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RADIOCHEMISTRY IN EUROPE
THE NEWSLETTER of the
DIVISION of NUCLEAR and RADIOCHEMISTRY
Issue 46–December 2010

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Welcome to the forty-sixth newsletter for Radiochemists in Europe with Good Wishes for Christmas and the New Year. The WebPages of the Division can be found at 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.**

Some of you may have noticed that the last newsletter was in March of this year. That was deliberate on my part as I wanted to see when this would be noticed. 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 may be 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 Gaggeler, 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 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. Please note my new e-mail address and change in your address books. **Editor: Dr. Tony Ware (e-mail: 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

News from EuCheMS

The DNRC chairman attended the General Assembly meeting of EuCheMS on 15/16 October 2009 in Interlaken, Switzerland, the Executive Board meeting on 14 April 2010 in Brussels, Belgium, and the General Assembly meeting on 14/15 Oct. 2010 in Bled, Slovenia.

The main topics discussed and decided upon were:

- The headquarter of EuCheMS will be moving from London to Brussels in 2011
- The division heads will no longer be members of the Executive Board of EuCheMS. To still have the interests of the divisions expressed in the Executive Board meetings, two representatives are delegated to this body. These are for the first election period (three years) Helena Grennberg (chairwoman of the Division on Organometallic Chemistry) and Livia Sarkadi (Chairwoman of the division of Food Chemistry).
- The new president as of October 2011 will be Prof. Ulrich Schubert from Vienna, succeeding the actual president Prof. Luis Oro.
- In order to have a new forum for the divisions to discuss topics of mutual interest a new series of meeting was organised, CDH (committee of division heads). The first *ad-hoc* meeting of CDH was held on 23 November 2010 in Prague. DNRC was represented by its chairman. Helenna Grennberg chaired this kick-off meeting. The main topic was ECC4, the European Chemistry Congress to be held 28 – 30 August 2012 in Prague. Some concerns were expressed about the ECC3 congress of Nuremberg. It was felt that the divisions were not included properly in the planning phase of this event. CDH is therefore interested to help designing an interesting Congress in 2012 in Prague. Our DNRC expressed its interest to contribute to the congress with a half-day Symposium and, in addition, with contributions to special symposia devoted to Energy and to Life-Science. Convener of the half-day Symposium is the chairman of DNRC and the local organizer is Prof. Jan John from Prague. There were also some suggestions to motivate the divisions not to organize Conferences in years with ECC congresses. This request causes some pressure on our division to change the years of our NRC and RadChem conferences to odd ones. This topic will be discussed in the forthcoming DNRC meeting in 2011. The main reason for this suggestion is the idea that on a longer perspective the ECC congresses should become similar events as the ACS conferences where the scientists from all discipline in chemistry organise important special meetings in their respective fields.

Report by the chairman (Heinz W. Gäggeler; heinz.gaeggeler@psi.ch)

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the DIVISION of NUCLEAR- and RADIOCHEMISTRY held on Monday, 19 April 2010 at 6 pm at Conference Centre “Casino”, Mariánské Lázně, Czech Republic

Those present: Mauro Bonardi (Italy), Nick Evans (UK, proxy), H. Gäggeler (Switzerland), Jan John (Czech Republic), Andreas Türlér (Germany), Pavol Rajec (Slovakia)

Guest: Flavia Groppi (Italy, for 3rd INCS)

Agenda:

1. H. Gäggeler welcomed the participants and the guests.
2. The Annual Meeting agreed to the Agenda as circulated by the Chairman.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

4. Report of the Chairman / Recent organizational changes in EuCheMS

HG attended two EuCheMS meetings (Brussels, Interlaken).

Interlaken: EuCheMS appointed an Executive Board that is responsible for the daily business (12 people). It does not include the Division heads any more but only two representatives of the existing 11 Divisions and 6 Working Parties. The role of the Division/WP heads is unclear now. The communication between the Divisions/WPs should improve. The EuCheMS headquarters moved to Brussels. HG needs the nomination letters.

