

## Naming Ceremony for Element 112 in Darmstadt

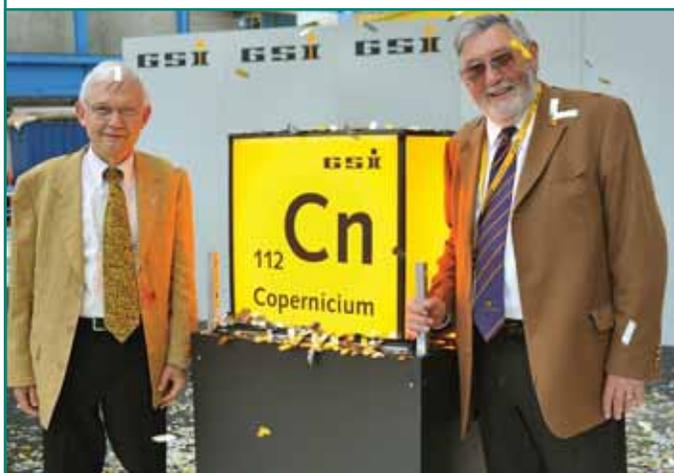
On 12 July 2010, the chemical element with the atomic number 112 was “christened” copernicium at the Gesellschaft für Schwerionenforschung (GSI) in Darmstadt, Germany, where it was discovered. This symbolic christening celebrated the element’s eternal entry into the periodic table of elements. Copernicium is 277 times heavier than hydrogen and the heaviest element officially recognized in the periodic table. Its name honors the great astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543).



*The July 2010 celebration of element 112 at Gesellschaft für Schwerionenforschung (Center for Heavy Ion Research) in Darmstadt, Germany.*

IUPAC Treasurer John Corish, former president of the Inorganic Chemistry Division, participated in the ceremony. Corish is the corresponding author on the IUPAC 2010 recommendations releasing the name and symbol of the element with atomic number 112.

Element 112 was discovered by an international team of scientists headed by professor Sigurd Hofmann



*IUPAC Treasurer John Corish (right) and Gottfried Münzenberg, a driving force in the GSI team.*

at GSI. The new element has officially carried the name copernicium and the symbol “Cn” since 19 February 2010.\* Naming the element after scientist Nicolaus Copernicus follows the longstanding tradition of choosing an accomplished scientist as eponym. Copernicus’ work in astronomy is the basis of our modern world view, which states that the Sun is the center of our solar system with the Earth and all the other planets circling around it.

Copernicium is the sixth chemical element that GSI scientists discovered and named. The other elements carry the names bohrium (element 107), hassium (element 108), meitnerium (element 109), darmstadtium (element 110), and roentgenium (element 111).



\*[www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2010/3202/iw1\\_copernicium.html](http://www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2010/3202/iw1_copernicium.html)  
[www.gsi.de/portrait/presse/Pressemeldungen/12072010\\_e.html](http://www.gsi.de/portrait/presse/Pressemeldungen/12072010_e.html)

## InChI 1.03 Released

The InChI Trust and IUPAC are pleased to announce the release of a new version of the IUPAC International Chemical Identifier (InChI) software. Version 1.03 of the open source software was made available on 28 June 2010.

The InChI algorithm turns chemical structures into machine-readable strings of information. Among other enhancements, version 1.03 integrates the generation of the standard InChI string and nonstandard, customized strings. The standard InChI/InChIKey should be used as a public identifier to allow linking and interoperability. Options to generate the nonstandard InChI within the same package make it easier for organizations to use these additional options within their internal systems allowing them to conform to their business rules.

Developers and users can download the new software from [www.iupac.org/inchi/download](http://www.iupac.org/inchi/download).

Version 1.03 also fixes a number of minor bugs, with respect to stereochemistry. It clarifies how undefined/unknown stereochemistry is handled, and clarifies some structure perception and stereo interpretation option issues.

