



THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST

MARYLAND SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XXXV

NOVEMBER, 1979

NUMBER 8

NOVEMBER SPEAKERS



DR. DONALD T. WITIAK



DR. DANIEL LEDNICER

MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

An examination of the Council meeting agenda shows an inordinate amount of time spent on routine reports and housekeeping changes that must enter either the Constitution or By-laws. Changes to require a committee to elect a Secretary, to provide for the Committee on Professional Training in official documents of the Society, to modify committee responsibilities, to regularize the representation of the Divisions and Sections on the Council, and to create a clarifying amendment on Constitutional amendments took what seemed interminable periods of haggling over *minutiae*. Of great importance, however, is the Society's struggle to face two related problems: finance and membership.

FINANCES - Like all of us, the Society faces inflation. Some years ago the Council attempted to deal with the problem by establishing a dues escalator tied to the Consumer Index (later the Consumer Index for Services). Each year the dues will rise a predetermined amount unless the Council votes for a lesser increase. Some of the work this year simply made the portion sent to local sections by the ACS follow the same formula as the national dues.

Before and after the rise in dues voted last spring (\$3 out of a possible \$4), the Society has been examining its dues supported activities to find places to cut expenses. Clearly the dues must rise more slowly, so something must go. Hence an argument about whether the national office should charge local sections to collect local dues took on some rancor as some claimed it cost more money than having the local sections do their own. It was not clear that there would be any saving to the individual member in either mode. After many comments, the Council voted overwhelmingly to have the national office do the job without the extra bookkeeping of charging the local sections.

MEMBERSHIP - The financial troubles ran over here with two issues. The rising number of older chemists in the Society boosts the cost of providing certain special recognition to them. The Council voted to change the number of years of membership from 15 to 25 for qualification for one-half dues for retired chemists. Any who were already on half-dues were exempted. Similar action attempting to change the number of years for *emeritus* status from 35 to 40 years was defeated.

Indirectly related to finances were two moves to change membership requirements and the application procedure. The Council viewed the proposed changes as so diffuse and dubious that it recommitted them to committee for clarification. The general feeling seemed to be that increasing the membership to spread the cost should not come at the price of losing the character of the Society, especially since about half of the people who now qualify are not members. Efforts to meet their needs might be more fruitful.

On each issue your Councilors voted with the prevailing side. We welcome any comments from Section members (others also) about the issues facing our Society. Several important issues will be coming up at the Houston meeting next March. We will discuss these questions in a future issue.

D. Roswell C. F. Rowell
D. E. Jones C. E. Minnier

Additional statement by Carl Minnier:

This was my last meeting as Councilor, and I wish to thank the members of the Maryland Section for their support over the past several years.

As I mentioned in the November 1978 issue of *The Chesapeake Chemist*, effective service in the Council is very demanding in terms of time and money. In my opinion, our local section is a very fine one and we deserve more influence on the committees of the national ACS. This will require a long term commitment - 15 to 20 years - of attending every national meeting and serving on two or more committees. Only in this way can we possibly have our section play a more influential role in Society affairs.



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The Chesapeake Chemist is published monthly September through May by the Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society. Address editorial comments to Raymond C. Petersen, 9329 Joey Drive, Ellicott City, Md. 21043. Send advertising copy and inquiries to Merle I. Eiss, McCormick and Co., Inc., 204 Wight Avenue, Hunt Valley, Md. 21031. The Maryland Section is not responsible for opinions expressed herein. Editorials express the opinions only of their authors. The Editor is responsible for all unsigned material.

NOVEMBER MEETING

DONALD T. WITIAK

Donald T. Witiak is Professor and Chairman of the Division of Medicinal Chemistry in the College of Pharmacy of The Ohio State University. He received B.S. (1958) and Ph.D. (1961) degrees from the University of Wisconsin, and taught at the University of Iowa from 1961 - 1967. In 1967 he joined the staff at Ohio State.

Professor Witiak has authored or co-authored more than seventy technical publications. He has served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry and has been a consultant to the Diamond Shamrock Corp. and the Schering Corp. He is a member of a number of organizations including the American Pharmaceutical Association, the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the ACS. He has served these organizations in a wide variety of capacities, including committee, sectional and divisional offices.

