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**RADIOCHEMISTRY IN EUROPE**  
**THE NEWSLETTER of the**  
**DIVISION of NUCLEAR and RADIOCHEMISTRY**  
**Issue 47 – JUNE 2011**

#### EDITORIAL COMMENT

Welcome to the forty-seventh newsletter for Radiochemists in Europe. At present this is still available at [www.euchems.org/Divisions/NRC](http://www.euchems.org/Divisions/NRC). From the home page the “Future Events”, updated each month or when fresh information is received, and Radiochemistry newsletters are readily available. Useful Links have also been established, including the Homepage of the Radiochemistry Group of RSC. **If any other group would like their website to be linked, please send me the details.**

A new EuCheMS website is being developed, in which we can manage our own webpages, put conferences into a EuCheMS calendar and hold forum discussions. Progress on this will be given in later newsletters.

This is your newsletter for radiochemists in Europe. Please send articles, reports on meetings, laboratory profiles, courses, positions vacant, redundant equipment and any other item you feel are of interest to other Radiochemists. Also the early announcement of dates for meetings and conferences is important to avoid the possibility of organising two at the same time on similar topics within Europe. See the 10year Planning Calendar on the website. Details of any courses would also be of interest to extend the existing database.

Prof. Dr Heinz Gäggeler, the Division Chair, has established a database of e-mail addresses, may I remind readers to send their e-mail address to [angela.blattman@psi.ch](mailto:angela.blattman@psi.ch) for inclusion.

Providing that information is available it is intended to compile this newsletter 4 times per year in March, June, September, and December/January. Please send information in good time for inclusion that is by the end of the month prior to publication. **Editor: Dr. Tony Ware (e-mail: [tony.ware@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tony.ware@tiscali.co.uk))**

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~\*~ DIVISION of NUCLEAR and RADIOCHEMISTRY.

#### Mission and Objectives

The Division of Nuclear and Radiochemistry is a network of societies and their scientists working in nuclear and radiochemistry throughout Europe and aims to have close links to related institutions all over the world. A broad communicative basis is achieved by cooperation with relevant supranational bodies such as IUPAC and IAEA as well as with journals and newsletters. It endeavours to establish and maintain the highest quality standards in science and research. NRC accepts a role to harmonise education and training in all aspects of nuclear and radiochemistry and to offer a means of communication and collaboration between scientists working in the fields.

Objectives of the NRC are:

- To contribute to the advancement of nuclear and radiochemistry in Europe;
- To identify important areas in science, technology and other human activities relevant to nuclear and radiochemistry, and to stimulate actions in such fields;
- To address aspects of importance in or to nuclear and radiochemistry which need regulation, harmonisation, standardisation or codification, and to make recommendations as appropriate;
- To encourage cooperation between analytical chemists whether working in academia, industry or governance, in particular within the countries of the member societies of EuCheMS
- To foster close contacts and cooperation of NRC with the European Commission and other relevant institutions;
- To safeguard the interests of the nuclear and radiochemistry community, especially concerning recognition and legitimisation in matters of regulation and legislation as well as decision making in economic and in social areas;

- To assist and strengthen quality in teaching and training of nuclear and radiochemistry in education and in daily practice;
- To support the transfer and exchange of knowledge, equipment and personnel in the areas of NRC expertise both within Europe and in non-European countries;
- To hold a European Conference at least every other year;
- To assume a general promotion and coordination function for other conferences and courses in Europe related to NRC activities;
- To disseminate information to the wider scientific community and general public about nuclear and radiochemistry and its achievements.

#### **Priorities of the Division**

1. Constitution was established as Practices and Procedures with the aims and objectives given above.
2. The Division should continue editing the Newsletter as the official information periodical of the Division with S. Jerome and A. Vertes agreeing to assist A. Ware in editing.
3. Web site. All members are asked to send any links; they would like to have listed here, to A. Ware.
4. Diary of future events (10-years Calendar) – has been established and should be maintained.
5. Co-ordination of T&E in Radiochemistry and Review of Courses.
6. Maintain contacts with the Technical Advisory Boards of both the NRC and Radchem series of meetings that should be organised “on behalf of the DNRC”.

