

## Relocation of IUPAC archival material

In the previous issue of *Chemistry International* (September 1997, pp. 161–163), details were given of the transfer to the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) in late 1996 of much of the IUPAC archival material collected at Oxford over the past nearly 30 years.

In September 1997, E.W. (Ted) Godly, Secretary (1989–93) of the Commission on Nomenclature of Organic Chemistry (CNOC), visited the IUPAC Secretariat at Oxford and deposited a set of minutes for meetings of CNOC during 1966–95, CNOC Secretarial correspondence during 1990–96, nomenclature queries during 1989–95, and draft recommendations for *Revised Nomenclature for Radicals, Ions, Radical Ions and Related Species; Glossary of Class Names of Organic Compounds and Reactive Intermediates Based on Structure*; and the *Guide to IUPAC Nomenclature of Organic Compounds*. This carefully consolidated material was passed to CHF with the final archival material from Oxford at the end of October (full details to be included in a future issue of *Chemistry International*).

**E.W. (Ted) Godly**

Retiring Officers of IUPAC Division Committees and Commissions and of Standing Committees are urged to send similar consolidated material to Elizabeth Swan, Director of Library Services, at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2702, USA. Tel.: +1 (215) 925 2222 ext 226. E-mail: [eswan@chemheritage.org](mailto:eswan@chemheritage.org).

## 'White Book' on endocrine disrupters

In recent years, the hypothesis has been raised that certain chemicals in the environment originating from agricultural, domestic, industrial and natural resources might adversely affect the health of human and wildlife populations by interfering with endocrine (hormonal) systems.

Most of the evidence comes from studies with laboratory animals and observations on wild species. Evidence for effects in humans is far more controversial, or unconvincing, although some scientists have alleged that the public health may be harmed by exposure to low levels of a multitude of chemicals which mimic the function of female sex hormones called oestrogens. More research is needed to answer many questions raised by this hypothesis. However, there is yet no proof that any environmental oestrogen is impacting public health.

As IUPAC has contributed to the debate on the effect of chlorine and chlorine-containing compounds on the environment by publication of Volume 68, No 9, of *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, September 1996, we have begun preparation of an independent and unbiased publication on the 'Endocrine Disrupter' issue. Drawing upon scientific experts from around the world, and in cooperation with IUPHAR and IUTOX, we hope again to put into scientific perspective an issue which has important environmental, societal, economic and industrial implications.

## International Newsletter on Chemical Education

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Issue No 45 (1997) of the International Newsletter on Chemical Education (INCE) focuses on small-scale chemistry and particularly on affordable experimentation in chemistry. Included are five articles on the topic: *Some thoughts on practical work in chemistry* and *Getting started in small-scale*, by Stuart W. Bennett of the Open University, Milton Keynes, UK; *Innovative tools in small-scale chemistry* by S. Bhanumati of Delhi University, India; *Dedicated glass apparatus* by Stephen Breuer of the University of Lancaster, UK; and *Radmaste microchemistry kits: hands-on practical work for all* by Prof. John Bradley and colleagues from the Radmaste Centre at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

This is the first issue produced under the new joint editorship collaboration between Dr Stuart Bennett and Prof. John D. Bradley. The new editors' opening remarks pay tribute to Peter Towse of the University of Leeds, UK, who stepped down after 10 years in the Editor's chair with publication of Issue No. 44. The new editors also take the opportunity to request ideas and articles to shape future issues. Not all issues will have a single theme like No. 45, they say, but seek views on the suggestion that it may be appropriate for every other issue to have a common theme.

### Dr J. Miyamoto

As with the chlorine debate, the Union wishes to encourage the development of a sound scientific base on this immensely complicated issue, urges the public authorities to make relevant decisions on the basis of sound science and not on emotional reactions, and urges industry to act responsibly, endorsing product stewardship and responsible care.

**A.E. Fischli, President**  
**R.P. Martin, Committee on Chemistry and Industry Chairman**  
**J. Miyamoto, Chemistry and Environment Division, President**

## New Executive Director of ICSU

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Jean François Stuyck-Taillandier has been appointed Executive Director of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) for an initial two-year period. A French national with a thorough knowledge of English, Jean François comes from the Collège de France (the French Academy Complex) in Paris, where he was in charge of international relations. Previously he was Science Counsellor at the French Embassy in Tokyo and before that, Director for International Relations of the French National Research Centre (CNRS).

Jean François has a background in physics and chemistry, and has devoted most of his career to international scientific affairs, through which he has acquired familiarity with ICSU and with many of ICSU's members and organizations.

**Jean François Stuyck-Taillandier**

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### IUPAC colleagues deceased

**Canada:** Dr G. Waddington (18 March 1996), President of Physical Chemistry Division (1969–73), Physical Chemistry Division Committee (1963–69), Committee on Statutes and Bylaws (1972–75), Commission on Physicochemical Symbols, Terminology, and Units (1967–71), Commission on Thermodynamics (1957–69).

**South Africa:** Prof. M.M. Zulu (18 October 1997), Commission on Nomenclature of Inorganic Chemistry (1989–).