National Association of Scientific Materials Managers

NAOSMM NEWSLINE

Winter 2005 Vol. 37 No. 4

2004 Certified Scientific Materials Managers

Janice Westerling

Sandra Payne

NAOSMM 2003-2005 Officers and Committee Chairs

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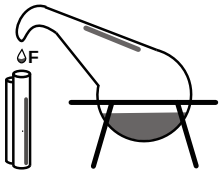

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President's Message

Hello fellow NAOSMM members! Wow! Another year has flown by and we are now preparing for our upcoming 2005 Conference in Reno, Nevada. Just in case you did not already know, the conference is at the Silver Legacy Hotel (silverlegacy.com) in Reno, Nevada July 25- 29, 2005. The NAOSMM group rate is $91 per night and the group code is NASMM05. This rate is only available by calling the hotel reservations phone number: 800-687-8733, and is not available thru the hotel website. NAOSMM has a contract with the hotel to utilize a block of rooms beginning Friday, July 22 and ending Friday, July 29. Since the block is subject to a thirty day cutoff, you must make your reservation by June 22. This especially holds true if you are planning to come in the weekend before the conference begins as this hotel tends to sell out most weekends in the summer.

Please try to use the NAOSMM block when making your reservation. It is possible that you may find a lower "internet" rate, state/government rate or a better rate at a nearby hotel and feel that you are saving your organization or yourself a few dollars in the process. Unfortunately, your savings end up being paid for by NAOSMM because we have to pay for any unused rooms. Why do hotels offer rooms at a rate lower than our group contracted rate? Good question! Hotel rooms are a commodity, much like airline seats and the hotel will try to sell as many rooms as possible, constantly adjusting rates as necessary to entice potential guests to their facility. NAOSMM (and other organizations) sign a legal contract for a block of rooms 2-3 years in advance and the Hotel is obligated to hold those rooms even though another group may come along later and be willing to pay a higher room rate. So, there is a trade-off of sorts – we are guaranteed that we have rooms and facilities for our conference/trade show at a rate much lower than the hotel "rack" rate and the hotel is able to manage its bookings in advance. We may not have the absolute lowest possible room rate but we do have guaranteed access and use of their meeting rooms, banquet facilities and convention space for our Trade Show. So remember, if you book your room outside our room block or at another hotel and use the hotel's meeting rooms and facilities, your "savings" are being subsidized by the members (and/or the organization) who stay in the room block.

On another subject, please be thinking about the upcoming Executive Board elections scheduled for the next business meeting in Reno. The NAOSMM Constitution specifies that "Election of officers shall be conducted every other year, in accordance with the provisions set forth in ARTICLE IV of the By-Laws of the NAOSMM". Please go to the NAOSMM website (naosmm.org) for further information about the Constitution and/or By-Laws, or contact our Nominations and Elections Committee Chair, Claris Cupido. Claris's contact information can be found at the NAOSMM website.

As a volunteer-run organization, NAOSMM depends on its members to "step up to the plate" and serve as officers of the organization. Okay, the pay is lousy (what pay?), it takes time and requires effort.....other than that - it is a piece of cake! Seriously, please consider how you might be able to help the organization grow and prosper in the next couple of years. I have enjoyed the challenges and opportunities during the three and a half years that I have been on the Executive Board and am looking forward to the remainder of my term as President and then as the Past-President.

Think of it as a two-way street. Instead of just taking from the organization, think how you can give back and, through the process of giving and offering your time and services, you will be rewarded with the satisfaction that is derived in the giving of yourself. Give of yourself until it feels good...

Ed Glumac
President, NAOSMM

Funding for publication and mailing of the NAOSMM Newsline is provided by Sigma-Aldrich.

Certified Materials Managers

Sandra Payne

Two dedicated individuals successfully fulfilled the requirements necessary for certification as Scientific Materials Managers. The certifications were awarded at the 31st Annual Conference and Trade Show in Philadelphia, PA on August 5, 2004.

Sandra Payne is employed at Sphinx Pharmaceuticals, Eli Lilly in Durham, NC. She joined NAOSMM in 2000 and has been active in NAOSMM from the beginning. She currently serves as chair of the Awards Committee.

Sandra has also been active in her community, assisting her local community college in promoting the sciences and biotechnology, in particular, as career choices and in raising funds for biotechnology scholarships at the college. Each of these activities has contributed to the fulfillment of the certification requirements. In addition, Sandra has gained the necessary knowledge base needed by taking seminars and workshops that were available to her at Sphinx. She is also working to complete a BS in Business Management Program from the University of Phoenix and was able to use some of that course work to fulfill her requirements.

Sandra is happily married to a wonderful man and is the proud mother of three children. Her oldest son leaves to serve in Iraq in January, her daughter attends Alamance Community College, in the Arts program, and her youngest son will be spending the next year playing with the Memphis Sound Drum and Bugle Corp.

