

Report from Boston: ACS National Meeting

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Almost 14,000 attendees swarmed over the Boston Convention and Exposition Center (BCEC), the adjacent Seaport District hotels, and the other hotels in Back Bay and downtown for the 250th National Meeting in mid-August. Among the participants at the meeting were many members of NESACS who gave technical presentations, served on committees and Council, and were involved in social and programmatic activities. Here is a brief summary of some of the events that took place.

National Historic Chemical Landmark

A ceremony and reception honoring the establishment of a chemical landmark in recognition of Edwin Land and instant photography was held on Thursday, August 13, at the M.I.T. Museum with the installation of a commemorative plaque at the former Polaroid Corporation laboratory at 28 Osborn Street, Cambridge. Under the aegis of a planning committee composed of members of NESACS, Polaroid Retirees Association, M.I.T., and Cambridge civic leaders, the dedication ceremony featured ACS President Diane Grob Schmidt and members of the ACS Board of Directors. A further celebration of Polaroid and Edwin Land was held the following day at the M.I.T. Museum. On Sunday afternoon, a symposium was held on *Edwin Land and Instant Photography: Massachusetts's First National Historic Chemical Landmark* in the Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST) that was also cosponsored by President Schmidt.

AtlantiChem

The follow-up meeting of the taskforce to explore the possibility of organizing a series of pentennial conferences (analogous to PacifiChem) to bring together chemical scientists and engineers proximal to, but not necessarily abutting, the Atlantic Ocean was held with representatives of ACS, Canadian Society for Chemistry, Mexican Chemical Society (MCS), Brazilian Chemical Society, Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations, German Chemical Society (GDCh), Royal Society for Chemistry, and European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences in attendance. ACS presented a statement of principles governing the activities and obligations of the sponsoring societies; MCS proposed that the first AtlantiChem take place in December 2017 or January 2018 in Cancun. It was agreed that a small group representing the interested parties would meet via teleconference within a month to generate proposals to bring before the governing boards of the societies for action by the end of the year.

ACS Fellows

The following members of NESACS were recognized as ACS Fellows “for outstanding achievements in and contributions to science, the profession, and the Society:”

Peggy Cebe, Professor, Tufts University – Recognized as a leader in thermal analysis and calorimetry of polymers; pioneered the use of high-precision/high-accuracy heat capacity measurements of polymer materials science to the study of biomacromolecules; served as Chair of the Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering Division (PMSE), managing participation

at the 2001 national meetings; as PMSE Program Chair, she organized programs for the 2000 national meetings.

John (Jack) Driscoll, Founder and President, PID Analyzers – Developed the first photoionization detector (PID) for parts-per-billion levels of organic compounds by gas chromatography in 1973; developed a PID for parts-per-trillion levels of arsenic and mercury in food in 2013; started the Cape Cod Science Café and has organized 12 since 2011; also started the STEM Journey Event for K-12 students and organized the first two with more than 1,000 participants.

Michael Singer, R&D Manager for New and Special Products, Sigma-Aldrich – Recognized for original research contributions in the field of cannabinoid chemistry and design and validation of chemistry for the high-throughput synthesis of proprietary combinatorial libraries; served as Secretary (1998-present) and Councilor (1996-present) for NESACS and was recognized with the Henry Hill Award for Outstanding Service to NESACS (2008); ACS committee appointments have included Chemical Abstracts Service, Local Section Activities, and, currently, Meetings & Expositions.

