

2011 Annual Report of the SETAC North America (NA) Chemistry Advisory Group

Committee: Chemistry Advisory Group (CAG)

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Reporting period: November 2010 to October 2011

Long-term goal

- Attract and retain chemists to SETAC by making the society a more attractive place for chemists

Short-term goals

- Determining operating structure of CAG
- International Year of Chemistry

Accomplishments

This is the first full year of the newly formed standing Chemistry Advisory Group, which came into existence with a well-attended roll-out event 10 November 2010 at the SETAC NA Portland meeting. This committee replaces the former *ad hoc* Chemists Steering Committee. Many of the members of the latter are now members of the CAG's Chemistry Steering Committee (CSC), with a few new members to replace departing members of the *ad hoc* committee. Our accomplishments this year are summarized below.

Subcommittees:

A number of subcommittees were formed at the roll-out event, with a number of volunteers signing up. In its monthly conference calls, the CSC consolidated subcommittees into logical groups. In addition, the CSC discussed the structure, role, and operations of the subcommittees, in order to make them work most effectively. Currently, the subcommittees meet via email or Skype as necessary when there are definable tasks that fall under their specific purvey. Subcommittee chairs are decided as necessary, and are not necessarily CSC members.

Current subcommittees include: IYC planning (2011 only), social opportunities, short courses, vendors, awards, membership, chemistry sessions in NA meeting, CSC, communications, fundraising/sponsorship, mentors.

Chemistry sessions at Boston:

The CAG has continued to reach out to the SETAC chemistry community to emphasize the C—chemistry—in the North America meetings, by encouraging chemistry-based sessions: submission (both regular and special symposia), publicity, abstract solicitation. This has been successful, with nearly a quarter of all sessions at Boston chemistry-related. We have endeavored to sanction sessions via Advisory Groups, something that is a topic of continued work.

IYC:

2011 is the IUPAC's International Year of Chemistry. Accordingly, the CAG has organized events for the Boston meeting to honor this, including: publicity, a Jeopardy-style quiz game with prizes (based on an actual Jeopardy IYC category), a poster to illustrate highlights in chemistry related to SETAC, and short courses. We have also highlighted an entire day of SETAC (Tuesday) as an IYC sanctioned event,

including the plenary speaker (Phil Gschwend of MIT, renowned internationally as an environmental chemist and selected with input from the CAG) and various chemistry sessions that day and others.

Vendors:

By popular demand from survey information of the previous year, we have worked to improve chemistry-related vendors at the NA meeting. Local vendors (e.g., Millipore/Waters) were included for Boston, and other meetings (e.g., PittCon) for analytical chemistry were canvassed by CAG members to get feedback on interest and awareness of SETAC as a potential place for vendors.

Financial matters:

The CAG originated the suggestion to provide optional donation of dues upon membership payment (new or renewal), so that Advisory Groups including the CAG may have a modest source of income. Details were offered to the NA BoD upon their request for general use by AGs.

Outreach to chemists not in SETAC:

We have begun to build linkages between SETAC NA and other meetings with environmental chemists to make other chemists aware of the opportunities in SETAC, and vice versa, for recruitment and retention of members. These include SETAC regional chapters, regional ACS meetings, and IUPAC.

Outreach also included selecting a winner for the CAG-administered SETAC Chemist Travel Award, to bring a new chemist and some of his/her students to give invited talks to the NA meeting. This year's winner is Dr. Yu-Ping Chin of Ohio State, who is bringing 3 students. In addition, the CSC in consultation with past winners (also CAG members) put together a series of criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of the Chemist Travel Award upon request by the BoD. Assessment will continue in the following years, and will provide the BoD objective data for determining value for investment in this award, and a template to use for other awards by other AGs.

In addition, the CAG has administered another competition for the SETAC-ACS ENVR division student exchange award. Students giving accepted talks for the NA meeting can apply to compete for an invitation to present their work at the following year's ACS meeting, along with waived registration and USD 1000 to defray expenses. The CAG screens applications and selects from this list to judge at the NA meeting, as with other awards. This year's applications are the best and most appropriate, in terms of student research involving environmental chemistry so far, showing increased awareness and competitiveness for this award.

2010-2011 CAG Chemists Steering Committee members

*=new to *ad hoc*/CAG Chemistry Steering Committee

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| 1. Kim Anderson, Oregon State (past chair) | USA | Univ |
| 2. MaryJo Burnhardt, Proctor and Gamble, stepped down mid-year | USA | Private Sector |
| 3. Xuedong Chen*, University of Lethbridge | Canada | Univ |
| 4. Amila De Silva, Environment Canada | Canada | Govt |
| 5. Elizabeth Ferguson, US Army Corps of Engineers | USA | Govt |
| 6. David Ownby, Towson University (ex-officio SNA BoD liaison) | USA | Univ |
| 7. Kevin Johnson, Southern Illinois University | USA | Univ |
| 8. Alan Jones, Clemson University | USA | Univ |
| 9. John Kucklick*, NOAA | USA | Govt |
| 10. Matt Moore, USDA | USA | Govt |

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| 11. Greg Schieffer, SETAC | USA | SETAC |
| 12. Daniel Snow*, University of Nebraska | USA | Univ |
| 13. Ping Sun*, Proctor and Gamble | USA | Private Sector |
| 14. Elin Ulrich, USEPA (chair-elect) | USA | Govt |
| 15. Sascha Usenko, Baylor University | USA | Univ |
| 16. Bruce Vigon, SETAC | USA | SETAC |
| 17. Charles Wong, University of Winnipeg
(chair, ex officio to membership committee) | Canada | Univ |