**If your country does not have a nominee to the Division, please press your Chemical Society to nominate a candidate.**

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#### **EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION for CHEMICAL and MOLECULAR SCIENCES**

#### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the DIVISION of NUCLEAR- and RADIOCHEMISTRY held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011 at 11 hrs. at LASA in Milano, Italy**

**Those present: Mauro Bonardi (Italy), Heinz W. Gäggeler (Switzerland, Chair), Horst Geckeis (Germany), Jan John (Czech Republic), Jukka Lehto (Finland), Panagiotis Misaelides (Greece), Jon Petter Omtvedt (Norway).**

**Apologies were received from: Nicholas D.M. Evans (UK), C. Gascó Leonarte (Spain), Xiaolin Hou (Denmark), Jerzy Narbutt (Poland), Pavol Rajec (Slovakia), Gunnar Skarnemark (Sweden), Turan Unak (Turkey), Árpád Vincze (Hungary), and Anthony Ware (UK)**

**Those not present: Alexander Chekmarev (Russia), Divna Djokić (Serbia & Montenegro), Zvonimir I. Kolar (The Netherlands), Ioannis Paschalidis (Cyprus), Isabel Santos (Portugal), Eric Simoni (France), Rayna Stefanova (Bulgaria), Israel Zilbermann (Israel).**

1. H. Gäggeler welcomed the participants, introduced new members and passed the apologies.
2. The Annual Meeting agreed to the Agenda as circulated.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting (April 19<sup>th</sup> 2010) were reviewed and approved.  
The DNRC – INCS relations were briefly touched in the discussion.
4. Changes within EuCheMS  
H. Gäggeler reviewed the history and present of EuCheMS. EuCheMS is an associated member of IUPAC. The Executive Board has been restructured since this year – there are two Division Heads in the ExCom but there is still no system in Division Heads meetings and positions building. An unofficial meeting of Division Heads took place last year in Prague upon the initiative of Helena Grennberg (Division of Organometallic Chemistry).  
The groups representing less than 20 countries act as Working Parties. From this year on, the EuCheMS office moved from London to Brussels. Financing via member societies.
5. Radiochemistry Symposium at the Nuremberg 3rd EuCheMS Congress – a retrospect  
H. Gäggeler reports: Having NRC half-day symposium included was a difficult task. Four top speakers attracted about 80 participants from all fields of chemistry – a clear success.
6. NRC-8 Conference in Como, 17-21 Sept. 2012  
Discussion: Changing the name of NRC and RadChem series to “EuCheMS International conference on ....”.

M. Bonardi, Organizer, reports: The conference fees have not been set, yet – it is closely connected with the selection of the venue. The location has been changed from Lake Garda to Lake Como. The options are Villa Erba, Villa Olmo or some new hotel in the city. Proceedings – MB presents an idea to divide the papers between RA and JRNC. Broadly discussed – generally, the preference is to stick to RA only, if necessary limiting the number of pages per paper. Number of invited speakers discussed – one per session seems optimum. Strong preference was expressed to stick to the “no parallel sessions” rule. International Advisory Board – who are / should be the members? It is preferred that the IAB – people who should form the programme – is not identical with the DNRC membership who are representatives of national chemical societies, not necessarily representatives of research fields. Topics have to be discussed first. A mutually agreed list of preliminary topics was drafted. Test web site: <http://nrc8.mi.infn.it/>

**ACTION:**

MB will propose names of conveners, where readily available, and distribute the completed list for comments by DNRC within short deadline.

It seems to be advisable that the full registration fees do not exceed 600 EUR.

7. Radiochemistry Day at the 4th EuCheMS Congress Prague, 26-30 August 2012 (Chairman of DNRC Convener)

H. Gäggeler reports: Visibility at ECC is important but the meeting is close to NRC-8. Should we get combined with Environmental chemistry? “Environmental” topics mentioned in the discussion included synchrotron radiation speciation, impact of Chernobyl, maybe in relation to Fukushima ... “Non-environmental” topics included heavy element chemistry, thorium fuel cycle, radionuclides for drug development, etc.

