

THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

August 2013, Vol. 50, No. 8

Contents

Free Science Seminar: <i>Genetically Modified Crops: Boon or Bane?</i>	1
ACS Day at the Fair, August 15	2
Call for Nominations for 2014 Officer and Director Candidates.....	3
Call for Poster Abstracts for the 2013 Fall Scientific Meeting, Deadline September 10	3
Tom Barton, ACS President-Elect, to Speak at 2YC3 Conference in September	4
In Past Issues of <i>The Midland Chemist</i>	5
Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates	5

Free Science Seminar: *Genetically Modified Crops: Boon or Bane?*

Gavin Lu, Programs Committee

August 15, 2013, 7:00–9:00 PM at the Grace A. Dow Library Lounge

Have you ever had Genetically Modified (GM) foods? If you ever eat soy or corn-based regular foods or canola oil in the US, chances are you have had a lot unwittingly. Proponents of GM crops believe the technology has the potential to increase crop production and sustain the world's population. Selecting the most desirable genes in a plant species can lower the time and cost of food production, increase the nutritional value, and help prevent susceptibility to disease or spoiling, thereby helping to solve some of the world's food shortage problems.

Yet, technologies are always double-edged swords. Some field studies indicate that there might be a downside to pursuing the GM technology. For example, the widespread use of pesticides on GM crops may bring an evolution of bacteria, weeds, and insects with greater pesticide resistance. In addition, accidental transgenic splicing may result in foods that are unintentionally allergenic or bring serious medical risks. Finally, GM crops contain antibiotic resistant genes that can be transferred to the harmful microorganisms living in the human body. In such cases, those microorganisms can become immune to the common antibiotic treatments and become untreatable. Therefore, the federal government and consumers must decide to what degree, and under what circumstances, genetic manipulation should be performed.

In the Science Lecture series sponsored by the American Chemical Society Midland Section, we invite two experts to discuss this topic. Dr. Gina Malczewski is a biochemist and Dow Corning retiree. She will introduce genetic modification and how it works. Dr. Bob Kremer is a microbiologist with the US Department of Agriculture and University of Missouri, Columbia. He will discuss the impact of the herbicide use on a particular class of GM crops, the Roundup Ready® biocrops.

The lectures are free and open to the public. Farmers, agronomists, high school students, science and technology professionals, and people who are interested in GM foods and organic/sustainable farming should attend.

ACS Day at the Fair, August 15

Michelle Rivard, MMTG Chair-Elect and ACS Day at the Fair Chair

The Midland Section ACS Day at the Fair event is coming up on Thursday, August 15. This event is designed to be a giving-back event for ACS and MMTG members, families, and friends. Free hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be available 4:30–7:30 PM at the tan picnic building at the north end of the Midland County Fair Grandstand. Free science demos will also be offered at this same time and location. Discounted ticket ride bands are also available.

Volunteers are needed to help with food and science demos. For more information, to volunteer, or for advance sales of discounted ticket ride bands, contact Michelle Rivard at michelle.rivard@dowcorning.com or 989-496-5399.

You can also sign up to volunteer online by going to [ACS Day at the Fair Volunteer Sign Up](#).



ACS DAY at the Midland County Fair!
Sponsored by the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

Thursday, Aug 15, 2013

FREE
Hot dogs, chips, drinks
to ACS/MMTG
members, families
and friends
4:30-7:30 pm,
tan picnic bldg north
end of Grandstand

FREE!

Ride 'til you drop!
Discounted bands good 1-11 pm
Just **\$14.00!**

FREE
SCIENCE
DEMOS
4:30-7:30 pm,
Tan picnic bldg
north end of
Grandstand

Tickets are sold at the Tan picnic bldg starting @ 12pm that day
For more information/advance sales contact Michelle Rivard@ 496-5399

The poster features a central illustration of a fairground with a carousel, a Ferris wheel, and a hot air balloon. Surrounding the illustration are images of a hot dog, popcorn, and a science experiment (a beaker with a flame). The text is arranged in a circular pattern around the central image, with various colors and fonts used for emphasis.

