

# ACA CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH

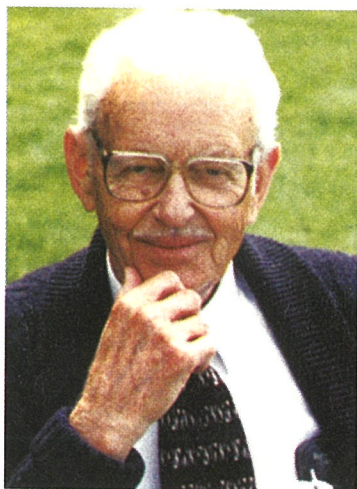
The American Crystallographic Association will hold its annual meeting at the RiverCentre in St. Paul, Minnesota, from Saturday, 22 July through Thursday, 27 July. More than 800 crystallographers are expected to attend this six-day gathering commemorating the golden anniversary of the society.

Lectures, poster sessions, workshops, symposia, and social events are scheduled throughout the week. The broad range of topics to be covered in the scientific program will include materials science, new instrumentation, fiber diffraction, structural biology, refinement of structures at ultrahigh resolution, drug discovery, protein-nucleic acid interactions, and experiments and opportunities at the national facilities for synchrotron x-ray and neutron diffraction.

The meeting kicks off on Saturday with workshops on the application of the SHELX computer programs to twinned and macromolecular structures, the use and application of the Cambridge Structural Database, and a how-to on making technical presentations.

Technical sessions will begin on Sunday and will address such topics as hot new structures, refinement at ultrahigh resolution, battery materials, and advances in small-angle scattering. Sessions on cool structures, new science from neutron sources, protein-nucleic acid interactions, high-throughput crystallization, service crystallography at synchrotrons, crystal engineering, science at long-length scales, nuclear industry materials, problem structure determination, and network glasses will continue through Thursday. Poster sessions are scheduled for Monday through Wednesday evenings.

A highlight of this year's meeting will be a special symposium focusing on the contributions of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to biomedical research and crystallography. A number of HHMI Investigators will speak at the all-day Wednesday session. This symposium will be dedicat-



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ed to its organizer, Paul Sigler, who died suddenly earlier this year. Sigler was the Henry Ford II Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale University.

Another special all-day symposium will be held on Wednesday. This session, on crystal engineering, will be dedicated to the memory of Peggy Etter, a professor of chemistry at the University of Minnesota, who made seminal contributions to the field.

The annual ACA Transactions Symposium will be held on Monday, 24 July. Entitled "Using Crystallography to Understand Enzyme Mechanisms," this session will feature speakers from industry and academia discussing the latest developments in using crystallography to understand biological mechanisms.

**Lyle Jensen**, a professor emeritus of biological structure and biochemistry at the University of Washington, will receive the M. J. Buerger Award on Monday, 24 July. Jensen is being honored for his work which "has spanned the crystallography of both small and large molecules, and has set an outstanding standard of dedication to science, scientific integrity, and creativity." He will give a talk entitled "Then and Now—Reflections of a Mature Discipline."

The B. E. Warren Award in Diffraction Physics will be presented to **Ian Robinson**, a professor of physics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-

Champaign, for his "innovative application of diffraction techniques to the study of crystal surfaces." Robinson will speak on "Crystal Truncation Rods, Ancient and Modern" at the Warren Award presentation on Tuesday, 25 July.

The annual banquet and awards presentation will be held at the Radisson Hotel on Wednesday beginning at 6:00 pm. A highlight of the

banquet will be Elizabeth Wood, who was president of the ACA in 1957, speaking on behalf of past ACA presidents, many of whom will be in attendance.

**Purnell Choppin**, past president of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, will receive the ACA Public Service Award for 2000. The Peggy Etter Student Travel Award, the Pauling Prize, and the Oxford Cryosystems Award winners will also be announced at the banquet.

More than 20 exhibitors will display the latest instruments and techniques for sample isolation, purification and preparation, crystal growth and data collection, as well as software, books, and services at the equipment show, which is being organized by the American Institute of Physics. Hours for the exhibit are from 10 am to 7 pm Sunday through Tuesday, and from 10 am to 3:30 pm on Wednesday.

An opening reception is scheduled for Saturday from 6:30 to 10:30 pm at the Science Museum of Minnesota. On Sunday evening, a "mentor-mentee" dinner gives students and postdocs an opportunity to meet with senior members in their fields. The annual young scientists' mixer will be held at the Great Waters Brewery on Monday evening. The social program also features a special 50th anniversary paddleboat cruise down the Mississippi River on Tuesday evening. ■