At the present time, Dr. Witiak is a member of the ACS Smissman Award Nominating Committee and a member of the Long Range Planning Committee of the Division of Medicinal Chemistry. He is also Chairperson-elect of the Section of Chemistry of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

THE VILSMEIER-HAACK CYCLIZATION REACTION: DEVELOPMENT OF PROSTAGLANDIN $F_{2\alpha}$ ANTAGONISTS AND THE SERENDIPITOUS DISCOVERY OF Ca^{+2} ANTAGONISTS

A rationale will be discussed for the development of prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$ receptor antagonists. Target analogues such as 5,6-(dibenzoyloxy)-1-oxo-2-propyl-2-indanproplonic acid have been shown to have selective activity for antagonism of $PGF_{2\alpha}$ when compared to the antagonism of acetylcholine and KCl on the mouse ileum. Intermediate Vilsmeier-Haack cyclization products known as dimethylaminoindenes, on the other hand, have Ca^{++} receptor antagonist activity. The synthetic chemistry and pharmacology of both the target compound and the synthetic intermediate will be discussed. The aminoindenes are of interest because of their basic intracellular calcium antagonist activity as well as their coronary dilating, antiarrhythmic, and hypotensive properties.

DANIEL LEDNICER

Daniel Lednicer was born in Antwerp, Belgium. He received a B.S. degree in chemistry from Antioch College and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1955. He has held post-doctoral fellowships at Duke, Illinois and Princeton. He was employed by G. D. Searle and Co. in 1955-56 and by the Upjohn Co. from 1959-76. In 1976 he assumed his present position as Director of Chemical Research for Mead, Johnson & Co.

Dr. Lednicer's research interests have been in areas of medicinal chemistry and in organic synthesis related to drugs. He holds fifty-four patents and has authored or co-authored sixty research and review publications as well as books on "Contraception: The Chemical Control of Fertility," and "Organic Chemistry of Drug Synthesis."

He has served on a variety of advisory boards and award selection committees. He has been Chairman of several committees of the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry and has also been Secretary and Vice Chairman of the Division. In 1973 he was Chairman of the Kalamazoo Section of the ACS. *cont. on p 7...*

DATE:

Wednesday, November 14, 1979

PLACE:

Knott Science Center
The College of Notre Dame
of Maryland
North Charles Street

SPEAKERS & TOPICS:

6:00 pm
Donald T. Witiak
Ohio State University
Prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$ Antagonist

8:00 pm
Daniel Lednicer
Mead, Johnson & Co.
*Serendipity and the Discovery
of New Drugs*

COCKTAILS & DINNER:

Doyle Building Dining Room
College of Notre Dame

Cocktails 7:00 - 7:30 pm

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323-1010 ext 467

before November 9, 1979

It is not necessary to be a member of the American Chemical Society to attend either the dinner or the talks. You may also attend the lectures without attending the dinner.

NAVAL ACADEMY STUDENT AFFILIATES

The ACS has recently chartered a new student affiliate chapter at the United States Naval Academy; Dr. Edward Koubek is the chapter's faculty adviser. The Maryland Section has been invited to present the charter certificate to the new chapter.

