



WEEKLY “E” NEWS- from the RACI NSW 4th April 2008

Dear NSW RACI readers

Below are this week's announcements from the RACI NSW Branch, a summary is given and then scroll down for the full text.

Next Gathering of Young Chemists All Young Chemists RACI members (those aged between 16-35) are invited to attend our next meeting. **Date:** *Tuesday* 8th April 2008, 5.30pm **Venue:** Adam's Office A14 Main Quadrangle – Room L4.13 USyd. Followed by ANZFSS presentation, then Dinner

UWS Careers & Cooperative Education is now accepting Placement Requests for Winter Vacation Projects. This is a great opportunity to resource a project which has been 'put on the backburner' whilst assisting in the career development of a UWS student or recent graduate.

ANZFSS April Meeting /Presentation: Current Issues Relating to Sports Drug Testing. Date: Tuesday 8th April, 2008 Time: 6:30 pm for light refreshments, 7:00 pm start Venue: Sydney University Camperdown Campus EDUCATION LECTURE THEATRE – 424 Cost: Free to ANZFSS members, \$5 for non-ANZFSS members

Metrology Society of Australia NSW Branch ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Preceded by Tour of NMI Chemical Metrology Division Laboratories (Pymble) and followed by spit roast dinner Wednesday 9th April 2008 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm 1 Suakin Street, Pymble NSW 2073

CSIRO Student Research Scheme and Teacher Research Scheme: Tomorrow's Scientists Need Your Help Today!

Activities for the upcoming school holidays: Whether you like it or not school holidays are fast approaching – short of activities that will excite your children?

Position For a Pre-Clinical Development Scientist at Pharmaxis: They are seeking a PhD-level scientist to join our Drug Discovery & Development team to provide leadership and assume responsibility for the pre-clinical development of drug candidates arising from our internal research.

Ideas for National Assembly: Do you have points you wished raised at the National Assembly? Now is the time to let us know.

UNSW Climate-Talk Free public seminar series: 6.45pm for 7pm start, Wednesday 23rd April, 08 Science Theatre, UNSW

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm **Thurs 10th April**. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*

Nominations are now open for Fresh Science 2008: Fresh Science 2008 would be grateful if you could help identify the best under-publicised research produced in the past year or so by early-career scientists.

The RACI Australian National Chemistry Quiz: TO BE HELD ON Thursday, 24 July 2008

THE EUREKA PRIZES 2008 ARE OPEN – There are prizes for scientists, school kids, journalists, science teachers, young film makers, researchers, science leaders, innovators, educators, communicators, environmentalists and photographers.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE NOMINATIONS The call for nominations for the 2008 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science close on **Friday 9 May 2008 5.00pm AEST**. Eligibility criteria and selection information is available on <http://www.dest.gov.au/scienceprize>

Nominations for awards administered through The RACI National Office are now open. Full details are found at <http://www.raci.org.au/national/awards/index.html>. Each week this E-News will feature one of these prizes. This week a profile of the **Distinguished Fellowship** is provided.

Important Dates in Chemistry's History April 4-10 New Section of the Newsletter

Assist The RACI NSW Branch By Buying The Entertainment Book. The Book You'll Need To Find The Best Restaurants, Hotels Accommodation, Attractions, Sports And Leisure Activities In Sydney. Purchase Your Entertainment Book For \$60 Now And You Will Receive Over \$10,000 In Valuable Offers Valid Through June 1st 2008

Crystal Competition 2008. Attention all teachers, parents, and students Do you want to have fun with Science? Would you like to do some simple chemistry experiments with your students? Then enter the NSW Crystal Growing Competition 2008 and learn all about growing beautiful crystals. For more info see our website: http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/crystal_grow/crystal2008.html

Website of the Week: This week we look at the **Science Alert**
See: <http://www.sciencealert.com.au/opinions/index.php>

Do you have story idea or suggestion for the Weekly E News? Please let us know! If any of our RACI members receive awards, we would love to hear about it. Stories about our RACI events are always welcome. If you have found a chemistry book or text particularly helpful -why not submit a review?

Please scroll down for further details.....

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm **Thurs 10th April**. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*

Next Gathering of Young Chemists

All NSW RACI Young Chemists (those aged between 16-35) are invited to attend our next meeting.

