

IUPAC Executive Director Search

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) is seeking to appoint a new executive director to replace Dr. John W. Jost, who will retire towards the end of 2010. The executive director reports to the president through the secretary general (and for financial matters through the treasurer). The executive director is responsible for the administration of the business of the Union, including management of the Union's Secretariat, its publications, finance, interaction with National Adhering Organizations that comprise the Union, organization of biennial General Assemblies and Congresses, and the provision of support for the officers and governing bodies of the Union. The IUPAC Secretariat has a current staff of five and is located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA. Extensive travel outside the United States is required.

The executive director must have the following:

- a substantial background in chemistry (doctoral degree preferred)

- ability to organize, manage, recruit, and interact effectively with workers in a small office environment
- proficiency in information technology
- ability to formulate and execute the IUPAC budget (currently -USD 1.5 million p.a.)
- ability to communicate effectively and diplomatically with a large number of scientific leaders throughout the world

A detailed job description is available on request. Salary is commensurate with experience. Only applicants with permanent residence status in the USA can be considered. The desired appointment date is early in 2010 to allow for a period of overlap with Dr. Jost.

Interested applicants are asked to send their applications, including CVs and the names and contact details of three referees, by e-mail to the Secretary General at <secretariat@iupac.org>, by 31 May 2009.

Val Metanomski Remembered*

Longtime IUPAC member Val Metanomski died on 11 December 2008. He was an expert in the development and application of polymer nomenclature, and was one of the authors of the IUPAC *Purple Book*, the *Compendium of Polymer Terminology and Nomenclature*.

Val's long and sterling service to IUPAC, which included serving on the Commission on Macromolecular Nomenclature and Subcommittee on Polymer Terminology and chemical nomenclature in general (ICTNS), spanned more than 30 years. He made a memorable effort in bringing together and editing the first edition of the *Purple Book* and his thoroughness and dedication kept the work on the second edition alive at a critical time, particularly in the 1990s.

IUPAC colleagues remember Val as an extremely trustworthy and dependable colleague who approached his work with academic rigor, perspicac-

ity, maturity, and humor. He will be sorely missed, both as a colleague and a friend.

Val Metanomski was a senior scientific information specialist with the Chemical Abstract Service (CAS), an organization he served for 44 years. He was responsible for generating and editing Chemical Abstract Index names for polymers selected by other specialists from the primary literature (journal articles and patents) for inclusion in the CAS database (Registry File, CA File, etc.). On a typical day, Val examined several queues of chemical structures, sorted and accessible by the CAS registry numbers, at various stages in the naming process. Chemical substances (compounds) are selected for indexing by document analysts who read full original journal papers, conference proceedings, and patents. Compounds that renew, or have new information reported about them, are selected for inclusion in the databases.



Val Metanomski during the IUPAC General Assembly held in Berlin, Germany, in August 1999. (photo by Koichi Hatada)

*Most of the biographical material for this article was extracted from *Nontraditional Careers for Chemists—New Formulas in Chemistry*, by Lisa M. Balbes, Oxford University Press 2007, ISBN-13 9780195183665, reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press, Inc.