

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY COLLOID AND INTERFACE SCIENCE GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT TO FARADAY COUNCIL

Review of the Year 2006

This has been another busy year for the joint committee of the Colloid Groups of the RSC and the SCI. The particular innovations this year were the establishment of the McBain Medal and the Colloid Groups Student Fund.

During the last year significant changes were introduced to the awards given by the committee. This change was possible in no small part to the efforts of our Awards Officer Dr. Peter Griffiths. There are now two Awards in the gift of the Groups; each is to be presented annually after a lecture that concludes a symposium on a related topic. The 'Senior' award is the Rideal Lecture, which incorporates the Founder's Lecture (Sir Eric Rideal being a key figure in the founding of both Groups). The Rideal Lecture is given by a scientist who has made a sustained and meritorious contribution in colloid science. The lecture is presented on the day of the AGM of the Groups. The 2006 Rideal Lecture was presented by Eric Dickinson (Leeds University), and was sandwiched between a half-day supporting symposium and an informal celebratory dinner. The 2007 Rideal Lecture, *Designer Molecules for Interfacial Activity*, is to be given on the 24 April 2007 at SCI by Alan Pitt, who is an expert on surfactant structure, function and applications.

A new award, the 'McBain Medal' to recognise outstanding contribution by a younger scientist (i.e. typically under 40) who has advanced in a significant way the science or technology in a colloid-related area. This medal was awarded for the first time in 2006. There were many nominations, each for a scientist of extremely high calibre, which indicates that our subject is in good health. Dr Julie Macpherson of Warwick University was selected as winner for her superb work on development of new techniques and materials for nanoscale imaging, device fabrication and characterisation of surfaces. Her outstanding lecture *Single Walled Carbon Nanotubes: Nanoscale Electrochemical Sensors* concluded the Nanoscale Interfaces symposium held at the SCI. We are very grateful to Dr. Paul Jenkins of our committee and Professor Dominic Tildesley for facilitating the generous support of Unilever plc. The silver medal for this award was minted jointly by the committees of the RSC and SCI.

The Colloid Group Student fund gives students who are members of RSC or SCI free registration at the meetings we organise. We hope that this will make a useful contribution to the total cost of attendance and enable more students to enjoy our events. This fund is held for the Groups by SCI and it is a legacy of the very successful IACIS meeting held in Bristol in 2000 that was organised by Professor Terence Cosgrove. On behalf of the Groups and of those who benefit directly from this fund, we thank Prof. Cosgrove for his agreement to establish the Fund and SCI for guidance in setting up and administration of the fund.

Scientific Meetings in 2006:

The main product of our efforts is, of course, the arrangement of the scientific programme of meetings. In the 2006/7, we arranged or supported the following meetings: -

- Colloid Science of Mixed Ingredients: Rideal Lecture (Prof. Eric Dickinson) and supporting symposium
- Secrets of Formulation
- Colloids in Coatings
- Nanoscale Interfaces: first award of the McBain Medal (to Dr. Julie Macpherson), and supporting symposium
- Colloids in the Body
- Nanoparticles: New Opportunities and Challenges For Colloid Scientists.

Each of these meetings was attended by at least 50 delegates, and contained excellent presentations. All the meetings were administered by the SCI Conference Office and we are grateful for the commitment and professionalism of Ms. Jacqui Macguire and Ms. Emily Moss and their colleagues. Our members prefer the RSC/SCI to co-ordinate activities and we have indeed found that the benefits of having a joint committee, scientific programme and awards significantly outweigh the 'challenges'. The financial basis of our meetings is an equal share of risk and reward for the CISG and CSCG. We will continue to work with other groups and societies to organise meetings that will help us to arrange meetings of greater breadth and depth for the colloid community. To date, we are working with Macro Group (RSC/SCI), Formulation Science and Technology Group (RSC) and RSC Materials Chemistry Forum.

Committee News

To be effective, we require a committee of pro-active people, Dr. Jawwad Darr (QMUL) joined the committee this year and we look forward to his putting into practise the many novel suggestions for events he uttered before the recent arrival of his son (congratulations Jawwad – remember you might get some sleep at a multi-day meeting!).

