



International Association of Colloid and Interface Scientists

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From your Newsletter Editor

We are s l o w l y getting in contributions ... more are welcome, please! This and following issues will contain information on local colloid communities. Maybe you would like to advertise yours here?

"Nonsense, McBain": a century of micelles

It was one of these wonderful little [COST CM1101](#) workshops, this one being on Malta the very beginning of this year, where Andreea Pasc from the *Université de Lorraine* told us that this year micelles are having their hundredth name day. The [reference](#) that was given, is a funny one as it does not pop-up when doing a typical literature search. It is actually pointing to a discussion following a lecture by Wolfgang Pauli from Vienna (!) on the viscosity of protein solutions in which James W. McBain indeed uses the term as an alternative to "colloidal ion", the more common term in those days, in a short contribution entitled *Mobility of Highly-charged Micelles*.



J.W. McBain (1882-1953)

While searching, one comes across the statement in the header. No doubt one of the present sources is the worthy [website](#) by Michael Blandamer of the University of Leicester that serves as a very reliable reference on applied thermodynamics. Fredric Menger's 1979 [review](#) on the structure of micelles is what is mentioned as the source. According to these authors — and all "copycats" — it was made by "a leading physical chemist chairing the meeting" of the Royal Society of London. Of course, it would then be interesting to know who might have made such a bold remark. From the citation one finds that the authors got this information from McBain himself, who in 1926 wrote^[1] the — to me — slightly different "... So novel was the finding that when in 1925 some of the evidence for it was presented to the Colloidal Committee for the Advancement of Science in London, it was dismissed by the Chairman, a leading international authority, with the words, "Nonsense, McBain. ...". From where Fredric Menger, more than 50 years after McBain's account, got his information is unclear but it remains to be seen whether the chairman indeed was a physical chemist. She could have been a physicist for that matter ...

^[1] in "Colloid Chemistry", Vol. 5, J. Alexander, Ed., Reinhold, New York, 1926, p 102.

Ger Koper, [Newsletter Editor](#)

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News

Reinhard Miller: our new president elect



Early 2012 Reinhard Miller was elected as future president of IACIS, starting his presidency in 2015. He started his career in the field of colloids and surface science at the East-German Academy of Sciences, after having studied Mathematics in Rostock and Colloid Chemistry in Dresden. His PhD was completed in 1978 and his Habilitation in 1988, both at the Academy of Sciences in Berlin. In 1992 he was hired as group leader at the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces in Potsdam/Golm. His scientific interests are focused on the dynamics of liquid interfaces.

Reinhard is presently editor of the Monograph Series "Progress in Colloid and Interface Science" with Taylor & Frances, and of the journal *Advances in Colloid and Interface Science*. He is also known as guest-editor for several special issues of *Colloids and Surfaces A*. During 1995 to 2008 he also edited 25 volumes for the book series "Studies in Interface Science" with Elsevier.

With regard to organizing international conferences, Reinhard made a number of contributions. He was for example the chairman of the 25th ECIS conference 2011 in Berlin, and the "Surfactants in Solution" meeting 2008 in Berlin. He is also involved in organizing workshops or smaller conferences, such as the biennial Eurofoam conferences and Food Colloid meetings, or the workshops on Bubble and Drop Interfaces, the next of which taking place in 2015 at the MPI in Potsdam.

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Brothers and Sisters

The European Colloid and Interface Society ([ECIS](#)) has been recently registered in Mainz (Germany) as a non-profit organization. The President of the Society is presently Reinhard Miller (Berlin), the Vice President is Debora Berti (Firenze), and the Past President is Andrew Howe (Schlumberger, Cambridge).



The most important event of ECIS is the Annual Conference. In 2013, the XXVII meeting will be held in Sofia from Sep 1 to Sep 6. Online registration and abstract submissions are already operative through the [website](#). The 2014 and 2015 Annual Meetings of the Society will be held in Haifa and Bordeaux, respectively, starting the first Sunday in September.

Every year ECIS grants two prizes. Since 2005, the Overbeek Gold Medal is awarded jointly with the Overbeek Foundation to honour leadership and scientific excellence in the field of Colloid and Interface Science over an entire career. The Rhodia Prize is supported by Rhodia and is assigned to a European scientist for original scientific work of outstanding quality in the field of Colloid and Interface Science in the previous five years. The Rhodia Prize was first awarded in 2001. In 2012, at the XXVI ECIS conference held in Malmö-Lund, the Overbeek Gold Medal was awarded to Dominique Langevin (Paris) who gave a talk on "Dynamic properties of adsorbed layers at liquid interfaces", and the Rhodia Prize was granted to Werner Kunz (Regensburg) who presented a contribution "From solvents and ions to surfactants and interfaces". For details on criteria and nominations forms for these awards, please refer to our [website](#) noting that the deadline for 2013 nominations is April 30.

Since 2003, another hot event of the Society is the Student Meeting, which is meant to be a platform for young scientists, and is organized every two years by graduate students in our discipline. In 2011 the meeting was held at the Chalmers University near Gothenberg, in 2013 it will take place in Potsdam-Golm from June 10 to 13. For further information on the registration, abstract submission and on the training school, please refer to their [website](#). Some travel bursaries offered by ECIS are available to PhD students upon registration.

For any other information, please refer to the [ECIS website](#) or contact the Secretary, [Peter Kralchevsky](#)

For more announcements, please consult the [IACIS website](#).

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You receive this newsletter because you are registered as a member of IACIS.

If you happen not be a member, please contact the [Honorary Secretary](#).

For comments or suggestions, please contact the [Newsletter Editor](#).