

BM Division Newsletter

October 2016

It has been an exciting first year as Chair of the Biological and Medicinal Chemistry Division. I have enjoyed being part of initiatives that define our *structure*, our *activity* and our *relationships* (SAR).

Structure

During the AGM at the CSC conference in Halifax, we followed our recently amended charter, appointing new people to our Executive Committee.

I will fulfill the second year of my two-year mandate as elected Chair. The next Chair will be elected at the next AGM (June 2017). After serving so effectively as Vice Chair during our re-structuring period, Roberto Chica (University of Ottawa) agreed to serve as Member-at Large to provide continuity for some initiatives, particularly regarding our policies for supporting symposia. Stephen Bearne (Dalhousie University) did a great job as Treasurer during the Halifax conference, and has already been active in his new role as Vice Chair. Drew Woolley (University of Toronto) served as Secretary last year, and is now the Treasurer, heading into the important centennial CSC conference in Toronto. Looking down the road to the 2018 conference to be held in Edmonton, Chris Cairo (University of Alberta) will serve as Secretary this year.

Activity

I think the recent re-structuring process has given us all a better appreciation of *who we are* as a Division, which guides us in deciding *what we do*. For example, at the AGM we approved a general budget based on our current equity, our typical revenue, and our priority activities. This budget provides some clear guidelines regarding what resources we have to work with, and where we should deploy them.

One of our high priorities is to support local and national symposia, particularly in the area of Biological and Medicinal Chemistry. At the AGM we approved a slight increase to this budget, which will enable us to promote our Division more visibly.

Another initiative approved at the AGM was the establishment of an exciting new award to be offered through the CSC. Our division and the Chemistry Department of Simon Fraser University have partnered to endow a new award for junior faculty working in the area of biological chemistry, named in honour of Melanie O'Neill. Melanie's life ended tragically while she was still a young chemistry professor at SFU, active in the field of biological chemistry. It is our hope that this award will help preserve her memory, while supporting future junior faculty colleagues that have distinguished themselves through their research in biological chemistry. Please follow the links to the CSC Awards website for more information on the [Melanie O'Neill Young Investigator Award in Biological Chemistry](#).



Melanie O'Neill
1974 - 2011

Relationships

In my last newsletter, I said I was looking forward to "building community among BM Division members, one pint at a time" at the mixer following the AGM in Halifax. Well, apparently I built a little too much community, judging from the way I distributed drink tickets. Fortunately the Treasurer's excellent fund-raising skills were able to compensate for my confusion. ☺ I look forward to seeing you at this year's mixer, following the AGM in Toronto, where we will see whether the Chair shows more discretion this time, or the Treasurer saves the day again!

Jeffrey Keillor