Janice Westerling

Janice Westerling is employed at the State University of New York (SUNY) – Potsdam. She began work there as the Chemistry Stockroom Manager in April of 1999. She joined NAOSMM later that year when someone told her she needed to check into NAOSMM. Her first conference was in Grand Rapids, MI in 2001. She serves NAOSMM on the Hospitality Committee and regularly contributes to the Newsline by writing the "Listserv Discussions" feature.

Janice has an eclectic background. She has taught college level biology, anatomy, and math, and has also been a substitute teacher. She earned her Master's in Science in Zoology but along the way took courses in Occupational Therapy! Janice is also an amateur artist using watercolor and acrylic paints as her medium. Her artwork has been entered into shows and exhibits. She is also an accomplished musician; playing her violin in a community orchestra and also performing locally with the Aurora String Trio. Maybe someday we at NAOSMM will be able to experience these talents!

In addition to the points she earned through her contributions to NAOSMM and her involvement at her university, Janice achieved certification by taking advantage of the training opportunities offered by her employer. She also enrolled in several on-line courses to meet the requirements. Janice also submitted plans and policies that she had developed and implemented at her workplace that demonstrated her expertise in some of the required areas.

Congratulations to both of our newly certified Scientific Materials Managers. We are very proud of you!!

If you would like to join this distinguished group, inquiries should be directed to Lori Keen or Ed Graham, Certification Committee Co-chairs. In addition, I'm sure that Sandra, Janice or any of the other CSMM's in NAOSMM would also be willing to share with you the steps they took to accomplish certification. – submitted by Lori Keen

NAOSMM Welcomes New Members

NAOSMM would like to welcome the newest members to our family!

Yunfeng Lu
Chemical & Biomolecular Eng.
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA

Nathan Coleman
University of St. Thomas - Chemistry
St. Paul, MN
651-962-5587
nwcoleman@stthomas.edu

Frauke Argyros
Northeastern University – Biology
Boston, MA
617-373-2118
f.argyros@neu.edu

Charles Caldwell
Colorado State University – Chemistry
Pueblo, CO
719-549-2574
charles.caldwell@colostate-pueblo.edu

Kristyne Baumgarten
Delta College – Biology/ Microbiology
University Center, MI
989-686-9628
kabaumga@delta.edu

Jan Benjamin
Kingwood College – Natural Sciences
Kingwood, TX
281-312-1472
jan.benjamin@nhmccd.edu

Martha Crawford
Yale University – Procurement
New Haven, CT
203-432-9986
Martha.crawford@yale.edu

Listserv Discussions

By Janice A. Westerling, CSMM
State University of New York at Potsdam

The NAOSMM Listserv has proven, over the past few years, to be a valuable tool to the membership as individuals look for product sources, solutions to problems and pass on ideas. In many cases, the answers to questions go directly to the person asking the question and the general membership doesn't see them. In addition, not all members are signed up with the Listserv and miss out on some lively discussion or valuable exchange of information. Janice Westerling of the State University of New York at Potsdam has volunteered to monitor the list and gather some of those questions and answers in an effort to keep us all in the loop. We think this is a terrific idea and thank her on behalf of the membership for taking on this task. We hope you will assist her in this effort by sending responses to her as well as the questioner. If an issue seems especially timely or interesting, pass that thought on to her and she will consider it for her next column.

SOLVENT CARRIERS: THINK OUTSIDE THE "BOX"

Heather McColler, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN: Does anybody know an inexpensive source for the rubber carriers for 1 gallon containers of solvents? I tried (several vendors) already but did not want to spend $30 per bucket. Do any of you know where to get them cheaper? Have you recently bought some from (any vendor) for less than $30? I feel I am being ripped off.

Stephen Nichols, Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH: I've seen them for $55 or $60...so $30 sounds pretty good.

Jim Kaufman, Laboratory Safety Institute: I've (also) seen them for $60. Strikes me as a good price.

Jeffrey A. Your, John Carroll University, University Hts., OH: Heather, the regs' do not require you to use rubber buckets.

Any sturdy, secondary container that will facilitate safe transport is appropriate [e.g., a bucket]. Remember, OSHA is a performance standard [they don't care (in most cases) how you do something, just do it]. We use a variety of secondary containers for transporting chemicals, including household buckets with bale handles, and restaurant bus trays.

Another thing I have done is stop buying unprotected glass reagent bottles. I buy my mineral acids in 500 ml and 2.5 L containers that are poly coated. I won't buy acids without this, having seen the result of a dropped full 2.5 L bottle of hydrochloric acid many years ago.

Pete Black, Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA: I echo, Jeff, we use a bucket we lined with a cushion material, foam, and buy all our mineral acids and most of our two and four liter bottled solvents with plastic coated bottles.

Jack Whitney, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR: Innovation!! Think outside the box!

If your building is on the edge of campus, there are more than likely lots of cafes, donut shops, sandwich shops, etc across the street. ALL of which buy some sort of condiments in 3 or 5 gallon plastic pails. Pickles, mayonnaise, maple frosting, whatever, it all washes out easily. Some even have a lid included. With a little bit of scrap foam around the inside, they will carry one or two bottles of acid or a gallon of chloroform quite safely. Soak the original label off and use a felt marker to put something appropriate in its place and you're set to go.

