



THE ORGANIC REACTIONS CATALYSIS SOCIETY

Newsletter for the 23rd Biennial ORCS Conference

January 2009

www.orcs.org

Vol. 2 No. 1

2010 ORCS MEETING Monterey, CA USA March 14 -18, 2010



Letter from the Chairman

The Organic Reactions Catalysis Society is a volunteer organization and volunteer opportunities abound. Our Society finds its vitality in the efforts of energetic volunteers, starting with our Board. To the right you can see the newly elected Board members who are joining our dedicated incumbents to guide the Society through its operations and a successful 2010 conference in Monterey, CA. Our activities include managing finances, publicity, exhibitors, communication with stakeholders, and, of course, the technical program of the conference and the resulting manuscript. You may ask "Why do we volunteer our time for ORCS?" Answers may be as varied as the members who serve but certainly we all derive satisfaction from conducting a successful conference, building a network of colleagues outside of our own companies or institutions and broadening our knowledge. Volunteerism is so important to the Society that we created the Russell Malz Award to acknowledge members' outstanding service to ORCS. This year's awardee, Dr. Mike Ford of Air Products is an inspiration to those of us on the Board and worthy of emulation.

Several opportunities exist today for ORCS volunteers, including serving as an assistant editor, supporting our fundraising efforts and chairing a session of our 2010 conference. If you are interested in volunteering then ORCS WANTS YOU! Won't you please contact me, Alan Allgeier, at allgeier@amgen.com or John Holladay at john.holladay@pnl.gov?

(continued on page 2)

ORCS Executive Committee

Officers:

Alan Allgeier
Michael Prunier
John Holladay*
Helene Shea
Setrak Tanielyan*

Directors:

Baoshu Chen
Bert Chandler
James White
Michael McGuire*
Steve Perri*
Hans deVries*

NACS Representative:

Christopher Jones*

* newly elected in 2008

I'm excited to share with you some current initiatives of the Board. Following up on our Membership survey (see article below) we are evaluating how we publish our proceedings (currently in book format through CRC Press / Taylor and Francis publishers). Several members have raised suggestions for improvements by publishing in a special edition of a journal or as an eBook. We've heard your comments and are in discussions with alternate publishers... stay tuned. Additionally, at the October Board meeting we approved a program expansion, whereby we will have select keynote speakers added to our Conference, in addition to plenary lectures from our award winners. We will select keynote speakers who can provide an expert's perspective, setting the stages for certain themes in the conference, e.g. Catalysis on Biorenewable Feedstocks. Finally, we are completing a major overhaul of our website with the goal of making it informative, modern and even fun. Check out the latest at www.orcs.org. With its initiatives the Board seeks to continually improve the quality of the Society and its conference.

It's not too early to start planning your submission to the 2010 conference, especially for those of us in industry – we know papers take time. Remaining true to our mission of focusing on applied catalysis, we'll be looking to you, our members, for thought-provoking papers on your latest work. We look forward to another great conference in Monterey, CA USA March 14, 2010.

Alan M. Allgeier

Letter from the Past Chairman

I want to take a few minutes to again thank everyone who helped organize and participated in the 22nd ORCS Conference in Richmond. Serving as your Chairman was a real honor and privilege and I will always feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to give something back to the Society. As the Past Chairman I will do everything I can to help Alan prepare and conduct the 23rd Conference in Monterey.

My biggest disappointment with the meeting was that attendance was again low. We need to increase attendance at the conferences to meet our scientific and financial goals for our meetings. Please encourage your colleagues to look at ORCS and see if they would not also find being a member of our Society advantageous to their scientific careers. Also, please forward suggested speakers and/or topics, especially from industrial laboratories, to Alan. Industrial talks tend to need more time to get through their internal review process but are essential to keeping our programs balanced. The papers we read doing our jobs are most likely also of interest to others in ORCS.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Monterey in 2010. Michael Prunier, Past Chairman

ORCS Confers Technical Achievement Awards

At the 22nd ORCS conference, the society conferred three awards for technical achievement to scientists who have significantly impacted the study and application of catalysts and catalyzed organic reactions. The awardees were: 2008 Murray Raney Award: Dr. Daniel Ostgard (Evonik Industries, formerly Degussa); 2007 Paul Rylander Award: Professor Brian James (University of British Columbia); 2008 Paul Rylander Award: Professor John Hartwig (University of Illinois).

The Murray Raney Award, named in honor of the inventor of activated (skeletal) nickel catalysts is presented to a scientist who has made significant advances in understanding and broadening these types of catalysts. The award, sponsored by W.R. Grace, Davison Division and administered by ORCS, was conferred on Dr. Ostgard in recognition of both his fundamental and

practical research in the area. Dr. Ostgard has studied the effects of cooling rates on the morphology and crystallite sizes of nickel alloys, precursors to activated nickel catalysts. Additionally, he has significantly broadened the variety of fixed bed or particulate forms of activated base metal catalysts, leading work in the development of hollow sphere, tablets and other engineered forms of fixed bed catalysts. His work is serving to broaden the applicability of activated base metal catalysts.