5. DNRC Newsletter, status and prospectives.

Reported by NE on behalf of A. Ware. AW plans to step back from the Division and within one year also from the editorship of the Newsletter. The division expresses its thanks to AW for all what he has done for starting and running the Division.

6. Elections:

HG offered to continue for one more term. Approved univocally. HG proposed JJ to continue with the Secretaryship. JJ agrees. Approved univocally.

ACTION: JJ will organise an electronic vote for those not present.

7. EuCheMS Congress Nuerenberg:

AT tried to organise a NRC session. Four speakers proposed, problems to set-up the session. Very few people registered till now. After some discussion, the Meeting proposes that AT continues with the organisation. (Comment. Session did take place. See report later in newsletter.)

8. EuCheMS Congress Prague:

JJ will contact the organisers to investigate the possibility to run a NRC session there.

9. NRC 8: MB reports.

Location: Lago Como, Spazio Villa Erba, Italy. Timing: September 17 – 21 2012

Scientific Programme: Plenary sessions only + posters.

Website: <http://nrc8.mi.infn.it>

10. 2011, the year of Chemistry:

Activities of DNRC: Radiochimica Acta are organising a special issue. 29 January – Marie Curie session in Paris on the occasion of 100 years anniversary of Nobel prize being awarded to M. Curie. HG is negotiating with the French whether the DNRC can get somehow involved.

11. Educational activities of our division in European programs:

JJ informed the group about the activities planned to take in the new Euratom FP7 project CINCH (<http://cinch-project.eu>). JJ proposed that HG represents the DNRC in CINCH Advisory Board. Final conclusion: Representation of DNRC by JJ is sufficient for the efficient transfer of information.

12. Forthcoming meetings (2011 and 2012).

HG proposed to organise the next meeting at the 3rd INCS. Attention was drawn to the clash with Migration (in Beijing). Question left open.

13. AOB

MB informed the Meeting about the formal existence of Radiochemistry Italian.

Recorded by: Jan John, DNRC Secretary. E-mail: jan.john@fffi.cvut.cz

EuCheMS Congress ECC3 in Nuremberg, Germany 29. 8. – 2.9.2010

Nuclear and Radiochemistry was represented at the 3rd EuCheMS congress as a special Symposium on 1st September.

Convener: Prof. Andreas Türler, Bern University and Paul Scherrer Institut, Switzerland, Head of Fachgruppe Nuklearchemie, German Chemical Society (GDCh).

The program consisted of the following four invited lectures:

Partitioning and transmutation: a solution to the nuclear waste problem?

Prof. Dr. Horst Geckeis, KIT Karlsruhe, Germany

Cosmogenic radionuclides: a key to quantify solar forcing on climate

Prof. Dr. Jürg Beer, EAWAG / ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Radionuclide therapy for cancer treatment

Prof. Dr. Jörg Steinbach, FZ Dresden-Rossendorf, Germany

Chemistry with the newly discovered superheavy elements

Dr. Robert Eichler, Paul Scherrer Institut / Bern University, Switzerland

The half-day session was very well attended by more than 80 participants, mostly from other disciplines in chemistry. Lively discussions underlined the interest in hot-topics in radiochemistry and nuclear chemistry. Highlights in nuclear chemistry were also presented in form of several posters on Tuesday evening, 31 August 2010. A youtube contribution on radiochemistry and nuclear chemistry can be found on www.euchems-congress2010.org.

(Report from the chairman, Heinz W. Gäggeler)

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•LABORATORY/BUSINESS PROFILES

No profiles were offered during the past 6 months.

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•CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP REPORTS

Radiochemistry Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry

It is the habit of the Radiochemistry Group to place notes from talks at its one-day meetings on their website.

Slides from the last two talks “Chemistry of Geological Disposal” and “Current Issues on Nuclear Power” are now at: www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/Radiochemistry/PastEvents.asp the latter meeting was of particular interest in view of the fact that the UK Government has encouraged the development of new Nuclear Power Stations.