George Whitesides

Perhaps the hardest working individual at the meeting was George Whitesides, the Woodford L. and Ann A. Flowers University Professor at Harvard University. He spoke on Sunday noon at the ACS Board of Directors Open Session on “Reengineering Chemistry.” In the afternoon, he gave a talk in a symposium on *True Stories from Entrepreneurs* in the Division of Small Chemical Businesses (SCHB), “Generating Effective Diagnostic Technology for the Developing World.” On Monday morning, he spoke in a symposium on *Thirty Years of Langmuir: Looking Back and Forward* in the Division of Colloid and Surface Chemistry about “Charge Transport by Tunneling Through SAMs.” He spoke on “Biomaterials Interfaces” in a Division of Physical Chemistry symposium on *Protein-Nanomaterial Interfaces and Protein Coronas* in the afternoon followed by a talk on “From University to Reality” in the Henry Hill Symposium of SCHB. Later that afternoon, he gave the Fred Kavli Innovations in Chemistry Lecture, “Problems, Puzzles, and Inevitabilities in Research,” to an overflow crowd at BCEC. Bright and early on Tuesday morning, he was the featured speaker at the Senior Chemists Breakfast; in the afternoon he spoke about “From Discovery to Commercialization” in an International Activities Committee symposium on *International Entrepreneurship*. He was also the coauthor of a presentation on Sunday morning in a symposium on *Peptides, Proteins, and Amino Acids* in the Division of Organic Chemistry (ORGN), and of one on Wednesday morning in a symposium on *Frontiers of Functional Interfaces* in ORGN. Presumably, he rested the next day.

Henry Hill Centenary

Four symposia were held commemorating the centenary of the birth of Henry Hill (1915-1979), who was an active member of NESACS (Chair, 1963) and the first African-American president of the ACS (1977): *Professional Legacy*, Division of Professional Relations (PROF); *His Legacy in Science and in Professional Service*, HIST; *Commercial Enterprises in the Polymer Sector*, SCHB; *Innovations in Polymer Discovery and Applications*, Division of Polymer Chemistry. On Tuesday, August 18, a reception was held to celebrate the naming of Henry Hill as the

(posthumous) recipient of the PROF Henry Hill Award; accepting the award for his father was Tony Hill. Also recognized was Christine Jaworek-Lopes (Emmanuel College), the 2015 recipient of the Henry Hill Award for Outstanding Service to NESACS.

ChemLuminary Awards

NESACS received two ChemLuminary Awards at the 17th annual ceremony (*Promoting Chemistry Through Innovation and Passion*) on Tuesday, August 18. The award for Outstanding Collaboration Between a Local Section and Division from the Local Section Activities and Divisional Activities Committees was presented to NESACS, the Division of Development and Management, and SCHB for their participation in the ACS Entrepreneurial Forum at Nova Biomedical in Waltham in April 2014. The award for an Outstanding NCW Event for a Specific Audience recognized the Wicked Cool day of family fun with the Cape and Island Boy Scouts Council of America in Yarmouthport as part of a Cape Cod Science Café in October 2014. Accepting both awards were Jack Driscoll and Jennifer Maclachlan (PID Analyzers).

German Exchange

Twelve graduate students from Germany joined the Chair of the *Jungchemikerforum* (JCF) and two accompanying persons to Boston for the 15th annual Exchange Program between NESACS and GDCh. The students made presentations in technical sessions and Sci-Mix, and were joined by local exchange alumni and representatives of Young Chemists Crossing Borders, European Young Chemists Network, International Young Chemists Network, and the NESACS younger chemists for meals, visits to local laboratories, a Red Sox game, an excursion to Cape Cod, and a Boston harbor cruise. A full-day symposium was held on Monday in the program of the Younger Chemists Committee, *Younger Chemists Exchanging More than Currency: First – Euros and Dollars, Next – Rupees, Rands, and Reais*; among the speakers were Marinda Wu (2013 ACS President), Elisabeth Kapatsina (GDCh), Michael Linden (JCF), and Lee Johnson (NESACS). Lauren Wolf (*C&EN*), 2003 Exchange participant as a Ph.D. student at B.U., was the speaker at the luncheon between the sessions.

Host Section Hospitality Booth

Members of NESACS were present at the host section booth in BCEC from Saturday afternoon through Thursday of the meeting, answering questions about the program and helping attendees find their way around Boston.

Council

NESACS Councilors Michael Singer and Morton Hoffman were recognized for their 15 years of serve on the ACS Council. Council also approved a resolution unanimously, thanking NESACS for all the work its members did to make the Boston meeting a great success.