

ISCE NEWSLETTER, VOLUME 28, ISSUE 3, 2011

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President's Message

I am writing this message from the south of Brazil, where we can just feel the warm breezes that soon will bring us another wonderful summer. I am particularly happy that, for the first time in the history of our Society, this message will reach you filled with warmth from South America.

After attending my first ISCE meeting in Chile as a Ph.D. student in 1995, I decided to pursue a career in chemical ecology. At the meeting in Chile

I met people that, until then, were simply author names of my favorite papers. To this day, my conversations back then with Wittko Francke (ISCE president, 1989-1990) and Kenji Mori (ISCE president 1992-1993) are fresh in my mind. And, I remember well the social lecture (I think it was a social lecture!) given by John Pickett (ISCE president, 1995-1996), which was the most outstanding and hilarious lecture that I had ever heard at a scientific meeting. Definitely, that atmosphere and all that science conquered me!

The multidisciplinary nature of chemical ecology requires each of us to be members of various "parent" scientific societies (chemistry, entomology, etc.). However, the International Society of Chemical Ecology is unique compared to other societies, exactly because it promotes the integration and socialization among researchers from disparate, although complementary, backgrounds. Synergisms created by collaborations among various professionals are undoubtedly

largely responsible for the wealth of knowledge that flows from our studies of inter- and intra-specific chemical communication, the main focus of our “still young” discipline. Being President of such a Society is reason to be very proud, which I am!

During my 16-year career in chemical ecology, great economic and social changes have occurred around the world, and the same is true for the field of chemical ecology. I do not refer merely to the revelations in the various avenues of semiochemical research (pheromones, insect-plant interactions, allelopathy, etc.) we have seen through the years in the *Journal of Chemical Ecology*, most recently from the tireless efforts of our editor, John Romeo. I also refer to the geographical evolution of chemical ecology.

Nowadays we have newly established associations that conduct semi-international meetings of outstanding scientific quality, such as the Asia-Pacific Association of Chemical Ecologists (APACE) and the Latin American Association of Chemical Ecologists (ALAEQ). In addition, there are national chemical ecology meetings in Brazil and China, for example, that communicate and promote regional advances in chemical ecology. Plus, there are workshops such as those taking place in the African continent aiming to establish cooperation among African and non-African researchers. The ISCE shall always be supportive of these regional events to help further the common goals of Chemical Ecology. This fact, along with the increasing number of young researchers and students pursuing chemical ecology, ensures healthy growth of our discipline across the planet.

I cannot forget in this message to thank Erika Plettner and her team for having organized our last annual meeting in Canada some months ago. Indeed, I would like to invite all of you to attend our next meeting that will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania in 2012, where Vincas Buda has been working to organize another great scientific conference. Also, I would like to call attention to the first joint APACE-ISCE meeting that will be held in Melbourne, Australia, in 2013; this will certainly be a milestone in the globalization of Chemical Ecology.

Finally, I wish to express my personal gratitude to my predecessors, Monika Hilker (ISCE president, 2010-2011) and Jeffrey Aldrich (ISCE president, 2009-2010) for their support, encouragement and nomination. I am particularly grateful to Walter Leal (ISCE President, 2000-2001) for all he has taught me about chemical ecology (and I hope I have learned!), and for his unwavering support throughout my career. I remember some words from Walter during his speech at the 2000 ISCE annual meeting in Poços de Caldas, Brazil: “The International Society of Chemical Ecology is like a big family”. I fully agree with this sentiment. I hope and trust that this family remains united with truly fraternal bonds, and continues to grow in good health. See you all in Lithuania in 2012, if not before. Saúde!

Paulo H. G. Zarbin
ISCE president

ISCE meeting 2011 at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, Vancouver



Parts of the Simon Fraser University; you can easily recognize the chemistry buildings with the ventilation channels on the roof.



The meeting host Erika Plettner and the President Monika Hilker during a break with the beautiful Vancouver Bay in the background.

In total 209 researchers and accompanying persons participated in the Vancouver meeting, the majority from USA and Canada but also from Europe; Germany and Sweden had several representatives. The conference was located at Simon Fraser University Campus in Burnaby. The university is located outside Vancouver in the mountain region surrounded by beautiful mountains. The buildings in concrete form an impressive complex and show many interesting architectonic solutions. For those who were lodged within the campus a 10 minutes' walk each morning was made in a nice summer temperature (20degrees) to the conference localities where the breakfast was served just outside the lecture rooms.

