

COURTESY OF JOSHUA AYoola OBALeYE



ACS BOOSTS ITS GLOBAL PRESENCE

The number of **ACS INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS** may grow to 16 by the end of the year

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WHEN AMERICAN CHEMICAL Society member JitKang Lim returned to his home country of Malaysia after earning his Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University in 2009, he suddenly felt disconnected from the professional society he had come to rely on for support and camaraderie throughout graduate school. While in the U.S., he had participated regularly in ACS outreach activities, but back in Malaysia, there were no ACS activities to join. He began questioning the value he was getting from his membership.

In 2013, Lim met three Malaysian chemists at an ACS workshop in Thailand, and the four of them decided to form an ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapter in Malaysia. The chapter was approved by the ACS Board of Directors in April 2014 and now boasts more than 200 members.

Grassroots efforts like this one in Malaysia are under way around the world as ACS members living abroad band together to establish ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapters in their home countries. These chapters are allowing ACS members living outside the U.S. to stay engaged with the society and at the same time share their country's contributions to chemistry and chemical engineering.

"It's exciting," says H. N. Cheng, chair of the ACS Committee on International Activities. "The world is producing a lot more chemists, and we need to think about

our international members and the global chemistry enterprise."

Earlier this month, the ACS Board of Directors approved the establishment of two additional international chapters, in India and Taiwan, bringing the total number of international chapters to 11.

"For ACS, having members congregate and organize activities for themselves provides value for us in those geographies," says Ricardo McKlmon, marketing manager for innovation and international recruitment at ACS. "They are our eyes and ears on the ground, and we have to make sure that we invest in them appropriately. We're seeing a greater degree of integration into ACS."

The ACS Board of Directors approved its first international chem-

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS Nigeria hopes to have an official ACS international chapter by the end of the year.

ical sciences chapter in Saudi Arabia in 1992. In 1997, ACS established a second international chapter in Hong Kong, followed by Hungary in 2002.

Since then, interest has spread elsewhere in the world. Shanghai and Thailand formed international chapters in 2011; Romania started its chapter in 2013; and Malaysia, South Africa, and South Korea were added in 2014. Additionally, five countries have applications under consideration by the ACS Board of Directors.

Cheng says the international chapters are beginning to resemble ACS local sections. Like local sections, international chapters are now eligible to apply for ACS grants and awards, such as the Global Innovation Grants, which promote international cooperation. And the chapters can benefit from other opportunities not previously available to international members. The Saudi Arabian chapter, for example, received a 2014 ChemLuminary Award for its work in promoting global engagement. And three students from an ACS student chapter in Malaysia were recently awarded travel grants to attend the upcoming ACS national meeting in Boston.

"Even though the cost of ACS membership is very high, look at how much financial support we get from ACS," Lim says.

"There are a lot of benefits in ACS, but you cannot tap into these benefits unless you become a member," says Joshua

Ayoola Obaleye, chair of the international chapter candidate in Nigeria, which submitted an application that is currently under consideration by the ACS Board of Directors. He says he hopes that by forming a chapter in Nigeria, more chemists and chemical engineers in his country will become aware

GROWING FAST Established in 2014, the ACS international chapter in Malaysia now has more than 200 members.



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of the resources ACS offers and join the society. So far, the chapter has around 100 members.

The ability to tap into various ACS grants and awards is important for international chapters because each is responsible for raising funds to support its activities. In addition, many chapters get funding from local companies and organizations. And each chapter comes up with its own set of activities, which can include technical talks, symposia, outreach programs, and other events.

For example, the Saudi Arabian chapter, which has more than 500 members, hosts the International Conference & Exhibition on Chemistry in Industry (ChemIndix) in Bahrain every three years as one of its premier activities. The conference brings together scientists from around the Middle East. The next ChemIndix will be held in 2016.

“I’ve learned a lot from the American Chemical Society on how to run conferences and technical events and how to select and review papers we receive for those conferences,” says Mazin Fathi, chair of the Saudi Arabian chapter.