Even a 30 lb kitty litter container would work. One of those brands even comes in bright yellow buckets with your choice of red, blue or green tops. Somebody in your department ought to have cats and might be willing to supply some empties for free.

Or you might stuff the inside of your regular plastic Rubbermaid bucket with one of the foam inserts that most larger chemical bottles are shipped in now.

And, all for considerable less than the assortment of prices mentioned before. Good luck and good creating.

JW: Be careful to check the type of plastic container you are using to transport a specific chemical product. Compatibility counts, even if the chemical is only being transported a few feet and for a short period of time. I would hate to find out the foam linings were incompatible with the acid or solvent I was transporting. If there are tops or caps to the container, also check the composition of the tops for compatibility with the chemical you are transporting. Sources for information on compatibility can be found in most major scientific vendor catalogs, through vendor-sponsored technical/safety support offices, and/or online.

The reason the rubber carriers are so good is that they are sturdy and are unlikely to react with the materials being transported. In my department, we have one rubber carrier which I carefully monitor to have it returned after use to be available for the next transport need. We do have other containers as backup when there is a big demand for the carrier.

FOGGING PROBLEM

Bob Moffitt, Malone College, Canton, OH: Is anyone aware of a GOOD product that eliminates fogging of (safety) glasses and splash protection goggles?

Stephen Nichols, Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH: I can't remember the specific name of the product, but the anit-fog product I used for my skiing goggles worked.... Any ski shop or sporting goods store should have something.

"Peggy," Margaret J. O'Connor, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI: Over the years, I have had students in various lab settings who have had severe fogging problems with our standard issue goggles. I tried an assortment of sprays, none of which worked. Last year, I ordered an assortment of goggles advertised as "non-fogging." I had students try out the different goggles, and the one they claimed was the best was a chemical goggle from Fisher (#19-041-739).

I know this can be very frustrating for students who have this problem. If they wear the goggles, they can't see- but yet they need to have a chemical splash goggle for eye protection. They spent most of their time stepping away from the bench to wipe off the goggles.

JW: Some goggles work well for one student and not for the other. I have seen a big difference in how a goggle fits the face of one student well and causes no problems of fogging. Another student with a different physiology may sweat profusely and fog up the same brand of goggle. It is good to see the goggles tested on real subjects. Thanks Peggy.

NEWSLINE DEADLINE

The next deadline for materials to be published in the Spring issue of the *Newsline* is **February 12, 2005**. It is essential that any material to be included for that issue be in my hands by that date. *Articles received after that date will appear in the Spring 2005 issue.* Articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word via email whenever possible. JM.

Nomination Criteria for Outstanding Scientific Materials Manager

I. Eligibility

A. Must be a regular member of NAOSMM.

B. Shall have a record of achievement unquestionable and sustained, of one or more of the following types:

1. A contribution to the advancement of the profession.
2. Distinguished operational, educational, or administrative activities.
3. Participation in NAOSMM meeting programs or service on NAOSMM's board or committees.

II. Sources of Nominations may include:

A. Immediate supervisor or administrator

B. Other NAOSMM members

C. Co-workers

III. Support material

A. Nominator must convey clearly and completely in writing to the committee the qualifications of the nominee or nominees.

B. A brief written job and activities list must be submitted for each nominee.

C. Support letter from Supervisor at nominee's place of employment.

NOTE: The successful application will include a minimum of 4 letters from the workplace (i.e. boss, supervisor, peer, employee, "storeroom user", department head, PI, safety director, etc.).
Support letters from NAOSMM members, Sales Representatives, and/or other persons who may know the nominee (minimum of 2 such letters).

IV. Evaluation

A. The committee will evaluate the nominations based on the materials supplied under Section III and how this material fits into the role and scope of the Association. The evaluation will be made in a fair and equal manner, based on the merits of each nomination.

V. Additional Rules

A. May not be applied for or proposed by a member for himself or herself.

B. Nomination Applications must be "postmarked" by May 25 of each calendar year.

C. Nominations are good for 2 years. At that time if the Nominee has not received the award, a new nomination may be submitted.

D. The award will be presented at the NAOSMM banquet held each year at the Annual Conference.

NOTE: How can I get nominated when my supervisor doesn't even know about it? If I hand my supervisor the Criteria, am I nominating myself? The answer is NO.

Since most of your supervisors do not see the *Newsline*, you may make a copy of the criteria and letter to supervisors, set up a meeting and explain the award to your supervisor OR, you can contact the NAOSMM secretary and have her send material to your supervisor.

The deadline of May 25th will be enforced!

Manager of the Year Nomination

Letter for Your Supervisor

Many of you are aware that each year your NAOSMM honors one of its members as the Outstanding Scientific Materials Manager of the Year. Historically, nominations have been made by other NAOSMM members. While some members have first-hand knowledge of the work performance, skills and accomplishments of other members, for most of us, the people who are best able to assess our worthiness to be nominated are our supervisors and co-workers "back home."

