

## COMMITTEE ON PRINTED AND ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS REPORT TO COUNCIL - BERLIN, AUGUST 1999

Since last reporting to the Council in Geneva in mid-1997, the Committee (CPEP) met for two days in Oxford, United Kingdom, on June 23-24, 1998 and its members have stayed in regular contact with each other and with the Secretariat in North Carolina since that occasion, prior to scheduled meetings here in Berlin.

At the Oxford CPEP meeting in 1998, a principal item of concern was whether IUPAC should continue to utilize an "official publisher" for *Pure and Applied Chemistry (PAC)*, *Chemistry International (CI)*, and the IUPAC book series, or should, rather, publish some of these items itself. Following a detailed cost and feasibility analysis, a recommendation was made to the IUPAC Bureau that the Union look seriously at becoming its own publisher. In 1998, all six issues of *Chemistry International* were published by Blackwell (the current official publisher). Subsequently, effective with 1999 issues, the IUPAC Secretariat took over publication of *CI* from Blackwell, utilizing a printer and contract copy editor in the U.S. Whereas the November 1998 issue was not printed until January, 1999, the July 1999 issue was printed at the end of June, and future issues will be printed and distributed in the last week of the month before the issue month. The net cost of producing and distributing *CI* was USD 17 710 in 1998. This includes the cost for providing *CI* to members of IUPAC bodies, NAOs and other organizations, Fellows, and members of the Affiliate Member Program. The operation is expected to show a small net income in 1999.

Blackwell has been given notice that its status as Official Publisher will end as of December 31, 1999. A "Request for Proposals" was sent out, asking publishers to bid on a possible extension of the official publisher concept, beginning in 2000. A number of publishers (including Blackwell) responded. Based on the positive experience with self-publication of *CI*, however, the IUPAC Executive Committee in April 1999 authorized the Secretariat, in conjunction with CPEP, to undertake publication of *PAC* in 2000 using a contract copy editor and printer. It is expected that this arrangement will give the Union the control it seeks as it decides how to accommodate the expected changes in scientific publishing brought about by electronic publishing. In the medium term -- 5-10 years -- it is expected that the print version of *PAC* will continue to be produced with a subscriber base that continues to decline slowly.

Publication of *Pure and Applied Chemistry* continued to run behind the issue date during 1998, with the December 1998 issue not printed until the second quarter of 1999. It is expected that this situation will be corrected by August, 1999. The January through May issues should have been printed by the end of July. The situation will not be completely corrected until the first quarter of 2000.

One of the significant events of 1998 was the publication of the Special Issue of *PAC* on Environmental Oestrogens. Over one thousand copies of the special issue have been sold, in addition to the normal number distributed to subscribers. In 1998, CPEP strongly recommended that a "Special Topics Editor" be engaged for *PAC*, with a brief to produce special issues of the journal on topics vital to the impact of chemistry on the wider world. The committee is very pleased that Professor James Bull of the University of Capetown,

## COMMITTEE ON PRINTED AND ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

South Africa, was engaged in this capacity at the beginning of 1999. A somewhat analogous position on *CI* – that of “Forum Editor” – has proved difficult to fill, but is still highly recommended by the Committee to augment the news coverage in *CI* with discussion of currently relevant topics in international chemistry.

*PAC* is a major source of income for the Union. The table below gives a breakdown of the sources of that income for 1998.

<b>Income Source</b>	<b>Amount (USD)</b>
PAC Subscriptions (institutions-711)	309,996.00
PAC Subscriptions (individuals 18)	871.20
Other PAC Related	4,784.35
Books	13,206.51
Total Calculated Income	328,858.06
Minimum Royalty	361,300.83

The Committee is extremely pleased that one of its long-standing projects – the publication of a book entitled “The Principles of Nomenclature” (Leigh, Editor) was published in 1998 and is off to an excellent start in terms of sales.

CPEP has watched with interest the development by the Secretariat of an informative IUPAC web site, something that it has long espoused. Many of the committee’s hopes for the effective dissemination of IUPAC information are being fulfilled by means of the site, including information on official IUPAC recommendations, published originally in *PAC* and formerly contained in a separate (disk-based) CPEP project called IUPACSEARCH. The Committee is also pleased to welcome Dr. Alan Senzel as full-time Publications Manager at the North Carolina Secretariat, responsible for all IUPAC print publishing, while Dr. Fabienne Meyers is responsible for the web site and certain other administrative matters, both reporting to Executive Director Dr. John Jost. A CPEP Working Party has produced a document “Guidelines for the Use of the Internet by IUPAC Bodies”.

The Secretary of CPEP, Dr. Michael Bowen, attended a conference on the future of electronic publishing, convened by ICSU Press in Oxford in April 1998. He produced an interesting report covering issues such as archiving, peer review, and quality. (A summary appeared in *CI*, September 1998.) The Chairman of CPEP, Dr. Wendy Warr, represents CPEP and IUPAC on the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information, ICSTI. She attended the 1998 General Assembly of ICSTI in Scotland in May 1998 and produced a detailed report for CPEP, which was condensed by the IUPAC Secretariat and published in *Chemistry International* in September 1998. Dr. Warr has recently attended the 1999 ICSTI General Assembly in Taiwan.

The IUPAC-CODATA-ICSTI Project on Standardization of Physicochemical Property Electronic Data Files (IUCOSPED) has been evaluated by ICSU as a project of the first rank and awarded a \$100,000 grant. A Task Group to be led by Dr. Henry Kehiaian of

## COMMITTEE ON PRINTED AND ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

Paris, France was constituted in January 1999. It will be meeting in Berlin. The project is scheduled for completion in December 2000.

A Limited Term Task Group led by Dr. Antony Davies of Dortmund, Germany, a CPEP member, has recently produced recommendations for a new spectroscopic data standard for the exchange and archiving of multi-dimensional NMR data sets. The recommendation is currently under review by IDCNS. This Task Group is being coordinated through the CPEP Working Party on Spectroscopic Data Standards (the standards known as JCAMP-DX).

During 1998, CPEP contributed a strategic plan for its activities in response to a request from the Secretary General, and is very glad to be able to represent the Union in a totally active manner during this period of IUPAC transition, both technologically (in the change from print to print-plus-electronic publication) and organizationally (in the move from a formal, Commission-based structure to a specific project-based one).

Following this report is a summary of the Conference Proceedings, Commission Reports and Recommendations, and books published in 1998.

Wendy A. Warr  
Chairman  
Committee on Printed and Electronic Publications