Cheng says one of his goals is to develop more collaborations among the different international chapters. Every other year, officers of the chapters are invited to attend a summit. The first meeting took place in Indianapolis in 2013. The second meeting will be held at Pacificchem, in Honolulu, this December.

In March 2014, ACS launched an international student chapter program. Since this inauguration, 14 international student chapters have been chartered, representing 12 different countries (Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates). Thirty-one international student chapter representatives will be traveling this fall to the ACS national meeting in Boston.

ACS members in the U.S. also benefit from these international chapters. “Having access to these chapters gives them an opportunity to expand their network and to collaborate outside of the U.S.,” says Bradley Miller, director of the ACS Office of International Activities. “For example, if somebody is traveling to Shanghai for a conference, he or she now has a community of ACS member colleagues to connect with.”

ACS members interested in forming an international chapter in their country can learn more by visiting www.acs.org/international. ■

NAS MEMBERS FOR 2015 NAMED

The National Academy of Sciences elected 84 new members and 21 foreign associates from 15 countries in April. The announcement, which was made at NAS’s 152nd annual meeting, brings the total active membership to 2,250 and the number of foreign associates—nonvoting members with citizenship outside the U.S.—to 452.

Election to NAS is considered one of the highest scientific honors bestowed in the U.S., recognizing scientists and engineers for their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. This year, 23 of the newly elected and four of the foreign associates are members of the American Chemical Society or work in areas related to the chemical sciences.

Those new NAS members are **Marianne E. Bronner**, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena; **R. Graham Cooks**, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.; **Daniel S. Fisher**, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.; **Alfred L. Goldberg**, Harvard Medical School, Boston; **Steve Granick**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC); **Taekjip Ha**, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and UIUC; **Martin Head-Gordon**, University of California, Berkeley; **Alan G. Hinnebusch**, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, Bethesda, Md.; **Lora V. Hooper**, HHMI and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas; **Christine Jacobs-Wagner**, HHMI and Yale University, New Haven; **Steven A. Klierer**, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas; **James C. Liao**, UCLA; **John T. Lis**, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.; **Thomas E. Mallouk**, Pennsylvania State University, University Park; **Randall T. Moon**, HHMI and University of Washington, Seattle; **Shaul Mukamel**, UC Irvine; **Catherine J. Murphy**, UIUC; **Daniel M. Neumark**, UC Berkeley; **Eva Nogales**, HHMI and UC Berkeley; **John A. Rogers**, UIUC; **Zhi-Xun Shen**, Stanford; **Jeremy Thorner**, UC Berkeley; **Hao Wu**, Harvard Medical School and Boston Children’s Hospital.

The four new foreign associates with ties to chemistry are **Nancy Carrasco**, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven (Mexico); **Alex N. Halliday**, University of Oxford, England (U.K.); **Abraham Nitzan**, Tel Aviv University, Israel (Israel); **Rafael Radi**, University of the Republic, Montevideo, Uruguay (Uruguay).—MIM



KULLMAN GETS PALLADIUM AWARD ...

Ellen J. Kullman, chair and chief executive officer of DuPont, received the 2015 International Palladium Medal of the Société de Chimie Industrielle in New York City on May 7. About 400 people attended the biennial Palladium Dinner event. Kullman is the second woman and the fourth DuPont leader to receive the award, which recognizes captains of commerce who have contributed to the success of the chemical industry. Stephanie Burns, Dow Corning’s now-retired CEO, who received the medal four years ago, was the first woman to receive the award. In all, 28 people have received the award since it was established in 1958.—MSR

... WHILE ACS SCHOLARS PROGRAM GETS CHECK AT PALLADIUM EVENT

At the 2015 Palladium Dinner, Pat N. Confalone (left), ACS Board of Directors chair, accepted a \$30,000 check to support the ACS Scholars Program. C&EN’s Marc Reisch,



chair of the Société de Chimie Industrielle’s education committee, presented the check, representing the Société’s support of six minority undergraduate students who want to enter chemistry-related fields. Funds raised go to support the Société’s annual contribution to the ACS Scholars Program.—MSR

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