Date: Tuesday 8th April 2008, 5.30pm (***please note time Change***)

Venue: Adam's Office A14 Main Quadrangle – Room L4.13 USyd.

Why come?

Firstly, it is our hope this year to meet together regularly– from all our different work places and universities and get to know what each of us does. Secondly, there are many things we are going to take part in this year and it would be great if you too could get involved. This meeting will cover much of the planning and brainstorming for many of the activities we will participate in this year.

At the conclusion of the meeting we will attend the Presentation

Current Issues Relating to Sports Drug Testing



NO DOPING!

which is being held on the same campus of USyd (hosted by ANZFSS please see advert page 5)

The evening will conclude with us going to dinner at a local restaurant – The Spicy Sichuan (Glebe Point Rd).

For more details don't hesitate to contact Edwina via email

racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au



Dear Employer

Do you need an extra resource over winter?

UWS Careers & Cooperative Education is now accepting Placement Requests for Winter Vacation Projects. This is a great opportunity to resource a project which has been 'put on the backburner' whilst assisting in the career development of a UWS student or recent graduate.

Placement Programs

UWS' flagship placement programs have been linking organisations in Greater Western Sydney and beyond with high achieving students for over 10 years.

Range of programs:

Program	Description	Cost
Graduate Internship	Recent Graduates work for 12 weeks and may be retained for full time employment at the end of their internship.	\$9,000 + GST*
Industry Internship	Students who have completed at least 2 years of their course study part time or defer university for one semester to work full time for 24 weeks.	\$18,000 + GST*
Research Internship	Final year, postgraduate or Honours students work for 12 weeks weeks during semester, under academic supervision.	\$8,000 + GST*
Summer Vacation Projects	Students work for 5 weeks during the university Summer vacation.	\$3,000 + GST*
Winter Vacation Projects	Students work for 4 weeks during the university Winter vacation.	\$2,400 + GST*
Engineering Summer Placement	Engineering students work for 12 weeks during the university Summer vacation.	\$7,200 + GST*

* Your organisation may be eligible for a research and development tax concession – please seek advice from your Accountant. Prices are current as at 1 January 2008, and are subject to change without notice.

Benefits to employers:

- Projects start at \$2,400 (plus GST)
- Possible research and development tax concession
- We handle the advertising and recruitment
- No payroll hassles – students are employed casually through UWS and employers are invoiced directly
- Insurance is provided
- Time saving and cost effective
- Fresh and innovative approach
- Opportunity to trial students or graduates for casual, part time and full time roles
- Students receive training in Project Management & Business Communication, and Report Writing
- Students work individually or as part of a project team
- Programs are flexible and can be tailored to suit your needs
- Careers & Cooperative Education staff monitor all placements

Contact us

If you would like to host a Winter Vacation Project or other placement, please complete the Placement Request Form and email it to careers@uws.edu.au. For more information on our other programs and services for employers, please contact (freecall) 1800 897 297, email careers@uws.edu.au or visit www.uws.edu.au/careers

Please note: the Placement Request Form has been posted on the RACI website [http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/files/PlacementRequestForm\[1\].doc](http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/files/PlacementRequestForm[1].doc)

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm **Thurs 10th April**. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*



Australian and New Zealand FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY *April Meeting* Current Issues Relating to Sports Drug Testing By Dr Ray Kazlauskas

Since the Sydney 2000 Olympics there have been several changes to the World Anti-Doping List with new substances, classes of substances, doping methods and standards. Some of these have required changes in methodologies with introduction of LC/MS/MS, protein and peptide identification techniques as well as ways of detecting new drugs that may be used, such as designer steroids. Studies undertaken by a number of groups will allow introduction, in the near future, of new tests for substances such as human growth hormone, which rely on a number of direct and indirect measurements. Other ways of doping in the future, such as gene doping, still have considerable research to be done especially since the constructs that are likely to become available are not known yet. Discussion of these topics will hopefully give an idea of the way testing for doping in sport are progressing and the good outlook for solving many of the difficult issues being raised.