The scientific program was interesting as usual, comprising 9 symposia:

1. Efficient synthesis and new methods for the identification of semiochemicals and natural products (organizers: B. Torto and J. Bergmann)
2. Chemical ecology and natural products of marine organisms (organizer: K. VanAlstyne)
3. Multimodal communication (integration of olfaction, taste, vision, acoustics and mechanoreception) in arthropods (organizers: G. Gries, J. Millar)

4. Chemical ecology of microorganisms, including symbionts and pathogens of plants and animals; soil microorganisms (organizer: S. Schulz)

5. Social insects (organizers: Y. LeConte, R. Van der Meer)

6. Neural function and modulation underlying chemosensory driven behavior (organizers: B. Hansson, M. Ozaki)

7. Chemical ecology in forest ecosystems (organizers: C. Keeling, D. Huber, B. Aukema)

8. Genomics and chemical ecology (organizers: C. Keeling, D. Huber)

9. Plant natural products and chemical ecology (organizers: T. Hartmann, M. Heil)

For those not attending, please visit the abstract book, uploaded on our website under “Meetings.”

This year we had the opportunity to listen to two inspiring Silverstein-Simeone award lectures:

Coby Schal, Chemoreception in the German cockroach: A potpourri of novel semiochemistry, behavior and adaptive evolution.

and

Kenneth Raffa: Terpenes Tell Different Tales at Different Scales: The Chemical Ecology Of Conifer - Bark Beetle -Microbial Interactions.

We also had the pleasure to listen to the Silver medal award lecture by **Paul Feeny**: Fifty years of exploration and adventure as a chemical ecologist.

The lectures show clearly what is needed to be successful in science: to combine research areas that are not easily connected and to think interdisciplinary.

This year all together 19 travel stipends were funded. The travel award winners 2011 are:

Lynne Jeffares
Erin Clark
Claudia Dussaubat
Ricarda Kather
Patrick Lhomme
Marion Chartier



The Indians know the importance of insects, seen from these bumble bee masks (photo from the impressive ethnographic museum in Vancouver).

Mohamed Saveer Ahmed
Ezra Schwartzberg
Anja Strauss
Simon Zebelo
Mohammed Shabab
Yang Yu
Brinda Prasad
Carolina Sellanes
Ayuka Fombong
Yuanyuan Song
Christian Salcedo
Domancar Orona-Tamayo
Rosario Razo-Belmán

Young students are encouraged to apply for travel stipends for the meeting in Vilnius, and information will be found on the ISCE website early next year.

ISCE meeting 2012

The ISCE meeting 2012 will be located in the beautiful city Vilnius in Lithuania in July 22-25, and Prof. Vincas Buda will be our host.

Preliminary symposia titles are:

- 1.Plant-animal-animal interactions
- 2.Chemical ecology meets evolutionary and molecular biology
- 3.Biosynthesis and chemistry of natural products
- 4.Chemical ecology of microorganisms
- 5.Chemical ecology of vertebrates
- 6.Aquatic chemical ecology
- 7.Climate change, invasive species and chemical ecology
- 8.Applied chemical ecology

Future Chemical Ecology Meetings

VII Brazilian Meeting on Chemical Ecology (VII EBEQ)

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the VII Brazilian Meeting on Chemical Ecology (VII EBEQ) at Universidade Federal Fluminense, Niterói, Rio de Janeiro from 4th - 7th December 2011. Details of conference, organizers, accommodation, registration are given at our website <https://www.metaeventos.net/ebeq2011/>

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2nd Meeting of ALAEQ:

The 2nd Meeting of the Latin American Association for Chemical Ecology (ALAEQ) will be December 2-5, 2012, in Huerta Grande, Cordoba province, Argentina. After the success of our first meeting in Uruguay in 2010, we are encouraged to organize this new event hoping to again bring together highly qualified speakers and very enthusiastic Latin-American students and postdocs. Areas of research to be represented will include insect-plant interactions, pest control, pheromone chemistry, vectors of disease, olfactory behavior, neurobiology of olfaction and taste, molecular biology of olfaction. The meeting will include conference talks, symposia, student talks and poster sessions.