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•CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP DETAILS

RadChem 2010 18 - 23 April 2010 in Mariánské Lázně, Czech Republic

On 18-23rd April 2010, the 16th Radiochemical conference – RadChem 2010 – was organized again in the usual place, in Mariánské Lázně, Czech Republic. The eight traditional Conference sessions, in particular “Radionuclides in the Environment, Radioecology”, “Nuclear Analytical Methods”, “Chemistry of Actinide and Transactinide Elements”, “Radiation Chemistry”, “Production and Application of Radionuclides”, “Separation Methods, Speciation”, “Chemistry of Nuclear Fuel Cycle, Radiochemical Problems in Nuclear Waste Management” and “Nuclear Methods in Medicine, Radiopharmaceuticals, and Radiodiagnostics, Labelled Compounds” were complemented by a new session on the “Education” in recognition of the increasing demand for new young specialists in all the nuclear fields triggered both by the renaissance of the nuclear energy and by the ever growing radionuclides application in radiopharmacy and nuclear medicine.

Under the auspices of the Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU) the conference was traditionally organized by a committee composed of members of the Nuclear Chemistry Section of the Czech Chemical Society, and of the Ioannes Marcus Marci Spectroscopic Society. For the first time, the conference was organised on behalf of the Division of Nuclear- and Radiochemistry (DNRC) of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) as an integral part – together with the Nuclear and Radiochemistry (NRC) conference series – of the biennial series of European general nuclear- and radiochemical conferences guaranteed by the DNRC. Similarly to our previous meetings, RadChem 2010 was organised in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and it was

sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. As usually, the municipality authorities of Mariánské Lázně and the health resort – Marienbad Kur & Spa Hotels – took a warm interest in our conference and are acknowledged with pleasure for their support and arrangements.

The organisation of RadChem 2010 was seriously obstructed by the unfortunate coincidence of the conference with the infamous Eyjafjallajökull eruption that took place on the 14th April, only four days before the start of the conference. Due to the non-existing air traffic over Europe before and during the first half of the conference week, some 20 % of the pre-registered participants, especially those from the overseas and more distant parts of Europe, were unable to come. These unhappy circumstances complicated significantly both the conference scientific programme and the technical arrangements. However, on the other hand, these problems firmly united the participants with the organiser into one compact team with the only aim – to have the conference running and make as much of it as possible. Thus, the participants were not only smoothly adapting to the programme changes following the programme updates issued by the organisers twice a day but they also made full use of the new instruments created on-the-go by the organisers – namely the newly created Poster Appetisers Sessions were a clear success as well as the upload of “no-show posters” on the Indico conference management system followed by their printing and display by the organisers.

All the pre-registered paying participants who were unable to come to Mariánské Lázně were air-mailed their conference materials (including these Conference Proceedings) and they were invited to upload their papers to the on-line registration system Indico and have them processed for inclusion into the Conference Proceedings. A special extended deadline was provided for submission of such papers. Being aware of the exceptional situation, the organisers made every effort to be able to refund at least the part of the registration fees exceeding the “fixed costs” associated with the room and equipment rentals, associated services and staff, prints and P&P, etc. that were booked and advances (or even the full prices) paid before the start of the conference.

From the position of the organisers, it was really heart-warming to learn what efforts some of the participants were prepared to undertake in their eagerness to reach Mariánské Lázně and join their favourite conference. In addition to the many from less remote locations who switched from air to cars or trains, we would like to mention here the group from Loughborough University led by Dr. Nick Evans who hired a minibus and drove 1.400 km, the Oslo – Gothenburg group coming by a car from a similar distance, or a colleague hop-on/hop-off-ing from busses to trains and vice versa and having to take some seven changes to get from Uppsala to Mariánské Lázně. However, probably the most spectacular journey was that undertaken by dr. Maria Ângela de B. C. Menezes who started her journey in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, on Friday, the 16th April, spent two days in Rio de Janeiro, flew via Buenos Aires to Madrid where she spent another day, took a bus to Paris on Tuesday since no train tickets were available to any reasonable destination, and arrived safely from Paris to Mariánské Lázně by a taxi on Wednesday.... On the same day, a group of Russians arrived after a long combined train travel and also Dr. Juan F. Facetti-Masulli made it from Paraguay contrary to some other South American colleagues who stayed stuck midway in various airports. Obviously the longest journey was that of the Koreans Drs. Jiyon Lee and Byoung-Jik Kim who arrived to the venue on Friday, shortly after the departure of conference busses.... Such stories not only made the efforts invested into the conference organisation rewarding but also injected the organisers’ new power to continue fighting the bad luck. More detailed travel stories received from the participants can be found at the conference web page at <http://www.radchem.cz>

