



**IN THIS ISSUE:** Conference Call Date Reminder, Arsenic Remediation Project Update, Chemists Without Borders Bio, Non-Profit Status, FRPAA Announcement, Conference Call Invited Speakers, Fundraising News.

### **CONFERENCE CALL DATE REMINDER**

This is a reminder that the schedule for the Chemists Without Borders bi-monthly conference calls has been set to the **first** and **third** Thursdays of each month. The first Thursday will be at 6:00 PM, Pacific Standard Time, and the third Thursday will be at 9:00 AM, Pacific Standard Time. This schedule has been set up to try to accommodate members from all time zones, including international members. Please mark your calendars accordingly. To access the conference calls, please call (641) 297-5600, and use the access code: 10031945 plus #. We highly encourage you to participate. We are scheduling guest speakers to address specific topics in upcoming conference calls- please see the section below.

### **ARSENIC REMEDIATION PROJECT**

The arsenic remediation/water hyacinth project is moving forward. Later in March, Chemists Without Borders volunteers will work in the field with the California Department of Boating and Waterways and help harvest and procure the water hyacinth root needed to begin testing the efficacy of hyacinth root as an arsenic sponge.

Previously, Chemists Without Borders had submitted a pilot proposal to the Grainger Challenge, which has recently awarded one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the design of a low-cost arsenic removal system to be used throughout the world: <http://pubs.acs.org/email/cen/html/031207233640.html> We commend Professor Abdul Hassam from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. for his work in this area. We believe that pursuing the hyacinth root as part of an arsenic remediation system remains an important alternative due to the prevalence of hyacinth in regions where high levels of arsenic in the ground water is problematic.

**PROJECT ISSUES:** Surface water supplies can be highly contaminated with bacteria, thus the motivation for ground water supplies. While well water is less susceptible to bacterial infection, naturally occurring metals can make the water unhealthy to drink. The question of arsenic uptake by the growing water hyacinth and the arsenic levels of the dried root has arisen. As it turns out, surface water supplies in which the hyacinth grows likely have lower levels of arsenic than ground water supplies. One question we hope to answer is does the living plant itself retain high arsenic levels?

**CHEMISTS WITHOUT BORDERS MEMBER BIO: Glenna Drisko**

Glenna Drisko is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne. She is researching porous metal oxide synthesis for the sequestration of radionuclides and heavy metals. These materials could be used to clean up contaminated waters and for safe and efficient nuclear waste storage. Glenna grew up in rural Northern California, obtained a BS in Chemistry from the University of Puget Sound and a MS in organic chemistry from Washington University in St. Louis Missouri. In her spare time she likes to camp, hike, travel, and enjoy time with her partner and their dog.

## **NON-PROFIT STATUS**

## **FRPAA ANNOUNCEMENT**

Chemists Without Borders U.S. members are asked to consider contacting their Senator asking them to support the Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006, and/or to write a letter of support to the original sponsors of the Bill, Cornyn and Lieberman. The Alliance for Taxpayer Access has provided letter Templates, which makes this process very easy. To customize the letter and provide further background, it wouldn't hurt to mention your Chemists Without Borders affiliation, and make reference to our Open Chemistry Position Statement, which can be downloaded from the Chemists Without Borders website at: <http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org/cwbhome.html>

Following is a brief explanation of the Federal Research Public Access Act. For more details, and links to the letter templates, go to: <http://www.taxpayeraccess.org/frpaa/>

Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006 (S.2695)  
Sponsors Cornyn (R-TX) and Lieberman (D-CT)

Every year, the federal government funds tens of billions of dollars in basic and applied research. Most of this funding is concentrated within 11 departments/agencies (e.g., National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy). The research results typically are reported in articles published in a wide variety of academic journals. From NIH funding alone, it is estimated that about 65,000 papers are published each year.

Because U.S. taxpayers underwrite this research, they have a right to expect that its dissemination and use will be maximized, and that they themselves will have access to it. If this information is shared with all potential users, it will advance science and improve the lives and welfare of people of the United States and the world. This is an achievable goal – today. The Internet has revolutionized information sharing and has made it possible to make the latest advances promptly available to every scientist, physician, educator, and citizen at their homes, schools, or libraries.

