



**IN THIS ISSUE:** PLoS Editors, New Board Member, Arsenic Remediation Project, Chemists Without Borders in Australia, Chemists Without Borders Bio, Chemists Without Borders Open Chemistry Statement, AIDSfreeAFRICA update, Links, How You Can Help.

### **EDITORS SOUGHT**

Would you like to be an editor for a chemistry journal? Here is your chance: Chris Surridge from the Public Library of Science (PloS) is looking for chemists to peer review articles for their journals. If you are interested, *please see the review at the end of the newsletter* and you can contact Chris at: [csurridge@plos.org](mailto:csurridge@plos.org)

### **NEW BOARD MEMBER**

We welcome Rolande Hodel, the newest board member of Chemists Without Borders. Here is an excerpt from her bio featured in our newsletter earlier this year:

Rolande is an active ACS member (10+ years) and she is the treasurer of the Westchester Chemical Society, where she has served since 1999. Currently she is also director at large of the New York Section of the ACS. In 2005, Rolande founded AIDSfreeAFRICA: "Our goal to provide the world with the capacity to produce lifesaving drugs is an expression of our commitment to peace and human dignity. AIDSfreeAFRICA empowers people in Africa in the fight against HIV/AIDS by providing training, equipment and seed money to produce essential drugs, antiretroviral drugs, diagnostic tests and reagents."

We welcome her decision to join us and look forward to her input.

### **ARSENIC REMEDIATION PROJECT**

Steve Chambreau recently spoke with Don Condley, the Supervisor at California Department of Waterways, and he said we are welcome to assist in harvesting water hyacinth. They will be harvesting between now and March. We had planned to do this in November, but now we might be able to make several trips. Here's what Don said: They harvest between 15-30 55 gallon barrels of hyacinth per day, or if they are near a levy, they simply throw it up on the levy to dry out. Don suggested we would only need a couple of people to separate out the roots and put them in plastic bags.

The Chemists Without Borders project for the removal of aqueous arsenic by dried water hyacinth root is now in full swing. We hope to go out to California in January to collect enough hyacinth root to start initial testing. Lois Ongley, a professor at Unity College in

Maine, will be working with Brian Wagner, the leader of the arsenic remediation project, to evaluate, optimize and validate the arsenic removal properties of hyacinth root.

You can see the proposal on our website at:

[http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org/images/Grainger\\_Proposal\\_Te\\_22320F.pdf](http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org/images/Grainger_Proposal_Te_22320F.pdf)

Currently, we need help in acquiring funding for this project. Initial costs are estimated to be about \$5000. Since the 501(c)(3) application is almost done, I expect any donations or grants to be fully deductible in 2007. Please encourage donations to our cause (we will set up a website for this ASAP).

Please contact the project leader, Brian Wagner, at:

[brianwagner@chemistswithoutborders.org](mailto:brianwagner@chemistswithoutborders.org)

Also, please see this issue of Environmental Chemistry for updates on arsenic remediation:

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/190/issue/1044.htm>

(thanks to Glenna for the tip!)

## **CHEMISTS WITHOUT BORDERS IN AUSTRALIA**

From Glenna Drisko:

Thanks for your email... We're meeting with an arsenic specialist (Ian Rae) for Victoria on Thursday and we hope that this is a productive meeting. Ian knows where the point sources are and he seems to have some ideas on how to remove the arsenic. He's not a fan of the hyper-accumulating plants. He thinks that they're "cool but not the most effective strategy." We'll see what he has to say.

Otherwise, I was thinking of doing a pollution monitoring project. On page 26 of the Sept 9, 2006 issue of NewScientist, there was an article "Smog spotting", that inspired ideas for what we could do here in Melbourne. We immediately need to start writing up a charter so that we can become incorporated.

We had our first meeting which was attended by 20 people. We had a man from an organization called Waterkeepers come to talk to us. He was a great speaker and I think that people were excited to be involved, but maybe unsure of how they fit into the program. Hopefully soon we'll have a few specific projects that they could immediately become involved in. Unfortunately there's a lot to do before we're at that point though.

