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RADIOCHEMISTRY IN EUROPE NEWSLETTER

Issue 36 – November 2006

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Welcome to the thirty sixth Newsletter for Radiochemists in Europe now under the sponsorship of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS). The first meeting of the new Division took place in Budapest on August 31st. Full minutes are included later in newsletter. It is now necessary for the Division to be responsible for arranging a conference on nuclear and radiochemistry at least every two years.

Our WebPage can still be found at www.euchems.org/Divisions/NRC. From the home page the "Future Events" and Radiochemistry newsletters are readily available. An additional 10 year Planning Calendar has now been added in an attempt to minimise events of a similar nature being organised at the same time. 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 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 it is intended 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)**

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□ 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 was held in Budapest, Hungary from 27 to 31 August 2006. The Symposia on "Hot Topics in Nuclear & Radiochemistry" arranged by the Prof. Jan John on behalf of the Division of Nuclear and Radiochemistry was a success. Invited lectures were given on "Chemistry of New Elements" (Heinz W. Gäggeler, Switzerland), "Radionuclides in the Environment" (Heino Nitsche, Berkeley, USA), "Radiopharmaceuticals" (H H Coenen, Jülich, Germany) and "Chemistry of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle" (Charles Madic, CEA, France)

Some 40 –50 people attended the sessions and there were a good number of posters.

An additional invited lecture, "Teaching of nuclear and radiochemistry in the modern age" (Anthony R. Ware, England) created some discussion on the ways of prevention of the decline of numbers of students in the field.

The first meeting of the new Division of Nuclear and Radiochemistry

This took place on the afternoon of the 31st August at ELTE Convention Centre, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary. The following are abbreviated minutes. A full copy is available on the website.

1. A. Ware gave apologies and presented changes to membership Prof. A. Türler replaced Prof. R. Michel (both Germany), Dr. D. Razem (Croatia) decided to discontinue her observance. Attendance of observers at the meeting was agreed.
2. The meeting agreed to the Agenda as circulated.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting (July 6th 2005) were reviewed and approved.
4. Acceptance of the Procedures and Practices for the Division of Nuclear and Radiochemistry (P&P)
The meeting agreed to accept and record the results of the earlier correspondence vote and not to organise an on-site vote. Out of the 24 members, 21 agreed with the P&P, with 3 giving no vote. The document has been accepted after a correction of the date on the last line.
5. Review priorities of action after the transformation of WP in the Division.
 - 5.1. Constitution – action finished (see above).
 - 5.2. Newsletter – the Division should continue editing the Newsletter as official information periodical of the Division. S. Jerome and A. Vertes agreed to assist A. Ware in editing.
 - 5.3. Web site – developing and maintaining should be continued. All members are asked to send any links, they would like to have listed here, to A. Ware.
 - 5.4. Diary of future events (10-years Calendar) – activity should be continued, the Calendar should be posted on the web and refreshed once a year. Attention was drawn to the forthcoming conflict of next NRC7 and "Migration" – the dates should be re-checked. "Migration" was found to be missing in the "Diary" for 2008! H. Gaeggeler should be listed as the organiser for event No.19 (Transactinides). Before placing on the web, the Calendar will be circulated to the Division members for comments for the period 2006-2016.
 - 5.5. and 5.6. Co-ordination of T&E in Radiochemistry and Review of Courses – S. Jerome did a survey. After circulation to the Division members for comments, it will be placed on the web. H. Gaeggeler informed that there is a new master-level course in radiochemistry in Switzerland that is all delivered in English.
 - 5.6. European Radiochemical Conference – following the rules for EuCheMS divisions, DNRC is obliged to guarantee a conference on NRC at least once in two years in Europe. The current status is that two general, widely international, nuclear- and radiochemical conference series with typical attendance over 200 are running in Europe:
 - The NRC series emerged from discussions carried out since 1980 and has been operating since 1984 (Lindau), it is running with a 4 years periodicity. It is travelling across the Europe and the next destination is always decided by a meeting of its International Advisory Board (IAB). This series was represented at the meeting by H. Gaeggeler, H. Coenen and A. Ware as NRC IAB members and A. Vertes as the chairman of the forthcoming NRC7.
 - RadChem series is running in between (on the remaining even years) with the same periodicity. It is organised by the Division of Nuclear Chemistry of the Czech Chemical Society, traditionally in Mariánské Lázně spa Czechia). This series was represented at the meeting by J. John, chairman of the Organising Committee for the last three events.After a discussion of the three realistic options (run NRC on biannual basis, initiate a new series, combine the two series) the DNRC proposes to combine the NRC series and RadChem series in forming this European conference. Both the chairmen of the respective Organising Committees are asked to seek official agreement of their respective IABs for such formal merger. It is proposed to keep both the series running under their current names and with all