Dr Kazlauskas is the Director of the Australian Sports Drug Testing Laboratory within the National Measurement Institute. He has responsibilities for Management of the Australian Sports Drug Testing Laboratory with the National Measurement Institute, which include strategic planning, customer service and marketing, achievement of budgets and other corporate objectives. He also engages with the other 33 international WADA Accredited laboratories involved in analysis of samples and research into Anti-Doping. His group maintains an extensive research programme dealing with sports drug issues through both national and international grants. His experience over the last 37 years include extensive experience in Organic synthesis, natural product isolation and the techniques involved in structure elucidation; development and validation of analytical methods drugs particularly in the use of gas chromatography - mass spectrometry for quantification and confirmation. He was responsible for the establishment and continued viability of the Australian accredited laboratory for Drugs in Sport. This laboratory is maintained as a WADA accredited Laboratory with yearly reaccreditation since 1990 when it became first accredited after the analysis of the Commonwealth Games samples. His group was responsibility for testing during the 2000 Olympic Games and both the 1990 and 2006 Commonwealth Games as well as other major sporting events. He worked in the laboratories as an expert in testing for the Olympics in 1996 and 2002 and also will participate in this year's Olympics. He is a member of the WADA Laboratory Working Committee, which is a subcommittee within the WADA Health, Medical and Research Committee.

Date: Tuesday 8th April, 2008

Time: 6:30 pm for light refreshments, 7:00 pm start

Venue: Sydney University Camperdown Campus *EDUCATION LECTURE THEATRE - 424*

Cost: Free to ANZFSS members, \$5 for non-ANZFSS members

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm **Thurs 10th April**. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*

Metrology Society of Australia

NSW Branch



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Preceded by Tour of NMI Chemical Metrology Division Laboratories (Pymble)
and followed by spit roast dinner*

Wednesday 9th April 2008

4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

1 Suakin Street, Pymble NSW 2073

This is a unique opportunity to explore the mysteries of chemical metrology at the highest levels.

The AGM will be preceded by tours of **three** laboratories at NMI's Chemical Metrology Division at Pymble (the former AGAL) – the **Chemical Reference Methods** laboratory, the **Dioxin Analysis Unit** laboratory and the **Australian Forensic Drug Laboratory (AFDL)**.

Who ensures chemical measurements are reliable and accurate? What do ppq and ppt mean? Who analyses illicit drugs? How do you estimate uncertainties in chemistry? Ask the questions you've always wanted to ask and see lots of good lab equipment!

The laboratory tours will be followed by the **Annual General Meeting of the NSW Branch**, while a gourmet spit roast dinner is being prepared for you, for the bargain price of just \$10. Your \$10 will give you spit-roasted beef and/or pork, lots of different salads, bread, drinks, and dessert.

Those staying for the dinner will need to pay their \$10 after arrival.

Meet at 4:45 pm at the National Measurement Institute in Suakin Street, Pymble in the foyer off the carpark at RECEPTION .

Program:

4:30 – 5:00 pm Meet in foyer, sign in and have some refreshments (car parking adjacent)

5:00 – 6:15 pm Tour of three laboratories – Reference Methods/Dioxins/AFDL (Forensic Drug)

6:15 – 6:45 pm **Annual General Meeting in Large Conference Room**

6:45 – 8:00 pm Gourmet spit-roast dinner in the Canteen/Courtyard (NMI Pymble)

Bookings:

Bookings are essential for catering purposes. Please book by **4th April 2008** by sending an email to Paul.Pokorny@nmi.gov.au, ringing 8467 3584 or by faxing the slip below to **(02) 8467 3720**.

MSA NSW AGM

attn: PAUL POKORNY

WEDNESDAY, 9TH APRIL 2008, at 4:30 PM

From: _____ Name of Company/Orgⁿ.: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Number Attending: _____

Names attending AGM: _____

Names attending AGM + Dinner: _____

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Tomorrow's Scientists Need Your Help Today!

Student Research Scheme (SRS)



Senior secondary students are offered the rare opportunity to experience real-world scientific research. Under the guidance of a research scientist they learn about the day-to-day life of a scientist and their field of research. Students also undertake laboratory or field activities related to the research being done by their supervising scientist. Students spend a minimum of 20 hours over the course of a fortnight (during the July and October school holidays) working with scientists, postgraduate students and research assistants. Across Australia, the Student Research Scheme annually selects 500 students for this invaluable experience. If you are interested in hosting a student please contact CSIRO Education (details below).

