



# From the Editor

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**M**any aspects of Chemistry at the Interfaces will be addressed at the IUPAC Congress in Ottawa this coming August. There is yet another interesting interface that will unveil itself, one not explicitly spelled out in the program, which relates to the views of the field by different age groups and generations.

**The Young**—professionals below the age of 40—have clearly gotten the attention of the Congress organizers, who secured funds to subsidize the travel of more than 60 young scientists from academia, government,



*Photograph by O. Neil Arnold*

or industry. They will be coming from all over (about 44 countries so far) to present their latest research. It should be no surprise that the theme of "Chemistry at the Interfaces" is attracting many young researchers. The "interfaces" are in a way what make chemistry a central science in a wide range of fields, and what make interdisciplinary research

the major tool today for exploring the frontiers of scientific knowledge and developing products and materials that better our lives.\*

**The Younger** chemists, while fewer, will also get a spotlight, as the nine winners (four in 2002 and five in 2003) of the IUPAC Prize for young chemists will be awarded at the opening ceremony of the Congress. The prize was established in 2000 to encourage outstanding young research scientists at the beginning of their careers, and is given for the most outstanding Ph.D. thesis in the general area of the chemical sciences. Look for them in Ottawa; they will also present their work as posters.

**The Youngest**—students between the ages of 10 and 16—will have a chance to present their thoughts and ideas on all aspects of pure and applied chemistry. In collaboration with Science Across the World, a competition is now open for these young students to feature in a poster their view of the importance of chemistry in their daily life. All winning posters will be exhibited at the Congress in Ottawa in a display that will coincide with the launch of IUPAC's Public Understanding of Chemistry initiative (read more on page 13).

The Congress in Ottawa promises to be an interesting event where ideas will be exchanged on many levels. Whatever your specific interest, be prepared to engage the young, younger, and youngest scientists; they will benefit tremendously, and everyone just might learn something new!

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\*inspired by the comment of Paul R. Jones, University of North Texas, published in *C&EN*, 23 Sep 2002, p. 112, and titled "You Are the Catalysts for Chemistry."