

IUPAC Wire

Chemistry International Goes Seasonal



An ongoing IUPAC objective is to ensure that *Chemistry International* (*CI*) meets the ever-changing needs and expectations of its readers. Today, those needs and expectations are in flux as the combination of publishing technologies and digital content continues to significantly alter how information is accessed, read, and used. E-versions of journals and magazines increasingly include interactive features and functionalities that are impossible to replicate in their print versions, and IUPAC is examining how we can move *CI* in that direction.

This journey began in 2014 when De Gruyter assumed the publishing responsibilities for *CI*. They suggested that IUPAC consider a new digital format similar to one that they use for their digital publication *Public History Weekly*. While we did not believe the format was appropriate for *CI*, their proposal did raise a number of questions regarding *CI*'s format, content, features/functionalities, etc., and it was agreed that IUPAC had insufficient knowledge about how and why users read *CI*. As a result, the Executive Committee asked that the Committee on Publications and Cheminformatics Data Standards (CPCDS) conduct a survey to learn more about how the publication is accessed, read, and used in its current print and digital versions; what content is most valuable; what, if anything, needs to be added or changed; and what features and functionalities are absolutely essential for the provision of an enjoyable and informative reader experience. The survey was completed in 2015 and, based on reader feedback, CPCDS drafted a series of recommendations for the future of *Chemistry International*, which were accepted by the IUPAC Executive Committee in October 2015.

There were two pivotal recommendations. The first was that a hands-on *CI* Editorial Board be established to work with the Editor, Fabienne Meyers, to oversee the implementation of the CPCDS recommendations. This was done before the end of 2015. The Board's first action was to establish a mission for the future of *CI*, which is as follows:

"*Chemistry International* is the information news publication of IUPAC. It is intended to provide a two-way exchange of information, news, and feature articles as part of a mission to reach out globally to our members, Academies of Science, Chemistry Societies, UN and regional governmental organisations, academia, industry, and those interested in global policy or issues, to the extent that these are influenced by chemistry. Specifically, information and news will be provided on IUPAC activities and to enable others to engage with IUPAC. It is anticipated that the content will be published in both paper and digital formats, with format selection ultimately driven by the immediacy of the information."

Since its inception, the Board has held a monthly teleconference, including one with De Gruyter to review the print production process and discuss the recommended changes to *CI*.

The second pivotal recommendation was that *CI* be published in print format on a seasonal basis (four times a year) and that digital updates be made available via the IUPAC website on a more frequent basis. This will begin in 2017, with printed issues being released in January, April, July, and October. The Editorial Board is currently working to develop a schedule for the digital updates, a content pipeline for both the digital and print editions, and a platform on which *CI* will reside within the IUPAC website.

There is a lot of work to be done as we move forward and progress reports will appear in future editions of *CI*. Your comments and suggestions for features and on how *CI* can be used more effectively are most welcome and can be sent to Colin Humphris at chumphris@iupac.org.

www.iupac.org/body/031



Future of the Chemical Sciences

In August 2016, the Royal Society of Chemistry released a report titled *Future of the Chemical Sciences* which explored what the chemical sciences might look like in ten to twenty years.

RSC ran a multi-stage scenario planning process, working with a range of people from across the chemical sciences. As a result, they came up with four surprising, but plausible scenarios to help challenge our thinking. As Robert Parker, RSC Chief Executive, explains in the Foreword: “The idea was not to gaze into a crystal ball and make predictions, but to find out what some of the best minds in our community think about where the chemical sciences are going. Based on these discussions, we have developed four surprising, but plausible scenarios, which we are using to inform our strategic planning.”

The report, written by Alejandra Palermo, is in a way the beginning of a conversation. RSC encourages other organisations to use the scenarios to challenge their thinking and to share how they are preparing for an uncertain future.

To read about the process and the scenarios and to access the full text of the report, visit www.rsc.org/campaigning-outreach/campaigning/future-of-the-chemical-sciences.

IUPAC 2017 Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering—Call for Nominations

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the IUPAC 2017 Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering Awards. The purpose of the awards program, initiated as part of the 2011 International Year of Chemistry celebrations, is to acknowledge and promote the work of women in chemistry/chemical engineering worldwide. In 2011, 23 women were honored during a ceremony held at the IUPAC Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on 2 August 2011. At each of the subsequent IUPAC Congresses, 12 women received this recognition; in Istanbul, Turkey in 2013 and in Busan, Korea in 2015. A similar award ceremony will take place during the 2017 IUPAC Congress in July 2017 in São Paulo, Brazil.

Awardees will be selected based on excellence in basic or applied research, distinguished accomplishments in teaching or education, or demonstrated leadership or managerial excellence in the chemical sciences. The Awards Committee is particularly interested in nominees with a history of leadership and/or community service during their careers.

Nomination

Each nomination requires a primary nominator and two secondary nominators who must each write a letter of recommendation in support of the nomination. A CV of the nominee is required. Self-nominations will not be accepted. Nominations should be received by **15 January 2017**.

For additional information on the IUPAC 2017 Distinguished Women In Chemistry Awards, contact Fabienne Meyers at <fabienne@iupac.org>.

www.iupac.org/2017-women-in-chemistry

2017 IUPAC-Solvay International Award For Young Chemists

The 2017 IUPAC-SOLVAY International Award for Young Chemists is intended to encourage outstanding young research scientists at the beginning of their careers. The awards are given for the most outstanding Ph.D. theses in the general area of the chemical sciences, as described in a 1000-word essay. The award is generously sponsored by Solvay.

IUPAC will award up to five prizes in 2017. Each prize will consist of USD 1000 cash and travel expenses to the 2017 IUPAC Congress in Brazil (July 2017; see www.iupac2017.org).

Each awardee will be invited to present a poster on his/her research and to participate in a plenary award session, and is expected to submit a review article for possible publication in *Pure and Applied Chemistry*.

Entrants must have received the Ph.D. (or equivalent) degree, or completed all Ph.D. requirements including successful defense of the doctoral thesis, during calendar 2016 in any of the countries that are members or associate members of IUPAC. Entrants need not be citizens or residents of one of these countries at the time the application is submitted. The research described in the entrant's thesis must be in the field of the chemical sciences, defined as "chemistry and those disciplines and technologies that make significant use of chemistry."

The IUPAC-SOLVAY Award only recognizes work that was performed while the entrant was a graduate student. Application requires the submission of a completed entry form online.

Complete applications must be received at the IUPAC Secretariat by **1 February 2017**.

www.iupac.org/2017-iupac-solvay-international-award-for-young-chemists