With this in mind, the Board and the Awards committee would like to offer a letter that you can present to your supervisor or other person you designate. We ask you to determine the best manner to do this. The Awards committee suggests the following approaches:

For those who like to take the direct approach — show this letter to your supervisor and ask him/her to consider nominating you if he/she feels you merit nomination.
For those who prefer a more subtle approach- place this *Newsline* or the letter itself in your supervisor's mailbox.

For those who prefer complete anonymity—provide Elaine Scudder, NAOSMM secretary, with the name and address of your supervisor, and she will mail a copy of the letter.

Many of us find it hard to "toot our own horns"- but maybe your supervisor or fellow employee is waiting for an opportunity to do it for you!

VWR warehouse tour

Tuesday, August 3, 2004

The tour began at the call center in Bridgeport NJ. The center houses a wide variety of specialized departments including bids and quotes, customer service training center, customer service call center, and higher education call center, just to name a few. A VWR manager walked us through several of these departments, and we met department supervisors who graciously briefed us on their work and answered questions. The higher education department was of special interest to many of us since it clearly showed how important our institutions are to VWR and other scientific distributors. After the tour of the call center, we were bused across the street to the VWR distribution warehouse.

The warehouse was both typical of many warehouses and yet different with regard to the use of cutting edge materials management processes. The use of scanners at multiple points in the receiving, order processing and shipping areas allows employees and managers to cross check their work and maximize accuracy and efficiency. Our guide in the warehouse was proud of the speed at which his employees could process orders and get them to their customers in rapid order with minimum error percentage. The warehouse spans 290,000 square feet, ships between 14 and 15 thousand boxes a day, heavily utilizes conveyers, and contains a top 560 product pull section to further increase order processing speed. A large refrigerated room and dedicated customer products room also exist in the facility. The tour brought home the reality of the massive effort involved in processing our orders and getting them into our stockrooms.

Submitted - Carlos R. Cabello
Rice University Chemistry Storeroom

Travel Awards Criteria 2005

Eligibility Criteria For Travel Funding

The following guidelines will be used by the NAOSMM Awards Committee to determine which applicants will be eligible to receive funding through either the Nalge Nunc International Professional Training Fund Award or the NAOSMM Seminar and Trade Show Attendance Grants.

1. Applicants must be a regular NAOSMM member with current year's dues paid. New members are able and strongly encouraged to apply.
2. Applicants must be currently employed at a stockroom/laboratory-related job or as purchasing agent of laboratory supplies by a university, college, private or corporate institution.
3. Current Executive Board members and Awards Committee members are ineligible.
4. Members who receive full reimbursement from their employer to attend the conference are ineligible.
5. All applications postmarked/faxed by April 22 will be given first consideration for funding. Those postmarked/faxed after April 22 will be considered only if funds become available.
6. Award amounts will vary per applicant's financial need and total funds available. Funds awarded are intended to defray lodging and/or transportation costs incurred by member's attendance. Awards do not cover meals or other incidentals.
7. Recipients of travel funds are required to stay at the official designated conference hotel in order to be reimbursed for hotel expenses. Receipts submitted for reimbursement from non-conference hotels will not be funded.
8. Applicants may now request funding every year. However, those applicants that did not receive funding in the prior year will be given first priority.
9. Recipients of any award must attend at least three FULL days of the Conference. (Example: Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday)
10. Applicants who have been given an award will be notified of the award amount in early June (sooner if possible.)
11. Award checks WILL NOT BE distributed at the conference. Travel Award recipients are required to itemize and submit original receipts to the Awards Chair no later than two weeks following the conference. Checks will be mailed to recipients within two to four weeks after the conference.

Any NAOSMM member who meets these guidelines is encouraged to complete the application for travel funding and return it with the requested paragraph to the interim Awards Committee Chair by April 22 for consideration.

Mail to: Joanne Brown
Haverford College
370 Lancaster Avenue
Haverford, PA 19041

Fax to: 610-496-4963

Questions? Call or email Joanne at 610-896-1326 or jcbrown@haverford.edu

Nalge Nunc International Professional Training Fund Award

The Nalge Nunc International Professional Training Fund was established in 1987 by Nalge Company (now Nalge Nunc International) for use by eligible members of the National Association of Scientific Materials Managers (NAOSMM) to attend the annual national conference for the purpose of improving their professional management skills. Nalge Nunc International and NAOSMM hope additional members will be able to attend the annual conference with the help of these awards.

This fund will be divided into at least 6 non-repayable awards for regular NAOSMM members who receive little or no financial assistance from their employer. Primary consideration will be given to those members who have never attended a NAOSMM Conference. The award may be used to supplement partial funding provided by the employer or as “seed money” to encourage employers to match the award.

Application form is on page 13.

NAOSMM Seminar and Trade Show Attendance Grant

The NAOSMM Seminar and Trade Show Attendance Grant was established in 1992 with the purpose of helping NAOSMM regular members attend the yearly conference and trade show by providing funding to help offset their conference travel and lodging expenses.