their traditional specifics as decided by the respective IABs. After (hopefully) receiving positive answer from NRC7 IAB members, A. Vertes, on behalf of the NRC7 organising committee, will discuss with A. Ware how to include into the Circular the fact that NRC series should become a part of the activities of the DNRC. In the list of Division priorities, this European conference will become Priority No. 1.

6. Other matters
 - 6.1. Erasmus – approach was decided to be discontinued.
 - 6.2. Contact with EC Officers – A. Ware and J. John negotiated with EC officers to seek support for the E&T activities of the Division. The output can be summarised as “we left good impression but made a little progress”. It may be possible to find support for seminars or courses through EuCheMS European Network for Chemistry. J. John suggested that we should rather aim at organising a project in E&T under Euratom and try to match their priorities: a/ modular approach, b/ mutual recognition system, and c/ facilitation of mobility. S. Jerome will review the options.
 - 6.3. IAEA – few Division members are a part of the IAEA distant learning project.
 - 6.4. Internet based conferences – Those present are rather sceptical about the efficiency of such system. The item will be left on agenda for P. Misaelides to take up, if desired.
 - 6.5. EP lunchtime seminars – must be sponsored by some EP member. It will be left on the Agenda.
7. EuCheMS sponsorship of future events.

The new divisional logo is still not available. (NB Logo now available and used on heading of these minutes.). H. Gaeggeler may seek the sponsorship for the next Transactinides.
8. Election of Secretary and Chair for 2007.

A. Ware and S. Jerome were nominated for the chairman and secretary, respectively, for the Division for the next 3 years.
9. AOB
 - 8.1. C. Gascó Leonarte presented the history and present of NRC in Spain.
 - 8.2. J. John informed that the Organising Committee of RadChem 2006 did not succeed to gain the status of FECS / EuCheMS Lecture for one of the opening lectures of the conference. It was suggested that this possibility will be considered for 2008 by the NRC7 organisers. If not successful, another proposal will be made for the next RadChem to bring NRC among the topics covered by the EuCheMS Lectures.
9. Date and venue for the next meeting:

Transactinides meeting at Davos, Friday, 28 September 2007.

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.

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

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LABORATORY/BUSINESS PROFILES

None offered in the last few months. Please send copy if you wish your laboratory or business to be featured.

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CONFERENCE & MEETING REPORTS

For Symposium on “Hot Topics in Nuclear and Radiochemistry” see above.

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CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP DETAILS

In-Situ Intercomparison Scenario I.S.I.S. 2007

From April 16th to April 20th 2007 in the region of Wiener Neustadt, Austria, 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 final schedule of the specific exercises, organisational issues and efforts will be sent out during February 2007.

More information and registration please via <http://isis2007.healthphysics.at/>

The eleventh international conference on the Chemistry and Migration Behaviour of Actinides and Fission Products in the Geosphere (MIGRATION 2007)

This will be held August 26 - 31, **2007**, in Munich, Germany. The MIGRATION conferences provide an international forum for the timely exchange of scientific information on chemical processes controlling the migration behaviour of actinides and fission products in natural aquifer systems. Experimental investigations and predictive modelling of these

processes are the main topics of the conferences. The information generated from the MIGRATION conferences is the basis for the mechanistic understanding of the migration behaviour of long-lived radionuclides in the geosphere, which is essential for the long-term performance assessment of nuclear waste disposal.

