



The Organic Reactions Catalysis Society

Newsletter for the 22nd Biennial ORCS Conference

July 2006

www.orcs.org

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WELCOME to the first ORCS Conference Newsletter. This newsletter will be used to keep you informed about the preparations for the 22nd Conference. The primary feature will be the Letter from the Chairman but other topics will be covered as space and time permit. I am excited to be the Chairman for the 2008 Conference on the Catalysis of Organic Reactions; and, with your help, we will have another great meeting. I welcome your comments on this newsletter. If you like the idea of a quarterly newsletter, feel free to suggest topics of interest for future editions. I hope you will send or give a copy of this newsletter to any colleague you think may be interested in participating at the 2008 meeting.

2008 ORCS MEETING

22nd Biennial ORCS Conference on the Catalysis of Organic Reactions will be held in Richmond, Virginia at The Jefferson Hotel on March 30 through April 3, 2008.

Letter from the Chairman

As the current chairman of ORCS my primary responsibility is to organize and run the 22nd biennial conference of the Organic Reactions Catalysis Society and work has already begun. The ORCS web site has been moved to a new ISP and has been updated with more additions in progress. Details for the 2008 meeting have been added including links to The Jefferson Hotel. I am very excited about this venue and think those attending the 2008 meeting will be happy with the hotel and meeting spaces.

I have been a member of ORCS since 1984 and feel a great responsibility in leading the Society for the next two years. The previous chairmen have run very successful scientific meetings and I will make every effort to make the 22nd Conference even better.

I feel very strongly that ORCS is a unique organization which is designed to provide a forum for academic chemists, industrial chemists and vendors interested in catalysis to meet and discuss the science of catalysis in organic synthesis. The oral presentations and poster session provide the scientific fabric of the meeting and are the most critical aspect of the Society's purpose. We are a scientific organization chartered to further the use of catalysis in

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ORCS Executive Committee

Officers:

Michael Prunier
Alan Allgeier
Stephen Schmidt
Helene Shea
Steven Quimby

Directors:

Kathryn Hayes
John Super
Baoshu Chen
Bert Chandler
James White
Pierre Gallezot

NACS Representative:

Stephen Jacobson

(Letter Continued)

organic chemistry. My primary responsibility is to find good work on catalysis in organic chemistry and get the scientists to agree to come to the meeting and present their work.

The next important function of the meetings is to not only provide the opportunity for but to actively encourage the interaction among the attending scientists. The single session design of the meetings was planned partially for this reason. The extended breaks were designed more to encourage and provide time for discussions about the presentations than for time to drink and eat. Our members are involved in basic research, applied research, development and manufacturing of organic reactions using catalysis and the vendor industries that provide the catalysts as well as the equipment that allow the experiments to be run from small lab scale to industrial processes. The ability to meet and talk face to face gives each of us a chance to learn from other scientists in the field in a very efficient manner. The professional contacts made are invaluable to most of us in our careers; and, I think, most if not all of our current and former ORCS members have benefited from this close association with others who share our passion for catalysis. Few other organizations that I am aware of have so many highly talented and successful members who are anxious and willing to talk to the newest members as well as the old regulars and provide insights and suggestions when asked. This triumvirate of academic chemist, industrial chemists and vendors provides the strength of our organization and we need to be vigilant that all three sectors benefit from our meetings.

Please welcome and support our new committee members: Mr. Steve Quimby (Webmaster), Dr. Baoshu Chen (Director), Prof. Bert Chandler (Director), Dr. Jim White (Director) and Prof. Pierre Gallezot (Non-North American Director). We have been asked to pick a point contact person between ORCS and the European Catalysis Groups and Dr. Steve Schmidt (Past Chairman) has agreed to serve in this capacity.

On behalf of all of ORCS I thank our outgoing members: Dr. John Sowa, Dr. Yongkui Sun, Dr. Anne Gafney and Prof. Angelo Vaccari. Your service, enthusiasm and hard work will be missed.

I will close with two thoughts. We have had twenty one successful ORCS conferences. The Executive Committee and I will work as hard as possible to make the 22nd Conference a highly successful meeting but we do face some challenges. Attendance and presentations by industrial chemists has declined at recent meetings and we need to reverse this trend. I need your help in identifying potential industrial presentations, convincing these scientists that discussing their work at ORCS will benefit them, their science and their companies and getting them to submit abstracts.

I also need your ideas and comments on ORCS. What do you get from ORCS, what do you want in the future from ORCS, what does ORCS do well, in what areas can ORCS improve? Again, welcome to the first Letter from the Chairman. Future letters will be much shorter. ORCS is your organization and the Board and I take seriously the trust you have placed in us to run the organization for the next two years. You will get our best effort. Visit www.orcs.org for more information on ORCS and the 22nd Conference.