Despite these problems, that prohibited the majority of the registered overseas participants in coming, the conference was attended by 197 participants from 28 countries from all parts of the world. In addition to them, 55 additional participants were registered but were unable to reach the conference venue. The majority of them actively participated by submitting posters and/or papers for the proceedings. In total, 95 lectures and 169 posters were presented. The full final programme of the conference is available at the RadChem 2010 page on the Indico conference management system at <http://indico.fjfi.cvut.cz/>, RadChem 2010, Timetable. As usually, not all Conference participants decided to publish their contributions in the Conference proceedings. In total, less than 50 % of the papers presented at the Conference were submitted for publication, those recommended by the reviewers have been included in the RadChem Proceedings in October and November issues of the Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry. The Organising Committee would like to express its gratitude to all Session Chairs and reviewers who helped to maintain the high standard of these proceedings. Special thanks are due to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry for their willingness to host the proceedings and for the excellent collaboration and support. The papers not published in this volume are available, in abstract form only, in the Booklet of Abstracts that has been published as a special issue of the Czech scientific journal Chemické Listy (Volume 104, Issue 14, pp. s91–s262). This booklet was a part of the Conference materials, it is still available from the organisers as a hard copy, and it can be freely accessed at the journal home page at

http://www.chemicke-listy.cz/common/content-issue_14-volume_104-year_2010.html

A relatively new tradition in the RadChem series is the “the best students’ poster” competition. It was only for the second time that such competition, aimed at further motivating the students in their further scientific, was organized. The Award Committee, chaired by the DNRC chairman Prof. Heinz Gaggeler (Switzerland) awarded the first prize, associated with a monetary grant, to Petr Distler (Czech Republic).

It is with pleasure that we can state here that the Technical Exhibition, that is a constituent part of the RadChem series since its revival in 1998, is gaining an increased popularity among the suppliers of instrumentation and services. This year, the following exhibitors (in alphabetic succession) participated and thus contributed to the success of the

conference: Canberra-Packard, Envinet, Frenzel Consulting and Instruments, Izotop, PerkinElmer, Raytest, and Triskem. The ever increasing popularity of the conference among the exhibitors may serve as a sign of the increasing awareness about the RadChem series within the professional community.

Under normal circumstances, here the Organising Committee would acknowledge the assistance of a group of CTU and ICT Prague MSc and PhD students, and the professionals of the CTU FME Congress Group. However, this time, the group that should be acknowledged first are all the conference participants who collaborated actively with the organiser in the streaming to overcome the impact of the havoc – Eyjafjallajökull eruption – and it is namely their credit that the conference was a success. In these stressing conditions, each of the organisers and the supporting team members did his or her best to ensure that participants enjoyed both the scientific and social programmes of the Conference as much as possible under the actual conditions. Special thanks are due to Mrs. Terézia Němcová, the head of the Congress Group team, without whose assistance the Conference would hardly have happened. The selection of photographs that can be viewed at the conference homepage at <http://www.fjfi.cvut.cz/radchem> will help you to appreciate the atmosphere of all aspects of the Conference – technical programme as well as the extensive “socials” that were notably supported by local sponsors (Canberra Packard s.r.o. and Envinet a.s.).

It is with a deep sorrow that we have to announce here that the long-standing vice-chairwoman of the RadChem Organising Committee and an eminent radiochemist of global reputation, Prof. Věra Jedináková-Křizová, passed away shortly after the end of the conference. She will be deeply missed in the future events.