After 20 years, MIGRATION '07 will get back to the grassroots, where everything started: Twenty years ago - in 1987 - J.I. Kim, at that time professor for radiochemistry at the TU München, Germany, called this conference in Munich into being. It is certainly his outstanding merit that the MIGRATION conferences remained such a successful story over this long time period.

Conference website: <http://www.fzk.de/migration2007>

Symposium on the Scientific Basis for Radioactive Waste Management XXXI

16 – 21 September 2007, Sheffield, UK.

The conference will cover; Decommissioning and Intermediate Waste, High Level Wastes and Spent Fuel, Low Level Wastes, Geological Repositories, Novel Techniques, Modelling, Transnational Programmes, Interface Science and Radionuclide solubility, speciation, sorption and migration.

The formal call for papers will be posted on the conference website <http://mrs2007.sheffield.ac.uk> For further information contact John Roberts at j.w.roberts@sheffield.ac.uk or Tel +44 (0) 114 222 6026

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NEWS FROM THE INTERNET

URGENT

REGISTRATION FOR PROCORAD 2007 RADIOTOXICOLOGICAL INTERCOMPARISONS

PROCORAD will be organising the 2007 inter-comparisons in radio-toxicology. Unfortunately, the current details and information are not available on their website.

To register for the 2007 exercises, please obtain registration form and details from fnd-procorad@wanadoo.fr

There is a need to fill and return the form by e-mail to the secretariat before 1 December 2006 at the same e-mail address.

Greetings from the Radiochemistry Society.

* Announcing hands-on Radiochemistry Course ... the only training course of its kind in the World!

In the past, many have asked us about a hands-on Radiochemistry Course. We have teamed with Energy Northwest to provide this unique world-class training December 4-15, 2006. Several have already signed up (including folks from Europe). In this course you will receive step by step instruction on all aspects of well-established principles for effective and proper radiometric laboratory operations. These ten days of training will provide a life-long skill set that will enhance anyone's career.

Seating is available but limited, for complete details & registration please visit:

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

(EDITORIAL COMMENT. Is there a need for such a course in Europe? If so should one be established through the Div of Nuclear and Radiochemistry?)

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Vacant Position for a Radiochemist

Permanent position at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Department Radiation, Radionuclides & Reactors, Delft University of Technology. (www.tudelft.nl)

The successful applicant will develop new, innovative and smart approaches for the production of radionuclides using the irradiation facilities of the nuclear research reactor. He/she will use (fast) radiochemical separation techniques for purification and acquiring no-carrier added products. He/she will develop radiolabeling procedures and their expertise in radiochemical separations will be applied to assess the chemical speciation of elements and radionuclides, wherever necessary using hyphenated techniques.

He/she will submit proposals for external funding so as to sustain their scientific research and the other research of the department. He/she is expected to supervise post-doctorates, Ph.D. students, graduate students and visiting scientists, and actively participate in the course teaching at the university.

Ideally, the incumbent will have the following competencies:

- have an academic career in radio(analytical)chemistry and/or nuclear chemistry
- have a broad practical experience in (radio) chemical separations and the use of e.g. chromatographic techniques.
- current work is characterized by a high degree of accuracy and validation, and has been publishing in highly ranked scientific journals.
- good communication skills, experience in teaching and enjoy working in a multi-disciplinary team
- proficient and successful with your proposals for external funding of research.
- creative, willing to take initiatives and enthusiastic.

For further information and application contact Prof.dr. H.Th. (Bert) Wolterbeek (H.T.Wolterbeek@tudelft.nl) or dr.

Peter Bode (<mailto:mP.Bode@tudelft.nl>)

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□ AND FINALLY

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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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