

CINF Annual Report 2010
February 15, 2011
Leah Solla, CINF Secretary

Governance

1. Does the Division have a Vision and/or Mission Statement?* Yes

2. What was the date of the last Division long range/strategic planning session?* 8/21/2010

3. What are the primary challenges confronting your Division?*

Outreach and engagement of the ACS membership is a continuing challenge for the Division. Information and information technology are recognized as essential ingredients critical to effective and successful research and no other ACS Division is as relevant to the professional lives of all chemical researchers. CINF aims to be the source for maintaining professional competency in information resources, information technology, and information policy, however active membership remains a challenge as many consider other technical divisions more closely aligned with their immediate work. Given the diversity of the membership, it is certainly challenging to develop a balanced program that addresses a broad variety of interests. ACS support for divisions continues to center heavily around participation at National Meetings, even as potential for participation expands in time and place and the rising costs of travel limit the number of members able to take advantage of the National Meeting programming and activities. Members attend National Meetings, in large part for the technical programming, having relevant and interesting symposia provides "hubs" around which people congregate and we would like to extend this opportunity beyond the physical meetings. CINF is poised to expand our reach to members through CINFlash, an ACS Innovative Grant sponsored project to engage participants live and for days and weeks after meetings through remote access, live blogging and tweeting, and the ACS Network.

4. Were Division elections conducted according to its Bylaws?* Yes

5. Please indicate the Elected Positions filled

i. Chair-Elect* Yes

ii. Secretary* No

iii. Treasurer* Yes

iv. Secretary /Treasurer* No

v. Councilor* No

vi. Alternate councilor* No

vii. Member-at-Large* No

Other Position Filled

6. What additional support do you need from DAC or ACS staff?

The overall support of small divisions is very limited. We need help with outreach to the larger membership body, possibly through a write up in C&E News by DAC of divisions like CINF that cut across disciplines, and to whom everyone could potentially be a member. We continue to benefit from Innovative Projects Fund Grants for Divisional Enhancement. The projects resulting from such funding are high-profile and help us to both reach our existing members, including the latest grants to develop the division website and CINFlash, our innovative live programming project, encouraging more virtual

exchange of information and ideas. Training opportunities for division officers, including secretaries, treasurers, and program chairs continues to be limited. Reinstating focused training for elected officers and expanding ACS support for program and membership functions, would greatly aid CINF in the smooth operation necessary to fulfill its mission.

7. What can DAC do to improve the Annual Review Process?

Please communicate more frequently with all division officers involved in the reporting process, including the secretary, treasurer and past chair. The new FORMS system is fairly straightforward, but streamlined to the point where there is little opportunity to elaborate on positive contributions of the division beyond programming and membership support. CINF is particularly active in collaborating with sister organizations, including the following highlights: 1) Participation in Pacifichem 2010, CINF organized a symposium on "Polypharmacology in Drug Discovery" written up in C&EN (January 24, 2011; Volume 89, Number 4; pp. 32 – 33). 2) Hosting and organizing a Bi-Society Symposium on "Assessing Collections & Information Resources In Science & Technology" with the Special Library Association CHEM Division, formerly a quadrennial Tri-Society Symposium in conjunction with the American Society for Information Science & Technology. 3) Launch of XCITR in November 2010, a valuable cheminformatics resource, <http://www.xcitr.org/about>, the first collaborative effort between the "Chemistry-Information-Computer" division of GDCh and CINF (ACS) beyond exchanging ideas or books and journals. 4) Member of the the InChI Trust, hosted by IUPAC, CINF members are involved in a newly formed working group for Reaction InChIs (RInChI).

Member Relations

1. Did your total membership increase or decrease in 2010?* Yes

a. If the answer to 1 (above question) is YES, what prompted the increase or decrease?

Decrease in membership due to challenges of economy, especially regarding membership dues and travel to National Meetings. The primary reasons cited continue to be retirement and layoffs, members are joining fewer technical divisions.

2. Please indicate the approximate number of active volunteers in your Division.* 70

3. Is your Division encountering difficulty in securing an adequate number of volunteers to run the Division? Yes

a. If the answer to 3 (above question) is YES, please explain the degree of the problem, and steps taken to address it.

