

IOCD Marks 20th Anniversary by Presenting Pierre Crabbé Award to Three African Scientists

Marking the 20th anniversary of its founding, the International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development (IOCD) has established this award in honor of its founder, the late Pierre Crabbé, a Belgian scientist who was strongly committed to supporting research among scientists in developing countries. Elkan R. Blout, founding vice president and treasurer of IOCD, expressed his satisfaction that Pierre Crabbé is being recognized by these awards. Pierre Crabbé, said Blout, was an outstanding person and an eminent scientist who had vision and humanity for the developing world—a vision that has been recognized by IOCD's success in supporting Third World scientists.

The Pierre Crabbé Award for 2003 is being presented to three distinguished African scientists for outstanding contributions to the advancement of science and education in developing countries. The three scientists are Berhanu Abegaz (Botswana), Ermias Dagne (Ethiopia), and John Bradley (South Africa), each of whom will receive a cash award and an engraved plaque.

In congratulating these scientists, Jean-Marie Lehn, president of IOCD, stated, "each of these [award winners] is a dedicated scientist, whose work is not only enriching science, but also oriented to the improvement of life in their respective countries."



Berhanu Abegaz

Berhanu Abegaz is a professor of chemistry at the University of Botswana in Gaborone. Abegaz, who received his doctorate in 1973, was a member of the chemistry department at the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia from 1973 until 1994 when he joined the chemistry department of the University of Botswana. He was elected a member of the Third World Academy of Sciences in 1998. Since 2002, he has been a provisional member of the IUPAC Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry Division. A vigorous researcher in the field of natural products chemistry, Abegaz has published over 100 scientific papers and supervised the research of 17 M.S., 10 Ph.D., and 3 postdoctoral students. Beyond the walls of the university, from 1983 to 1987 he served as the first president of the Chemical Society of Ethiopia, and from 1987 to 1994 was founding editor of the *Bulletin of*

the Chemical Society of Ethiopia. From 1984 to 1996 he was a founding member of the Natural Products Research Network for Eastern and Central Africa, and since 1992 he has been the coordinator of the Network for Analytical and Biological Services for Africa. IOCD values his participation since 1990 in its Senior Advisory Council.



Ermias Dagne

Ermias Dagne is a professor of organic chemistry at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. His main research is in the area of natural products chemistry, in particular in the isolation and characterization of bioactive compounds. He has published over 75 scientific papers in peer-reviewed local and international journals. He was the founding editor of *SINET: Ethiopian Journal of Science* from 1977–78 and the executive secretary of the Natural Products Research Network for Eastern and Central Africa from 1984–1996. In 1997, Dagne was the recipient of the IFS/Danida Award. Currently, he is leader of the African Laboratory of Natural Products, honorary president of the Horticultural Society of Ethiopia, and chairman of two charity organizations: the Getachew Bolodia Foundation and the Lucy Mother and Child Care.



John Bradley

John Bradley is a professor in the Faculty of Science of the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. After obtaining his Ph.D. in chemistry from King's College, London, in 1962, he held a post-doctoral fellowship at Florida State University (USA). In 1964, he returned to South Africa and began teaching and conducting research in physical organic chemistry at the University of the Witwatersrand. In the early 1980s, (when South African higher education was still strongly white oriented), out of concern for educationally disadvantaged students, he spearheaded initiatives at his university to provide such students access to science education. These initiatives included entry-level programs for the disenfranchised and a research program in chemistry education, which has enabled 7 Ph.D. and 14 M.S. students to complete their studies under his leadership. In 1990, Bradley became director of his university's Centre for Research and Development in Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education.

Aware of his leadership in science education, IUPAC asked him to join the IUPAC Committee on Teaching of Chemistry, which he chaired from 1996 to 2001. He served as education officer of the South Africa Chemical Institute from 1992 to 2000 and as its president from 1998 to 2000.

IOCD is a nonprofit organization dedicated to collaborating with chemists in developing countries to bring about advances in chemistry and its application to the needs that face these countries.



The Chemical Society of Japan Celebrates 125 Years

The Emperor and Empress of Japan, leaders of several chemical societies, multiple Nobel Prize winners, the IUPAC president, and other renowned chemists joined the Chemical Society of Japan (CSJ) for its 125th anniversary celebration. The ceremony, held on 19 March 2003 at the Rihga Royal Hotel in Tokyo, was followed by a tea and celebration party.

Ryoji Noyori, 2001 Nobel Laureate and 2002 CSJ president, was the master of ceremonies and gave the opening address. Invited to the ceremony were representatives of international chemical organizations and societies: Prof. Pieter Steyn, IUPAC president; Prof. Barry N. Noller, president of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies; Prof. Howard Alper, representative of the Canadian Society for Chemistry; Prof. Daoben Zhu, vice president of the Chinese Chemical Society; Prof. François Mathey, president of the Société Française de Chimie; Dr. Rudolf Staudigl, vice president of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker; Prof. Francesco De Angelis, vice president of the Società Chimica Italiana; Prof. Sang-Chul Shim, president of the Korean Chemical Society; Prof. Sir Harold Kroto, president of the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK; Dr. Elsa Reichmanis, president of the American Chemical Society (ACS); and Prof. Shie-Ming Peng, president of the Chemical Society Located in Tapei, Taiwan.

At this occasion, a number of distinguished scientists who have contributed significantly to the society were made honorary members of the CSJ: 1996 ACS President and Columbia University Professor Ronald Breslow, 2000 ACS President and Kansas University

Professor Daryle H. Busch, 1996 Nobel Prize recipient and Sussex University Professor Sir Harold Kroto, 1981 Nobel Prize recipient and Cornell University Professor Roald Hoffmann, 1986 Nobel Prize recipient and Taiwan Academia Sinica Professor Yuan T. Lee, and 1987 Nobel Prize recipient and University Louis Pasteur Professor Jean-Marie Lehn.

The ceremony occurred in a friendly but formal atmosphere. The presence of the Emperor and Empress attracted significant attention to the anniversary celebration and their public standing helped to highlight the CSJ and its activities. The event acknowledged the achievements of Japanese chemists, but also the need for continued support and development of chemistry in the country. Chemical research in Japan is subject to financial constraints, often due to the high cost of imported equipment. Concerns about the lack of interest in chemistry within Japan from both industry and young students intensified the need for a high-visibility event. The program included messages from many of the major chemical societies throughout the world, as the Japanese Chemical Society is a solid contributor to the international chemistry community. After the ceremony, invited guests and honorary members were introduced to the Emperor and Empress, and discussions on the recent successes and current challenges facing chemistry in Japan continued with great interest.

The CSJ was founded under the name "Tokyo Chemical Society" in 1878, by a group of about 20 students. In 1912, the Chemical Society of Japan joined IUPAC's predecessor, the International Association of Chemical Societies, which was dissolved to form IUPAC in 1919; Japan then became a member in 1921.



Photo by J. F. Tremblay, C&EN

CSJ President Ryoji Noyori (left) and IUPAC President Pieter S. Steyn