Chemists Without Borders Newsletter
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NON-PROFIT STATUS

Chemists Without Borders is excited to announce the completion and submission of our non-profit, public benefit, 1023 application to the Internal Revenue Service. We are now beginning our fundraising efforts. Donations to Chemists Without Borders are 100% tax-deductible, pending the acceptance of our non-profit, public benefit status. Our legal counsel fully expects our application to be accepted within six to nine months, meaning donations accepted now can be deducted for 2008. If you would like to review our 1023 application, we would be happy to supply a copy. More information to follow.

CONFERENCE CALL DATE REMINDER

CORRECTION: 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 9:00 AM, Pacific Standard Time, and the third Thursday will be at 6:00 PM, 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 (712) 432-2500, 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.

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. 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.

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL INVITED SPEAKER: JEAN-CLAUDE BRADLEY (THIS THURSDAY, 9 AM PST)

Jean-Claude Bradley is an Associate Professor of Chemistry and E-Learning Coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences at Drexel University. He leads the UsefulChem project, an initiative started in the summer of 2005 to make the scientific process as transparent as possible by publishing all research work in real time to a collection of public blogs, wikis and other web pages. Jean-Claude coined the term Open Notebook Science to distinguish this approach from other more restricted forms of Open Science. The main chemistry objective of the UsefulChem project is currently the synthesis and testing of novel anti-malarial agents. The cheminformatics component aims to interface as much of the research work as possible with autonomous agents to automate the scientific process in novel ways. Jean-Claude teaches undergraduate organic chemistry courses with most content freely available on public blogs, wikis, games and audio and video podcasts. Openness in research meshes well with openness in teaching. Real data from the laboratory can be used in assignments to practice concepts learned in class. Jean-Claude has a Ph.D. in organic chemistry and has published articles and obtained patents in the areas of synthetic and mechanistic chemistry, gene therapy, nanotechnology and scientific knowledge management.

To join the conference call, dial (712) 432-2500, and the code is 10031945 + #. If you are not currently receiving the conference call invitations, know someone who would like to subscribe, or to recommend a speaker or specific topic to be addressed at the conference calls please contact Bego Gerber at begogerber@chemistswithoutborders.org

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.

ARSENIC REMEDIATION PROJECT

In March, Chemists Without Borders member Steve Chambreau accompanied workers from the California Department of Boating and Waterways to survey and harvest water hyacinth to be used in the arsenic remediation pilot project. Please see:
http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org/images/Grainger_Proposal_Te_22320F.pdf
for more information on the pilot project.

Water hyacinth is considered an aquatic weed, and is the fastest growing plant known. It poses a significant threat to the Bay Area delta region by choking out the waterways. The California Department of Boating and Waterways has an eradication program which is based on spraying herbicides part of the year, and physical removal of the plant when herbicides can not be used due to the threat to migrating and endangered species. The main spray used is a glyphosphate called Aquamaster, which is similar to RoundUp, but

approved for aquatic use.

We procured eleven pounds of water hyacinth root to test for arsenic removal from drinking water as has been described in the article "A Biomaterial Based Approach for Arsenic Removal from Water," *J. Environ. Monit.,* 7, 2005, 279-282. Instead of using an atomic absorbance method, which is expensive, a colorimetric-based means for quantitative testing of arsenic makes the required instrumentation needed much more widely available. (*Anal. Chim. Acta.*, 526, 2004, 203-209). This testing would be an excellent opportunity for chemical education as well: since we have more than enough hyacinth root to perform the required testing, we are looking for others who would be interested in validating these tests and perhaps even using this as part of an analytical or environmental laboratory class. Please contact Steve Chambreau at stevechambreau@chemistswithoutborders.org if you are interested.

New hyacinth growth of only a few weeks.

Mike and Ed from CA Department of Boating and Waterways. Mike is holding new growth hyacinth.

Hyacinth root drying in the back yard.

Steve sorting out dried hyacinth root.

Thanks for reading. Hope to hear from you soon.

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