The costs of travel limit the number of CINF members able to participate in committee meetings and activities at National Meetings, especially in leadership positions. The Division Chair invites all Division members to attend the Long Range Planning meeting and committee meetings through messages on the ACS Network, the CINF Web site and in the Chemical Information Bulletin. Teleconferencing and Skype are also used regularly for remote participation in several business meetings and technical symposia. The Program Chair puts out a public call for symposia which has led to increased participation in programming. CINF awards and functionary scholarships aim to identify potential leaders and provide them with the means to participate in National Meetings. The Division hosts several social networking opportunities at the National Meetings and division functionaries actively cultivate volunteer opportunities among attendees.

4. How does your Division recognize its volunteers?*

(Check all that apply.)

Certificates

Gift

Awards

Letter to Employer

Recognition at an Event

Other travel aid

5. How does your Division use its website to serve its members?*

CINF activity in communications and publications was extensive in 2010, with particular focus on the Division website. The Division received an Innovative Project Grant to redesign the division website, a new website editor was introduced and a new site launched in January 2011. The Chemical Information Bulletin, the primary newsletter of the Division, was merged with the CINF e-News into an online format, the e-CIB, hosted on the Division website. All 169 issues of the Bulletin, from its inception in 1949 to 2009, have been digitized and are now available online. The Division also established several CINF related groups on the ACS Network through which we can communicate with the entire membership interactively, and manage committee activities all in one place.

6. When was the Division's website last updated?* 1/21/2011

7. How does the Division provide meeting content to its members?*

(Check all that apply.)

ACS Symposium Series publication

Webinars

Databases

Recorded Meeting Content

Other CINF website, online bulletin, live transmission of some national symposia

8. What are the most important benefits the Division provides to its members?*

(Check all that apply.)

Electronic Balloting

Web Access to Programming

Career Counseling

Wiki

Blogs

Other networking and programming in many venues, including listservs, social networks and national and international meetings; collaboration with other ACS divisions and societies including many international projects, company sponsored scholarship awards to graduate and post-graduate students awarded at every National Meeting

Programming

1. In general, how would you assess the programming your division delivered during 2010 ACS national meetings?*

The Spring 2010 meeting was very successful with 140 papers submitted, the highest since 2004, and an excellent selection of symposia resulting in triple tracking for the first time. A pilot hybrid physical/virtual 3 day symposium on the Future of Scholarly Communication was run by Division volunteers using Adobe Connect to support both presenters and audience not physically present. A host of challenges were overcome successfully for this meeting and while we aren't quite ready to scale to whole meetings, we are close and hope to pursue further opportunities with the support of our volunteers. Two other symposia were run by newcomers who will be continuing with the CINF programming effort. CINF was the primary sponsor of two symposia organized under the Meeting theme of Chemistry for a Sustainable World. The Fall 2010 meeting also had an extensive program, including the first version of CINFlash – the lightning talks session, to be further developed in 2011 with an Innovative Projects Grant. Skype was also used at the meeting connect to a speaker with three talks in the program who was unable to make it to the USA. Several people were tweeting from the sessions and reported that it was quite useful to keep track of parallel sessions. CINF was the primary sponsor of three symposia organized under the Meeting theme of Chemistry for Preventing and Combating Disease. The Division continues to collaborate extensively in programming with other Divisions and has had a general upward trend in the size of General Papers, which is encouraging as it indicates an increasing interest in the Division and also serves as a source of future programming topics.

2. How far in advance does your Division plan its national meeting programming?*

Less than 1 year

1 Year

2 Years X

3 Years

4+ Years

Other

3. Do you have a Regional Meeting Coordinator for your Division? * No

a. If the answer to 3 (above question) is YES, provide contact information for your Division's Regional Meeting Coordinator.

4. Do you have a Program Chair for your Division? * Yes

a. If the answer to 4 (above question) is YES, provide contact information for your Division's Program Chair.

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5. Do you have Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group (MPPG) Representative for your Division?*

Yes

a. If the answer to 5 (above question) is YES, provide contact information for your Division's Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group (MPPG) Representative

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