**ACTION:**

A combined session with environmental division will be organised. H. Geckeis and J. Lehto will propose few names of speakers.

H. Gäggeler will finalise the negotiation with the Division of Chemistry and the Environment trying to have the work Nuclear- and/or Radiochemistry in the title of the combined session.

H. Gäggeler will finalise the negotiation with the ECC organisers.

8. Other Conferences

INCS Congress – Flavia Groppi reports: 90 abstracts at this moment, deadline is 29 May. Early registration deadline is 29 May, too. 8 sessions (NC and RC, Radioanalytics, Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry, Health Phys and Radiation Chem., Nucl.Fuel Cycle,Waste Transmutation and Gen IV Reactors, Radioecology and Geochemistry, Education in NC and Physics). <http://3rdincc.mi.infn.it/>

Migration – some 250 abstracts accepted. Special session on the Chinese nuclear activities will be organised. (Ed Note: Migration 2013 is in Brighton UK, 8th - 13th September)

**ACTION:**

ALL should send to J. John details (dates, web sites) of the conferences they are aware of. J. John will organise updating the 10 years calendar on the DNRC web.

9. Newsletter of our division – a status report.

A. Ware promised to carry on for one more year since autumn 2010. The only person remaining from the Newsletter Task Force will be A. Vincze.

**ACTION:**

H. Gäggeler and J. John will contact A. Ware and A. Vincze and propose solution to this situation.

Any volunteers to take over the position of the Newsletter editor or to join the Newsletter Task Force are kindly requested to contact H. Gäggeler ASAP.

10. AOB

10.1. Next NRC (2016) – Finland. Norway is prepared as a substitute.

10.2. H. Gäggeler reported that the former FECS, now EuCheMS, awards system is inactive at this moment.

Recorded by: Jan John DNRC Secretary E-mail: [jan.john@jffi.cvut.cz](mailto:jan.john@jffi.cvut.cz)

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**•LABORATORY/BUSINESS PROFILES**

**RadAnal Ltd.**

Registration N o. 01-09-893011

Address: 1121 Budapest, Konkoly-Thege M, út 29-33., Hungary

RadAnal Ltd. was established at the beginning of 2008 by a group of radiochemists, physicists and geologists with the intention

- to provide high quality analytical services for the determination of radionuclides in various matrices, to participate in radiochemical researches and development, as well as in education of young scientists.
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RadAnal Ltd. operates a radiochemical laboratory that is situated in the Research Institute of Isotopes of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on the KFKI campus.

The laboratory is accredited according to MSZ EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005 by the Hungarian Accreditation Body (licence No.: NAT-1-1610/2009).

#### **Nuclear measuring techniques using**

- $\alpha$ -spectrometry (determination of Am, Pu, U isotopes)
- $\beta$ -spectrometry (determination of Sr-90, Ni-63, Fe-55 isotopes)
- $\gamma$ -spectrometry (measurement of different type of samples)
- X-ray spectrometry (measurement of Ni-59, Nb-94 isotopes)
- ICP-MS technique cooperation with IKI in Hungary (measurement of Np-237, Zr-93 isotopes)

#### **Research**

- R&D on new analytical procedure for the determination of  $^{93}\text{Zr}$  and  $^{237}\text{Np}$  in radioactive wastes
- R&D on rapid analytical procedure for the determination of actinides for emergency situation
- R&D on corrosion product transport processes in the primary coolant of PWRs
- R&D on the radio- and microchemical analysis of individual radioactive particles

