

COCI Report to Council, 1999

Since the 39th General Assembly in Geneva, we have completed the second "**White Book**", addressing *Natural and Anthropogenic Environmental Oestrogens*, and published in the September 1998, Volume 70, No. 9 issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry*. This very current subject, and unfortunately a highly emotional one, threatens both the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, as well as much of academic chemistry, if not rationally addressed. In view of its complexity, we sought and gained the collaboration of the International Unions of Pharmacology and of Toxicology in the identification of outstanding world experts as authors and referees for each "chapter", and published jointly with them. Acting as *Special Issue Editor*, along with Albert Fischli, I organized peer review of each input by at least one other expert before publication. The *Conclusions and recommendations*, the section most likely to be read by decision-makers worldwide, was authored by the Presidents (past or current) of the three prestigious Unions. It puts this still-developing "controversy" into a scientifically-based context in a easily readable manner. In 1999, COCI decided to "donate" to IUPAC the ~\$41K(US) expenses incurred by us - honoraria to authors and referees, small handling charges, etc. -in order to expedite (less than one year !) publication on this very topical subject.

Since our 1998 Meeting in Johannesburg, S.A., COCI has funded distribution to its Members in 15 Countries of **DIDAC**, a series of slides/transparencies and texts promoting/teaching chemistry to students before choices are made of fields for further study. The system was developed in Belgium in co-operation with Agfa-Gevaert who provided the sets to COCI at cost price. Members will report at our Berlin Meeting on the reaction of teachers, chemical societies, etc. in their own countries. Prof. Bradley, Chairman of CTC, participated in our development of this concept in Jo., and, if Berlin inputs are positive, will assist in obtaining support for broad distribution from UNESCO. These teaching "aids" could be particularly useful in developing countries.

In 1998/99, COCI has enlisted the support of President Jortner in the solicitation of new **Company Associates**. A letter, drafted by us, has been sent by the Secretariat over his name to 38 strongly potential candidates as identified by our Members in 6 countries - more are forthcoming. This letter features recent IUPAC activities pertinent to industry, i.e., the two *White Books*, conferences organized by CHEMRAWN, and other recent seminars/conferences.

In 1999, COCI expects to reactivate the **IUPAC-UNIDO-UNESCO Training Program**, with American companies now identified for the first time as potential hosts.

A. Nelson Wright, Chairman
June 9, 1999.