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RADIOCHEMISTRY IN EUROPE NEWSLETTER

Issue 34 – April 2006

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Welcome to the thirty fourth Newsletter for Radiochemists in Europe now under the sponsorship of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS). The new WebPages for the WP can be found at www.euchems.org/Divisions/NRC

From the home page the “Future Events” and Radiochemistry newsletters are readily available. Useful Links have also been established, including the Homepage of the Radiochemistry Group of RSC. If any other group would like their website to be linked, please send me the details. With regard to the Future Events conferences in other disciplines, which have or could have a section involving nuclear and radiochemistry and also conferences of interest outside of Europe are included. It is the WP’s aim to communicate and work with a wide range of disciplines and topic areas.

This month we welcome a further new member, Prof. Pavol Rajec (Slovakia) to the WP on Nuclear and Radiochemistry. Full contact details are given at the end of the newsletter. I shall be proposing at the April

Meeting of the EuCheMS Executive that a Division of Nuclear and Radiochemistry should be formed.

This is your newsletter for radiochemists in Europe. Articles, reports on meetings, laboratory profiles, courses, positions vacant, redundant equipment and any other item you feel may be of interest to other radiochemists are still urgently required. Also the early announcement of dates for meetings and conferences is important to avoid the possibility of organising two at the same time on similar topics within Europe. Details of any courses would also be of interest to extend the existing database.

May I remind readers to inform me of any change to their e-mail address?

Providing that information is available I intend to compile this newsletter 4 times per year in March, June, September, and December/January. Please send information in good time for inclusion that is by the end of the month prior to publication. **Editor: Dr. Tony Ware (e-mail: tonyware@compuserve.com)**

? EUROPEAN RADIOCHEMISTS ASSOCIATION.

Aims and Objectives

The objective of the association is to extend and improve communications between radiochemists in Europe through a newsletter. This will be achieved through aims, which include

1. Establishing a liaison person within each country (or group).
2. Exchanging with each of the other liaison persons details of the activities of their own group during the current and subsequent years,
3. Setting up a diary of relevant International Events to avoid duplication of dates and hence improve attendance
4. Exchanging details of specialist equipment, facilities and methodology.

? EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION for CHEMICAL and MOLECULAR SCIENCES

1st European Chemistry Congress

The 1st European Chemistry Congress will be held in Budapest, Hungary from 27 to 31 August 2006. The Congress website is <http://www.euchems-budapest2006.hu>. Submission of abstracts to support the invited speakers should now have been posted to the Congress website. The full programme for the Symposia on "Hot Topics in Nuclear & Radiochemistry" arranged by the Prof. Jan John on behalf of the WP on Nuclear and Radiochemistry should be available soon. It is scheduled to take place on 30 - 31 August 2006. This symposium aims at reviewing the state of the art and outlining the most prospective directions in the field of Nuclear- and Radiochemistry. The invited lectures will cover four of the most dynamic topics in the field, specifically

Chemistry of New Elements (Heinz W. Gäggeler, Switzerland)

Radionuclides in the Environment (Heino Nitsche, Berkeley, USA)

Radiopharmaceuticals (H H Coenen, Jülich, Germany)

Chemistry of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle (Charles Madic, CEA, France)

These lectures will address not only the specialists, they should give a clear picture of the development in this field to the general chemical public.

An additional invited lecture - Teaching of nuclear and radiochemistry in the modern age (Anthony R. Ware, England) - is aimed to trigger discussion on the ways of prevention of the decline of numbers of students in this field, that recently became a global problem.

For further details and registration visit the Congress website at <http://www.euchems-budapest2006.hu>.

A meeting of the WP on Nuclear and Radiochemistry is planned for the afternoon of the 31st August, details of venue etc to follow. It is hoped that this will be the first meeting of the Division. As such observers will be welcome. Please let me know by e-mail if you wish to attend.

2nd European Chemistry Congress

This is to let you know that the Italian Chemical Society will be organising the 2nd European Chemistry Congress in Torino on 16-20 September 2008.

EuCheMS Executive

The full list of the EuCheMS Executive Committee is on the web at <http://www.euchems.org>. From there you can access the WP on Nuclear and Radiochemistry with further links to useful websites related to nuclear and radiochemistry.

Contact: Dr Tony Ware (e-mail: tonyware@compuserve.com)

European Young Chemist Award

The European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences wish to encourage your young collaborators to Participate in the First European Congress by initiating the first competition for the European Young Chemist Award. The award is intended to showcase and recognise the excellent research being carried out by young scientists working in the chemical sciences and will be presented at the 1st European Chemistry Congress in Budapest from 27 - 31 August 2006.

Applicants must be less than 34 years old by 31 August 2006 and co-authors of an abstract already submitted to the 1st European Chemistry Congress. The complete application must be sent to euchem-award@scigiovani.it by 23 April 2006. The application includes the abstract, a curriculum vita, copy of a personal document, a supporting letter from an expert and a brief description of the research featured in the abstract. A panel of finalists will be selected on the basis of the evaluation of the Symposia Chairs. Finalists will compete talking about their research at a special session of the 1st European Chemistry Congress.