Our thanks go to Dr. Philippe Rogueda, who has chosen a career change and has moved to Vienna and consequently resigned as Honorary Treasurer of CSCG. Thanks are also due to Dr Peter Dowding who completed his term as Honorary Secretary of CISG in April 2006. Pete, who is an enormous asset, was immediately co-opted to CISG as he continued in his role of representing CISG on Faraday Division. On Philippe's departure, AH had no hesitation in offering the position of Honorary Treasurer of CSCG to Pete and we were delighted when Pete accepted immediately. Ours is a very cross-disciplinary science in its application, hence the Groups are presently looking at new and improved ways of serving those with an interest in the application of colloid science and also at reaching out to non-traditional colloid scientists. Potential new members may be involved with materials, polymers and 'nano-technology' and include those who may not be traditional chemists (e.g. material scientists, physicists, engineers, and environmental and biological scientists). This will often involve expanding our partnerships with other groups and Societies. In particular, we are keen to ensure that UK colloid scientists do not miss the opportunities provided by the nanotechnology boom – both in finding exciting new outlets for our work and in attracting new funding for our science. Our future priorities are first to expand the programme of meetings and then to establish a new Award to encourage the even-younger scientist. We have provisional plans for a full meeting programme over the next few years, organised around the Rideal Lecture/AGM and McBain Medal symposia in April and December, In the coming year or so, we have planned the following one-day events: -

- Rideal Lecture (Alan Pitt) and supporting symposium (24 April, SCI, London)
- Secrets of Formulation 2 (15 May, SCI, London)
- McBain Medal and supporting symposium (December, SCI, London)
- There are also plans for a multi-day meeting on Polymer Complexes in Bulk and at Interfaces.
- A special meeting, "New Frontiers in Colloid Science" to celebrate the career of Professor Brian Vincent, will be held on 1st/2nd April 2008, at Lord's.

Membership Update

Current Membership stands for CISG at 459 which continues the slight downward trend in members over the past few years (497 in 2006, 521 in 2005). The Committee will be developing an action plan in 2007 to address this decline. We will also ensure that our meetings will appeal to the widest possible audience. We will also look at the idea of having a major multi-day meeting similar to those run by the ACS Colloid and Interface Science Group.

Accounts

Please see the attached accounts which have been filed and audited in March 2007.

Meetings Breakdown

2003. £1696 deficit (3 meetings – North Sea Colloids; Resonance Techniques in Colloidal Systems; Founder's Lecture)

2004. £11544 surplus (6 meetings - Macromolecular Drug Delivery; Founder's Lecture; Structure, Function & Application of Surfactants; Simulation of Colloidal Systems; Modern Techniques in Colloid Science; Non-Aqueous Colloids)

2005. £10249 surplus (3 meetings – Cosmetics & Colloids; Rideal Lecture; Emulsions & Foams)

2006. £8432 surplus (4 meetings – Rideal Lecture; Secrets of Formulation Part 1; Colloids in Coatings; McBain Medal Symposium)

Comments

The closing balance of the CISG account exceeded that at the beginning of the year by over £5300. The 2006 surplus was entirely due to finalisation of out-turns from all the meetings ran jointly with the SCI Colloid and Surface Chemistry Group from 2003 to 2005. The net result was a transfer of funds from the SCI to the RSC group (many of the conferences were organised by the SCI conference office and, hence, balances were sitting in SCI accounts). In 2006, the inaugural McBain Medal was awarded. The cost, approximately £3900, of designing and striking 10 medals (to maximise cost efficiencies) was paid during the year and split on a 50%:50% basis with the SCI Colloid and Surface Chemistry Group.

To counteract this considerable exceptional payment, significant cost savings were made elsewhere during 2006. In particular, I am pleased to report that the cost of committee travel decreased substantially due to the more effective use of pre-booked, low cost tickets. The cost of production and distribution of the annual newsletter and regular mailings were also reduced (around 20%) through

the use of a new mailing company and ensuring that VAT was not paid on printing costs.

Direct expenses relating to conferences and meetings also decreased – this being attributable to all 2006 group meetings being organised by the SCI conference office and last year's accounts including an exceptional one-off payment in support of the 2003 European Student Colloid Conference. From 2007, this conference is now under the auspices of ECIS and such levels of direct financial support from the CISG in the future are considered unlikely.

As we enter 2007, the balance in the CISG account is substantial. The committee are considering the most appropriate ways to utilise a tranche of the funds immediately in order to foster a vibrant colloid community in the UK for today and the future.

Comments and suggestions from group members would be most welcome – please pass on your thoughts to any of the CISG committee members.

Russell Elliott
Honorary Secretary
May 2007