#### **Analytical service**

- $^{90}\text{Sr}$  and Pu nuclides have been determined in ground water samples originating from the survey wells of a nuclear power plant. Detection limits as low as 0.1 mBq/L and 1  $\mu\text{Bq/L}$  were achieved for  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  and Pu nuclides i.e.  $^{239,240}\text{Pu}$ , and  $^{238}\text{Pu}$ , respectively
- Long-lived radionuclides in liquid radioactive waste samples originating from nuclear power plants have been analyzed in order to derive scaling factors between difficult-to-determine nuclides and key-nuclides. A combined radiochemical procedure has been developed and applied
- Background levels of  $^{129}\text{I}$ , natural U isotopes, as well as those of  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  and  $^{210}\text{Po}$  have also been determined in ground water samples of a future nuclear waste depository. Activity concentrations of  $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  $^{235}\text{U}$ ,  $^{234}\text{U}$ ,  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  and  $^{210}\text{Po}$  varied in the ranges typical for ground water samples. Local and temporal variations were high.
- A rapid method for the determination of actinides in environmental samples under accidental conditions has been developed recently
- New radioanalytical technique has been developed and applied for controlling corrosion processes in the primary circuit of nuclear reactors.  $^{55}\text{Fe}$ ,  $^{63}\text{Ni}$  and  $^{60}\text{Co}$  activities were determined by a combined analytical procedure and the specific activities were determined.

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### **•CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP REPORTS**

#### **“Metals, Peptides and Nuclear Medicine” 4 April at St Thomas Hospital, UK**

##### **Becquerel Medal presented to Professor Helmut Maecke**

The Radiochemistry Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK) “Metals, Peptides and Nuclear Medicine presented the Becquerel Medal to Professor Helmut Maecke during a symposium “Metals, Peptides and Nuclear Medicine: Radiolabelled Peptides in Nuclear Imaging and Treatment” held in his honour at St. Thomas Hospital, London, on April 4, 2011. During his lengthy career at the University of Basel, Professor Maecke’s work led to  $^{68}\text{Ga}$  DOTATOC and  $^{90}\text{Y}$  DOTATOC becoming widely used radiopharmaceuticals for diagnosis and therapy, respectively, of tumours which over express the somatostatin receptor.

The Radiochemistry Group and the European Association of Nuclear Medicine congratulates Professor Helmut Maecke for the excellent work and the Becquerel Medal and wishes him every success in his future work. Details of the symposium along with pdf files of presentations can be found on the Radiochemistry Group’s website at [www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/Radiochemistry](http://www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/Radiochemistry).



The day concluded with a piano recital “From Polonium to....Polonaise”. This was a homage to Marie Curie with the music of Frédéric Chopin. Extracts from the book written by Eve Curie, “Madame Curie” could be read by the

audience whilst the music was played on the piano by Davide Di Censo. Davide is a pianist and chemist and was born in Italy in 1976. He obtained a diploma in piano at the Conservatory of l'Aquila in 1999. Since 2010 he has been Artistic Director of the Swiss-French association Musique en Lumière. Davide is also a scientist, obtaining a Master Degree in Chemistry from the University of Ferrara (Italy) and a PhD in Chemistry under the guidance of Prof. Michael Graetzel in EPFL (Switzerland) for whom he is still a part-time consultant.

## Hevesy Medals 2010 and 2011

At the 13th International Conference on Modern Trends in Activation Analysis, 13-18 March 2011 at Texas A&M, College Station, TX (USA), Darleane C. Hoffman and Peter Bode were awarded the Hevesy Medals 2010 and 2011, respectively.



The 2010 Georg Hevesy Medal was awarded to Professor Darleane C. Hoffman, University of California at Berkeley during MTAA-13. Shown with Professor Hoffman is Dr. Amares Chatt, President of the Int. Committee of Activation Analysis and the conference co-chairs Drs. Dennis James and Emile Schweikert (far right).

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### ● CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP DETAILS

**3rd International Nuclear Chemistry Congress Città del Mare (PA), ITALY - September 18-23, 2011**

**The 3rd-INCC website has been updated: the deadlines are extended.**

The new schedule is:

May 29, 2011: the deadline for abstracts submission;

May 29 2011: last day to get pre-registration rates;

July 15, 2011: after this date, the rooms at Città del Mare Resort are not guaranteed.

You find all the information at the conference website:

<http://3rdINCC.mi.infn.it>

Please contact Flavia Groppi (chair) or the Secretary of the Congress with any questions or concerns.