“75% of Nobel Prize winners in the sciences report that their passion for science was first sparked in non-school environments”

Friedman and Quinn, Education Week February 2006

Teacher Research Scheme (TRS)

Complementing the Student Research Scheme, this program gives secondary science teachers first-hand engagement with contemporary scientific research. Teachers gain a greater understanding of the scientific process and its practical applications as they undertake laboratory activities related to the research being done by their mentor scientist. Each year over 20 teachers return to their classrooms to share this motivating and inspiring experience.

Proudly supported by:

“It definitely led me to seriously consider a scientific pathway, as now I know it’s a satisfying and stimulating career choice.” SRS student

“Absolutely fabulous experience! Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity.” SRS student

“A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of a subject I love and love to teach.” TRS Teacher

“SRS was a satisfying experience .greatly appreciated by my student and the other students who were given a glimpse into the world of ‘a real lab’.” SRS Researcher

Fast Facts

- Allows students and teachers to experience scientific research
- Involves 500 SRS students, 20 TRS teachers and 100 organisations annually
- Contact Rachel Rothwell, Project Coordinator, CSIRO Student Research Scheme, NSW

E: srs.nsw@csiro.au

T: 02 9490 8428

F: 02 9490 8648

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Activities for the Upcoming School Holidays

Whether you like it or not school holidays are fast approaching – short of activities that will excite your children? Over the next few weeks the newsletter will provide some ideas.

CSIRO's Double Helix Science Club in New South Wales offers a range of hands-on science holiday programs that are sure to make learning a fun and memorable experience. The great thing is events are held around the state. Bookings are essential for all holiday science programs. See <http://www.csiro.au/events/NSWHolidays.html>

<p>North Ryde 14-22 April 2008 Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm Location: CSIRO Science Education Centre Cost: A\$85 for Double Helix members; A\$90 for non-members For 7-10 year olds, programs are available on 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18 April 2008. Children will participate in activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ bubbology - the science of bubbles ➤ make and take your own telescope ➤ jelly lenses - get focussed ➤ make your own colour-changing acid paper. <p>For 11-14 year olds, programs are available on 21 or 22 April 2008. Children will participate in activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ geology 101 - the Earth ➤ resin embedding ➤ make a chaotic magnetic pendulum ➤ make your own Jacob's ladder. <p>BYO morning tea. Lunch of pizzas provided or bring your own lunch if you prefer.</p>	<p>Gymea Bay 23-24 April 2008 Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm Location: Gymea Bay Public School Cost: A\$85 for Double Helix members; A\$90 for non-members For 7-10 year olds, programs are available on the 24th April 2008. Children will participate in activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ bubbology - the science of bubbles ➤ make and take your own telescope ➤ jelly lenses - get focussed ➤ make your own colour-changing acid paper. <p>For 11-14 year olds, programs are available on 23rd April 2008. Children will participate in activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ geology 101 - the Earth ➤ resin embedding ➤ make a chaotic magnetic pendulum ➤ make your own Jacob's ladder. <p>BYO morning tea. Lunch of pizzas provided or bring your own lunch if you prefer.</p>
<p>Rose Bay 16 April 2008 Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm Location: Rose Bay Public School Cost: A\$85 for Double Helix members; A\$90 for non-members Suitable for: 7-12 year olds Children will participate in activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ build your own air-powered rocket racer ➤ LEGO construction challenge ➤ full of energy transformations ➤ kitchen chemistry chaos. <p>BYO morning tea. Lunch of pizzas provided or bring your own lunch if you prefer.</p>	<p>Crows Nest 15 April 2008 Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm Location: Northside Baptist Hall (Crows Nest) Cost: A\$85 for Double Helix members; A\$90 for non-members Suitable for: 7-12 year olds Children will participate in activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ build your own air-powered rocket racer ➤ LEGO construction challenge ➤ full of energy transformations ➤ kitchen chemistry chaos. <p>BYO morning tea. Lunch of pizzas provided or bring your own lunch if you prefer.</p>
<p>Randwick 17-21 April 2008 Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm Location: Randwick Cost: A\$85 for Double Helix members; A\$90 for non-members For 7-10 year olds, programs are available on 18 or 21 April 2008. Children will participate in activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ build your own air-powered rocket racer ➤ LEGO construction challenge ➤ full of energy transformations ➤ kitchen chemistry chaos. <p>For 11-14 year olds, the program is available on 17 April 2008. Children will complete activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ build your own mouse trap racer ➤ DNA - purify and explore ➤ DNA modelling - the code unbroken ➤ quarantine matters - protecting Australia. <p>BYO morning tea. Lunch of pizzas provided or bring your own lunch if you prefer.</p>	<p>Baulkham Hills 22-24 April 2008 Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm Location: Crestwood community centre Cost: A\$85 for Double Helix members; A\$90 for non-members For 7-10 year olds, programs are available on 22 or 23 April. Children will participate in activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ build your own air-powered rocket racer ➤ LEGO construction challenge ➤ full of energy transformations ➤ kitchen chemistry chaos. <p>For 11-14 year olds, the program is available on 24 April 2008. Children will participate in activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ build your own mouse trap racer ➤ DNA - purify and explore ➤ DNA modelling - the code unbroken ➤ quarantine matters - protecting Australia. <p>BYO morning tea. Lunch of pizzas provided or bring your own lunch if you prefer.</p>

