Preparation is now underway for the 32nd Annual Meeting of the ASP. With assistance from members of the Scientific Program Committee, a preliminary program is being developed. The program will cover topics in all five ASP divisions. The meeting will start with a keynote address in late afternoon on Saturday (July 10) and will end following the morning session on Wednesday (July 14). Some of the new features planned for this meeting include a 3-hour plenary session on Sunday morning, with two Award lectures and the President’s lecture; a joint ASP/ESP symposium on UV radiation and global climate change; and daily lunch breaks of two hours for visiting the exhibits and poster sessions. There are over 20 symposia, three photobiology school lectures, a keynote address by R. Rox Anderson (Harvard Medical School), and two contributed papers sessions. I will communicate the details as the program is finalized.

In mid-September I went to Seattle for a site visit with Linda Hardwick and Rhonda Green of the Executive Secretary’s office. The venue, Westin Seattle, is located in the heart of downtown Seattle. Most of the sessions are scheduled on the same floor and we are very pleased with the quality of the guestrooms, which are offered at very competitive rates. Downtown Seattle has become very vibrant in the past few years. There are multiple shops and restaurants within a few blocks of the hotel. The Aquarium, Pike Place Market, and Seattle Art Museum are only a 15 minute walk away, and the Space Needle and Seattle Center are one monorail stop away.

Because of the guarantee on the number of room nights that we have to provide for the hotel, it is important for us to meet this guarantee. Therefore, I would like to urge all of you to make the lodging arrangement at the Westin. Our society will greatly appreciate it!

The 2004 Seattle meeting promises to be an exciting scientific meeting. In addition, Seattle is a most enjoyable city to visit for the entire family in the summer. Please reserve the dates on your calendar.

I hope to see you in Seattle next July!

Henry W. Lim
Chair, Scientific Program Committee
2004 Annual Meeting
Unidentified Photobiologists

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Irene E. Kochevar
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Letter from the Editor

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ASP News
Published quarterly by the American Society for Photobiology
www.photobiology.org

Editor
Peter A. Ensminger, Ph.D.
256 Greenwood Place
Syracuse, NY 13210
Tel: 315-478-6024
E-mail: ensmingr@twcnyc.rr.com

Layout and Design
Tracy A. Newman
E-mail: tnewman@everestkc.net

ESP and ASP - Shared Future?

In the previous issue of ASP News, Tom Moore discussed several issues that we feel are also very relevant to the ESP and indeed photobiology as a whole. The key issue in Tom Moore’s Message from the President article focused on the budget, which touches on all the activities of any society. The future that nearly all journals are facing is the change in dissemination of research papers, with electronic publishing having far-reaching consequences. These consequences were initially difficult to forecast and anticipate. The ESP faces the same situation, although we are very satisfied with the transition that we made to new publishers as of January 2002. Our new official journal, Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences, is co-owned by the ESP and the European Photochemistry Association.

A second topic brought up by Tom Moore is whether the ESP should hold biennial rather than annual meetings. The ESP would no doubt welcome the adoption of biennial ASP meetings, since this would greatly facilitate the efforts of our societies to promote joint activities. Previously, the ESP and ASP have tried to organize joint symposia at each other’s meetings, but this has not always gone smoothly. The ESP only holds biennial meetings and coordination was difficult when organizing activities on a biennial and an annual basis. We are very pleased that the ASP accepted our proposal of a designated coordinator of the joint ESP-ASP symposium who would serve for the next 4 years. We agree that the ESP would support the symposium during the years that we have our own congress, and that the ASP would reciprocate during other years. This will encourage members of our societies to attend each other’s functions and would facilitate organization of joint congress activities.

A consequence of this change in annual meeting schedules is that the ASP President may be asked to serve a two-year term, rather than a one-year term. This would make for additional continuity for the ASP and ESP when planning common activities of our societies.

We look forward to a further exchange of ideas between our two societies.

-Janet F. Bornman (ESP Past-President)
-Jacques Piette (ESP President)
-Francesco Lenci (ESP President-Elect)

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Photobiology Nr.

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Candidates for President Elect

Lisa A. Kelly
Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry
University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)
ASP Division 1
(Photochemistry, Photophysics & Phototechnology)

Education: B.S. in Chemistry (SUNY Geneseo); Harold and Helen McMaster Junior Fellow, Ph.D. in Photochemical Sciences (Bowling Green State University); DOE Distinguished Post-Doctoral Fellow (National Synchrotron Light Source and Biology Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory).

