

PM bursary scheme

MIME Solutions, a project management consultancy based in Cheshire, UK, has introduced a bursary scheme for the project management toolkit essentials training courses based on the series of books on project management by IChemE Fellow Trish Melton.

The company is offering a limited number of free places to students, and 50% discounted places to academics and researchers. Courses can be attended as a three-day series, or for those interested in one particular area, as one-day standalone sessions.

Melton, md of MIME, says: "Everything is a project, whether it's building a new lab, re-designing a production process, delivering research and design projects, or writing a dissertation."

Protein aggregation problem solved

AGGREGATION – the buildup of particles – is a perennial problem in pharmaceuticals, nowhere more so than in the bioprocessing of pharmaceuticals where the aggregation of proteins can cause undesirable side-effects.

The subject was the focus of a recent one-day symposium at University College London (UCL), jointly organised by IChemE's Biochemical Engineering Subject Group and the Analytical Biosciences Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The day's chairman, Dan Bracewell of the Department of Biochemical Engineering at UCL, brought together speakers from the US and Europe to give a cross section of activity. The talks covered analytical approaches to the identification of aggregates, the use of molecular modelling to understand aggregation, mechanisms of aggregation in processing, and use of polymers to stabilise proteins.

Mary Cromwell, early-stage formulation expert with Genentech, gave the keynote talk, covering case studies involving protein aggregation, its causes and strategies for minimising it; and how opulence in protein solutions can sometimes be brought about by phase changes at low temperatures rather than aggregation.

In addition to the serious matter of scientific updates, there was the small but no less important issue of presenting the winner of the 2007 Donald Medal with his trophy. The proud winner was Andrew Lyddiatt, professor of bioprocess technology at Newcastle University, who won the medal for his contributions to biochemical engineering teaching and industrial research.

Coulson Lecture heralds pharmaceuticals

Secondary school children shown how chemistry saves lives

EVERY year, the John Coulson Memorial Lecture, organised by the chemical engineering departments of the University of Newcastle and Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, shares the excitement and importance of chemical engineering with 14 to 18-year-old secondary school children.

This year, the focus will be on what chemistry does to save lives – and why the decisions involved in making and researching those chemicals can sometimes be very difficult indeed.

Tony Wood, head of chemistry at the European headquarters of pharmaceuticals giant Pfizer, shares the experience of his personal involvement in designing and making a drug that is now changing the lives of HIV

patients. He will talk about what attracted him to chemistry in the first place, how he's been using his chemical knowledge to improve medicine, and what it's like to work on a successful pharmaceuticals research programmes. Students will be able to see some of the latest drug design technologies and try their own hand at designing medicines.

The John Coulson Memorial Lecture will take place at 17:00, 3 November 2008, at the Curtis Auditorium of Newcastle University, and on 4 November at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh. To reserve free tickets for Newcastle, contact Clare McCartney (clare.mccartney@newcastle.ac.uk).

Water, wastewater and environmental monitoring comes to Telford

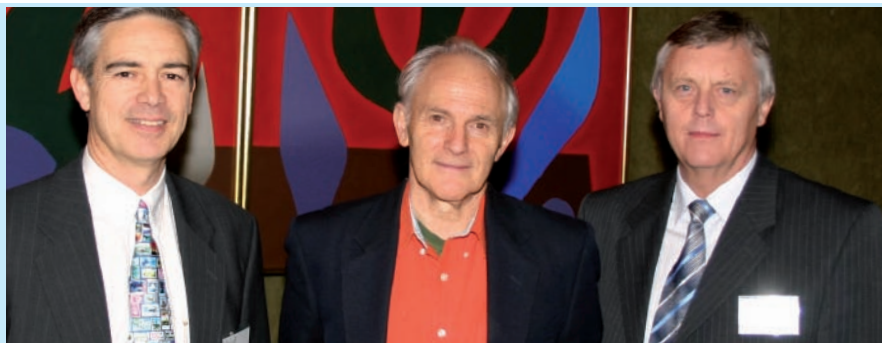
THE 2008 Water, Wastewater and Environmental Monitoring (WWEM) conference will be the largest event dedicated to environmental monitoring event in the world, organisers say.

In addition to the conference, which will provide the latest guidance on environmental regulations including MCERTS schemes for both soil and water, the proceedings on 5 and 6 November 2008 at the Telford International Centre will include 70 workshops and more than 100 exhibitors. Several of these – ABB, Achromatic, Emerson Process, Hach Lange Ott

Hydrometry, PPM, RS Hydro, Servo and YSI, to be exact – plan to launch new technologies at the show.

The aim of the event is to help improve the quality and reliability of environmental monitoring by providing the latest information on the key issues, including new test and monitoring technology, updates on the latest EU and UK regulations, and case studies.

Go to www.wwem.uk.com to pre-register and reserve your free parking, free refreshments and complimentary entry to the conference and workshops.



Harry Kroto, one of the winners of the 1996 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, speaking at the IChemE's Fellows lunch in Sydney, Australia. Over 40 senior members of the institution listened with rapt attention as Kroto explained the importance of the "three S's" – science, society & sustainability. The lunch, one of the highlights in the social calendar of IChemE in Australia was hosted by Verity Firth, New South Wales minister for climate change and the environment, at the New South Wales Parliament House.