The NAOSMM Seminar and Trade Show Attendance Grant is funded primarily from *Newsline* advertising revenues and through donations from corporations and companies who wish to assist NAOSMM members who do not have financial support to attend the yearly Conference and Trade Show. These corporate or company donations will be combined into a single fund and distributed by the Awards Committee per established guidelines. The donating corporation or company cannot specify a donation for any NAOSMM member. The amount of the donation is at the discretion of each contribution corporation or company. Each year, NAOSMM publishes an alphabetical listing of the corporations or companies who contributed to this grant in the NAOSMM Seminar and Trade Show Program, *Newsline* and NAOSMM Directory. This fund will be divided into non-repayable awards and given to regular NAOSMM members who meet the established guidelines.

Travel Award Recipients

Nalge Nunc Professional Training Fund Award

back row (l-r): Ed Graham, Adrian Adams, Janice Westerling, Dave Markel, Mo Hijazi, Don Wareham front row (l-r): Mary Jackson Hayward, Dale Randall, Heather McCollor, Carol Bowman, Teresa Robertson

Special Award

Debbie Pusateri received the 2004 Distinguished Service Award for her commitment and service to NAOSMM.

NAOSMM Conference & Travel Show Attendance Grant

(l-r): Maureen Hebert, Glen Thornley, Jerry Patterson, Debbie Reeder, Rooney Coffman


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Member Happenings....

From Steven Berlin, Villanova University
"Some of you may have known **John Vasily**, a NAOSMM member for many years, my former boss and predecessor. It is with great sadness that I inform you of his passing."

Our deepest sympathies go out to his family for their loss.

Chris Rodman (Florida State University) and his wife Amy had their baby December 2, 2004. It was a girl, Emma Catherine: 8 1/2 lbs, 20 inches long. Amy and Emma are doing fine.

On August 14, 2004, **Jaque Cranston** married Joshua Mann. As requested by several members, this editor (Jaque) has included pictures of our day. Thank you my NAOSMM Family for all of the well-wishes!!

NAOSMM - 2005 Application for Travel Funding

Name _____ Title _____

Business _____

Address _____

Phone(_____)_____ Ext_____ Fax (_____) _____

Email _____

Approximate cost of lodging $_____ Number of hotel nights_____

Remember it may be possible to share a room - Contact Karen Miller

Approximate cost of travel $_____ Method of Travel? air//car//other _____

Employer will provide this amount (towards lodging and/or transportation - do NOT include funding for meals)

$_____ Total $ requested? $_____

No funds provided by Employer

$_____ Total $ requested? $_____

Total number consecutive years of dues paying membership in NAOSMM (include present year) _____

Is this your 1st Conference? yes / / no

Have you received travel funding in the past? yes / / no

If you have received travel funding in the past, please list which years you have been funded. _____

Are you serving on a Committee? yes / / no If so, which one and for how long? _____

Are you speaking and/or helping at the conference? yes / / no Explain._____

Name of immediate supervisor _____

Phone(_____)_____Ext_____

Required to receive consideration for travel funding:

☐ I would like to attend the NAOSMM Annual Conference. I have received approval for enough time off (vacation, professional training, etc.) to enable me to be present at the conference for at least 3 of the 5 days of the conference.

☐ **I have attached a paragraph detailing why I want to come to the conference and/or how I think attendance will benefit me.**

☐ **I agree to provide the Awards Chair with an itemized account of my travel and lodging expense no later than 2 weeks following the conference.**

Notification of awards funding:

☐ Email notification of awards amount is fine OR

☐ I need a formal letter stating the award amount.

Name and Institution as you would like them to appear on an award plaque or certificate

(PLEASE PRINT) _____

Signature _____ Date _____
NAOSMM Member

Signature _____ Date _____
Supervisor

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer: Joanne Brown

Here is the final report for the 2004 Annual Conference and Trade Show held in Philadelphia, PA.

Total conference income: $81,525.00
Total conference expenses: $92,772.90
Loss on the conference: $11,247.90

Comments:
The loss should not reflect the tremendous efforts of our hosts to keep within the budget. The revenues from this conference were the highest in our recent history and are proof of the popularity of the site and program. However, it also was the most expensive in terms of food and services. The Executive Board is examining ways to ensure that we do not have another such loss. We are considering options such as raising booth, member registration and companions fees or cutting back on certain food areas. Philadelphia drew an exceptionally large number of companions due to the historic aspect of the City and the companion fee did not come close to covering their costs. Also note that circumstances beyond our control, like the local strike, similarly forced us to incur unplanned costs. While the goal of the conferences continues to be educating and networking with members, NAOSMM must also ensure our future financial survival with prudent conference spending coupled with appropriate fees for all who attend.

Numbers summary:
105 members in attendance (23 were new/first-time attending)
74 vendor booths
61 companions in attendance
40 members applied for and received CEU credits
21 members received travel grants from NAOSMM to attend

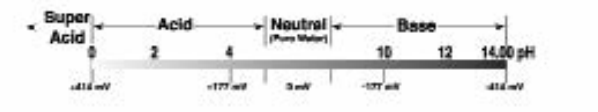
A summary for the entire 2004 fiscal year will appear in the Spring Issue of the *Newsline*.

