

# Report from New Haven: NERM 2013

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The New Haven Local Section hosted the ACS Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM 2013) on October 23-26 at the Omni New Haven Hotel. With more than 850 registrants making over 480 oral and poster presentations (including 140 undergraduate research posters and four high school student posters) as well as 27 exhibitors, the meeting was an exciting professional event with ACS President Marinda Wu and Immediate Past President Bassam Shkhashiri in attendance. Forty-three separate sessions, spanning a broad spectrum of the chemical sciences, were packed into three days of programming. The full program is available online at <<http://nerm2013.sites.acs.org/>>.

One of the sessions was the NESACS-sponsored symposium, "International Chemistry Connections," which was organized by Heidi Teng and Morton Hoffman in celebration of the 13th annual exchange between the NESACS Younger Chemists Committee (NSYCC) and the Jungchemikerforum (JCF) of the German Chemical Society (GDCh). Twelve graduate students and two accompanying persons from Germany traveled to New Haven for NERM after spending the previous four days in Boston as guests of NESACS, partaking in academic and industrial site visits as well as cultural and social events.

The following were members of the German delegation: Prof. Dr. Alfred Flint (University of Rostock), Dr. Elisabeth Kapatsina (GDCh), Anna Hofmann (University of Würzburg), Thorsten John (University of Leipzig), Susanne Leubner (Technical University Dresden), Martin Lichtenthaler (University of Freiburg), Mike Neumann (University of Potsdam), Wilma Neumann (University of Leipzig), Tanja Scholz (RWTH Aachen University), Denise Schütz (University of Frankfurt), Andreas Seitz (University of Regensburg), Peter Sponholz (University of Rostock), Christian Weinberger (University of Paderborn), Stefan Zajonc (Karlsruhe University of Education).

The members of the NESACS German Exchange Steering Committee who attended NERM were Morton Hoffman (Boston University), Jackie O'Neil (Alkermes, Inc.), Michael Strem (Strem Chemicals), Ruth Tanner (University of Massachusetts Lowell), and Heidi Teng (Sigma-Aldrich Fine Chemicals). Jens Breffke (Pennsylvania State University), who was a member of the German Exchange to Boston for the ACS national meeting in August 2007, provided important linguistic and cultural insights.

The schedule of the symposium, which was held on October 25, was as follows:

1:30-1:40 p.m	Opening Remarks – Morton Hoffman
1:40-2:00 p.m	Partners for Progress and Prosperity – Marinda Wu
2:00-2:20 p.m	Chemistry in Germany: Educational and Research Opportunities – Elisabeth Kapatsina
2:20-2:40 p.m	Northeastern Section Younger Chemists Committee: Connecting Chemists Domestically and Abroad – Heidi Teng
2:40-3:00 p.m	JCF: The Connection between School Education, Academia, and Industry – Anna Hofmann
3:00-3:10 p.m	Intermission
3:10-3:30 p.m	Problem with Teaching Chemistry at High Schools in Germany – Alfred Flint
3:30-3:50 p.m	Growing a Small Chemical Business Internationally – Michael Strem
3:50-4:10 p.m	Personal Impact and How to Measure It – Jens Breffke
4:10-4:30 p.m	International Chemistry Reflections – Morton Hoffman
4:30-4:35 p.m	Concluding Remarks – Morton Hoffman and Heidi Teng

The graduate student members of the German delegation also made presentations in the technical sessions:

- Specific immobilization of biomolecules on surfaces for intelligent materials (physical chemistry) – Torsten John
- Highly structured and high surface  $\beta$ -SiC from plant material (inorganic chemistry) – Mike Neumann
- Ordered mesoporous carbon materials from novel molten precursors containing nitrogen (nanoscience); Formation mechanism of ordered mesoporous Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: Relation between mesoscopic order and crystallinity (poster) – Christian Weinberger
- Hydrogen production and storage for a sustainable energy economy (organometallic chemistry and catalysis) – Peter Sponholz
- Research-experiencing learning in the student-based project “Make Science!” (chemical education) – Stefan Zajonc
- Applied gallium(I) chemistry: Synthesis of highly reactive polyisobutylene (organometallic chemistry and catalysis) – Martin Lichtenthaler
- COX inhibitors with caraboranes as pharmacophore (medicinal chemistry) – Wilma Neumann
- Synthesis, structure, and magnetic properties of tin-substituted iron nitrides Sn<sub>x</sub>Fe<sub>4-x</sub>N (poster) – Tanja Scholz
- Novel phosphorous-carbon cages (poster) – Andreas Seitz
- Synthesis and evaluation of mannose derivatives as Pseudomonas aeruginosa lectin LacB antagonists (poster) – Anna Hofmann
- Influence of the surface ligand density on the optical properties of semiconductor nanocrystals (nanoscience) – Susanne Leubner

- Conformational flexibility of Toc34 Homodimer studied by PELDOR (poster) – Denise Schütz

Accommodations at the Omni Hotel and registration at NERM, which included participation in the welcome reception, social mixer, keynote dinner with Donna Nelson (University of Oklahoma), and awards dinner with Marinda Wu, were provided for the German delegation by NESACS. A global innovation grant of \$4,000 from the ACS International Activities Committee partially covered those expenses.

Attendees of the keynote dinner had the opportunity to hear Prof. Nelson describe her activities as scientific advisor to the popular television program, *Breaking Bad*, and to meet her personally. Honored at the awards dinner was Sharon Palmer, a chemistry teacher at Amherst (MA) Regional High School, who received the 2013 ACS Division of Chemical Education Northeast Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching.

Closer to home, also honored at the awards dinner was Doris Lewis (Suffolk University), who received the 2013 E. Ann Nalley Northeast Region Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS for her activities with the multi award-winning student chapter at her institution, with NESACS as section chair, leader in the creation of Connections to Chemistry and the Phyllis A. Brauner Memorial Lectures, and chair of the Government Affairs Committee, and at the national level with the ACS Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs and the Committee on Public Relations and Communications.

There will be no Northeast Regional Meeting in 2014. The next NERM will be held in Ithaca, NY, on June 10-13, 2015, on the campus of Ithaca College; Akiko Fillinger of that institution will serve as the General Chair. The plenary speaker will be Esther Takeuchi (SUNY Stony Brook), who received the 2013 E.V. Murphree Award in Industrial and Engineering Chemistry from the ACS for her innovative work on advanced battery power sources.

[See photos from the event](#)