Kroto is flanked by Des King, ceo of Caltex Australia (left) and Russell Scott, chairman of IChemE in Australia (right)

IChemE in Singapore launches local awards

Six categories to champion innovation and excellence

ICHEME in Singapore – the institution's regional branch in the Asian city-state – is set to launch a brand new awards programme for innovation in Asia.

The inaugural event for the Awards for Innovation and Excellence will be held in Singapore in September 2009. It will be the first time that IChemE recognises achievements specifically in Asia, and will be awarded across six separate categories. The overall winner of these six categories will then go forward to represent Singapore at IChemE's well-established annual awards.

"These awards will recognise the contribution that groups and individuals in Singapore have made to the process-based industries," says Steve Puckett, chairman of IChemE in Singapore. He adds that the talents and ambitions of Singapore's researchers are vital to maintaining its competitive strength. "Promoting the importance of their achievements with formal awards presented in an appropriately high-profile setting will inspire continued excellence and innovation throughout our community," he adds.

The process industries are central to Singapore's economy. Under the direction of the Singapore Economic Development Board, the country has established a successful world-scale chemical processing industry which combines vast petrochemicals capacity with a highly skilled and innovative workforce. Today, the Jurong Island industrial zone is one of the world's leading refining centres, and houses over 90 refiners and petrochemicals, specialty chemicals and supporting companies.

Three of the award categories – sustainability, safety, and training – were selected to promote the fundamental drivers in the processing industries. The other three (pharmaceuticals, specialty chemicals and petrochemicals) represent the most important sectors of the process industries in Singapore.

The six award categories in detail:

- **Award for Sustainable Technology:** The award will honour a project or process that demonstrates innovation in the field of waste

reduction through the principles of reduce, re-use and recycle; responsible use of natural resources and processes with a reduced environmental impact. It is expected that sustainable energy, sustainable feedstocks, water conservation, cleanup and reuse, abatement of greenhouse gases and 'clean' processing will feature heavily in this category.

- **Health and Safety Award:** Showcasing organisations with an exemplary record in safeguarding the health and safety of employees and the public through inventing, developing or implementing technology that minimises risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals, and proactive sustained promotion of best practice and safety culture.

- **Award for Excellence in Education and Training in Chemical Engineering:** This will be an individual or team award for excellence and innovation in training and development of staff, or education of the wider community.

- **Award for Pharmaceutical Innovation:** Presented to an individual or team for chemical engineering innovation in pharmaceutical processing or products providing safe and effective medicines to a global market. This is to encompass novel chemicals, commercial pharmaceuticals and biological treatments.

- **Award for Innovation in Specialty Chemical Products and Applications:** Recognising the efforts of an individual or a team to invent, develop or deliver new specialty chemical products or applications to the market.

- **Award for Innovation in Petrochemical Processing:** An award for groups or individuals who have invented or developed novel, cost-effective and environmentally benign petrochemical processes. IChemE in Singapore is currently seeking companies to support the six awards, as well as sponsors for keynote speakers at the event, and the awards programme. If interested, contact singaporemembers@icheme.org. Further details on how to enter the awards will be announced in due course.

Workshop highlights safety indicators

THE Safety and Loss Prevention Subject Group, together with IChemE's North West Members Group, is holding a one-day meeting and workshop on the topic of process safety performance indicators in Preston, UK.

Taking place on 16 October at Preston's Barton Grange Hotel, the workshop will give an overview of current thinking on the topic of process safety indicators, with contributions from organisations which have implemented performance indicators, along with the UK Health and Safety Executive and the European Process Safety Centre.

The event will include workshops for those wanting to maximise the contribution of performance indicators to continuous improvement, and those who are planning to introduce them.

Contact gjones@icheme.org for further information.

The dos and don'ts of distillation control

ICHEME's Fluid Separations Subject Group is hosting an online seminar in October highlighting the dos and don'ts of distillation column control.

Featuring examples of specific control problems submitted by participants, this two-hour web-based session event is expected to provide plenty of opportunity for technical discussion and comment, and should be of interest to engineers who provide technical support to operational units.

The sessions will be presented by Myke King of Whitehouse Consulting, who has more than 30 years' experience as a consultant to clients in over 30 countries.

The sessions take place on Wednesday, 22 October 14:00–16:00 BST, and Thursday 23 October, 10:00–12:00 BST, and are open to all and group participation is welcome. Email jguthrie@icheme.org for further information.

Accidents conference

THE European Process Safety Centre (EPSC) and partner organisations will hold a conference entitled "Learning from accidents" in Antwerp, Belgium, on 9–10 October.

Speakers include Andrew Hopkins, winner of the 2008 EPSC Award and prolific author on human factors in process safety, John Bresland, chairman of the Chemical Safety Board in the US, and Koos Visser, board member of the Dutch Safety Board.

Visit www.epsc.org for more details and online registration.

Survey gauges Australian expectations

THE Institution has sent out a survey to its Australian members to find out more about what members expect from technical meetings, events and activities organised by their state group, and what members' experiences of these meetings are. IChemE's Australian state group networks are driven by member volunteers and works at local level across Australia to support

the professional development of members and promote the discipline of chemical engineering.

The online survey is open until the end of September, and its results will help IChemE plan future activities for its Australian members. It is available at www.icheme.org/fc_html/ausstategroup_activities2008.htm