To conclude, it was only the infamous Eyjafjallajökull eruption that prohibited the conference in the expected marked exceeding of the maximum previous number of participants. However, according to the first favourable responses, the RadChem 2010 succeeded both professionally and socially despite these unfavourable circumstances. Hence, we may hope that such further increased number of participants will gather on the next, already the 17th Radiochemical Conference.

See you again in Mariánské Lázně in 2014, most probably as usually on the second Sunday after the Easter Monday, i.e. on the 4th May!

Jan John, Jan Kučera on behalf of the Organising Committee of the 16th Radiochemical Conference

10th European Conference on Accelerators in Applied Research and Technology (ECAART10)

The 10th European Conference on Accelerators in Applied Research and Technology (ECAART10), organized in Athens, was very successful. 160 participants attended not only from Europe. The Book of Abstracts of the conference is uploaded in the webpage (<http://www.ecaart10.gr>). The Proceedings will appear in Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research B next year.

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E-mail: misailid@chem.auth.gr

11th International Symposium on Environmental Radiochemical Analysis 15th – 17th September 2010 Chester, UK

In September, the RSC's Radiochemistry Group hosted its 11th Environmental Radiochemical Analysis conference (sadly, I am now old enough to remember all the way back to a meeting, I think the 5th, at Harwell in the mid-1980s). The historic city of Chester in northwest England was the conference location and around 100 delegates from around the world spent three well fed days in a comfortable and intimate venue, which was well set up to promote informality and easy discussion.

The ERA conferences' scope has evolved gradually over the years and, from an initial focus on analytical methods for environmental samples, it has now expanded to include studies of environmental source terms, transport pathways and impacts. This made for a varied and stimulating programme. For example, the two invited plenary lectures were by Randall Parrish from the British Geological Survey, who described the use of advanced analytical methods and the way he used them to understand the environmental and human impacts of depleted uranium munitions, and Paul MacDonald from Westlakes Research Institute, talked about his long-running research in the Irish Sea basin, focusing on the fate of historical discharges from Sellafield. Other topics of interest included radon and thoron in Bangkok, transuranic fallout in the mountains and lakes of Switzerland, ¹²⁹I on Swedish beaches, uranium particles in New York State, natural radionuclides in ocean sediments off Brazil, and that old favourite, Irish Sea sediments.

The broadened scope of the conference, and changes in the nuclear industry, were reflected studies of a wider range of systems, including papers on cement and ceramic wasteforms, the role of natural and anthropogenic organic matter in environmental mobility, geological disposal scenarios, decommissioning wastes, nuclear fuel storage ponds, and bioremediation at nuclear sites. Nevertheless, the conference's origins are still well represented, with papers on methodology, which ranged from improved transuranic separations from soil samples, measurement of ³H, ¹⁴C, ³⁶Cl and ¹²⁹I, as well as accounts of intercomparison exercises.

Chester was also an excellent base for the accompanying visitors' programme, allowing easy access to Liverpool for the Beatles Story, and to historic Tatton Park in Cheshire. Overindulgence at the conference dinner was remedied by a morning's guided walk round the city walls, which date back to Roman times. I should conclude by thanking the Queen Hotel, which made every effort to accommodate us, and turned out to be a fine venue, and Fiona Brown, of Visit Chester, who was a tremendous help to the organisers.

Francis Livens, Chair ERA

The majority of those attending and responding to a questionnaire found the meeting to be well organised with a good range of topics covered in the presentations. In particular they appreciated the "cafe style" layout of the lecture area. Selected papers will be published in book form by the RSC in 2011. This will be the fourth in the series covering previous symposium back to 1998.