SEE YOU IN RICHMOND!

Michael L. Prunier
Chairman of the Organic Reactions Catalysis Society

Sponsors

ORCS is very grateful for the companies who sponsor our organization. We would like to publicly acknowledge the sponsors of the 21st Conference in Orlando:

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Degussa Corporation
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Air Products
CRI Catalyst Company
Eli Lilly & Co.
Engelhard Corporation
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Süd-Chemie
Umicore

Silver

Amgen
DuPont
Nova Molecular

ORCS also acknowledges the North American Catalysis Society and the ACS/PRF for grants that are used for student travel awards and for support for academic participation.

If your company is interested in a sponsorship for the 2008 conference, please contact John Super.

ORCS Conferences – How Good a Value?

What did ORCS members get for their \$450 registration fee in Orlando?

- Fifty nine scientific presentations on catalysis in organic synthesis by world class scientists
- A two year membership in ORCS
- A two year membership in the North American Catalysis Society
- The registration reception on Sunday evening
- Six drink/snack breaks during the presentations
- The ORCS banquet on Monday evening
- A box lunch on Tuesday
- A hard bound copy of the proceedings of the conference

When you add up the fair market value of these benefits, the total is far more than the registration fee. How do we do this?

We are able to provide all of this for a very reasonable price primarily because of the financial support of our sponsors and the Executive Committee's commitment to keep the costs of running the Society as low as possible.

The Exhibitors at our conferences not only provide important information on catalysts, equipment, services and other components of catalysis but are also an important source of income for our meetings.

Our membership also plays an important part in our ability to keep our meeting costs down. When we pick a meeting site we don't just negotiate with the hotels for a reduced group rate on the rooms for ORCS attendees. We also negotiate reduced rates for the meeting facilities and banquet hall based on the number of room nights we generate during the meeting. By staying at the Conference hotel and identifying yourself as a member of the ORCS meeting, you play a significant part in keeping our costs down and meeting value up.

22nd ORCS Conference

Work has already begun on the 2008 meeting which will be held 3/30-4/3/2008 at The Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. The Jefferson is a historic hotel with five star and five diamond ratings. The theme of the meeting will be focused on Applied Catalysis. I would like to have an entire session on Catalysis in the Pharmaceutical Industry and I am actively working to identify potential speakers. If you know of someone you think would make a positive contribution to this session please contact them and suggest they consider submitting an abstract or send me their contact information so I can contact them.

Paul Rylander and Murray Raney Awards

See the ORCS web site for information on these awards administrated by the Society. The criteria for choosing the recipients of these awards as well as a list of the previous winners can be found on the web site. The ORCS Board will soon start soliciting nominations for the 2007 and 2008 Rylander Awards and 2008 Raney award. Nominations may be given to any member of the Board. Start thinking about potential candidates and be ready to send your nominations to a board member.

The Beginning

The first four meetings of what was to become ORCS were sponsored and held from 1966 - 1972 by The New York Academy of Sciences and were titled "Conference on Catalytic Hydrogenation and Analogous Pressure Reactions". Joseph O'Connor (Ciba Pharmaceutical), Morris Freifelder (Abbott Laboratories) and Melvin Rubenstorf (The Upjohn Company) were Co-Chairmen of the first conference.

According to Dr. O'Connor: Morris Friefelder and Bill Pearlman (Parke-Davis) brought together a group of chemists who had been seriously concerned about the lack of a forum to publicize and discuss the practical aspects of catalysis in organic chemistry. This group included Dale Blackburn (Smith Kline & French), Jack Campbell (Eli Lilly), Bill Jones (Merck), Mel Rubenstorf, Paul Rylander (Engelhard), Bill Selby (G. D. Searle), Dave Wagner (Hoffman LaRoche) and Joe O'Connor. The result of these discussions was the 1st Conference held by the Academy. (Based on "Opening Remarks", Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci., Vol. **145** (1967))

A remarkable fact about these four meetings is that The Academy had a policy of sponsoring no more than two meetings on the same topic so the Academy's leaders must have felt these meetings served a very useful scientific purpose. After the fourth meeting, ORCS was formed to continue these national meetings on catalysis separate from the New York Academy of Sciences. The 5th Conference was organized by ORCS and was held in Boston in 1975.

Did You Know?

Current ORCS member, former ORCS Chairman, long time ORCS leader and Rylander award winner Dr. Robert L. Augustine of The Center for Applied Catalysis presented the second paper at the first meeting in New York. Yes we still have at least one member who has attended every ORCS meeting. If you know of others, please send me their names.