IUPAC-Richter Prize in Medicinal Chemistry

The IUPAC-Richter Prize in Medicinal Chemistry was established by a generous gift from the Chemical Works of Gedeon Richter, Ltd. (Budapest, Hungary) to acknowledge the key role that medicinal chemistry plays in improving human health. By establishing this prize jointly with IUPAC, Richter wishes to contribute to the international recognition of the role of research in medicinal chemistry, publicize the company's commitment to medicinal chemistry research, and further appreciation of IUPAC's activities.

The prize of USD 10 000 will be awarded to an internationally recognized scientist, preferably a medicinal chemist, whose activities or published accounts have made an outstanding contribution to the practice of medicinal chemistry or to an outstanding example of new drug discovery. The prize will be awarded biennially by a selection committee that will be appointed by the Subcommittee on Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Development of the IUPAC Chemistry and Human Health Division. The first prize will be awarded in 2006.

Gedeon Richter Ltd. is a major pharmaceutical company in Hungary and one of the largest in the Central-Eastern European region. Founded in 1901, the company has more than 100 years' experience in pharmaceutical manufacturing. The vertically integrated firm carries out research, development, manufacture, and marketing of human finished drugs, active substances, and intermediates. Gedeon Richter Ltd. has a growing presence through its commercial subsidiaries in key EU countries, the USA, and Japan. Two-thirds of its annual sales of 599 million USD in 2004 were exported to 80 countries (Russia, USA, EU, Japan, etc.). Production takes place at two sites in Hungary: Budapest and Dorog. The company also has production facilities in Poland, Russia, Romania, Ukraine, and India. The company manufactures about 100 kinds of pharmaceuticals in more than 170 presentations. Among its products are original, generic, and licensed preparations. The products cover numerous therapeutic areas, with special emphasis on the production and development of drugs for the central nervous system, as well as antiulcer agents, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal preparations, and oral contraceptives. Research into drugs of the central nervous system and development of generic products are of primary importance. Based on its traditional skills in steroid chemistry, the company is a significant player in the gynaecological field worldwide.

2006 Call for Nomination Deadline: 31 March 2006
For further information, please contact Professor C. Robin Ganellin at <c.r.ganellin@ucl.ac.uk> or visit <www.iupac.org/news/Richter_prize.html>.

Standard Atomic Weights Revised

Following its meeting, held 10-11 August 2005 at the 43rd IUPAC General Assembly, the Commission on Isotopic Abundances and Atomic Weights (II.1) released the changes to the standard atomic weights of 16 chemical elements. The following changes are based on new determinations of isotopic abundances and reviews of previous isotopic abundances and atomic masses:

	From	To
Aluminium	26.981 538 (2)	26.981 5386 (8)
Bismuth	208.980 38 (2)	208.980 40 (1)
Caesium	132.905 45 (2)	132.905 4519 (2)
Cobalt	58.933 200 (9)	58.933 195 (5)
Gold	196.966 55 (2)	196.966 569 (4)
Lanthanum	138.9055 (2)	138.905 47 (7)
Manganese	54.938 049 (9)	54.938 045 (5)
Neodymium	144.24 (3)	144.242 (3)
Phosphorus	30.973 761 (2)	30.973 762 (2)
Platinum	195.078 (2)	195.084 (9)
Samarium	150.36 (3)	150.36 (2)
Scandium	44.955 910 (8)	44.955 912 (6)
Sodium	22.989 770 (2)	22.989 769 28 (2)
Tantalum	180.9479 (1)	180.947 88 (2)
Terbium	158.925 34 (2)	158.925 35 (2)
Thorium	232.0381 (1)	232.038 06 (2)

These changes in the atomic weights will be published in a new Table of Standard Atomic Weights 2005, which will be submitted for publication in *Pure and Applied Chemistry* by the end of 2005. The commission also continued its review of publications of variations in the natural isotopic abundances. The commission also continued its review of publications of the variation in the natural isotopic abundances. For more details about the Commission meeting in Beijing, see Division Roundups on page 7.

For more information, contact Michael E. Wieser <mwieser@ucalgary.ca>, secretary of the IUPAC Commission on Isotopic Abundances and Atomic Weights.