Do you have a copy of your charter that you could email to me for inspiration?... (ed. note: Chemists Without Borders bylaws sent to Glenna)

We're applying for a special projects grant right now. We're applying to work with local schools testing the water and sediment. Some teachers have expressed concern that there may be pollution from a tannery and airport near the school and they've designed a project for students to test the water and sediment, but they want our expertise and access

to equipment (GC/MS, ICP, etc.). It's very exciting, I'll let you know if it goes through.

### **CHEMISTS WITHOUT BORDERS MEMBER BIO: W. JEFFREY HURST**

W. Jeffrey Hurst is a Sr. Staff Scientist at the Hershey Company Technical Center. His emphases are in separation science using standard, micro and nanotechniques, laboratory automation, the evaluation of new and emerging analytical technologies, the development and evaluations of methods for the determination of food allergens and the application of nontraditional analytical methods to food analysis. He was the founding editor and editor in chief of Laboratory Robotics and Automation, an international journal with a focus on all facets of automation in the laboratory until it ceased publication. He is the founding editor of the Wiley-Interscience book series on laboratory automation, serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Liquid Chromatography and was founding editor of Seminars in Food Analysis. He was a contributing editor for Scientific Computing and Instrumentation and prepared a monthly column on some aspect of instrument and laboratory operations. He is a member of the American Chemical Society (ACS), Laboratory Robotics Interest Group of New Jersey (LRIG), a Professional Member of the Institute of Food Technologies, American Society of Mass Spectrometry (ASMS), a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists (FAIC), a Certified Professional Chemist (CPC), a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (FRACI) and a Charter Chemist (CChem). Within the AIC, he is chair of the committees on Advanced Professional Thinking, Local Institutes and co-chair of the Editorial Board of The Chemist. He has served as co-leader of the Chemical Measurement Subgroup in the ACS/AICChE/CMA Chemical Industry Technology Roadmap. He is a member of the Continuing and Distance Education Faculty of Penn State University and serves as Clinical Professor of Comparative Medicine and a member of the graduate faculty at the M.S. Hershey Medical Center. He also has served on graduate examination committees at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Duquesne University and the University of Cordoba, Spain. In 1986 he was awarded a Pioneer in Laboratory Automation award by the International Symposium on Laboratory Robotics and in 2000 was named a Fellow of AOAC International. He is senior author of Laboratory Robotics, A Guide to Planning Programming and Applications, editor of Automation in the Laboratory, English language editor of Analytical Techniques for Food and Agricultural Products, editor of Electronic Noses and Sensor Array Based Systems and is editor of Analysis of Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals. He is an author on over 200 papers and presentations. He has developed in excess of 175 methods using chromatography, spectroscopy, spectrometry, immunoassay and assorted analytical techniques on food, environmental and biological samples. He also serves on the Analytical Methods Review Committee of the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia (AHP). He has participated in a peer review panel of the Institute for Regulatory Sciences on Chemical Analysis Automation and also participated on NSF Review Panels for Educational Chemical Instrumentation. He also serves as a reviewer for numerous journals including J. Chromatography, Journal of Liquid Chromatography, Journal of Ag and Food Chem. Journal of Food Science, Analytical Chemistry and Annals of Internal Medicine to list a few.

Thanks Jeffrey for your contribution. And if you haven't already been featured in the Chemists Without Borders Bio section of the newsletter, we would like to hear from you. Please email your bio to Steve at: [stevechambreau@chemistswithoutborders.org](mailto:stevechambreau@chemistswithoutborders.org)

## **CHEMISTS WITHOUT BORDERD OPEN ACCESS AND OPEN SOURCE STATEMENT**

There has been an excellent discussion recently at the conference calls regarding Chemists Without Borders taking a stance on open source and open access issues. After much discussion, we have written a statement on the position that Chemists Without Borders should take regarding these issues. Please see:

<http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org/images/OpenChemistry.pdf>

for the Chemists Without Borders Open Chemistry Statement. Thanks to Heather Morrison for all of her hard work on this.