Appointments: Assistant Professor, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), 1996 – 2001; Associate Professor, UMBC, 2001 – present.

Research Interests: My research interests lie in the area of photoinduced oxidative damage in nucleic acid and protein systems. Through molecular engineering, we synthesize compounds that selectively associate with specific regions of biological macromolecules. Photochemically, the compounds initiate a sequence of chemical events that modify specific nucleic or amino acids in the vicinity of the binding site. Our research uses transient spectroscopies to identify and follow, in real time, the reactive intermediates. This information is used in conjunction with product analysis studies (HPLC, mass spectroscopy, gel electrophoresis) to identify the photoinduced modification and understand the mechanisms of the oxidative damage.

My group has concomitant interests in developing new tools for phototechnology and biosensing. We are developing novel classes of functionalized polymers whose fluorescent spectral properties change in response to the physical environment (pressure and temperature). These polymers, when coated on surface of interest, provide an inexpensive way to image, in a global and real-time fashion, environmental changes that are occurring at a surface. To understand the fundamental physical processes and polymer dynamics, we use both steady-state and time-resolved fluorescence methods.

ASP Service: Member since 1991; Member of Council and Division 1 representative (Chaired Education/Public Relations and Membership Committee), 1999 – 2002; Symposium organizer at ASP Annual Meetings (Baltimore, Chicago, Washington, D.C.); Division 1 Representative of the Scientific Program Committee, 2002 – present; Associate Editor, Photochemistry and Photobiology, 2002 – present.

Daniel B. Yarosh
President and Chairman
AGI Dermatics
Freeport, Long Island, NY
ASP Division 4 (Photomedicine)

Education: B.A. in Biology, 1976, Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota (National Merit Scholarship); Ph.D. in Molecular Biology, 1978, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson, Arizona (Tozer Foundation Graduate Scholarship); National Science Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 1979-1980, Biology Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York; Fellow, Senior Fellow, Cancer Expert, 1980-1985, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland.


Scientific Interests: Commercial applications of DNA repair technology. My academic and industrial research has focused on methods to engineer, purify and deliver DNA repair proteins and genes to living cells. The most important application of this technology is in solar UV damage to DNA and its role in skin cancer. Our lab developed a liposomal form of the DNA repair enzyme T4 endonuclease V that was shown in a clinical study to lower the rate of skin cancer in patients with the photosensitive genetic disease xeroderma pigmentosum. We are now interested in DNA repair gene polymorphisms and their relationships to solar UV damage to skin. I have authored over 100 scientific papers, 17 patents, and collaborated with many photobiology laboratories around the world.

ASP Service: I have been a member of the ASP since 1980, and I organized several symposia at annual meetings. I am a former Council member (1997-1998), Chairman of the Publication Committee (1998), and Treasurer (1999-2003).

Candidate’s Statement: The ASP is the premier professional society with the best journal in photobiology and photochemistry, but we face serious challenges common to most focused technical societies. The financial basis of ASP is shifting away from P&P institutional subscriptions, so that the annual meeting must run on a balanced budget and membership dues must carry more of the burden. The average age of our membership is increasing, so we need to hold meetings each year where young scientists are recruited and given many prominent opportunities to present their research. The AM&M Executive Secretariat is the best we have had in many years. However, operations costs of both the Society and the Journal must be kept under close control, and the Internet should be used wherever possible to save expenses while keeping our members in
Candidate’s Statement: I believe that the main mission of the ASP should be to foster and stimulate the interdisciplinary areas of photochemistry and photobiology. The Society is unique in that its members are drawn from very different fields, yet brought together with a common interest in photobiology. Through the annual meeting and other opportunities the Society can provide, we can all learn a great deal and expand our scientific horizons. As the science evolves, so should the membership. We must make it a primary objective to bring new investigators, students and post-docs into our community. I am pleased to see that the Council has recently added an Associate Member representative to join their meetings and bring forth suggestions and issues that are important to this subset of our membership. By having Associate Members take an active part in the Society’s governance, and integrating them as speakers into our meeting symposia, I feel that we can provide a scientific “place” for them to call home and help them transition into photobiology careers. I look forward to the opportunity to participate in a continued effort of these and other important missions as president of the ASP.