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Concord 21-23 April 2008

Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm

Location: Concord Public School

Cost: A\$85 for Double Helix members; A\$90 for non-members

For 7-10 year olds the program is available on 21 or 22 April 2008 and includes:

- fabulous freshwater show
- build your own water filter
- Mr Sprout Head - growing grains
- straw tower challenge.

For 11-14 year olds, the program is available on 23 April 2008 and includes:

- build your own light-sensing circuit
- garden chromatography
- working like a scientist
- make and take an electric motor.

BYO morning tea. Lunch of pizzas provided or bring your own lunch if you prefer.

Northern Beaches 14-16 April 2008

Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm

Location: North Curl Curl

Cost: A\$85 for Double Helix members; A\$90 for non-members

For 7-10 year olds the program is available on 14 or 15 April 2008 and includes:

- fabulous freshwater show
- build your own water filter
- Mr Sprout Head - growing grains
- straw tower challenge.

For 11-14 year olds, the program is available on 16 April 2008 and includes:

- build your own light-sensing circuit
- garden chromatography
- working like a scientist
- make and take an electric motor.

BYO morning tea. Lunch of pizzas provided or bring your own lunch if you prefer.

Penrith 18 April 2008

Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm

Location: Penrith South

Cost: A\$85 for Double Helix members; A\$90 for non-members

Suitable for: 7-12 year olds Children will participate in activities such as:

- fabulous freshwater show
- build your own water filter
- Mr Sprout Head - growing grains
- straw tower challenge.

BYO morning tea. Lunch of pizzas provided or bring your own lunch if you prefer.

Hurstville 24 April 2008

Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm

Location: Hurstville Public School

Cost: A\$85 for Double Helix members; A\$90 for non-members

Suitable for: 7-12 year olds Children will participate in activities such as:

- fabulous freshwater show
- build your own water filter
- Mr Sprout Head - growing grains
- straw tower challenge.

BYO morning tea. Lunch of pizzas provided or bring your own lunch if you prefer.

Central Coast 17 April 2008

Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm

Location: Chertsey Public School, Springfield

Cost: A\$85 for Double Helix members; A\$90 for non-members

Suitable for: 7-12 year olds Children will participate in activities such as:

- fabulous freshwater show
- build your own water filter
- Mr Sprout Head - growing grains
- straw tower challenge.

BYO morning tea. Lunch of pizzas provided or bring your own lunch if you prefer.

The Science Hunters -23 and 24 April 2008

Time: 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Suitable for: 7-12 year olds

Maximum of 20 participants

Location: Hamilton Public School (in or near hall), Tudor Street, Hamilton

Cost (two days): A\$100 for Double Helix members; A\$120 for non-members.

Cost (one day only): A\$70 members; A\$85 non-members.

Bookings essential: Phone Laura on 61 2 4969 3021 or email thesciencehunters@westnet.com.au

Day one features a physics and chemistry program including the famous liquid nitrogen ice-cream show.

Day two activities include:

- robots
- mathematical origami
- special FX makeup and first aid.

Morning tea is provided but please bring your own lunch. Limit of 20 participants. Wear old clothes and covered-in shoes. Bring safety goggles and gloves if you have them. Don't forget to 'slip, slop, slap'.