Call for Nominations for 2014 Officer and Director Candidates

Jaime Curtis-Fisk, Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

Here is your chance to become more involved in your local ACS section. We need candidates to run for the following positions for 2014:

- Chair-elect (1-year term)
- Secretary (1-year term)
- Treasurer (1-year term)
- Councilor (3-year term)
- Alternate Councilor (3-year term)
- Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee (1-year term)
- Directors (3 open positions, 3-year terms)

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Jaime Curtis-Fisk at jlcurtisfisk@dow.com or 989-638-7044. If you have any questions regarding the responsibilities of any of the positions, please contact the current officers or Jaime Curtis-Fisk, or you are welcome to visit our website at www.midlandacs.org. Our local section handbook also provides further details at [ACSMidlandSectionHandbook](#).

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the August 5 and August 26, 2013 Board meetings, held at 7:00 PM in the Board Room on the lower level of the Midland Center for the Arts. Please be aware that any nominees will have to accept their nomination prior to the announcement from the floor.

There are a variety of compelling reasons to take advantage of the chance to become involved as an officer or director of the Midland Section ACS: networking beyond your work-place, an opportunity to provide vision and voice to your local scientific community, and a chance to hone your interpersonal and leadership skills.

Please consider getting involved with the Midland Section ACS. If you are not keen on running for a board position, there are still many other great areas for you to serve.

Call for Poster Abstracts for the 2013 Fall Scientific Meeting, Deadline September 10

Roja Ergun, 2013 FSM Poster Symposium Chair

Student and professional poster presentations for the 69th Fall Scientific Meeting of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society on October 5, 2013 at Delta College are invited in all areas of chemistry, biochemistry, chemistry-related areas, and materials science. Abstracts are being accepted now through September 10, 2013. The theme of this year's Fall Scientific Meeting is *Energy: Now and Forever!*

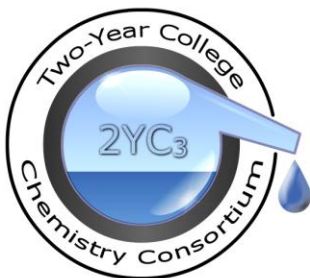
Guidelines for Abstracts: 250 words, Times New Roman, Word document or PDF. Please include all authors and their affiliations. Please e-mail abstracts or address questions to the FSM Poster Symposium Chair, Roja Ergun (ergun@dow.com), and include "FSM Abstract" in the subject line.

2013 FSM registration information: All presenters and attendees should register for the meeting by September 20, 2013. Registration is free, and lunch will be provided for all pre-registered participants. To register, please e-mail the FSM Registration Chair, Megan Boyle (mmboyle@dow.com), and put "FSM Registration" in the

subject line. If registering for more than yourself, please give the names of all registrants. For more information, please see the meeting website at <http://midlandacs.org/index.php?page=fsm-home>.

Tom Barton, ACS President-Elect, to Speak at 2YC3 Conference in September

Jonathan Gittins, 2YC3 Program Chair



Delta College is excited to be hosting the 202nd 2YC3 (Two-Year College Chemistry Consortium) Conference on September 27–28, 2013. The 2YC3 is an organization that is part of the Division of Chemical Education within the American Chemical Society. The ACS national organization is a sponsor of the 2YC3 and sends representatives to each of the meetings to share updated information from the Division of Chemical Education. The 2YC3 provides a forum for chemistry educators to enhance student learning through professional development conferences.

Attendance is not limited to two-year college instructors. We encourage presentations and workshops from high school teachers, university professors, and industry professionals. Topics can be related to our theme “Student Success: Headed to the Workforce,” though we also encourage other topics as well to give us a diverse program.

We are excited to announce that on Friday morning, the Keynote Speaker will be Tom Barton, 2013 President-Elect of the American Chemical Society. On Friday evening, a dinner will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Bay City. On Saturday morning, a panel discussion on Student Success is being planned. If you would like to participate on this panel discussion, a list of possible questions will be forwarded to you to assess further interest.

If you are interested in participating in the panel discussion or submitting an abstract for a presentation, please contact Jon Gittins, Program Chair (jonathangittins@delta.edu). Preference will be given to abstracts submitted by July 10.

Registration is currently available for the 202nd conference at <http://www.2yc3.org/registration202.htm>.

The most up-to-date information about the conference, including program information, is available at: <http://delta.edu/science/chemistry/2yc3.aspx> (which can be accessed using the QR code provided at right).