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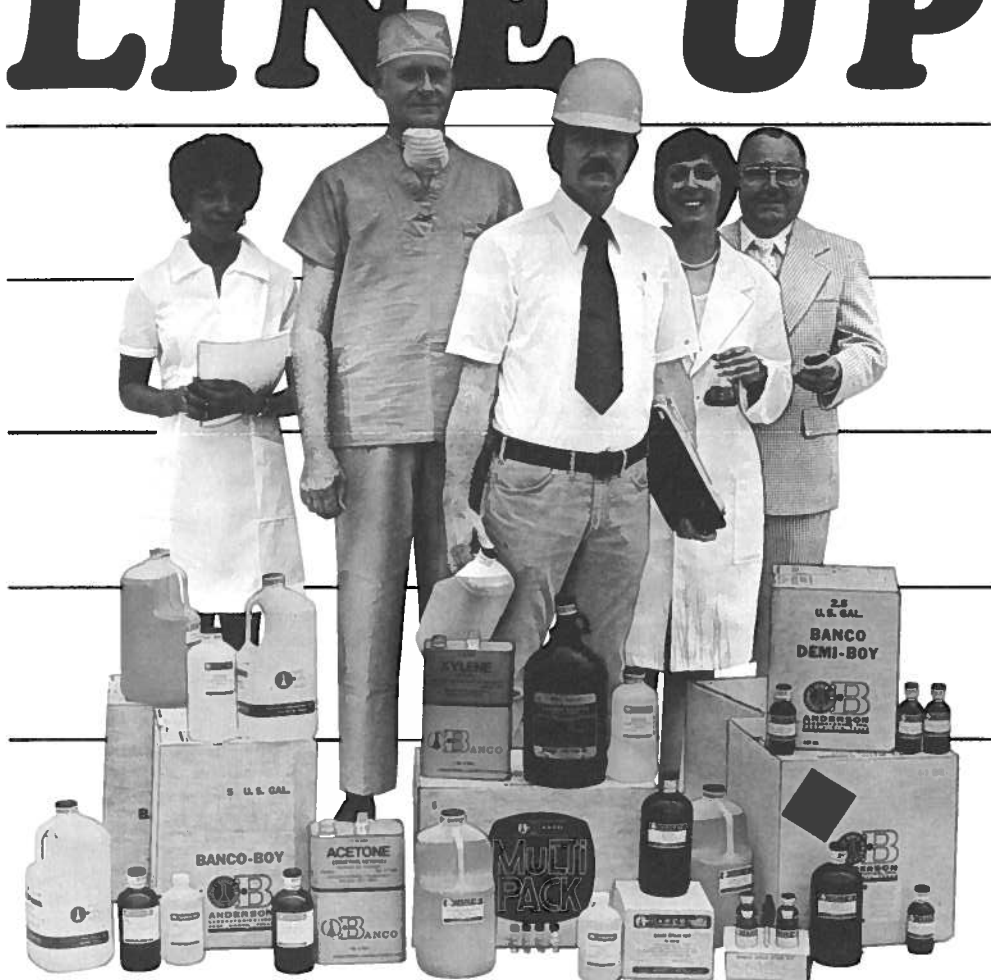
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SERENDIPITY AND NEW DRUG DISCOVERY

The three princes of Serendip, Balakrama, Vijayo and Rajahsigha, as they traveled "...were always making discoveries, by accident and sagacity, of things they were not in quest of..." (Horace Walpole, 1754). Historically, the leads responsible for the discovery of useful therapeutic agents have come from many sources: folkloric natural products, mammalian hormones, rational drug design, or random screening. In addition, however, careful observation of the effects and/or side effects of drugs have often led to unexpected new discoveries. The talk will trace the development of families of drugs from several of the above leads with particular attention to the role of serendipity.

SYNTHESIS CHEMISTRY MANAGER

We are seeking a Ph.D. Organic Chemist with a minimum of 5 years experience in industrial research to spearhead our synthesis efforts. A strong background in organic synthesis with extensive hands-on experience in monomer synthesis, particularly acrylic function monomer synthesis, is required. Experience in plant scale-up and polymer synthesis is desired. A competitive salary and attractive benefits program are provided. For confidential consideration, please forward your resume, including current salary, to T.G. Neil, ALCOLAC, Inc., 3440 Fairfield Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21226.

MARYLAND SECTION FUTURE PROGRAM

Date	Location	Speakers	Topic
December 12	College of Notre Dame	Maryland Chemist Award	
January 16	Loyola College	Jon D. Franklin (Baltimore Sunpapers)	To Be Announced
February 13	College of Notre Dame	William Avery (Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab)	Chemical Storage of Energy
March 19	Towson State University	John Pavlik (Fisher Scientific)	Art, Science and Alchemy
		Jon B. Eklund (Smithsonian Inst.)	To Be Announced
April 16	McCormick & Co. Research Lab	Garry Rechnitz (U. of Delaware)	Bio-selective Membrane Electrodes
		Joseph O. Jordan (Penn. State U.)	Thermometric Titrations and Enthalpometric Analysis
May	Johns Hopkins	Rensen Award	

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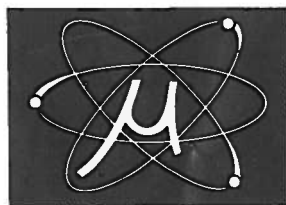
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