Pre-Clinical Development Scientist March 2008

We are seeking a PhD-level scientist to join our Drug Discovery & Development team to provide leadership and assume responsibility for the pre-clinical development of drug candidates arising from our internal research. Duties will include the planning and oversight of ADME, safety pharmacology, toxicology, and bioanalytical chemistry, which will be generally out-sourced to organizations in Australia and overseas, as well as aspects of CMC activities. Qualified applicants will have a PhD degree in pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacology, toxicology or in any appropriate discipline. Applicants should meet most of the following criteria:

1. Have a strong desire to join an organization with the mission to build a substantial drug discovery and development organization that will be recognized as one of the very best.
2. Have a very strong track record in an appropriate discipline, such as pharmacokinetics, ADME, pharmacology, and toxicology.
3. An appreciation of CMC activities would be useful, but not essential.
4. Be able to communicate well with peers, management and external collaborators, and to write strong research proposals and research reports.
5. Project management skills
6. Have the expertise and experience to develop strategic development plans, and the operational skills to reduce these plans to practice
7. This position will require the successful applicant to work very closely with research scientists, regulatory and clinical associates within the company, so the ability to interact with and motivate project team members will be extremely important.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a scientist to join a young drug discovery and development group, to learn and grow with this group as the company continues to build a world-class organization.

Pharmaxis Ltd is a specialist pharmaceutical company established to research develop and bring to market human therapeutic products to treat chronic respiratory and autoimmune diseases. Founded in 1998, Pharmaxis was listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in November 2003 trading under the symbol PXS, and listed on NASDAQ under the symbol PXS in August 2005.

See http://www.pharmaxis.com.au/about-us/about-us_home.cfm.

The company takes a fully integrated approach to the development of pharmaceutical products for human use and is involved in the basic research, preclinical development, manufacture and release of its products; the design, management and control of clinical trials; and sales and marketing. Our mission is to build an internationally successful pharmaceutical business by bringing innovative medicines to patients.

If you believe you have the training, experience and desire to join this growing Australian pharmaceutical company, please send your comprehensive resume by e-mail to Ian McDonald. We are seeking a highly talented scientist who will receive a competitive salary package commensurate with their training and experience, as well as being eligible to participate in the company's share option plan.

Ian A McDonald, PhD
Chief Scientific Officer

ian.mcdonald@pharmaxis.com.au

Ideas for National Assembly

Do you have points you wished raised at the National Assembly? Now is the time to let us know.

We have several NSW representing our sections and Branch at the National Assembly – which will be held in May. This Assembly is supposed to be a sounding board for our ideas, this is a chance to have your ideas raised and discussed. Please let us know of any point you wish addressed at the meeting. Pass you thoughts onto your group or section chair – they can bring it along to the next branch meeting – or alternatively contact the Branch coordinator via the email racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au



UNSW Climate-Talk
free public seminar series

CLIMATE CHANGE: Show me the money?

 

UNSW Climate-Talk *Free public seminar series*

6.45pm for 7pm start,
Wednesday 23rd April, 08
Science Theatre, UNSW

Arrive early to avoid disappointment

Speaker: *Michael Molitor*
Senior Advisor on Carbon Management,
Climate Change Services,
PricewaterhouseCoopers (Australia)
Adjunct Professor, Climate Change Research Centre, UNSW

For further information visit www.ccrc.unsw.edu.au Email: ccrc@unsw.edu.au

Ph: 02 9385 9766

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm **Thurs 10th April**. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*



Nominations are now open for Fresh Science 2008.

Fresh Science 2008 would be grateful if you could help identify the best under-publicised research produced in the past year or so by early-career scientists.

This year Fresh Science will be held in June in Melbourne. The event serves as a communications boot camp for early career researchers – getting their stories out to local, national and international media, and giving them essential communication skills.

We will select 16 early-career researchers and bring them to Melbourne where they will receive media training and then present their work to the media, schools and the public.

Now in its 11th year, the Federal and Victorian governments, New Scientist and Museum Victoria, support Fresh Science.

In essence we're looking for

- Early career researchers with an upper limit of five years post-doc and no lower limit
- - With a peer-reviewed result which has had no media coverage
- - With some ability to present their ideas in plain English.

Nominations close on 1 May 2008.

Please circulate this information on to anyone who you think would fit our criteria.