## **AIDSfreeAFRICA UPDATE**

On December 11th, Dr. Rolande Hodel, founder of AIDSfreeAFRICA [www.AIDSfreeAFRICA.org](http://www.AIDSfreeAFRICA.org) is leaving for Cameroon. Plans for this years trip that will commence Feb. 28, 2007 are many. First, this time Rolande is not going alone, she is accompanied by six volunteers. The volunteers will stay in Cameroon any time between 3 weeks to 2 months. They each paid their own way, raised money and came up with their own goals as what to accomplish in Cameroon. The projects are diverse. Jennifer and Kate teaching kids and having them draw pictures on materials ! ;donated by US businesses. Ann wants to take pictures of the 215 students and then find US sponsors for each. Sponsoring a child is a commitment of \$ 20.00 per month. Another project is to monitor micro lending projects already established and to implement a few more.

Rolande's main job is to monitor the construction of the factory floors, work which is being paid by a grant from the New Tudor Foundation. She will also attempt to write an overall management plan for the facility and establish lists on what is available, what is still needed and where to get what's needed. The goal is that by December 2007 this facility will produce some amount of medicine.

Rolande has received a large shipment of Miconazole MAT 10 mg from Tibotec/Belgium. Miconazole is an antifungal used to treat oral candida, an opportunistic infection that affects 21% of HIV positive patients. This drug is not a tablet but a buccal adhesive. That means it is a little patch that sticks to the gum inside the mouth. If successful the drug will be available though local Cameroon distributors, at a cost of only 1/7th of the drug in tablet form, contains less drug and is still more effective in treating the disease.

Rolande will continue to network with Cameroon NGO's and has been invited by African Action on AIDS (AAA) to speak on a panel on "Why AIDS testing HIV negative people?"

Last but not least, everyone will celebrate Christmas and Rolande can't wait to hike the 4095 meter (~12 000 ft) tall Mt. Cameroon. Situated close to the ocean shoreline, Mt. Cameroon keeps hiding either in thick fog or the ever-present summer dust. Jan./Feb. are the two months in the year with the most days where the mountain is visible.

## LINKS

**Kresge Corporation:** The Kresge Foundation's mission is to strengthen nonprofit organizations that advance the well-being of humanity: <http://kresge.org>

**Population Services International:** <http://www.psi.org>

**Peninsula Community Foundation:** [http://www.pcf.org/venture\\_philanthropy/esf.html](http://www.pcf.org/venture_philanthropy/esf.html)

**Water Partners International:** <http://www.water.org>

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Now that the arsenic project is beginning, we will need funding to support this project. Chemists Without Borders expects to gain 501(c)(3) status in 2007, so this means any donations we receive will be tax-deductable in 2007. We are currently working on fundraising programs.

The next conference call will be Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM Pacific Standard Time, dial-in number: 1-641-297-5600 (Iowa), participant Access Code: 10031945#. In the future, there will be two conference calls a month: one at 6 PM PST on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, and the other at 9 AM PST on the first Thursday of the month. This should accommodate most locations on the globe. We strongly encourage you to participate in these conference calls... They are how we best interact with everyone across the globe.

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Thanks for reading. Hope to hear from you soon!

Steve Chambreau  
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[www.chemistswithoutborders.org](http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org)  
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If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please reply to this email and put REMOVE in the subject line.

Post-script: The Chemists Without Borders Newsletter is looking for help, as it is enjoyable to write, but time-consuming for Steve, and if you could help write this, it would be very much appreciated. Please contact Steve at [stevechambreau@chemistwithoutborders.org](mailto:stevechambreau@chemistwithoutborders.org) if you can contribute.

Thanks,

Steveambreau

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### **PLoS ONE** general description

The journals that PLoS is currently publishing are extremely successful but they only scratch the surface of the literature. To complement these titles we want to create a high-volume, efficient and economical venue for the publication of peer-reviewed research in all areas of science and medicine. We are calling this PLoS ONE and intend to make it a unique publishing forum, which exploits the full potential of the web to make the most of every piece of research.

In conceiving PLoS ONE, we wanted to devise a system that will allow large numbers of papers to be refereed and published with as few unnecessary barriers as possible. Therefore, PLoS ONE has a very simple criterion for publication: PLoS ONE will publish all reports of well-performed science that are submitted. In addition, papers in PLoS ONE will need to conform to some basic standards of scientific communication. For example they must describe experimental methods in sufficient detail for them to be repeatable; their conclusions must not be overstated; and these papers will need to be written in intelligible English.