Finally, one Gold and two Silver Medals will be presented at a special Award Ceremony during the 1st European Chemistry Congress. In addition the Gold medal winner will receive €800 and a certificate, while the two Silver medal winners will each receive €300 and a certificate. The medals and remunerations are kindly sponsored by the Italian Chemical Society.

Please find all the information about the award on the web site

<http://www.scigiovani.it/modules.php?name=EuYoungChemAward>

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•OBITUARY

Dr. Henning Dahlgaard 1950-2005

Henning Dahlgaard passed away on the 4 September 2005 after several years' illness. Henning Dahlgaard served as liaison person for the Radiochemistry in European Newsletter. After graduating from Copenhagen University, Henning obtained his PhD in 1981 on a study on bioindicators for monitoring radioactive pollution of the marine environment. The study was carried out at Risø National Laboratory, where he was employed all through his career.

Henning's research concentrated on marine radioecology including transport and uptake of radionuclides and assessment of radiation doses to man. He used radionuclides in the sea from atmospheric weapons testing and the nuclear industry as tracers to investigate routes of transport, transport times and dilution factors. He investigated transport of radionuclides with sea currents from Sellafield to the Irish Sea, via the North Sea to the Barents Sea and further to the East Greenland Current and the west coast of Greenland. Henning took part in a great number of international research projects in Nordic and European countries, and in IAEA and AMAP projects. He was manager of several projects including campaigns in 1997 and 2003 to Thule, Greenland, studying the plutonium contamination from the accident of a B-52 bomber in 1968.

From his start at Risø National Laboratory, Henning participated in field expeditions collecting samples from the marine environment. He took part in a large number of ship cruises in the Baltic Sea, North Sea, North Atlantic, Greenland, Mururoa and Fangataufa in the Pacific Ocean and collected terrestrial samples in Russia.

As a biologist Henning was challenged on technical issues at Risø right from his start. But he handled these challenges remarkably well covering radioanalytical chemistry, nuclear measurement techniques and other technical systems, which he used in his research. During later years he used mass spectrometry to determine long-lived radionuclides, including plutonium isotopes and neptunium-237.

Henning had a critical and humorous attitude towards his work and colleagues and as he often used a rather outspoken language he could sometimes make a shocking impression on people who did not know him. These characteristics combined with an extrovert mind made him an active and entertaining participant at meetings and popular among colleagues.

Henning has made a significant contribution to radioecology and he will be greatly missed by his colleagues and many friends all over the world.

Sven P. Nielsen, Risø National Laboratory

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•LABORATORY/BUSINESS PROFILES

Nuclear Training Services

Nuclear Training operates a series of training courses through lectures/practical and distance learning. The practical courses will be held at Priestley Training Services Ltd., Warrington. The dates of their next group of training courses are:

Introductory Gamma-Ray Spectrometry, 16th May 2006 (£195)

Practical Gamma-Ray Spectrometry, 17th-18th May 2006 (£525)

Uncertainty Budget Workshop, 19th May 2006 (£195)

Introductory and Practical Gamma-Ray Spectrometry courses together, £720

Details of the courses and online booking are available on the website.

Given a sufficient number of participants, any of these courses can be tailored to suit and presented at a client's chosen location.

Running continuously, they also have available Online Training courses:

Introductory Gamma-Ray Spectrometry

Practical Gamma-Ray Spectrometry

Introduction to Radioactivity

GammaVision users might be interested in details of SetupChanger and CountSetup, utilities to help automate load/count/analyze sequences. Book courses online via <http://www.nucleartraining.co.uk/program.ihtml>

Online training courses at <http://www.online.nucleartraining.co.uk>

(Contact: Gordon Gilmore e-mail: feedback@nucleartraining.co.uk)

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· CONFERENCE & MEETING REPORTS

No reports submitted

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· CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP DETAILS

Introduction to Environmental Surveillance and Dose Assessment

This is a 3-day course to be run between 10-12 May 2006 at REM Scotland in Glasgow. It will provide an introduction to the theory and practice of environmental surveillance and dose assessment. It is aimed at non-specialist scientists; regulators and those involved administratively in monitoring for radioactivity in the environment. Suitable candidates are likely to have involvement with the nuclear and other industries that discharge radioactive wastes and therefore need to have some understanding of environmental surveillance and the interpretation of data.

No prior knowledge of environmental surveillance is assumed, although some topics will require the use of basic mathematics. The course will not be examinable.

Ideally participants will require a science-based degree or equivalent qualification.

Course administrator: e-mail: Angie.Love@hpa-rp.org.uk Telephone: +44 (0)141 4404830

1st European Chemistry Congress

The 1st European Chemistry Congress will be held in Budapest, Hungary from 27 to 31 August 2006. The Congress website is <http://www.euchems-budapest2006.hu> One of the Special Topics Symposia during the Congress is on "Hot Topics in Nuclear & Radiochemistry" arranged by the WP on Nuclear and Radiochemistry. (For further details see EuCheMS Report earlier in this newsletter.

