

## International Society for Bioluminescence & Chemiluminescence

### *Call for Renewals and New Memberships*

#### 1997-98 Dues

The Society was inaugurated in September 1994 at the 8th International Symposium for Bioluminescence & Chemiluminescence held at the University of Cambridge, England. At the 9th Symposium in 1996 held at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, attendees voted to organize formally as a Texas nonprofit corporation. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were also adopted.

The general purpose of the Society is to promote the fundamental and applied science of bioluminescence and chemiluminescence throughout the world, by organizing international symposia and workshops, dissemination of knowledge and information in the field, and promotion of public understanding of science in general. The Society has a web site at <<http://www.unibo.it/dipscifarm/chimanal>>. The Society is sponsoring the 10th International Symposium on Bioluminescence & Chemiluminescence, which will be held in Bologna, Italy, on September 4-8, 1998. For more information, please check the Symposium website, <<http://www.unibo.it/dipscifarm/chimanal>> or write to the Organizing Secretariat, Laboratorio delle Idee, Via Santo Stefano 32, 40125 Bologna, Italy (telephone: +39 51 261440 or FAX: +39 51 265742). Society members whose 1998 dues have been paid receive a US\$30.00 reduction in the registration fee for the Symposium.

Dues for 1998 have been fixed by the ISBC Executive Council at US\$50.00, payable either by check made out to the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station ("TAES") or by credit card. Send payment with the form below to the Treasurer, Dr. S.-C. (David) Tu, Department of Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences, University of Houston, Houston, TX (USA) 77204-5934, or fax to Dr. S.-C. (David) Tu the completed form with credit card information to +1 713 743 8351. If you have questions, Dr. Tu's email address is DTu@uh.edu. Previous (1996) members who renew their memberships for 1998 will be considered members for both 1997 and 1998.

New Member     Renewal     Check     Credit Card     Visa     M.C.     AmEx

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## Message from the President of the International Society for Bioluminescence and Chemiluminescence

A brief summary of the aims of our Society are set out at the end of this message, and I am sure you will agree with the intentions expressed. However, the health of any society is a reflection of the involvement of all its members, and I am asking for suggestions for the practical implementation of our ideals.

Our biennial Symposia, the tenth being held in Bologna in September, have been a very successful means of promoting the purposes for which the Society has been created. Nevertheless, there is a great need to diversify our activities, and it is at this point that some difficulties arise. The study of bioluminescence and chemiluminescence covers one of the widest ranges of disciplines in all of science. I believe that the fostering of the full extent of this range is one task of the Society, and I list some activities both as a reminder of the difficulty in pulling them all together, and as a celebration of the intellectual excitement that the subject offers.

The activities include ecological studies of the organisms in extreme habitats such as the deepest oceans and inaccessible forests, the zoology and biology of the organisms, their biochemistry and chemistry, the synthesis of new chemiluminescent compounds, applications in all fields of analysis and many in medicine and the search for new applications. A striking feature apparent in recent years is the way in which activities seemingly confined to one area, prove of immense value in others. Examples are numerous but typical are GFP, environmental and clinical diagnostic tests and single cell imaging, which have all emerged from unrelated studies.

However the successes outlined above have not yet resulted, by and large, in a sense of community within bioluminescence in general. I am asking for contributions that will help define the purposes of the Society in specific, practical terms. A major obstacle is the relatively small size of the Society, and in consequence, its budget. Thus the support for small local symposia (of which there are many) has not been possible. A slow start in establishing the Society has not helped. In deference to this slow start, the 1997 and 1998 dues for existing members have been reduced to a single payment for this year. I also apologise on behalf of the Council of the Society for the low visibility, and particularly as a Scot, for the apparent lack of value for money!

We may have to admit that a scientist organising deep sea submersible programmes has, at least at face value, little in common with one developing bacterial testing in the food industry! It may be that creating subsections would provide focus. The relationship between the investigative academic sector and the commercial branches may also need examination. These are only illustrations, and I would be very pleased to hear your ideas, and examples of any past activities related to the business of the Society.

Our web-site (<http://www.unibo.it/dipscifarm/chimanal>) is well on the way, and it promises to provide really useful items, such as access to bibliographies and images. I believe that this site will be a major resource, but as the tenor of this message implies, only with your input.

I for one am really looking forward to Bologna, not least because our Italian friends are such excellent hosts, but also because I hope to meet and hear from some of the most exciting scientists I know. Even if (perhaps particularly if) you cannot come to Bologna, I would like to hear from you at [FMcCapra@compuserve.com](mailto:FMcCapra@compuserve.com). Entitle your communication ISBC 1998.

With best wishes

Frank McCapra, President of ISBC.

### Principal Objectives of the Society

- (a) To organize and co-ordinate international conferences and workshops on bioluminescence and chemiluminescence throughout the world.
- (b) To disseminate knowledge and information concerned with all aspects of bioluminescence and chemiluminescence through the publication of the proceedings of its major scientific symposia, the development or acquisition of a professional journal to be managed as an official organ of the Society, and other appropriate and effective means of scientific communication.
- (c) To contribute to the world debate on the stability of ecosystems throughout the world, particularly those where bioluminescence plays a major role, and where bioluminescence or chemiluminescence technology has analytical potential.
- (d) To promote and support the public understanding of science, by organizing and supporting educational and natural history initiatives targeted at the lay public and schools.

### Specific Aims of the Society

- (a) To organize at regular intervals International Symposia on Bioluminescence and Chemiluminescence.
- (b) To organize regular workshops and small meetings throughout the world.
- (c) To promote conservation of luminous species throughout the world, and encourage natural history and ecology projects providing new information on their distribution and biology.
- (d) To promote the application of bioluminescence and chemiluminescence in education and the public understanding of science.
- (e) To provide a forum for interaction between industry and academics of different disciplines doing research in the fields of bioluminescence and chemiluminescence.
- (f) To provide a forum for standardization of nomenclature and units of measurement.
- (g) To provide a mechanism for interaction between the subjects of bioluminescence and chemiluminescence and other scientific disciplines, particularly other societies.