



Report from Rochester: NERM 2012

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The 38th Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM), 100 Years of Creating a Better Future Through Chemistry, which was hosted by the Rochester Local Section, was held on Sunday-Wednesday, September 30-October 3, 2012, at the Radisson Hotel Riverside on the banks of the Genesee River in downtown Rochester, NY. Richard Hartmann (Nazareth College) and Terry Bluhm (Xerox, retired) served as General and Program Chairs, respectively. For a complete listing of the NERM 2012 technical program, go to < <http://nerm.sites.acs.org>>.

With 341 abstracts and 661 participants, including undergraduate students, the meeting featured oral and poster presentations across a wide range of the chemical sciences: nanostructured materials, chemistry and human health, entrepreneurial practices, applied science, fuel cells, bio-based polymers, imaging, photovoltaics, climate change, as well as the traditional areas. In addition, the exposition had 39 displays by commercial vendors and graduate school representatives, and an exhibit table from the ACS Senior Chemists Task Force. Workshops on careers, small chemical businesses, and leadership training, a half-day program for high school science teachers, and a short course on nanoparticles and interfaces were also scheduled. The meeting received significant sponsorship support from corporations, institutions, and ACS divisions and local sections.

The meeting featured a joint ACS/Canadian Society for Chemistry (CSC) Presidential Event that featured a discussion with Bassam Shakhshiri (University of Wisconsin-Madison), ACS President, Cathleen Crudden (Queen's University), CSC President, Thomas Smith (Rochester Institute of Technology), and Deryn Fogg (University of Ottawa) about areas of common cross-border interest and potential activities.

The meeting was also the occasion for the presentation of Rochester Section awards: salutes to excellence, recognition of the local chemistry high school teacher of the year, the honoring of 50- and 60-year members, and the Harrison Howe Award for Outstanding Chemical Research to Sunney Xie of Harvard University. The ACS Division of Chemical Education Northeast Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching was presented to David Hostage of the Taft School, Watertown, CT. Maria Hepel (SUNY Potsdam) received the Northeast Region ACS Award for Achievements in the Chemical Sciences, and Annemarie Ross (National Technical

Institute for the Deaf) was recognized with the Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences.

NERM 2012 was also the occasion for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Region of the ACS, Inc. (NERACS), which includes representatives from the following local sections: Binghamton, Central Massachusetts, Connecticut Valley, Cornell, Corning, Eastern New York, Green Mountain, Maine, Mid-Hudson, New Haven, Northeastern, Northern New York, Norwich, Penn-York, Rhode Island, Rochester, Syracuse, Western Connecticut, Western New York. The Board reelected Christopher Masi (Westfield State College) as Secretary and Wayne Jones (Binghamton University) as Treasurer of the Region; Julianne Smist (Springfield College) and Richard Cobb (Kodak, retired) will continue as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for another year.

The Treasurer reported that NERACS has financial assets of approximately \$34,000; seed loans of \$4,000 each have been made to the organizers of NERM 2012 and 2013, which will be repaid when the books for those meetings are closed. When the treasury reaches \$50,000, the Board will consider changes in the distribution of meeting surpluses, and will look into the possibility of creating additional regional awards, including grants for young chemists to travel to the meetings. A request for support of Project SEED was received; the Board voted to provide a one-time commitment of \$1,000.

The final report on NERM 2010 in Potsdam, NY, which was hosted by the Northern New York section, was presented and accepted. A discussion was held about connections of that meeting and future ones with the CSC with regard to attendance, links on websites, and joint programming.

NERM 2013 <<http://nerm2013.sites.acs.org/>> will be held during National Chemistry Week on Wednesday-Saturday, October 23-26, at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, CT. The host will be the New Haven Section with Jeff Chin (Bristol-Myers Squibb) and Kenneth White (Chemtura, retired) as Co-chairs. It is to be noted that NESACS will host a delegation of German graduate students that week as part of its NSYCC-JCF Exchange Program, which will include participation in NERM 2013.

The NERACS Board voted not to hold a NERM in 2014 due to the absence of bids.

The bid from the Cornell Section to host NERM 2015 on June 10-13 had been accepted at the NERACS Board of Directors meeting last year; the Memorandum of Understanding to hold the meeting on the campus of Ithaca College was approved. The General and Program Chairs will be Akiko Fillinger and Anna Larsen of Ithaca College, respectively.

Bids are open for NERM 2016 and NERM 2017; interest in hosting one of them was indicated by the Binghamton and Syracuse local sections.

The NERACS Board of Directors will hold its next annual meeting in New Haven, CT, on the occasion of NERM 2013.