

Young Observers Describe Experiences

At a reception hosted by the U.S. National Committee for IUPAC at the American Chemical Society meeting in Boston on 20 August 2002, three Young Observers reported on their experiences at recent General Assemblies. The USNC has long conducted the Young Observer (YO) program to send “younger,” but established chemists to General Assemblies to interest them in the work of IUPAC and to obtain ideas from them on ways of enhancing the Union’s work.

The three former young observers spoke highly of their experiences during the past two General Assemblies. Cynthia Larive, of the University of Kansas and a 2001 YO, Frank McDonald of Emory University and a 2001 YO, and Jeff Roberts of the University of Minnesota and a 1999 YO, emphasized the satisfaction they felt being a part of a larger group of scientists working on policy issues that affect the chemistry community. McDonald decided to join the IUPAC Subcommittee on Organic Synthesis after his experience as a young observer. Roberts concluded his remarks with a challenge for IUPAC—to spread the word about the organization, especially to many other young scientists, and involve them early in their career since IUPAC is an important, yet under-recognized organization.

Each year, the USNC hosts this type of reception to thank the Company Associates who support the program and to introduce people to IUPAC and its members. Newly appointed USNC chair Mike Jaffe acted as host for the short program during the reception. Ted Becker, secretary general of IUPAC, gave an overview of the history and the current activities of IUPAC. USNC member Jeanne Pemberton discussed the YO program and introduced the three YOs.

The USNC has announced a similar program to support travel to the IUPAC Congress and General Assembly in Ottawa in August 2003. Ed Przybylowicz, past chairman of the USNC, described the program in a *Chemistry International* Forum article [*CI* Vol. 24, No. 1, January 2002].

 www.nationalacademies.org/usnc-iupac/yo

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