The Basics of pH—-"pH 101"

Presented at the 31st NAOSMM Conference and Trade Show in Philadelphia by Paul R. Richer
Submitted by Teresa R. Robertson, CSUB

Paul R. Richer is a regional sales manager for the Fisher Laboratory Equipment Division. He graduated from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I. with a degree in Marketing. Mr. Richer has held a variety of regional and national sales positions with manufacturers of electrochemistry products. His most recent experience has been with Fisher Scientific, Sentron and Hanna Instruments. Paul has experience selling to a wide variety of industries, including universities, water and wastewater, food manufacturing and processing, polymer, and pulp and paper.

What is pH?



In 1909, the Danish biochemist Soren Peter Lauritz Sorensen proposed the use of a logarithmic scale to express the concentration of hydrogen ions (H+). Sorensen used the symbol PH to mean the "power of hydrogen". The symbol was later changed, in 1920 for typographical convenience, to pH by W. M. Clark, the inventor of the Clark oxygen electrode.

The hydrogen ion concentration was found to vary over fourteen powers of 10. A change of one pH unit changes the hydrogen ion concentration by a factor of ten. A solution with a pH of one has ten times the hydrogen ion concentration of a solution with a pH of 2; 100 times more than a solution with a pH of 3, and so on. The pH scale ranges from 1 (the most acidic) to 14 (the most basic) with 7 being the neutral point.

Why is pH Important?

Behind temperature, pH is the second most often measured parameter. Some of the reasons for measuring pH follow.

Aquatic organisms can be very sensitive to high or low pH values. Many industrial processes, such as metal-finishing, rely on maintaining pH at a given value. Floor care experts use neutral cleaners for daily maintenance, and alkaline products to strip wax. Carpet cleaning agents are pH 7-10, to avoid damage to the carpet. Agriculturists control the pH of the soil for optimum plant growth. Swimming pools and hot tubs are pH-balanced for safety. Laundry water is kept above a pH of 9.5 during the bleach cycle to prevent damage to fabric. Industrial plants control the release of sulfur dioxide as it causes harmful acid rain. Maintaining the proper pH is often important in the food industry too, such as in the production of cheese. And, it is important in printing, sewage treatment, and the leather and pharmaceutical industries.

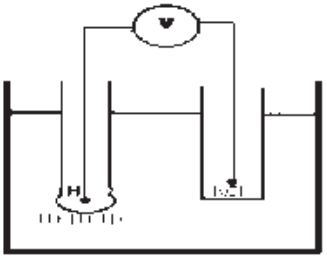
Methods of Measuring pH

Paper treated with organic dye, pH strips, or colorimetric methods may be used to get a good idea of pH value, but for greatest accuracy (to 0.01 of a unit), a meter with an electrode and temperature compensation is used. A pH meter is a glorified volt meter, displaying potentiometric differences as pH values. At 25°C, a pH of 4 has a millivolt (mV) value of 177. The mV value for a pH of 10 is -177, and the neutral pH of 7 is 0 (zero) mV.

Ion Sensitive Field Effect Transistor (ISFET) technology was developed in the late 80's. The electrodes are pH meter specific, and tend to be expensive, but they are great for many applications. The non-glass electrodes are virtually unbreakable, have various tip designs, can be cleaned with a toothbrush, and are stored dry. They are especially good for R&D samples, as the sample size can be as small as a single drop (20uL).

There are hundreds of electrodes to choose from, allowing selection based upon application. Non-glass cone-type, lance-type, and flat-type electrodes are useful for dough, jams, jellies, sauces, soil, shampoo, meat, cheese, fruits, vegetables, agar, and tissue samples.

Proper Techniques to Achieve Reliable Results



The essentials of a pH measuring system are an indicating half cell, a reference half cell, and a pH meter. The indicating half cell develops a potential dependent on the pH of the solution, sensing hydrogen ions. The reference cell provides a constant potential, and completes the electric circuit. (Combination electrodes contain both the indicating half cell and the reference half cell).

Since glass pH electrodes measure H^+ concentration relative to their reference half-cells, they must be calibrated periodically to ensure accurate, repeatable measurements. Standardization should be performed with fresh buffers. Buffers should frame the range of pH for the samples being tested. If measuring the entire range of pH the slope used should be the upper end, or pH 10 buffer. If possible, all samples should be stirred, including the standard buffers. If it is not possible to stir the samples, the buffers should not be stirred during the calibration procedure.

Two-point or even three-point calibrations ensure the most reliable results. Make sure your pH system includes calibration buffers for a range of pH values. Buffers should be the same temperature as the samples. Buffer values are dependent upon temperature.