International Conference Series on Water Chemistry of Nuclear Reactor Systems (NPC)

NPC 2010 took place in Quebec, Canada in October 2010. It was an excellent conference, with around 300 delegates, with many from Europe. This was the latest in this series of conferences held every two years. The 2012 Conference will be held at the Novotel Paris Tour Eiffel 1-5 October 2012. Key dates for NPC 2012 are: web site up and call for papers Jan 2011; abstract deadline Dec 2011; notification to authors Mar 2012; preliminary programme & registrations Apr 2012; full paper submission Jun 2012

The 2014 Conference will be held in Sapporo, Japan

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NEWS FROM THE INTERNET

In memoriam

Věra Jedináková - Křížová (1940–2010)



It is with great sorrow we would like to inform you that Dr. Věra Křížová, DrSc. passed away prematurely and unexpectedly on 2010 June 5, after a short illness. She was one of the leading persons of the Czech radiochemistry and her results have been known worldwide.

Věra Křížová was born on the 21st April 1940 in Prague. In 1962, she graduated in nuclear fuel technology and radiochemistry from the Institute of Chemical Technology, Prague (ICT), the biggest educational institution of its kind in Central Europe. All her professional carrier remained connected with her Alma Mater. In 1966 she was awarded the PhD degree in inorganic chemistry and became a staff member of the Department of Nuclear Fuel Technology and Radiochemistry. In 1986 she was promoted to the Associated Professor for the speciality of nuclear fuel technology and radiochemistry and in 1987 she was awarded the title of Doctor of Sciences (DrSc.) in nuclear chemistry. After the dissolution of the

Department of Nuclear Fuel Technology and Radiochemistry, she became a member of the Department of Analytical Chemistry at the ICT where she was promoted to the Associated Professor of Analytical Chemistry in 1996.

Her research interests were rather broad touching several fields as e.g. nuclear power industry and environmental issues, analytical and radioanalytical QA for radiopharmacy and analytical and radioanalytical environmental monitoring. Her most important contributions are mainly to the studies of complex formation and aggregations in the organic solutions of extraction systems, the extraction separation of some biotoxic components from the environment, migration and retardation of some radionuclides in geosphere, possible application of natural sorbents as engineered barriers and other environmental issues. The results of the work of her research group have been frequently published – she is an author or co-author of more than 200 contributions, number of patents, a chapter in international monograph and co-author of four university text books. She enjoyed direct contact with the scientific community during communication of the results of her research at national and international conferences where she made more than 170 presentations. An important aspect of her research activities was passing on her experience and enthusiasm to the young generation by supervising many Czech and foreign Ph.D. students.

Her broad experience was used by a number of state and private institutions where she acted as an active consultant. To name just few of the most important ones, they included the Czech Ministry of the Environment, ČEZ, a.s., division of nuclear plants, State Office for Nuclear Safety, Institute of Nuclear Research a.s., Řež, Radioactive Waste Repository Authority, etc. She was also an Expert and Responsible person for environmental impact assessment according to the Act No 244/1992 Sb of Czech Republic and member of Scientific Council of the Centre for Radiochemistry and Radiation Chemistry of the Czech Technical University in Prague.

Věra was active not only in the research but also in organising. Already since 1972, she was a member of the Czechoslovak Chemical Society, division of Nuclear Chemistry, where she served as a chairperson in 1986-1994 and vice-chairperson since 1994 till now. She was also an active member of the Czech Environmental Society. Her experience was used in Editorial Boards of the Scientific Papers of the Institute of Chemical Technology and of the Collection of Czechoslovak Chemical Communications; she acted as a guest co-editor of two issues of the Czechoslovak Journal of Physics.

All Věra's professional career was closely connected with the series of the International Radiochemical Conferences – RadChem. After participating in the first events in her fresh graduate years, she was invited to become a secretary of the Organising Committee for the 8th conference that took place in 1974 and served in the Committee till now. After the break of the series in early 1990s, she was one the driving forces instrumental in reviving this tradition and during the whole period since 1998 served as a vice-chairperson of the RadChem Organising Committee. All the RadChem frequenters, as well as all her colleagues and friends will forever remember Věra's open smile, her passion for dance and her joy of life. She was always good company and a good friend and she will be dearly missed both in her scientific community and by her family – her husband Rudolf, son Petr and especially her grandchildren Boris and Laura. Věra is and will remain to be a part of RadChem history.