[3rdINCC@mi.infn.it](mailto:3rdINCC@mi.infn.it) Or [3rdINCC.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:3rdINCC.secretary@gmail.com)

**Goldschmidt 2011 Aug 14 – 19 Prague, Czech Republic**

The abstract submission system for **Goldschmidt 2011** is now open and we'd like to highlight session **16f, "Biogeochemical Processes in Management and Forensics of Legacy Radioactive Materials"** that we are organising. We are hoping that you will consider contributing to this session, which will cover current research in the biogeochemistry of radionuclides and in nuclear forensics, from molecular to field scale. The session description is included below.

We are delighted that Dr Annie B Kersting of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has accepted an invitation to provide the keynote presentation. In addition, we are able to confirm the following invited speakers:

Dr Christoph Hennig, *Forschungszentrum Dresden-Rossendorf*

Dr James Fredrickson, Pacific Northwestern National Laboratory

Prof. Jonathan R Lloyd, University of Manchester

Dr Maxim Boyanov, Argonne National Laboratory

Dr Miranda Keith-Roach, University of Plymouth

Dr William McDonough, University of Maryland (to be confirmed)

Please pass this e-flyer to any of your colleagues, research staff and students who may be interested. Goldschmidt 2011 is from August 14th to the 19th, 2011 in Prague, Czech Republic and **abstract submission is open through April 15, 2011**. See [www.goldschmidt2011.org](http://www.goldschmidt2011.org) for further details.

Katherine Morris, [kath.morris@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:kath.morris@manchester.ac.uk), The University of Manchester.

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Albert Fahey, [albert.fahey@nist.gov](mailto:albert.fahey@nist.gov), National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Int. Conference on the Chemistry and Physics of the Transactinide Elements (TAN) to be held 5-11 Sept. 2011 in Sotchi, Russia**

The scope of the TAN'11 Conference includes the traditional topics in the field of transactinide science, covering both physical and chemical research:

- Physics experiments – synthesis and properties
- Spectroscopy
- Nuclear physics theory
- Experimental chemical studies
- Theory on chemical properties of the transactinides.

See: <http://tan11.jinr.ru>

#### **Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste: Underpinning Science and Technology 18 -20 October 2011 Loughborough University, UK**

The Royal Society of Chemistry, the Geological Society, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Nuclear Institute, the Institution of Chemical Engineers, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Mineralogical Society and a number of other learned societies are holding a conference to showcase and publish research relevant to radioactive waste storage/disposal. The event is supported by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

The conference will bring scientists, engineers and other interested specialists together to discuss the chemical, biological, geological, hydrological, materials, engineering and other scientific and technological issues associated with the long term management of radioactive waste in the UK.

The scientific committee will peer-review abstracts prior to the conference.

This conference will lead to the publication of full papers peer-reviewed by representatives of the Learned Societies, copies of which will be available to all delegates as part of their conference fee.

Deadlines:

Abstracts for oral presentation: June 30th 2011

Abstracts for poster presentation: July 31st 2011

Standard registration: 30th September 2011

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#### **NEWS FROM THE INTERNET**

##### **Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) News Bulletin April 2011**

##### **Responding to the nuclear accident at Fukushima.**

On 11 March 2011, Japan experienced a major earthquake followed by a tsunami of cataclysmic magnitude. The OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) wishes to express its condolences to all those who have been affected by this disaster. It has offered its assistance to the Japanese authorities as they address the very challenging situation at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. The NEA will be playing a key role in the evaluation of the accident and the dissemination of lessons learnt based on its various areas of expertise and its competence in addressing emergency and accident management issues. The updates on the NEA website provide initial insights into some of the steps being taken by the NEA.

