clable (R. Sanderson, Stellenbosch); molecular chirality-influencing material properties in subtle ways (B. Novak, North Carolina); and solid state NMR characterization of nanocomposites (L. Matthias, Southern Mississippi).

The conference organizers, professors Ronald Sanderson (Stellenbosch), Bert Klumperman (Eindhoven), Harold Pasch (Darmstadt), and Albert van Reenen (Stellenbosch) are to be congratulated for a program that was outstanding in both breadth and depth.

Professor Robert G. Gilbert is past president of IUPAC Macromolecular Division and is a member of the IUPAC Bureau. He is a professor at the University of Sydney, Australia.

www.sun.ac.za/unesco/Conferences/Homepage.htm

Nuclear Analytical Techniques in the Life Sciences

by Jeroen J. M. de Goeij

The 7th International Conference on Nuclear Analytical Techniques in the Life Sciences (NAMLS-7), cosponsored by IUPAC, was held 16-21 June 2002 in Antalya, Turkey. The preparations and entire organization were handled by Dr. Namik. K. Aras (University of Bahcesehir, Istanbul, Turkey), with the help of Dr. R.M. Parr (formerly of IAEA, Vienna, Austria). About 170 participants from 39 countries, attended the conference. The conference was held in an excellent on-shore hotel with a beautiful panorama. There were no parallel sessions, thereby enabling participants to follow all oral presentations. The program contained sufficient free time and some social and tourist activities, which stimulated the participants in having informal individual and group discussions.

After an introductory session, ten technical sessions followed on a rather wide range of topics: (i) speciation of trace elements in biological materials; (ii) osteoporosis and other bone-related studies; (iii) zinc in human nutrition and biological samples; (iv-vi) reference materials and quality assurance; (vii) selenium in human nutrition and biological samples, (viii-ix) nuclear analytical techniques in environmental studies; (xi-xii) biomonitoring of environmental pollution based on studies of trace elements in lichens, mosses, and other biomonitors; and (xiii) development of methods. One session (x) displayed all posters. In total, 71 oral presentations, including many invited ones, and 119 posters were given. After a peer review, accepted manuscripts will be published in a regular volume of the *Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry*. Dr. A. Chatt (Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada) will act as the conference editor.

It was clearly demonstrated that nuclear analytical techniques (NATs)—sometimes together with complementary isotope tracer techniques—are still important, in spite of the development of many other analytical techniques. They may provide interesting additional information, and sometimes even unique information that cannot be obtained otherwise. Following are a few examples: radioactive selenium in the elucidation of the composition and function of selenoproteins, radioactive and stable zinc isotopes in assessing zinc status and utilization of dietary zinc, NATs for the determination of "difficult" elements, for certification of reference materials, and/or for testing other analytical techniques, including speciation.

At the start of the conference, the 2002 Hevesy Medal Award—the premier international award of excellence in radioanalytical and nuclear chemistry—was presented to Dr. Enrico Sabbioni (Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Ispra, Italy). This was in recognition of his excellence through outstanding, sustained career achievements in the field, particularly applications to nuclear analytical chemistry. In his acceptance speech Dr. Sabbioni highlighted advanced research on metal metabolism and toxicity and the irreplaceable role of radioanalytical techniques therein.

The chairman of the NAMLS international committee, Dr. Rolf Zeisler (NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA) stepped down from this position after many years of service. Dr. Jan Kucera (Nuclear Physics Institute, Rez, Czech Republic) was chosen as his successor. Dr. R.M. Parr was reelected as committee secretary. The next NAMLS con-

(L to R) Prof. Tibor Braun, chief editor of the *Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry*, donor of Hevesy Medal; Prof. Namik Aras, Chairman, Local Organizing Committee, NAMLS-7; Prof. A. Chatt, president of the International Committee on Activation Analysis Modern Trends in Activation Analysis (ICAA/MTAA); Prof. Enrico Sabbioni, 2002 Hevesy Medal Awardee; and Prof. Robert Jervis, chairman, 2002 Hevesy Medal Selection Panel.

ference will take place in 2005 in a Latin-American country. Information on the conference—as well on previous ones—may be found at the Web address below.

Jeroen J. M. de Goeij is a professor of radiochemistry at Delft University of Technology and at Eindhoven University of Technology, both in the Netherlands.

www.members.aon.at/namls/index.html

Prohibiting Chemical Weapons

by Edwin D. Becker

Bergen, Norway, was the site of an IUPAC Workshop on "Impact of Scientific Developments on the Chemical Weapons Convention." The Workshop, held 30 June to 3 July 2002, brought together 80 participants from 33 countries—scientific leaders in chemical synthesis, analysis, and industrial processing, along with experts in chemical weapons.

The Chemical Weapons Convention, which has been ratified by 145 countries ("States Parties"), went into effect in 1997. It prohibits the use of chemical weapons, provides a schedule for the destruction of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons, and mandates international inspections to verify weapons destruction and to preclude the production of new chemical weapons. The operation of the treaty during its first six years will be examined at a Review Conference to be held by the States Parties beginning 28 April 2003.

The IUPAC Workshop was designed to highlight advances in synthetic methods and in chemical processing technology that could pose additional challenges to inspectors in verifying compliance with the treaty and to identify new analytical methods that might facilitate inspections. A report from IUPAC to the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is being prepared. This report will provide scientific input into the political decisions to be made at the Review Conference. As part of the dissemination effort, the report will be sent to IUPAC's National Adhering Organizations, Associate NAOs, national chemical societies, and the National Authorities of the 145 States Parties. It also will be posted on the IUPAC Web site.

The workshop was held in very pleasant and extremely well-appointed facilities at the University of Bergen. All local arrangements were handled superbly by Dr. Leiv K. Sydnes, professor of chemistry at the

The organizing committee (from left): Alan Hayes, UK; Pieter Steyn, RSA; George Parshall, USA; Douglas J. Raber, USA; Leiv K. Sydnes, Norway; Ted Becker, USA; Detlef Männig, Germany; and Chris Murphy, USA.
Photo credit: L.O. Orjaseter, *Norwegian Chemical Journal*

University, and current IUPAC vice president. IUPAC President Pieter S. Steyn and Dr. John Gee, acting Director of OPCW, addressed the opening session. Background on OPCW and reviews of scientific advances were presented in 21 lectures. Three working sessions permitted the participants to examine major issues in small groups, and a concluding session, chaired by IUPAC Past President Alan Hayes, summarized the findings and provided substantive material for the IUPAC report. Articles based on the lectures will be published in *Pure and Applied Chemistry* early in 2003.

The Workshop was conducted as part of IUPAC Project No. 2001-057-1-020, with financial support from the MacArthur Foundation, Ploughshares Fund, U.S. National Academies, NATO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Amersham Health AS, University of Bergen, Royal Society (London), and the International Council of Chemical Associations.

Edwin D. Becker is secretary general of IUPAC. He has been instrumental in organizing the Chemical Weapons Workshop.

www.iupac.org/projects/2001/2001-057-1-020.html