10th International Symposium on Environmental Radiochemical Analysis (ERA10)

ERA10 will take place at the Randolph Hotel, Oxford, England from 13th to 15th September 2006. The preliminary scientific programme covers nuclear counting techniques applicable to environmental measurements, the determination of radionuclides in environmental materials (solids and aqueous matrices), the determination of radionuclides in biological samples (Bioassay), the application of radiochemical methods to environmental studies and quality assurance. Full details, costs and timescale can be found on the symposium website at <http://www.rsc.org/era2006/>

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NEWS FROM THE INTERNET

In-Situ Intercomparison Scenario 30 April - 4 May 2007 Austria.

The "In-Situ Intercomparison Scenario" (I.S.I.S. 2007) will be organised by the ARC - Seibersdorf research GmbH (ARC-sr) in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Austrian NBC Defence School. The determination of soil contamination, dose rate measurements and in-situ gamma spectrometry are well-established and widely used measurement procedures, especially after large-scale nuclear incidents. Since several years, the organisation of international campaigns with active participation of measurement teams from various countries has improved the accuracy of in-situ gamma spectrometry and the exchange of experience in this field of metrology. To support decision makers and first responders with a more comprehensive and accurate overview immediately after a large scale nuclear or radiological emergency, as a satellite crash, releases of a nuclear power plant or terrorist acts with a dirty bomb, a fast and clear presentation of measurement data is indispensable. Therefore, this exercise will focus on the cooperation of teams in in-situ gamma spectrometry and dose rate measurements and its evaluation for emergency situations.

A detailed schedule on the specific exercises, organisational issues and efforts will be sent out during summer 2006.

If you are interested to receive further information, please send a short email-message to ISIS2007@arcs.ac.at.

Hevesey Medal

Dear Colleagues,

Please join me in congratulating our colleague, Dr. Jan Kucera, on his selection as the recipient of the prestigious 2006 Hevesey Medal Award. Dr. Kucera will receive his award at the 7th International Topical Conference on Methods and Applications of Radioanalytical Chemistry (MARC-VII) to be held in Kona, HI in April. Congratulations Dr. Kucera! Elizabeth A. Mackey, Ph.D. (NAMLS Secretary)

The Radiochemistry Society

The 2006 Course Schedule is now available on-line. Please follow these links:

* Radiochemistry Course Schedule:

http://www.radiochemistry.org/courses/index_rc.html

* Training Directors, Download a printable version (pdf format):

<http://www.radiochemistry.org/courses/CourseSchedule2006.pdf>

* Health Physics Course Schedule:

http://www.radiochemistry.org/catalog/index.php?cPath=30_23

* Professional Membership packages:

<http://www.radiochemistry.org/membership.html>

* Nuclear Periodic Table:

Check out the many new updates & downloads to the Periodic Table, including a Nuclear Periodic Table along with Isotopic & Isomeric data for each of the elements: <http://www.radiochemistry.org/periodictable/index.shtml>

The Radiochemistry Society at www.radiochemistry.org

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

NSD-Fusion GmbH is a start-up company located in northern Germany. Its business is based on its unique longest life, high performance, yet affordable, neutron generator technology. Various neutron energies can be provided in either pulsed or continuous mode. The versatile line source geometry enables better matching of the neutron source to the object that is to be interrogated. The market is mostly for industrial applications and security screening systems. Many industrial clients are asking NSD-Fusion to develop or assist in the development of their applications systems. Therefore a position exists for a radiochemist to join the team. This position will require ability and skill to implement the project acquisition phase with conceptual design and preliminary demonstration planning, coordination with partner companies, educational or research institutes and NSD-Fusion's associated specialist consultants in the field of MCNPX simulation and analysis. Project management oversight as well as hands-on technical work packages will dominate the project implementation phase. The limitations of laboratories to accommodate typical on-line neutron activation analysis systems will require a field test phase where the development work will reach the contracted targets of system performance. In most cases follow-on development for improved performance through the adoption of new detector and signal processing technologies will require the radiochemist to maintain professional awareness and continuing education.

The position is expected to be attractive to enterprising individuals who want to further their career in an industrial environment and who have a passion to get neutron activation techniques out of the laboratory and into industrial service for the on-line, mobile and portable NAA applications. The range of possibilities is limited only by the vision of the successful applicant.

(Contact e-mail: info@nsd-fusion.com)

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· AND FINALLY

Please send information for inclusion in future issues to your Liaison Person or myself Dr Tony Ware, Avoncastle, South Lane, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3AZ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1622 842627, e-mail: tonyware@compuserve.com

IMPORTANT PLEASE send me your e-mail address so that I can inform you when websites have been updated and any other news of immediate interest.

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