If you have questions, please contact the program chair, Jonathan Gittins at jonathangittins@delta.edu. We greatly appreciate any participation in this conference, and look forward to seeing all of you at Delta College!

In Past Issues of *The Midland Chemist*

Wendell L. Dilling, Midland Section Director and Historian

40 Years Ago

In *Prof. Georges Smets is 1973 Visiting Professor at MMI*: "Prof. Smets, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Louvain, Belgium, will be the first visiting professor at Midland Macromolecular Institute (MMI). Under this program, outstanding macromolecular scientists will be invited to teach courses on special subjects at MMI. The visiting professorship is cosponsored by the local section of the American Chemical Society, Central Michigan University, Saginaw Valley College, The Dow Chemical Company, Dow Corning Corporation and Midland Macromolecular Institute. The University of Michigan and Michigan State University are also supporting the program."

30 Years Ago

In *Midland Section News*: "Dr. Ed Plueddemann, Dow Corning Scientist, has received the 1984 American Chemical Society Award for Creative Invention. The purpose of the award is to recognize individual inventors for successful applications of research in chemistry and/or chemical engineering which contribute to the material prosperity and happiness of people. Ed is the first Dow Corning employee to receive this award. He will be presented \$4000 and a silver medal this spring at the ACS national meeting in St. Louis."

20 Years Ago

In *From the Chair* by Gretchen Kohl, Chair, ACS Midland Section: "Exciting news from Chicago: the Midland Section receives the Outstanding Section Award for our size category, for the third year in a row!!! Vicky Cobb and Joan Holtschlag officially accepted the award at the National meeting for us. Additional exciting news from Chicago: the Section's MMTG received an outstanding Technicians' Group award, in only its second year since establishment. Rebecca Malkin officially accepted the award for the MMTG. Exciting news from Midland: the 49th Fall Scientific Meeting, to occur on October 23rd, 1993, will allow all of us to revel in our success and member participation, with the meeting's theme of the "Celebration of Excellence." Mike Paquette, this year's FSM general chair, is planning an innovative program this year."

10 Years Ago

In *Post Street Archives: The Life of a Chemical Company* by David Baker: "The Post Street Archives is a treasure-trove of historical materials and documents of The Dow Chemical Company and the Dow family. Located in an old school building at 205 Post Street in Midland, the Archives offers a unique glimpse into the life of a major chemical company. I was fortunate enough to visit the Archives early in May on a rather auspicious occasion for Dow historian and Archives staff member Ned Brandt. His new book *Chairman of the Board: A Biography of Carl A. Gerstacker* had been published by Michigan State University Press, and he was holding a copy in his hand. Ned has been the company historian since 1983. His new book is one on many volumes housed at the Archives, from late 19th century chemical reference books to more recent historical works."

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- August 5 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- August 15 (Thursday) – ACS Day at the Midland County Fair. Volunteers are needed to help with food and science demos. Contact Michelle Rivard, ACS Day at the Fair Chair, at michelle.rivard@dowcorning.com or 989-496-5399 for more information, or for advance sales of discounted ticket ride bands.

- August 15 (7:00-9:00 PM) – Free Science Seminar: *Genetically Modified Crops: Boon or Bane?* Grace A. Dow Library Lounge, Midland.
- August 26 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- September 8–12 (Sunday-Thursday) – 246th ACS National Meeting & Exposition, Indianapolis, IN. For more information, see [ACS Fall National Meeting](#).
- September 10 – Deadline for poster abstracts for 69th Midland Section ACS Fall Scientific Meeting. Poster abstracts or any questions related to presenting a poster should be submitted to Roja Ergun, FSM Poster Symposium Chair, at ergun@dow.com.
- September 27–28 (Friday-Saturday) – 202nd Conference of the Two-Year College Chemistry Consortium (2YC3), Delta College. **Conference registration deadline is September 13.** Contact Jonathan Gittins, Program Chair, at jonathangittins@delta.edu for more information or questions.
- October 5 (Saturday) – 69th Midland Section ACS Fall Scientific Meeting, Delta College. **2013 FSM pre-registration deadline is September 20.** Contact FSM Meeting Chair, Shawn Chen, at xhcn4@dow.com or 989-636-9042 with questions or for more information.
- October 7 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- November 4 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- December 2 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.