

Organization Launched To Solve The Name Ambiguity Problem In Scholarly Research

On 7 September 2010, the Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) initiative was officially launched as a nonprofit organization. ORCID, Inc. is dedicated to solving the name ambiguity problem in the scholarly research community and will manage a registry of unique contributor identifiers. Enabling the clear identification of researchers and their research will enhance the scientific discovery process and improve the efficiency of research funding and collaboration around the world.

ORCID is managed by a Board of Directors, comprised of 14 members of the global scholarly research community. To date, the organization has attracted support from more than 115 academic, corporate, and government organizations; associations; and publishing companies around the world.

“Difficulty in relating author identities has negative impacts on scientific discovery, research productivity, collaboration, project funding, publishing output, and even career advancement,” notes Martin Fenner, Hannover Medical School and ORCID board member. “The ultimate success of ORCID will be through extensive participation and collaboration from all members of the scientific and scholarly community.”

ORCID, Inc’s activities are expected to show benefits for the publishing process. “Author ambiguity presents challenges for publishers in serving our authors, readers, and institutional customers,” says Bernard Rous, Association of Computing Machinery and ORCID board member. “The ORCID registry of unique contributor identifiers, used collaboratively by scholarly societies, publishers, and all organizations involved in the scholarly enterprise, will enable us to build richer, more precise, and comprehensive services for the varied communities we serve.”

“The problems associated with researcher identity ambiguity have become unwieldy as the volume of authors and published works continues to expand globally, and as more research output requires attribution,” added MacKenzie Smith, MIT Libraries and ORCID board member. “We hope to work openly and collaboratively with the entire community to facilitate the solution.”

 www.orcid.org

2011 IUPAC Prize for Young Chemists Announced

The IUPAC Prize for Young Chemists encourages outstanding young research scientists at the beginning of their careers. Five prizes will be given for the most outstanding Ph.D. theses in the general area of the chemical sciences, as described in a 1000-word essay. Each prize consists of USD 1000 cash and travel expenses to the IUPAC 2011 Congress in Puerto Rico. Each awardee will be invited to present a poster on his/her research and to participate in a plenary award session. Awardees also are expected to submit a review article for possible publication in *Pure and Applied Chemistry*.

Procedures for the 2011 Prize:

- Entrants must have received their Ph.D. (or equivalent) degree, or completed all Ph.D. requirements including successful defense of their doctoral thesis, during calendar year 2010 in any of the countries that are Members or Associate Members of IUPAC. Entrants need not be citizens or residents of one of these countries at the time the application is submitted.
- The research described in the entrant’s thesis must be in the field of the chemical sciences, defined as “chemistry and those disciplines and technologies that make significant use of chemistry.”
- The IUPAC Prize recognizes only work that was performed while the entrant was a graduate student.
- Application requires submission of a completed entry form, together with the material listed in items e. and f. The entry form and supporting material should be submitted by e-mail whenever feasible. Additional material may be sent as needed by fax or mail.
- An essay must be submitted by the entrant that describes his or her thesis work and places it in perspective relative to current research in the chemical sciences. The essay must be written in English by the entrant and may not exceed 1000 words.
- Two supporting letters are required from the thesis adviser and/or chair of the thesis committee and one additional faculty member. These letters should comment on the qualifications and accomplishments of the applicant and the significance of the thesis work.