(Continued from page 3, Dan Yarosh)

the loop. I want to encourage the innovative electronic methods for teaching photobiology and photochemistry that have been developed within the society by some of our members. I look forward to serving this Society that has provided me with both stimulating science and camaraderie during my career.

Flavin-based Sensorial Photoreceptors: From Bacteria to Plants

Parma’s Romanesque cathedral (left) and the nearby Baptistery (1196-1260), one of the most beautiful examples of Italian middle-age art. Photo provided by Tourist Office of Parma.

From March 26-27, the historical city of Parma, Italy will host a European Science Foundation (ESF) workshop: Flavin-based sensorial photoreceptors: from bacteria to plants. Funding is provided by the ESF and the University of Parma. A pool of scientists from many disciplines will meet and discuss their recent discoveries and unanswered questions about plant blue-light photoreceptors - the phototropins and cryptochromes - and their counterparts in lower organisms. The meeting will be organized in discussion forums concentrating on reaction mechanisms, structural studies, physiological roles of flavin-based photoreceptors, signal transduction mechanisms, and protein chemistry. The aim of the workshop is to strengthen collaborations, promote multidisciplinary studies, and encourage the development of new projects by European groups in the field of flavin-based, blue-light photosensory biology. More details are available at: www.fis.unipr.it/~losia/losiweb/Workshop.htm and www.esf.org.

-Aba Losi, University of Parma (losia@fis.unipr.it)

National Medal of Science for Evelyn Witkin

On November 6, President George W. Bush awarded the National Medal of Science to Evelyn M. Witkin. There were six other recipients of the award this year, the nation's highest honor in science and engineering.

Many ASP members know Evelyn Witkin for her groundbreaking research on DNA mutagenesis and repair. In 1973, she and Miroslav Radman defined the “SOS Response” in E. coli. It is now known that this DNA repair system involves the activation of more than 40 genes via the RecA regulator and that similar repair systems exist in humans and many other organisms. These studies reinforced Dr. Witkin’s role as a leader in the field of biological responses to DNA damage.

Dr. Witkin moved to Rutgers University in 1971, where she is currently Barbara McClintock Professor Emerita. Among her many previous awards are election to the National Academy of Sciences in 1971, the 1982 American Women of Science Award for Outstanding Research, and the 2000 Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal of the Genetics Society of America.

-PAE
First and Final Call for Papers

2004 Annual Meeting of the ASP
Seattle, WA
July 10-14, 2004
Abstract Site Scheduled to open by Jan 5, 2004 at <www.photobiology.org>

Deadlines
Please read and follow all instructions carefully. Ensure that your abstract is submitted online by the deadline. Late breaking abstracts will not be included in the 2004 annual meeting Program and Abstract book due to production schedules.

Call for Abstracts
The Program Committee requests all invited speakers to submit abstracts of their presentations, and solicits contributed abstracts for oral or poster presentation from all interested scientists. Rules for abstract submission and procedures for submitting online are given below. The abstract deadline is April 20, 2004.

Rules for Abstract Submission
A member of the Society (Regular or Associate) may submit only one contributed abstract for which an oral presentation is requested. Members may co-author additional abstracts for oral presentation that other members are presenting or sponsoring. Contributed abstracts for poster sessions are not limited. The same rules apply to non-members, but a member of ASP must sponsor their submissions. Each abstract should be submitted separately.

Invited speakers for symposia sessions are asked to submit abstracts of their presentations, following the instructions on the web site, indicating the session in which it will be, e.g., B4 or D2, etc., as listed in the Preliminary Program. Such abstracts do not need to be sponsored, and do not count towards the limitation on contributed abstracts; invited speakers may thus contribute an additional abstract for oral presentation and unlimited abstracts for poster presentation.

Platform and Poster Presentations
Abstracts may be submitted for oral or poster presentation. The Program Committee will attempt to respect the author’s preference for type of presentation, whether oral or as a poster, but reserves the right to make the assignment. Some submissions will be selected by symposia chairs for presentation at their sessions, subject to consent of the authors. Sessions will be grouped by subject matter. Please indicate the category most appropriate for your work:
1. Photochemistry, Photophysics & Phototechnology
2. Photosensory & Circadian Biology
3. Photosynthesis, Bio- & Chemiluminescence
4. Photomedicine
5. Environmental Photobiology & UV effects

Submission Procedures and Acceptance Policy
Abstracts are to be submitted online. This procedure will allow abstract submission, review and publication all from our web site. There is no fee for online submissions. Once all abstracts have been reviewed and the program is set, this information will be accessible on our web site. In addition, the abstracts will be published in printed form and will be distributed at the meeting in July. Abstract Deadline: April 20.