The Paul Rylander Award is named in honor of one of the founders of our society, a prolific catalysis scientist from Engelhard (now BASF Catalysts). The award is granted on an annual basis and at the 2008 biennial conference the ORCS recognized two awardees. Professor James was recognized for seminal work in homogeneous catalysis and organometallic chemistry over a 45+ year career. Professor James has studied the interaction of a variety of gases with metal centers and their further transformations with organic molecules, most notably in hydrogenation catalysis. Professor James was the first to report on asymmetric hydrogenation by Ru-phosphine complexes. He has been a loyal supporter of ORCS having served on our Board of Directors and presenting more than ten papers in our conferences. A true pillar of academics, he considers his greatest accomplishment the mentoring of over seventy-five graduate students. Professor Hartwig has been exceedingly productive in expanding organic reactivity through metal catalyzed reactions. His group has discovered and / or developed palladium-catalyzed aminations of haloarenes, palladium-catalyzed α -arylation of carbonyl compounds, iridium-catalyzed enantioselective allylations of amines and alcohols, and the terminal functionalizations of alkanes, to name only a select few. Many of these reactions have found practical application in the production of fine chemicals. Most inspiring is Professor Hartwig's consistent drive for mechanistic understanding as means of advancing practical applications.

Membership Survey 2008

Continuing a new tradition at ORCS, the Board conducted a survey of its membership following the 2008 conference in Richmond. You can see details at our website (www.orcs.org) but we're pleased to offer a high level view here:

- Asked about some of our conference fundamentals, members were enthusiastically supportive of many current practices
 - Duration: 84% consider 3.5 day conference is ideal
 - Publication of proceedings: 89% consider this practice desirable or are neutral
 - Conference format: only 17% would consider parallel session desirable – a single session has been a key characteristic of our conference for years
- But members did see room for improvement:
 - Percentage of industrial papers: 38% of respondents still indicate that the conference should grow the number of papers from industrial laboratories with no respondents indicating that industrial representation was too high.
 - Quality of papers: while 53% of respondents rated the quality of papers positively, only 8% rated the quality as excellent, whereas 11% rated negative
 - As a Society we need to pull together to meet these expectations. Maybe your paper will be a great addition to ORCS 2010!
- Asked about our publication format (currently a book in a series indexed by CAS) members had mixed views
 - 54% felt the time to publication was either undesirable or unacceptable
 - Opinions on the best publication format (no publication, special topic journal issue, web only publishing, etc) were varied but it seems clear the membership has great value for a publication that's indexed by leading abstracting service(s).

In reviewing the survey the Board generally felt approval and has launched initiatives to address the areas of concerns. Notably, we're evaluating our publication format and considering publication in a special edition of Catalysis Today, Topics in Catalysis or a similar journal as a potential alternative to our current practice. Related to the time to publication question, I'd like to share with you, our members, that improvements are always difficult. Unlike publications in standard journals we need to pool a specific grouping of papers together. Delay in just one paper, delays our entire publication. Other mainstream journals can move forward with publication if one group of authors or reviewers or editors is slow to complete. We cannot. We acknowledge that a portion of the timeline is attributed to editorial work by our team of volunteers, most notably the Chair, who must juggle professional demands. We strive to streamline the process to improve this important metric. As I write the proceedings of our 2008 conference is at the printer and we hope to have a book in your hands soon.

Sponsorships

The ORCS derives operating revenue from three sources: your registration fees, grants (e.g. from the North American Catalysis Society and the American Chemical Society) and from sponsorship. Sponsorship is an essential aspect of our society's vitality and since 2004 we've been fortunate to see more than a doubling of sponsorship revenue. The increase reflects the value that our sponsors have for the work of the Society, and is significantly attributable to the diligence of former ORCS Director John Super. In addition to cash donations the Society benefits from in-kind contributions from loyal sponsors such as Parr Instrument, who fund all coffee-breaks, W.R. Grace who provide our Sunday welcoming reception and other partners who provide hospitality gatherings (in 2008 these were Evonik Degussa, Umicore and Avantium).

The increase in sponsorship has shored up the Society's capital reserves and provides opportunity for improving our programs, e.g. inviting keynote speakers in addition to our Award winners.

In exchange for their financial support, our Sponsors receive recognition throughout the conference and in our promotional materials. Higher levels of sponsorship afford sponsors with choice selection of exhibition tables, recognition on the conference bags provided to each attendee and opportunities to share promotional materials in the conference bags. Furthermore, each sponsor shares in the intangible pride of furthering the mission of the ORCS and providing a forum for exchange of science and technology.

The ORCS Board encourages our members to patronize our loyal sponsors, to utilize our biennial conference to meet and discuss technologies, business opportunities and shared interests with sponsors, and most importantly to thank those sponsors for their support.

Sponsors

ORCS is very grateful for our loyal sponsors and encourages members to patronize them.

Platinum



degussa.

GRACE Davison

NACS - North American Catalysis Society

Gold



umicore
materials for a better life

EASTMAN

Silver



ORCS also acknowledges financial support from the North American Catalysis Society.

If your company is interested in a sponsorship, please contact Steve Perri (sperry@eastman.com)