For more Information: <http://www.scienceinpublic.com/sciencenow/>

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ATTENTION ALL TEACHERS

PROVIDE A STATEWIDE AND SCHOOLWIDE BENCHMARK OF STUDENTS'
KNOWLEDGE OF CHEMISTRY

Enter

The RACI Australian National Chemistry Quiz



AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL CHEMISTRY QUIZ



TO BE HELD ON
Thursday, 24 July 2008

We cordially invite all students at your School to participate in the RACI Australian National Chemistry Quiz

Entries Close Wednesday, 7 May, 2008

Cost : \$4.29 (including GST)

Entry forms and a brochure have been posted to Schools in February. If you require an additional entry form or brochure please email or fax:

Associate Professor C L Fogliani
Email: cfogliani@ancq.com
Fax: (02) 6332 6035

We acknowledge the support of teachers who run the Quiz in their Schools. The success of the Quiz depends on this support

Further information is available from
Associate Professor C L Fogliani, AM
PO BOX 2129
Bathurst NSW 2795
Telephone: 02 63315125

Visit the ANCQ Website at
www.ancq.com

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm **Thurs 10th April**. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*

THE EUREKA PRIZES 2008 ARE OPEN – AND THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

There are prizes for scientists, school kids, journalists, science teachers, young filmmakers, researchers, science leaders, innovators, educators, communicators, environmentalists and photographers.

2008 is another big year for the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes, with 20 prizes on offer worth over \$200,000.

IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE NSW RACI MEMBERS COMPETE FOR SOME OF THESE PRIZES.

FOR MORE INFO: <http://www.amonline.net.au/eureka/go/enter>

THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE NOMINATIONS

The call for nominations for the 2008 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science close on **Friday 9 May 2008** 5.00pm AEST. Eligibility criteria and selection information is available on <http://www.dest.gov.au/scienceprize>

The major Prize, the Prime Minister's Prize for Science, is one of the nation's most highly-regarded awards and the premier national award for scientific achievement. It is awarded for an outstanding specific achievement or series of related achievements in any area of science advancing human welfare or benefiting society, and has been awarded previously to such luminaries of Australian science as Frank Fenner, Donald Metcalf, Jacques Miller and Graeme Clark.

The Prime Minister's Prizes for Excellence in Science Teaching in Primary and Secondary Schools were introduced in 2002, to honour our inspirational science teachers. Many of today's most prominent Australian scientists have credited their teachers with generating the interest and enthusiasm for science that they have carried with them throughout their subsequent careers.

Events coming up this week

- **Young Chemists MEETING:** Tues 2nd April Where? 5.30 start USyd.
- **ANZFSS Current Issues Relating to Sports Drug Testing Presentation** 2nd April USyd

*Deadline for next weeks edition is 5pm **Thurs 10th April**. We welcome all article suggestions and ideas*

Nominations for awards administered through The RACI National Office are now open.

Full details are found at <http://www.raci.org.au/national/awards/index.html>

Each week this E-News will feature a profile of one of these prizes.

This week's a profile.... Distinguished Fellowship

The recognition of outstanding contributions to chemistry and the Institute awarded on, or very close, to retirement from their principal professional role.

Inaugurated in 1996, a distinguished Fellowship is the recognition of highly distinguished contributions to the profession in academia, government or industry and the Institute. Awarded by the Board on, or very close to, retirement from their principal professional role, Distinguished Fellowships do not carry financial or post-nominal implications. Rarely would there be more than three Distinguished Fellowships awarded per year.

Nominations for Distinguished Fellowships, which are restricted to Fellows of the Institute, are to be made by Branches, Divisions or two senior Fellows of the Institute.

Nominations should provide a citation identifying reasons for recommendation of recognition of Distinguished Fellowship Award, highlights of the service to the Institute since admittance as a Fellow and highlights of the professional career of the nominee since admission as a Fellow.

Six (6) copies of the nominations and supporting citations should be sent to The RACI National Office, 21 Vale Street, North Melbourne, Vic, 3051 by 30 April each year.

Important Dates in Chemistry's History April 4-10

4th

- **b. 1867 Otto Folin**, pioneer in clinical chemistry; Folin-Wu reagent for glucose analysis.
- Ira Remsen awarded first Priestley Medal, 1923.
- Synthesis of vitamin B6 announced by Merck, Sharp & Dohme, 1939.

5th

- **b. 1827 Joseph Lister** introduced antiseptics, such as carbolic acid (phenol).
- Marshall Gates & G. Tschudi announced synthesis of morphine, 1956.

