committee (to the sound of applause). He reminded members to see Carolyn Benga if you need parking stickers.

Technical Program/ Technology Forum Hub MacDonald noted that the Technology Forum is under the leadership of Dave Vanischak. Our speaker tonight was Richard Rosenberger on Long Rifles of Western PA. He noted that Dave will give us more information.

Three of our monthly Technical Program speakers are award winners. We're starting out with Dr. Rina Dukor the Williams Wright Award winner at Pittcon 2008. Other speakers include Sandy Asher winner of the Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award, and Dr. Gabor Somerjai, the Priestly Medalist last year. These are 3 fantastic speakers this year. And the others are very, very good also.

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In October the Technology Forum speaker will be Dr. Jennifer-Loveland Curtze from Penn State. Her talk is titled "The Real Survivors: Microbes in Frozen Environments". This will be a joint meeting with the Pittsburgh Amateur Astronomers Association. Returning again this year is Dr. Michael Zolensky, from NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston. He'll talk about "Hydrocarbon Nanoglobules: Finding One of Life's Building Blocks in Meteorites and Implications for the Mars Phoenix Mission. Hub expressed hope that members will continue to attend, and thanked them for attending this evening.

Dave Vanischak noted that there were 20 members and guests in attendance. Dr. Jennifer Loveland Curtze from Penn State University starts at 5:30 and we're looking forward to seeing you.

Membership Manny Miller said he's pleased to announce 5 new members; Eli Absey from Dionex Corporation, David Sipe, from Carnegie Mellon University, Renee Baker from the Phipps Conservatory, Amelia Osterman from Bechtel Bettis, and Pavel Nazarov.

Continuing Education: Jane noted that their first meeting will be next Wednesday.

SAS Student Award: Amit Gosh noted the application and requirements are all on the website now, the deadline for returning the application is February 9th. Since we're going green we are encouraging no hard copies. Nominations are encouraged.

Chemluminary Award: Project SEED: Jim Manner provided the following report. At the American Chemical Society National meeting in Philadelphia on August 19, 2008 the Pittsburgh Section received a national Chemluminary Award for project SEED.

Project SEED's focus is to help the less fortunate and minority HS students to work with college professors, like Jennifer Aiken, to do research in chemistry. Many of these students have gone on to write papers, present papers at ACS meetings and receive college degrees. SSP funds one student for \$2,500 as part of its budget. It is money well spent. See the upcoming November Crucible for articles on the Project SEED program.

Jim said that Jennifer Aiken did a great job. Jim added that on behalf of the SSP and the ACS he's really grateful for the funding. It is very worthwhile in getting disadvantaged students to get their degrees. It's extremely worthwhile, and thanks to Jennifer Aiken for getting this started 4 years ago.

Old Business: Dave asked for a motion to approve the April 2008 meeting minutes. They are on the website, and were also sent out by email.

Dave Vanischak moved and Al Sharkins seconded the motion. The Motion carried, 0 opposed. Dave Pensenstadler asked if there were any other questions.

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New Business

Dave talked about the SSP's Chairman's Pass. At the Kick Off meeting he handed out the Chairman's Pass, which provides a free dinner for guests and people who we invite to attend an SSP meeting. The goal is to increase our membership this year. Invite your colleagues, and co-workers that are interested in any of the topics to be discussed over the next few months. Hopefully they'll see what the SSP is all about, the quality of the Technical Program and the Technology Forum program. And possibly want to participate or even join.

If anyone is interested and would like to have a pass for a colleague or co-worker, Dave invited them to see him after the meeting and they would be given two passes. On the back of the pass there is information to fill in, if there is an interest to join, or if interested in any of the Technical Meetings.

Any other New Business?

National Chemistry Week: We have a guest, Mike Mautino, who coordinated the National Chemistry Week Program for the last couple of years. I've asked him to tell us a little about this. He works at Bayer near the Parkway. In case you didn't realize when you approved your budget one line item is for National Chemistry Week, the 10th year in a row for SSP.

It has paid for countless students that are underrepresented, Girl Scouts, groups like the Women's Shelter, the Northside Association.

I'm here to thank you for this and for 10 years of continuous support. I have a flyer for the October 24/25th NCW at Carnegie Science Center. You're all invited; the first floor is basically free. Tell them you're a national Chemistry volunteer for SSP and the whole thing won't cost you anything.

The theme is "Having a Ball with Chemistry", its sports related, nutrition, sports. I've got zipper pulls, so please pick a couple up. Again, thank you for your support!

Dave asked for a Motion to Adjourn.

Jim Manner moved and Jane Chan seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm

Dr. Sandy Asher introduced our speaker, Dr. Rina K. Dukor, Bio-Tools, Inc, who talked about "Applications of FT-IR and Vibrational Circular Dichroism to Problems of Pharmaceutical Interest: from Proteins to Chiral Drugs"

Respectfully submitted,

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Margaret Marie Hall
SSP Secretary 2008-2009

cc: D. Pensenstadler, H. MacDonald, Melissa Visnikar, M. Johnson, file