

Japan, which is a National Adhering Organization of IUPAC, developed a program about 10 years ago through which financial support is given to chemists under 45 years old, to attend commission meetings of divisions at the GA. Financial support is also extended to Associate Members, National Representatives, and chemists who want to attend the GAs as observers.

The budget of the program has been supported by the Company Associates of IUPAC in Japan through the efforts of Japanese Committee on Chemistry and Industry (COCI) members. The selection of awardees is made by the Subcommittee of International Relationship of the National Committee for Chemistry. After careful consideration of applicant's scientific activities, four young chemists are chosen for each GA. Efforts are made to evenly distribute the awards through different areas of chemistry. The award amount is usually enough to cover their travel. The subcommittee requires awardees to submit their reports after coming back from GA meetings. Through this program we believe that the contribution of Japanese chemists to IUPAC will be improved and their participation in meetings will be much more active and significant. We expect that Japanese scientists will establish a new philosophy of the Three Ss: *speak* at meetings, be *sincere* in behavior, and *serve* the world.

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Young Chemists Travel Far with Canadian National Committee Awards

by Vedene Smith

In 1982, the Canadian National Committee for the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (CNC/IUPAC) established a program of Travel Awards whose purpose is to help young Canadian chemists and chemical engineers (within 10 years of gaining their PhDs) present papers at IUPAC-sponsored conferences outside continental North America.

The annual awards are financed by a trust fund and funding from CNC/IUPAC's Company Associates. The criteria used in making these awards include evidence of an independent research program, a high-quality publication record, and the ability to attract high-quality research funding.

Normally, five or six of these awards are given each year, but an individual can only receive an award once. Although the amount of an award covers only a portion of total travel costs, it can help to catalyze additional support. Within the chemistry community, the CNC/IUPAC Travel Awards are considered prestigious. Numerous past winners are now established and prominent researchers.

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http://www.sao.nrc.ca/sims/upac_e.html

IUPAC News

Chemical Nomenclature and Structure Representation

by Alan McNaught

This year sees the birth of a new division of IUPAC. Its conception dates from a survey carried out in 1998 for the Organic Division, in which the chemistry community was asked for opinions on future nomenclature requirements. Comments received highlighted the increasing need for a body to oversee IUPAC nomenclature development across all disciplines, to ensure compatibility with previous work, and to coordinate related activities. The resulting report¹

drew attention in particular to the need to integrate nomenclature standards with computerized facilities, and to push ahead with efforts to define for each unique structure a single preferred IUPAC name, correlated with other names in common use.

This report stimulated further consultation. A strategy roundtable in March 2000, involving people from many professions with a need for standard chemical identifiers, reinforced the views from the original survey and added some important new items.² In particular, the need for a IUPAC standard for computerized representation of a chemical structure was recognized.

The roundtable recommendations led IUPAC's Executive Committee to establish a temporary Committee on Chemical Identity and Nomenclature