“For the first time, users can generate both the standard and nonstandard versions of InChI from the same software.” says Jason Wilde, chair of the InChI Trust. “This release also marks the first of many public outputs from the newly formed InChI Trust.”

IUPAC and the InChI Trust recommend the use of the standard InChI, an interoperable standard, as it enables linking between journals, databases, and other sources of chemical information. This interlinking is one of the major advantages of the InChI standard.

Originally developed by IUPAC, InChIs are unique to the compound they describe and can encode absolute stereochemistry. The InChI was developed as a new, nonproprietary, international standard to represent chemical structures. The software is open source, with ongoing development done by the community.

Formed in 2009, The InChI Trust is a not-for-profit organization, established to expand and develop the InChI chemical structure representation algorithm. InChI Trust Members and Associates help support, shape, and direct the Trust's ongoing development: ACD/Labs, ChemAxon, Elsevier, FIZ CHEMIE, Informa/Taylor & Francis, IUPAC, Microsoft, Nature Publishing Group, OpenEye, The Royal Society of Chemistry, Symyx Technologies, Thomson Reuters, and Wiley.

For further information, contact Project Director Stephen Heller <Steve@InChI-Trust.org>.

 [www.iupac.org/inchi](http://www.iupac.org/inchi)  
[www.inchi-trust.org](http://www.inchi-trust.org)

## Noureddine Yassaa Awarded the 2010 CHEMRAWN VII Prize

**T**he 2010 CHEMRAWN VII Prize for Atmospheric and Green Chemistry has been awarded to Noureddine Yassaa of the Faculty of Chemistry, University of Sciences and Technology Houari Boumediène, Algiers, Algeria.

Yassaa received the award in recognition of his outstanding research on the occurrence and the chemistry of gas- and particulate-phase organic compounds present in the atmosphere, employing both laboratory and field measurement techniques. These compounds include species with carcinogenic and mutagenic properties and/or acute toxicity, as well as nontoxic species that may contribute to the greenhouse effect, stratospheric ozone depletion, or ozone and hydroxyl radical generation in the troposphere. He has published more than 30 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals on such subjects as gas chro-

matography, mass spectrometry, emission and flux measurements of volatile organic compounds, and the sampling and analysis of pollutants in air and airborne particles. He has recorded measurements of hundreds of organic species including organonitriles, carbonyls, organohalides, terpenes, organosulfur compounds, and aromatic species across the globe.

This inaugural CHEMRAWN VII Prize comprises a plaque and a cash award of USD 5000. The plaque is signed by IUPAC

President Nicole Moreau, Gerrit-Jan Koomen, chair of the Prize Selection Committee and president of the Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry Division, and IUPAC Secretary General David StC. Black.

This award was first conceived through the cooperative efforts of the CHEMRAWN VII Future Actions Committee and the Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry Division of IUPAC to recognize a young scientist from a developing country whose research contributes to the field of green chemistry, while emphasizing atmospheric chemistry.

Noureddine Yassaa was born and raised in Algiers, Algeria. He completed his studies in chemistry at the University of Sciences and Technology Houari Boumediène (USTHB) in Algiers, where he received the High Studies Diploma in Chemistry (Baccalaureate + 4) in 1995 after graduating first in his class. Thereafter, he obtained a Master's Degree in Applied Organic Chemistry at USTHB in 1997 and a Doctorate in Applied Organic Chemistry in 2001. He is currently a professor in the Faculty of Chemistry at USTHB and is also the Group Leader of the Analysis of Organic Pollutants in the Environment Research Group in the Laboratory for Functional Organic Analysis. In 2003, Yassaa was named the Best Young Researcher in Algeria, an achievement for which he received the Emeritus Medal from the National Conference of Universities. He also was awarded a special medal in 2007 from the Algerian Ministry of Environment for his work in environmental chemistry.



*CHEMRAWN Prizewinner  
Noureddine Yassaa.*