gram that deals directly with local toxicological issues in developing countries and countries in transition (e.g., in Africa, Asia, Europe, South America and the Pacific region). The program will be based on an existing Master in Toxicology; it will involve online coursework and postgraduate research projects co-mentored by local scientists and related to local issues.

For more information, contact Dr. A. Kallner <anders.kallner@ks.se>, president of the IUPAC Chemistry and Human Health Division.

Women in Physics and Physical Science Network in Africa

In IUPAP, the so-called Working Group on Women in Physics is mandated to survey the situation for women in physics and suggest ways to improve it. At a conference held by that group in March 2002, a recurring theme was the isolation that many women in physics suffer, and no where did this seem more severe than in African countries. For that reason, it was decided to establish a network of these women. Because these are so few women in physics in Africa, the network will be broad to encompass physical science and mathematics.

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The initiation of such a network will serve the following objectives:

- to generate links between women in different research groups within Africa
- to encourage more girls to study physics and physical science
- to strengthen research efforts and training opportunities of young women physicists
- to promote the recognition of the scientific achievements of senior women physicists within Africa and the international community
- to increase the scientific productivity and efficiency of women physicists

Specific programs will be developed to achieve these objectives. IUPAC supported this ICSU application prepared by IUPAP. In co-supporting this grant application from IUPAP to ICSU, IUPAC proposed to actively participate by contributing their contact in the chemistry community in Africa. IUPAC has had a long-standing interest in the state of chemistry in particular and the physical sciences in general in Africa, and currently a number of scientists from Africa are associated in various ways with IUPAC, and wish to contribute to the successful implementation of this project.

For more information, contact Dr. Judy Franz <franz@aps.org>, secretary general of IUPAP.

www.if.ufrgs.br/~barbosa/women.html

Foundation of an African Institute for Mathematical Sciences

This important new initiative in capacity building in science education will provide an Africa-based solution to African problems, facilitated by the international scientific community. It is to be realized in South Africa and will have a primary impact there, but its influence and benefit will extend throughout the African continent. The initiative, which has already received the support of the South African National Research Foundation and the endorsement of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, is to establish an African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in Muizenberg, a suburb of Cape Town, where a very well-adapted building has been donated for this purpose. Here, "mathematical sciences" is to be understood as mathematics together with its applications in such diverse fields as mechanics, physics, chemistry, geophysics, astrophysics, engineering, information technology, biology, and medicine.

One goal of the AIMS is to offer a one-year diploma course specially designed for mathematics and science graduates of African Universities, which will be taught by a team of internationally renowned lecturers in close collaboration with South African academic staff. The course will give the students the mathematical and computing research skills needed to address important modern areas of applied mathematics, and will inspire a new generation of African students to undertake scientific research of great practical importance.

www.aimsforafrica.org