6th

- **b. 1863 James Walker**, researcher on hydrolysis, ionization constants & amphoteric electrolytes with organic compounds.
- **b. 1927 Edmond H. Fischer**, researcher on protein phosphorylation as a biological regulatory mechanism; Nobel Prize in Medicine (1992) with Edwin G. Krebs for their discoveries concerning reversible protein phosphorylation as a biological regulatory mechanism. live
- **b. 1928 James D. Watson**, researcher on the double helix structure of the deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) molecule; Nobel Prize (1962) with Francis H. C. Crick & Maurice H. F. Wilkins for their discoveries concerning the molecular structure of nuclear acids and its significance for information transfer in living material.
- First official organizational meeting of the American Chemical Society, College of Pharmacy of the City of New York (now New York University), 1876.

7th

- **b. 1894 Louis P. Hammett** developed Hammett equation for linear free-energy relationship and correlation of changes in chemical properties with chemical structures.
- **b. 1914 Walter H. Stockmayer**, a researcher in polymer chemistry.
- New law instituted the metric decimal system in France & the nomenclature for the system was established 1795.

8th

- **b. 1911 Melvin Calvin**, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1961) for his research in photosynthesis. d. 1997

9th

- **b. 1930 F. Albert Cotton** researcher in inorganic and structural chemistry.
- Ignacio Tinoco, Jr., proposed simple method for estimating secondary structure of ribonucleic acid (RNA) from sequence of nucleotides, 1971.

10th

- **b. 1863 Paul Louis Toussaint Héroult** discovered the electrolytic aluminium process in 1886, the same year that Charles Martin Hall discovered the same process for isolating aluminum, which is called the Hall-Héroult process; invented. the electric arc furnace for steel in 1900. which replaced some giant smelters for the production of a variety of steels.
- **b. 1887 Bernardo Alberto Houssay**, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1947 for his discovery of the part played by the hormone of the anterior pituitary lobe in the metabolism of sugar with Gerty T. Cori and Carl F. Cori for their research on the hormone of the anterior lobe and its role in the metabolism of sugar; discovered how glycogen is catalytically converted.
- **b. 1900 Arnold O. Beckman** developed the pH meter; founded Beckman Instruments, 1934.
- **b. 1917 Robert B. Woodward**, researcher in stereoselective organic synthesis; Woodward-Hoffman rules; Nobel Prize (1965) for his outstanding achievements in the art of organic synthesis.
- Patent Office established (Constitution, Art. 8, Sec 1) 1790: First patent on Potash and Pearl Ash to Samuel Hopkins.
- Emil Fischer discovered glucose, 1891.
- A. M. Collins synthesized polychloroprene, 1930.

Ref: Monthly Historical Events In Chemistry by Leopold May, The Catholic University of America
<http://faculty.cua.edu/may/Chemistrycalendar.htm>

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Crystal Competition 2008



Attention all teachers, parents, and students

Do you want to have fun with Science? Would you like to do some simple chemistry experiments with your students? Then enter the NSW Crystal Growing Competition 2008 and learn all about growing beautiful crystals.

The competition is aimed at Primary and Junior Secondary school students with 3 'closed' divisions: K-Year 3, Years 4-6 and Years 7-8. Also there is an Open Division for students from K-10 in which entrants may grow any crystal of their choice.

Is your school involved??

Home Schooled Children in NSW are welcome – if you know of any families that do home school, why not recommend this exciting and educational event?

For more info see our website:

http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/crystal_grow/crystal2008.html

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Website of the Week

This is a new section of the newsletter where we will review a useful or interesting website that one of our members will have recommended. *(Opinions expressed in this article are not those of the RACI as a whole, rather the author of the article)*

This week we look at

Science Alert

See: <http://www.sciencealert.com.au/opinions/index.php>

This website is great for obtaining much of the up-to-date science related news in Australia and News Zealand. It provides a forum for debating many of topics that RACI is interested in.

Dr Adam Cawley (*NSW Hon. Secretary*)

Do you have any story ideas and breaking news?

Please let us know! If any of our RACI members receive awards, we would love to hear about it. Stories about our RACI events are always welcome. If you have found a chemistry book or text particularly helpful - why not submit a review? Why not recommend a website?

You can also support RACI (NSW Branch) by placing an advertisement. (Please note these do incur a small fee). Our E news reaches over a thousand members.

The deadline for the next issue appears at the bottom of each page. Contact racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au for further details.



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