Contributed by Heather Morrison.

## CONFERENCE CALL INVITED SPEAKERS

On Thursday, June 7th, Open Access guru Peter Suber joined the Chemists Without Borders for a lively question and answer session. Many of the questions were about archiving of research articles; for example, how to find a suitable open access archive, how to ensure that you have permission to self-archive (or will have, if you have not yet published), and how to encourage others to self-archive. Participants found the session to be very helpful. Peter applauded Chemists Without Borders for our Open Chemistry position statement - available from the Chemists Without Borders website at <http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org/home.html>. To learn more about Open

Access, please see Peter Suber's Open Access news blog at: <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/fosblog.html>. Peter noted that one of Chemists Without Borders' own members, Heather Morrison, is considered an expert on open access as well. Heather can be reached at [hgmorris@gmail.com](mailto:hgmorris@gmail.com)/

To recommend a speaker or specific topic to be addressed at the conference calls, please contact Bego Gerber at [begogerber@chemistswithoutborders.org](mailto:begogerber@chemistswithoutborders.org)

Heather Joseph - April 5th: 9:00 a.m. PST

The Federal Research Public Access Act

Heather Joseph is the Executive Director of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). Heather's background is in publishing; before she joined SPARC, Heather was the Executive Director of the BioOne publishing cooperative. Heather will talk about open access, focusing on the Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA).

The bipartisan Federal Research Public Access bill (S. 2695) would require that US Government agencies with annual extramural research expenditures over \$100 million make electronic manuscripts of peer-reviewed journal articles that stem from their research freely available on the Internet.

It is anticipated that FRPAA will be reintroduced this spring. FRPAA has been endorsed by 132 higher education leaders, patient advocacy groups, library associations, a major society publisher, and a students' group. Given the Chemists Without Borders Open Chemistry position statement, perhaps we too should endorse FRPAA?

For more information about FRPAA:

<http://www.arl.org/sparc/advocacy/frpaa/highered.html>

For more information about SPARC and Heather Joseph:

<http://www.arl.org/sparc/>

Peter Suber - June 5th: 9:00 a.m. PT

Open Access: Question and Answer

Peter Suber is one of the world's best known and most highly respected academic voice in the area of open access. Peter writes the well-read daily Open Access News and the monthly SPARC Open Access Newsletter. Currently the Public Knowledge Open Access Project Director, and a Senior Researcher for the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, Peter's involvement in the open access movement goes back many years; he was one of the drafters of the Budapest Open Access Initiative, widely regarded as the first major international defining moment for the open access movement. Before becoming an open access guru, Peter taught philosophy and law at Earlham College. Peter Suber will join Chemists Without Borders on June 5th to answer questions about FRPAA - or anything open access!

For more information, please see:

Open Access News

<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/fosblog.html>

Peter Suber's home page

<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/hometoc.htm>

To join the conference call, dial (641) 297-5600, and the code is 10031945 + #. If you are not currently receiving the conference call invitations, or know someone who would like to subscribe, please contact [stevechambreau@chemistswithoutborders.org](mailto:stevechambreau@chemistswithoutborders.org)

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **Donations**

Chemists Without Borders is now accepting donations. We expect these donations to be tax deductible for the 2007 tax year, pending successful completion of our non-profit application. Donations can be mailed to:

Chemists Without Borders  
c/o Bego Gerber  
831 Monica Lane  
Campbell, CA 95008-0120

Check payable to: Chemists Without Borders

**Jacquelynn R. Moe Educational Fund**

In memory of Jacquelynn Moe, Steve Chambreau's fiancée, Chemists Without Borders is setting up an educational fund in her name. Jacquelynn was a high school math teacher, and our goal is that this fund will promote science education. Donations to this fund can be sent to the above address. Please indicate on the check that it is for the Jacquelynn R. Moe Educational Fund.

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Thanks for reading. Hope to hear from you soon.

Steve Chambreau  
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[www.chemistswithoutborders.org](http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org)  
[www.chemistswithoutborders.blogspot.com](http://www.chemistswithoutborders.blogspot.com)

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