Table of NIST Values of pH Buffers at Various Temperatures

Temperature (°C)	4.01 Buffer 0.05M Potassium Acid Phthalate	6.86 Buffer 0.025M KH2PO4 0.025M Na2HPO4	9.18 Buffer 0.01M Borax
0°	4.00 pH	6.98 pH	9.46 pH
10°	4.00 pH	6.92 pH	9.33 pH
20°	4.00 pH	6.88 pH	9.22 pH
25°	4.01 pH	6.86 pH	9.18 pH
30°	4.02 pH	6.85 pH	9.14 pH
40°	4.04 pH	6.84 pH	9.07 pH
50°	4.06 pH	6.83 pH	9.01 pH
60°	4.09 pH	6.84 pH	8.96 pH
70°	4.13 pH	6.85 pH	8.92 pH
80°	4.16 pH	6.86 pH	8.88 pH
90°	4.21 pH	6.88 pH	8.85 pH

When calibrating a pH measuring system, the slope indicates electrode efficiency. A normal slope is 95-102%. The electrode should be cleaned if the slope is 92-95%, and replaced if it is below 92%.

Electrodes should be rinsed between samples with distilled or deionized water. Never wipe an electrode. Wiping can cause erroneous readings due to static charges. Blot the end of the electrode with lint-free paper to remove excess water.

200 feet (61 meters) is the maximum distance an electrode can be from a pH meter. If the distance is greater, you will need a transmitter. Use either a 4 to 20 mA transmitter (make sure your pH meter accepts 4 to 20 mA signal) or purchase an industrial electrode with a built-in transmitter. A transmitter will allow you to use your electrode up to 1000 feet (305 meters) from your meter provided you are not in a noisy environment.

The valance of Na^+ is much larger than H^+. Amber glass has a smaller pore size thus possibly discriminating between H^+ and Na^+ allowing only the smaller H^+ to enter the greatly eliminating Na^+ interference.

A calomel fill solution ($Hg/Hg2Cl_2$) has a stability of +/- 0.05 pH units. It works well with most samples, within the -5°C to 80°C, and has some drift with temperature changes.

A silver fill solution (Ag/AgCl) is more expensive, and drifts with temperature changes, but has greater stability of +/- 0.02 pH units. Unless a double junction design is used, it is not suitable for use with fats, TRIS buffers, proteins, or sulfides.

Care and Maintenance

With the exception of permanently filled, or gel electrodes, always keep your pH electrode moist. For storage, a solution of 4 M KCl works well. If 4 M KCl is not available, use a pH 4 or 7 buffer solution. DO NOT store electrode in distilled or deionized water—this will cause ions to leach out of the glass bulb and render your electrode useless.

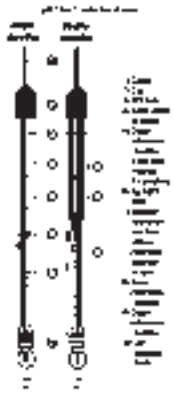
Gel-filled electrodes are slower to respond than refillable electrodes. They usually last three to six months, sometimes up to two years. Refillable electrodes have a one to two year lifespan. They are faster to respond, but the user must replace the electrolyte. Electrode selection is based upon the sample matrix, the precision required, maintenance, durability, cost, and size of the electrode.
To unclog an electrode, first check the interior wire. If corrosion is evident, replace the electrode. If not, then soak the electrode in pH 4 buffer solution at 50°C for 2-4 hours. Restore a dry electrode by soaking it in tap water after rinsing out the refill chamber with distilled water and refilling with the proper solution.

The filling solution in refillable electrodes should be filled up to, but not past, the refill hole. Make sure the refill hole is left open when measuring to ensure that the fill solution flows properly through the reference junction. To remove air bubbles, shake the electrode down, as you would a thermometer.

After storage, you may notice white KCl crystals forming outside your electrode. This will not interfere with measurements. Simply rinse the electrode and blot dry before use.

Most electrodes are shipped with a protective rubber boot over the glass bulb to help prevent cracking or scratching. Remove the rubber boot before using your electrode. Keep your electrode in long-term storage with the boot on—just fill the boot with enough 4 M KCl solution to cover the glass bulb and replenish as needed to keep the bulb moist.

Single Junction versus Double Junction



Single junction electrodes are used for general applications for clean samples. They tend to be inexpensive. Double junction electrodes should be used for dirty samples, TRIS solutions, and unknown samples.

Additional References

http://www.radiometer-analytical.com/all_resource_centre.asp?code=112 (registration required)
http://www.coastwidelabs.com/Technical%20Articles/ph__the_power_of_hydrogen.htm
http://antoine.frostburg.edu/chem/senese/101/acidbase/faq/what-is-pH.shtml
http://ghs.gresham.k12.or.us/science/ps/sci/eco/johnsoncr/waterchem/pH.htm
http://www.qldanaesthesia.com/AcidBaseBook/AB1_3.htm
http://www.coleparmer.com/techinfo/techinfo.asp?openlist=D,E,C&htmlfile=pHMeasurement%2Ehtm&Title=Search

Program Committee

Chair: Ana Rodriquez

Greetings All!