Late Breaking Abstracts
Deadline: June 15, 2004. Abstracts submitted between April 21 and June 15 by registered delegates will be presented in the “Works in Progress” poster session. Submit abstracts to Linda Hardwick, ASP Business Office, PO Box 1897, Lawrence, KS 66044.

PDT for Macular Degeneration

“Wet” macular degeneration, in which choroidal neovascularization (CNV) leads to sudden and severe loss of central vision. Photo courtesy of the Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital (www.wilmer.jhu.edu/).

The National Institute for Clinical Evidence (NICE), a part of Great Britain’s National Health Service that provides professionals with guidance on current best practices, recently recommended photodynamic therapy (PDT) for certain patients with age-related macular degeneration. In particular, NICE recommended that patients with classic subfoveal choroidal neovascularisation (a type of “wet” age-related macular degeneration), but no sign that this is occult, and with at least 6/60 vision should be considered for PDT. New blood vessels growing in the choroid layer (beneath the retina) is the classic sign of neovascular age-related macular degeneration. The new vessels typically leak, leading to loss of vision.

In the recommended PDT for this condition, a low power 689 nm laser is used to activate intravenously injected Visudyne® (verteporfin), a benzoporphyrin derivative. This results in formation of free radicals that damage the newly formed blood vessels in the eye, inhibiting development of macular degeneration. Visudyne is manufactured by Novartis Ophthalmics, the eye health unit of Novartis AG. The full NICE guidelines can be found at: www.nice.org.uk. Visudyne is already approved in the United States and Canada.

-PAE
ASP Awards Committee Seeks Nominations

The ASP Research Award

1. The candidate must be nominated by, at a minimum, another member of the ASP and have made a major research contribution to the field of Photobiology. No self-nomination will be accepted.

2. Has at least 10 years of post-graduate (Ph.D. or M.D.) research.

3. For equivalent candidates, preference is given to the one who has contributed the most to the ASP.

4. The nomination package will stand for three years, with an opportunity to be updated yearly by the nominator. At the end of the three years, a new nomination package must be submitted.

The award consists of $1000 plus travel (total $1500) to be used for travel to the annual ASP meeting, and a Plaque that will be the envy of your colleagues.

New Investigator Award

This competition is open to any investigator who has recently entered the discipline. This is typically a young investigator (under age 36), but all investigators should be considered, even a senior scientist who is new to the area. Criteria 3-5 of the Research Award also apply to the New Investigator Award. The award consists of $1000 plus travel (total $1500) to be used for travel to the annual ASP meeting, and a Plaque.

Award winners will be honored at the annual ASP meeting where they will give a special lecture on their research.

Nominations for the ASP Research Award, and New Investigator Award can be made by submitting via snail mail or email a (1) letter of nomination, plus (2) a curriculum vitae of the nominee to: Thomas C. Vogelmann (thomas.vogelmann@uvm.edu)

Botany and Agricultural Biochemistry
Marsh Life Science Bldg.
109 Carrigan Dr.
University of Vermont
Burlington, VT 05405-0086

ph (802) 656-0422
fax 802-656-0440

Deadline for nominations: January 15, 2004 (or until a suitable candidate is identified)

ASP Research Award

John Spudich, 2003
ASP Research Award winner.

The ASP Research Award recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the fields of photobiology, photochemistry, and/or photophysics.

1986: Barry Rosenstein
1987: Thomas Dougherty
1988: Peter Quail
1989: Richard Mathies
1990: Aziz Sancar
1991: Pill-Soon Song
1992: Steven G. Boxer
1993: Kenneth Sauer
1994: John Hearst
1995: James Cleaver
1996: Philip Hanawalt
1997: Michael Rodgers
1998: Sylvia Braslavsky
1999: Margaret Kripke
2000: Christopher Foote
2001: Thomas Moore
2002: Woody Hastings
2003: John Spudich

ASP New Investigator Award

The ASP New Investigator Award recognizes promising quality research performed at a relatively early stage in an investigator's career. Competition is open to any investigator who has recently entered the discipline. It is generally thought to be a young investigator (under age 36), but all investigators should be considered, even a senior scientist who is new to the area. The Committee should select an investigator who it feels will continue to excel in the field.