A hilly landscape and favorable weather conditions are distinctive in Córdoba province, at the heart of Argentina. Little towns, historical antiques and traditional farmhouses are found in a pleasant valley landscape, high plains and gorges. Outdoors activities include mountaineering, climbing, trekking, horseback riding, mountain biking, photography safaris, plant and animal (condor!) watching, paragliding flights and ballooning. Córdoba's rivers and streams crossing hillsides with crystal-clear waters plenty of trout are ideal for fly fishing. Huerta Grande is a small town situated 80 Km NW from Cordoba city, a ca. 1 million-people city with an international airport. The meeting will be held in Casa Serrana, a hotel compound that includes hotel rooms, conference rooms, ample gardens and a sports area.

Contact information:

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Joint ISCE-APACE meeting in Victoria, Melbourne 2013

Presentation of the joint host-organization team will be made in the first newsletter in 2012.

Call for Nominations for the Year 2012 ISCE Silver Medal and Silverstein-Simeone Awards

The ISCE Silver Medal Award is intended to recognize career achievement by an outstanding scientist working in the field of chemical ecology. The Silverstein-Simeone Award, established in 1995, to honor Milt Silverstein and John Simeone, is made on the basis of recent or current work, by the individual, of an outstanding nature at the “cutting edge” of chemical ecology. The recipient must deliver a plenary lecture at the annual ISCE meeting and publish a paper on the same topic in the Journal of Chemical Ecology. The expenses of the recipient of the Silverstein-Simeone Award to attend the annual meeting are paid by the society through the generous sponsorship of Springer Publishers. Nominators should be ISCE members in good standing. Nominations will be reviewed by the President and Vice President for relevance to the appropriate award, before forwarding them to the full ISCE Executive Committee. Should a nomination for one award be considered more relevant for the other award, the President will contact the nominator(s) regarding reconsideration. Current ISCE officers or councilors are not eligible for the awards because of possible conflict of interest. Note that previous, unsuccessful nominations must be re-nominated to be considered for the awards. It would be helpful to resubmit the nomination packets for these individuals.

The nomination process is the same for both awards and is as follows:

- A nomination letter explaining why the nominee should be recognized for the award, stressing either their current cutting-edge research (for the Silverstein-Simeone award) or their career achievements (for the Silver Medal award).
- Curriculum vitae, including a list of publications pertinent to the research on which the award is based (for the Silverstein-Simeone award), or a full list of publications (for the Silver Medal award). Supporting letters from other colleagues may be included.

Please submit all parts of the packet in electronic format (including supporting letters) along with one paper copy to:

Prof. Paulo Zarbin, ISCE President,
Email: pzarbin@gmail.com

Prof. Dr. Paulo Henrique G. Zarbin
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Deadline for receipt of nominations: 31 January 2012

Call for Nominations for ISCE Vice-President, and Councilors for 2012

Nominations for the positions of Vice-President and three new councilors are called. The position of Vice-President is prestigious in that he/she will assume the position of Society President in the year following the tenure as Vice-President.

ISCE councilors are elected for a term of three years. Councilors must commit to attending at least two ISCE executive meetings during this period. Their other principal responsibilities are participation in the selection of the Silver Medal and Silverstein-Simeone Award, and to provide general guidance and assistance to the Executive Committee. It is expected that all people nominated for the above positions have a strong record of participation in Society activities and meetings. It is highly desirable that the elections have competition for the positions, i.e., that there is more than one high quality candidate for Vice-President and at least 4 candidates for the councilor positions.

Please send names, contact addresses, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses of candidates along with a short description of why you think the candidate(s) would be suitable for office, to:

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Deadline for receipt of nominations: 31 January 2011

Other News

Upcoming meetings:

Information of any upcoming meetings in related areas is published on the website as soon as we receive it from our members.

Positions Available

During the last two month several new positions are launched on our website, under “new positions.”

Secretary / Editor’s Message

Dear members! The newsletter will reflect your interests. You are cordially invited to submit what you think could interest our members. Photos, new findings, ideas to discuss, see also link to twitter. Please send information about courses and meetings of interest!

New for this autumn is the free access to commentaries that is published each new issue in Journal of chemical ecology, these commentaries is aimed to be the base for further discussions of research and research direction in chemical ecology, read and discuss! We are grateful to the editor of JCE, John Romeo, and Springer for the link with free access.