Time flies when you're having fun!!! It seems like yesterday we were telling each other "see you next year" and here we are, already half through November! This year the Program Committee is soaring to new heights. Following the lead and vision of our founder, Lamar Houston, we move on to stretch our boundaries. Science is an ever-growing field with new discoveries, methods, and techniques being developed on a constant basis. In order to keep up with the mainstream, stay current and provide the best service that we can to our employers, our knowledge must stay current. For quite some time, Lamar has envisioned an expansion of our current seminars to include the latest developments in life science. Things have changed dramatically and now more than ever biology and chemistry are running hand-in-hand instead of working as two separate fields. An increasing number of universities and colleges are expanding their majors to include biochemistry, molecular science and a number of other related fields. Professors, researchers and industry need lab personnel to stay on top of "what's new". By staying up to date with the latest trends in science, we are the personnel to make the work environment run smoothly. For that, we must acquire knowledge.

The responsibility of NAOSMM is to provide knowledge to its members. The goal of the Program Committee is to offer seminars on the latest information in our fields so we can stay current and competitive. For the 2005 conference, the committee is developing a dual track program. The first track will remain the traditional program with what the committee believes will be most relevant: management, safety, regulatory, scientific/technical, personal development and others. In an effort to avoid overloading the schedule with any one subject in our traditional track, we have created categories and have classified all of our topic ideas into them. The second track will be directed toward life sciences. The life sciences team is working hard on their track of the program.

In order to assist in the acquiring of the NAOSMM certification, this committee is working with the Certification Committee to classify topics so that the categories required for certification correspond. We are still discussing the details. Meanwhile, the committees will continue working on developing a stimulating conference! There's going to be something for everyone!!

This year, I have a terrific program committee team. Our life science track members are Barbara Daily from Johns Hopkins University, Joyce Robinson from Michigan State University, and Cassandra Wong from the University of Michigan. The traditional track members are Victoria Sample from Missouri Western, Heather McCollor from Macalaster College and yours truly, from Rollins College.

Thank you all for the wonderful work you are accomplishing!!
Hope to see everyone in Reno!!

Hospitality Report

Chair: Karen Miller

The Hospitality Committee has been rather quiet since the conference in Philadelphia last August. However, we have sent out letters of welcome to 16 new NAOSMM members who have joined since then. We are pleased that there are 16 additional people who now have access to the benefits of our organization.

Our committee needs to have a member representing every region in our organization. Any NAOSMM member who would like to get involved is invited to contact the committee chair to inquire about joining the Hospitality Committee. We will soon begin making personal contacts and collecting items for goody bags for the Reno conference. These activities, along with serving at the registration table at the conference, are the current duties of committee members. If this sounds like something you can help with, please call or email Karen Miller (801-626-7185 or kmiller3@weber.edu).

Let us hear from you. We'd like to double (or triple) the size of our committee for the Reno conference.

Marketing & New Member Recruitment

Chair: Kevin Mautte

The new marketing cards have been sent out to each active member. This year the cards list the dates (July 25-29) of the 32nd Annual Conference and Trade Show in Reno, Nevada. Please contact me if you need more cards. Ahead will be the mass mailing to all universities and colleges.

VWRSP has agreed to assist in marketing in the Western region of the United States, and we anticipate a large increase in new membership from out west. Twelve new members have joined since the conference in Philadelphia. My deepest thanks to my committee members (Bob Lahair, Lori Keen, Phil Edwards, Vicki Sample, and Sherrill Wolf) for researching and contacting several potential members on a list provided by Glen Thornley.

Trade Show

Coordinator: Cassandra Wong

The trade show booths for the 2005 conference in Reno, NV are already 60% full. The Silver Legacy Expo Hall has 70 booths available, and returning vendors from the 2004 Philadelphia conference have already reserved 42 booths. Many additional vendors are expressing interest in the remaining 28 booths. These booths will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to rising conference-related costs, the Executive Board has decided to increase booth fees to $600. NAOSMM has not increased its booth fees for several years despite rising costs. Further increases in booth fees are not anticipated for the near future.

We would like to see the trade show filled by vendors that you consider relevant to your business. If you know a vendor who is interested in exhibiting, or if you would like to see a particular vendor at the trade show, please contact me by email at ckwong@umich.edu.

Nominations Committee

Chair: Claris Cupido

Greetings from the Nominations Committee!

We are, at the present time, diligently working to get nominations for the upcoming Executive Board elections to be held at the annual conference in Reno, Nevada (July, 2005). The four offices open for nominations are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

If you know of anyone interested in running or are interested yourself, please contact myself or members of the committee listed below. A short biography and photo are requested to help members know you when it comes time to vote. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the business meeting, prior to the election. However, if a nomination is made from the floor, you must have the permission of the candidate before the nomination is made. An absentee ballot will be made available to those who need it in the Spring Issue of the *Newsline*. If you are unsure of whom to vote for, there is also a proxy form available where you can designate an attending member to vote for you.

The Chair and Committee members can be contacted at the following phone numbers and email addresses:

Claris Lynette Cupido, Chair
Tel: 1-305-899-3297
Email: lcupido@mail.barry.edu

Ginny (Virginia Eulo)
Tel: 1-609-258-3881
Email: vaeulo@princeton.edu

Mike (Mike Princer)
Tel: 1-641-269-3012
Email: princer@grinnell.edu

Your participation is vital and much appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

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