John Christie, 2003
ASP New Investigator Award winner.

1994: Carl Bauer
1995: Thomas P. Sakmar
1996: Robert W. Redmond
1997: Peter Glazer
1998: Kevin Schey
1999: Faith Strickland
2000: Emmanuel Liscum
2001: Paola Taroni
2002: Toshiyuki Okano
2003: John Christie
Upcoming Events

Jan 8-11, 2004
13th Western Photosynthesis Conference
Asilomar Conference Center
Pacific Grove, CA
Contact: Steve Herbert
E-mail: sherbert@uwyo.edu
Web site: www.lyon.edu/photosynthesis/

Jan 11-16, 2004; March 14-19, 2004
Protein Purification: Isolation, Analysis, and Characterization of GFP
Cook College, Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
Contact: William W. Ward
Tel: 732-932-9562 ext 216 or 212
E-mail: crebb@rci.rutgers.edu
Web site: www.rci.rutgers.edu/~meton/protein.html

Jan 24-29, 2004
Photonics West 2004
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
San Jose, CA
Contact: Marilyn Gorsuch
E-mail: meetinginfo@spie.org
Web site: www.spie.org/Conferences/Programs/04/pw/

February 14-18, 2004
Biophysical Society 48th Annual Meeting
Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD
Contact: Kathy Gilsson
Tel: 301-530-7114
Fax: 301-530-7133
E-mail: society@biophysics.org
Web site: www.biophysics.org/annnmtg/site-index.htm

March 16-18, 2004
AIBS Annual Meeting
Invasive Species: The Search for Solutions
Westin Grand Hotel
Washington DC
Contact: Sue Burk
Tel: 800-992-2427
Fax: 703-790-2672
E-mail: sburk@aibs.org
Web site: www.aibs.org/annual-meeting-2004/

March 26-27, 2004
ESF-LESC Exploratory Workshop: Flavin-based Sensory Photoreceptors: From Bacteria to Plants
Centro Santa Elisabetta
University of Parma, Italy
Contact: Aba Losi
Tel: +39-0521-905293
Fax: +39-0521-905223
E-mail: losia@fis.unipr.it
Web site: www.fis.unipr.it/~losia/losiweb/Workshop.htm

June 10-15, 2004
14th International Congress on Photobiology
International Convention Center
Jungmoon, Jeju (Cheju), Korea
Contact: Heiko Spilgies
E-mail: spilgies@photostability.org
Web site: www.photostability.org/

June 14-16, 2004
5th International Conference on Photostability of Drugs and Drug Products
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Lambeth, London, U.K.
Contact: Heiko Spilgies
E-mail: spilgies@photostability.org
Web site: www.photostability.org/

July 10-14, 2004
32nd Annual Meeting of the American Society for Photobiology
Westin Seattle, Seattle, WA
Contact: Henry Lim
E-mail: HLIM1@hfhs.org

July 24-28, 2004
Plant Biology 2004
ASPB's Annual Meeting
Disney Coronado Springs Resort & Convention Center
Lake Buena Vista, FL
Contact: Susan Rosenberry
Tel: 301-251-0560 ext 111
E-mail: chambers@aspb.org
Web site: www.aspb.org/meetings/pb-2004/

July 29-Aug 2, 2004
4th International Congress of Crassulacean Acid Metabolism
Granlibakken Resort
Tahoe City, CA
Contact: John Cushman
E-mail: jcushman@unr.edu
Web site: www.ag.unr.edu/cam/meetings.asp

August 2-6, 2004
13th International Symposium on Bioluminescence and Chemiluminescence
Conference Center of Pacific Yokohama
Yokohama, Japan
Contact: Akio Tsuji
Tel: +81-3-3784-8194
Fax: +81-3-3784-8247
E-mail: BXP02045@nifty.ne.jp
Web site: www2.unibo.it/isbc/Files/BC_Symnf.htm

August 29-September 3, 2004
13th International Congress on Photosynthesis
Montreal, Canada
E-mail: ps2004@uqtr.ca
Web site: www.uqtr.ca/ps2004/

2005
33rd Annual Meeting of the American Society for Photobiology
Quebec City, Canada