



International Organization  
for  
Chemical Sciences in Development

## IOCD Senior Advisory Council – 2014 Newsletter

In 2014, IOCD has continued to work to strengthen its programmes and seek new sources of funding in support of its efforts to make effective contributions to achieving its mission – ***promoting the chemical sciences for development***.

The following brief summary provides highlights of IOCD's recent advances.

### A. Strategic priorities and activities

IOCD's Strategy 2011-2020 focuses on three priority areas, delivered through the efforts of IOCD's Working Groups and Projects and supported by its small Secretariat.

#### Strategic priority 1: Chemistry for Better Health

**Plant Chemistry Working Group:** Preparations for the **2015 IOCD International Symposium on Plant Chemistry** are now well advanced, with the Chair of the Working Group, Prof. Kurt Hostettmann, and his colleagues collaborating closely with the local organizing committee in Morocco led by Prof. Zoubida Charrouf. The Symposium, entitled **The Plant Kingdom: Source of drugs, nutraceuticals and cosmetics** will take place in Marrakesh, Morocco on 7-10 April 2015. The opening lecture will be given by Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand. Details of the programme, abstract submission schedule and registration process, as well as information on hotel booking, workshops, side events and social events, can be accessed at: [www.iocd.ma](http://www.iocd.ma)

Prof. Sabrina Krief of the National Museum of Natural History, Paris, has accepted to lead a new IOCD Project on the **identification of medicinal plants through studies of self-medication by the great apes**. She is preparing a review for IOCD of zoopharmacognosy and animal self-medication as a potential source of new medicinal agents.

**Medicinal Chemistry Working Group:** The Distance Education Course in Medicinal Chemistry, prepared by Prof. Lester Mitscher at Kansas University, has been undergoing revision and re-formatting and is now ready for its transfer from KU to IOCD's own website.

#### Strategic priority 2: Chemistry for a Better Environment

IOCD's recently formed **Working Group on Materials for Energy Conversion, Saving and Storage (MATECSS)**, located at the Centre Énergie Matériaux Télécommunications at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique of the Université du Québec, is working on developing a course that will be given in a number of settings, including in low- and middle-income countries. We are delighted that Professor Federico Rosei, co-chair of the MATECSS, has recently received **two highly prestigious awards**: the first is a **UNESCO Chair** in recognition of his work; the second is the World Cultural Council's **2014 Jose Vasconcelos World Award of Education**, which will be presented to Prof. Rosei in Finland in November.

#### Strategic priority 3: Strengthening Education in the Chemical Sciences

IOCD's efforts in open and distance learning continue. In addition to the **Medicinal Chemistry Distance Education Course** referred to above, Prof. Carlos Rius and colleagues at UNAM, Mexico City continue to provide an extensive range of **Organic Chemistry Tutorials in Spanish**.

Challenges for the **future role of education in the chemical sciences** formed the subject of a consultation co-convened in Namur 14-15 January 2014 by IUPAC's CHEMRAWN and IOCD, in which a dozen invited experts from around the world reviewed current developments in education in chemistry and considered some critical future needs and advised IOCD on its potential future role in the field. An

article entitled *Scoping the Future of Education in Chemistry*, based on the meeting, has been published by Prof. Stephen Matlin in the IUPAC journal *Chemistry International*, available at: [www.degruyter.com/view/j/ci.2014.36.4.28/ci.2014.36.4.28.xml?format=PAP](http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/ci.2014.36.4.28/ci.2014.36.4.28.xml?format=PAP)

One of the recommendations made by the consultation was that IOCD should establish a **Working Group on Education in Chemistry**. The AMGA in May 2014 gave formal approval for this and IOCD is currently in the process of seeking suitable leadership for the Working Group.

Meanwhile, work has continued on the **IOCD Project on ChemKnowBase** (CKB), aiming to construct an internet-based, comprehensive resource of knowledge to support chemistry educators and learners. Prof. Alain Krief has been contacting individuals who may wish to contribute to the construction of CKB and has been working closely with ATOMIKA, an IT company based in India, on the development of the CKB website and its transfer to a host server at Namur University. Prof. Stephen Matlin gave a paper on CKB at IUPAC's **2014 International Conference on Chemistry Education** in Toronto in July and participated in the meetings of **IUPAC's Chemistry Education Committee** while there.

## B. Promoting the chemical sciences for development: Communications

IOCD's Secretariat and all members of the General Assembly, Working Groups, Projects and Senior Advisory Council are encouraged to speak about IOCD and its role whenever the opportunity arises; to promote the goals of the organization; and to encourage interest in participating in its activities and funding. To assist, the Secretariat has recently prepared two new booklets on IOCD:

- An updated version of IOCD's Strategic Priorities 2011-2020
- A summary of the work and achievements of IOCD's Working Groups and Projects

These are attached as PDF files, which may be freely copied and distributed.

A perspective on IOCD's three decades of achievements, its current activities and strategies for the decade, written by Prof. Stephen Matlin (Head of IOCD's Strategic Development Programme and also Head of Communications) has been published in two journals:

S.A. Matlin. *IOCD: Looking to the Future Role of the Chemical Sciences in Development*. *Chimie Nouvelle*, October 2012, 111, 5-8.

S.A. Matlin. *IOCD: Chemical sciences in development*. *Chemistry International*, 2013, 8-11. Available at: [www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2013/3501/2\\_matlin.html](http://www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2013/3501/2_matlin.html)

While visiting the MATECSS group in Montreal in July 2014, Prof. Matlin gave a seminar at the Centre Énergie Matériaux Télécommunications at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique of the Université du Québec, entitled **Chemical Sciences for Development: Potential and Prospects**.

Prof. Matlin is currently working with Senior Advisory Council member Prof. Goverdhan Mehta and others on writing a series of articles to highlight the importance of the chemical sciences for development and the need for repositioning its role and adapting its educational approaches to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges.

## C. Finance and Administration

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the General Assembly (AMGA) took place in May. On the administrative side, an important development was the decision to rationalise the structure of the organization. While IOCD is an international NGO registered in Belgium, its USA tax-exempt affiliate OCDI has in fact held and disbursed all the financial resources for many years. Following decisions of the AMGA, **IOCD and OCDI have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding**, as a result of which OCDI will make a grant each year to IOCD to fund an approved, mutually agreed programme of activities. After much effort to comply with Belgian requirements, **IOCD has now been able to open a bank account in Belgium** to manage these and other funds it hopes to acquire. **Michael Tempesta continues to serve as Treasurer of OCDI**, while a separate office of **Treasurer of IOCD has been established and Prof. Philippe Lambin** (Physics Department, University of Namur) has been appointed to the position.

The 2014 AMGA approved the establishment of a **Fundraising Committee**. Raising new funds for IOCD remains the single most challenging task and essential to the future survival of the organization.