Monthly NEA News Bulletins available at [www.oecd-nea.org](http://www.oecd-nea.org)

##### **SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INTERNATIONAL YOUTH TOUR (CERN, PSI, ILL, ESRF)**

(22 – 28 August 2011, Final submission deadline: 04 July 2011)

We have recently started the organization “Scientific and Technological Youth Tours” eventually for graduate or undergraduate students and the first tour was realized between 04 - 12 September 2010 at well-known facilities in France and Switzerland for a group which was consisted of Turkish students. During this tour the participating students had opportunity to visit the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) in Switzerland and the Institute Laue Langevin (ILL) and the European Sychrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) in Grenoble, France. **Famous specialists of the related organizations guided and informed the participants of this visiting group under the leadership of the President of International Nuclear Chemistry Society (INCS).** In addition, the students executed also touristic tours in Zurich, Lausanne, and Geneve, Switzerland, in Grenoble, France, and in Milano and Bergamo, Italy. Finally, they returned home very exiting from this **scientific and technological, and also touristic tour to their homes. The pictures and videos of this tour can be seen on the web address [www.unak-arge.com](http://www.unak-arge.com).** Following this successful organization, it has been decided to repeat a similar organization for an international students group which will be consisted of students coming from different countries worldwide. Thus, we believe that especially the students coming from developing countries will have a great opportunity for visiting these famous scientific and technological European research centres and for informing about the large facilities at these centres such as Large Hadron Collider in CERN, Synchrotrons in PSI and ESRF, and a Nuclear Reactor having very high neutron flux in ILL, and research topics studied in different sections of these facilities. This international tour will principally be organized by the cooperation of the INCS (<http://incs.ege.edu.tr>) and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century R & D Company like the tour which was organized for Turkish students in last September. The graduate or undergraduate students who wish to plan for participating in the coming tour(s) are recommended to fill in the Expression of Interest form given below and send it by 15 March 2011; but, to complete their final submission by the deadlines shown above. The details, the program, and the payment procedure of this tour(s) will be sent to each applicant as soon as possible following their applications. Further information can be obtained from  [info@unak-arge.com](mailto:info@unak-arge.com) .

#### **European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) Event Calendar**

Over the past years, the EANM Event Calendar has become the online site where to find a comprehensive overview of the events in the field of Nuclear Medicine. This calendar is regularly updated and also lists conferences, symposia, congresses and educational sessions beyond the scope of the EANM. Therefore, we would like to remind you of visiting the EANM Event Calendar in order to find a comprehensive list of events in the field Nuclear Medicine. Moreover, we would like to draw your attention to the two categories of events listed in the EANM Event Calendar:

- Simple event announcements: submitted by the organisers of a nuclear medicine related event via the online mask on the EANM Website or to the EANM Executive Secretariat by email.
- EANM Auspices accredited events: the quality of the events marked with an Auspices stamp have been reviewed and approved by the EANM Executive Committee upon a specific request of the organiser.

All organisers of an event related to the field of Nuclear Medicine are invited to visit the EANM Website [www.eanm.org](http://www.eanm.org) / Information & Events / Events in order to insert their event in the EANM Event Calendar and / or to download the EANM Auspices request form.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Exotic Radionuclides from Accelerator Waste for Science and Technology (ERAWAST II),**

to be held at the Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland, 29 Aug to 2 Sept. 2011

The ERAWAST workshops discuss application of exotic radionuclides extracted from accelerator waste in different fields of science and technology (e.g. astrophysics, life-science etc.)

Further information can be found on <http://indico.psi.ch/event/erawast>  
Abstract submission is due 15 February 2011 and should be sent to the workshop coordinator  
[dorothea.schumann@psi.ch](mailto:dorothea.schumann@psi.ch)

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### Vacancies at the National Physics Laboratory (NPL), UK

NPL now have a vacancy for a Research Scientist in the Radioactivity Group:  
<http://www.npl.co.uk/careers/current-vacancies/research-scientist-in-radioactivity>  
The Group Leader post is still open:  
<http://www.npl.co.uk/careers/current-vacancies/group-leader-radioactivity-group>

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## AND FINALLY

Please send information for inclusion in future issues to your Liaison Person or Me Dr Tony Ware, Avoncastle, South Lane, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3AZ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1622 842627, e-mail: [tony.ware@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tony.ware@tiscali.co.uk)  
**IMPORTANT PLEASE** send me your e-mail address so that I can inform you when website has been updated and any other news of immediate interest.

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