Publications in PLoS ONE will not be an end in themselves but rather the beginning of a conversation with the scientific community. A system for post-publication annotation and comment will allow readers to engage in discussions with authors and other users. This will act as a form of open peer review, a concept that has been much talked about but which few journals have put in place.

We will also apply many other features that publication in a web environment can supply. Such things as user-defined tagging of articles (folksonomies) to aid navigation through the literature; a high degree of personalisation to allow readers to quickly and efficiently discover the papers they want to read; and democratic systems for rating individual papers.

And this is only the beginning. PLoS ONE will offer a new approach to the way that scientific research is communicated. Like all revolutions it will take time and the launch of PLoS ONE will only be the firststep. New features and functionalities will be continually added to PLoS ONE while existing ones will be applied to an ever increasing

body of literature. We cannot do this alone and we will need the help of the scientific community to help us shape the development of PLoS ONE and the future direction of scholarly publishing.

To achieve the breadth and volume that we want will mean that PLoS ONE will need a larger than normal editorial board probably consisting of several hundred members so that no editor will need to handle more than around two papers per month. Given that the editorial decision for PLoS ONE should in many instances be less complicated than for conventional journals and may not always require the opinions of multiple referees, we will be giving PLoS ONE editors the full authority to make decisions to accept or reject papers in their own right. As with all PLoS journals, the name of the academic editor who handled a paper will be indicated on the published version.

### PLoS ONE Editorial Board

PLoS ONE will be the ultimate scientific community journal in that it will be controlled almost exclusively by the scientific community. The scope and breadth of PLoS ONE is such that the Editorial Board will need to be both large and flexible. We hope to launch with at least 300 members. Despite the size, the 'journal' will be very democratic in that the Editorial Board has a flat structure, all members have equal status, no Senior Editors, no Editor in Chief. Cases of major disagreement or complaint will be arbitrated by PLoS ONE editorial staff.

### Editorial Role

The Ed Board members will be responsible for deciding whether a manuscript should be published in PLoS ONE. Pre-publication peer review in PLoS ONE will concentrate on the technical aspects of the papers. Secondly it considers whether the work is described sufficiently well as to allow publication. If an Editorial board member feels that a paper meets these criteria then she/he will be empowered to accept the paper for publication. The Ed Board member can take this decision purely on the basis of her/his own knowledge and opinion, or they can seek the opinion of other members of the Editorial Board and/or independent referees.

The one caveat on this is that the Ed Board member must be prepared to be identified as the Editor who recommended the paper for publication. No paper can be published in PLoS ONE without its Editor (or Editors if the process is collaborative) being identified. The Editorial Board member is also encouraged to write a short comment to be published with the paper identifying important aspects of the work and potentially identifying its shortcomings. These will form the beginnings of the open-ended discussions that are associated with every paper published in PLoS ONE. They will have the status of a 'sticky' posting.

### Advocacy

Members of the Ed Board must be enthusiastic about the principles underlying PLoS ONE. The Ed Board will form the initial kernel of the 'PLoS ONE' community and is crucial to the success of the project. They will need to be advocates for PLoS ONE to their colleagues, early and frequent users of the post-publication functionalities of PLoS ONE. They should also lead by example; we hope that the majority of the Ed Board will have submitted papers to PLoS ONE within its first year of operation.

### Profile

The role of a PLoS ONE Editorial Board member requires that they have an in-depth understanding of experimental and/or observational science and experience in critically assessing reports of primary research. Consequently PLoS ONE Editorial Board members should have at least reached the Principal Investigator (PI) stage in their career or its equivalent. We anticipate that the role of PLoS ONE Ed Board member will be most appealing to relatively junior PIs but we will not restrict membership to this group. Indeed more Senior Scientists whose personal reputation has already been established may be more adventurous and far sighted in their editorial approach.

### Membership

Membership of the PLoS ONE Editorial Board is by invitation only. One of the roles of the Editorial Board is to suggest additional possible members. The journal staff will vet such suggestions, consult on their suitability and invite potential recruits.

Christopher Surridge, Managing Editor, PLoS ONE

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