Jan John

Dr. Richard Greenwood

Many of you may have already heard of the sad death of a much valued member of staff at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, UK, Dr. Richard Greenwood.

Richard was on holiday with two friends hiking in the Spanish Pyrenees when the accident happened. They are believed to have been hiking on a path in the province of Huesca.

Richard's friend John Field, who also died in the accident, worked at AWE between 1980 and 1984.

Richard was a highly respected analytical scientist and will be sadly missed by colleagues and friends who worked with him.

Mike Andrew, a close colleague and good friend of Richard's, said: "He was a great friend and colleague to all who knew him. He had a great sense of humour, coupled with a passion for mountaineering, sports and music. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and our memories of him will last forever."

Fritz Grass

Fritz Grass a leading Austrian Radiochemist died on September 29th 2010.
We will keep his integrity, his generosity and his sense of humor in best memory.
Requiescat in pace!
Max Bichler

Forthcoming conferences in 2011

Marie Curie, and aspects of the History of Radiochemistry

In recognition of the Centenary of Marie Curie's Noble Prize for Chemistry the Radiochemistry History of Chemistry Groups of the Royal Society of Chemistry are holding a meeting on Friday 18 March 2011 in the Chemistry Centre, Burlington House, London UK. The programme will consist of the following

Keynote Lecture: *Marie Curie* (Dr. Serge Plattard, Science and Technology Counsellor, French Embassy)

Early use of radionuclides in medicine (Prof. Alan Dronsfield, Chairman RSCHG))

Rutherford, Radioactivity and the Atom Dr. Jeff Hughes, Manchester University

Rutherford to Nuclear Power Dr. Peter Iredale, ex-Director of Harwell

Radiochemistry at Harwell from 1946 and its contribution to nuclear power (Dr. John Wilkins, Former Head of Site, Harwell, and Head of Chemistry Division)

Curium and the trans-actinides Dr. Clint Sharrad, Centre for Radiochemistry, University of Manchester

Further details can be found on the webpage of the Radiochemistry Group

www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/Radiochemistry/

2nd Workshop on Exotic Radionuclides from Accelerator Waste for Science and Technology (ERAWAST II), to be held at the Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland.

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

11th Int. Conf. on Applications of Nuclear Techniques

to be held 12 – 18 June 2011 in Crete, Greece

This Conference Series provides an informal forum for scientists to present and discuss research and developments in a broad spectrum of applications of nuclear techniques.

For call of contributions please contact <http://www.crete11.org>

3rd International Conference on Radioecology and Environmental Radioactivity (ICRER-2011)

The International Conference on Radioecology and Environmental Radioactivity (ICRER-2011) is being held in Hamilton, Canada, June 18-24, 2011. The Canadian Organizing Committee extends a warm invitation to researchers, educators, business representatives and policy experts from around the world to hear and share the latest research in radioecology and environmental radioactivity.

Conference Topics to be covered are: Radionuclides Speciation & Ecological Transfer, Radiation Biology, Radioecological Sensitivity (including Arctic & Antarctic Environments), Environmental Protection, Surveillance and Risk Management, Emergency Preparedness, Rehabilitation, and Management, NORM including Mines, Refineries, Conversion Facilities & non-nuclear Industries, Radioactive Waste Management & Disposal, Radiation and Society, Environmental Aspects of Nuclear Endeavours, A quarter Century after Chernobyl, Tritium in the Environment, Nuclear Legacy.

ICRER 2011 offers the possibility of publishing presented papers in **Radioprotection**. Selected papers will also be published in a special of the **Journal of Environmental Radioactivity**.

Information concerning the conference can be found on the website (www.icrer.org)

4th Int. Conference on the Chemistry and Physics of the Transactinide Elements (TAN)

to be held 5-11 Sept. 2011 in Sochi, 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>

3rd Int. Nuclear Chemistry Congress, Citta del Mare, Palermo, Sicily, Italy, 18-23 Sept. 2011

For further information, please see: <http://3rdINCC.mi.infn.it>

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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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
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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