



## American Chemical Society Wichita Section

**April 2010 Newsletter**  
Stephen Donnelly, Editor

**Section Meeting**  
**Tuesday, 20 April, 7:00 PM**  
**Rhatigan Student Center**  
**Room 223**  
**Wichita State University**  
**Wichita, Kansas**

**Meal (optional):** 6:00 p.m.

Dinner will be held in Room 223 of the Rhatigan Student Center on the Wichita State Campus. The meal includes Italian marinated chicken breast baked with eggplant, spinach, and sun-dried tomatoes, with lemon meringue pie for dessert. The cost will be \$13.00 dollars per person, and the section will pick up half the cost for students. Cash or checks made out to the ACS Wichita Section will be collected before the meal. RSVP to Robin Jackson by Friday, 16 April – Robin's contact information is listed below.

**Meeting:** 7:00 p.m.,

The meeting will take place in the same room. Dr. Ariel Fenster will speak.

### **Directions:**

For directions to WSU and the Rhatigan Student center see:  
[http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/aboutus/maps\\_and\\_directions.asp](http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/aboutus/maps_and_directions.asp)

**Speaker:** Dr. Ariel Fenster

**Title:** *Genetically Modified Food-Boon or Bane?*

To supporters, the genetic engineering of food is a scientific triumph that should benefit both farmers and consumers by improving nutrition with the introduction of super foods and protecting the environment by reducing pesticide use. To critics, these " Frankenfoods " represent a frightening foray into the unknown with potential for major health problems and irreparable damage to nature. In this heated debate, the truth is hard to find. This lecture examines critically the various conflicting claims, and aims at providing the latest scientific facts on one of the most controversial issues of recent times.

### **Target Audience:**

*Chemists, Students, General (nontechnical)*

### **Speaker Bio:**

Ariel Fenster teaches at McGill University, where he is a founding member of the Office for

Science and Society, an organization dedicated to disseminating up-to-date information in the areas of food, food issues, medications, and the environment and health topics in general. Dr. Fenster is well known as an outstanding communicator and an exceptional promoter of science with an extensive program, developed over nearly three decades. Over that period he has given close to 600 lectures and public presentations in English and in French across North America and Overseas. He appears regularly on TV and radio to discuss health, environmental and technology issues and has presented numerous science segments for children's television. Recently he was seen in French on Radio-Canada's popular daily health show "37,5" and in English on the "Discovery" science show "What's that all about?" His contributions to teaching, and to the popularization of science, have been recognized by numerous awards. Among them: the "Award for Excellence in Chemistry Teaching" by the U.S. Chemical Manufacturers Association and the "McNeil Medal for the Public Awareness of Science." Ariel Fenster, who is a native of the wine-growing region of Bergerac, France, holds a Master's degree from the University of Paris and a Ph.D. from McGill University.

### **Chair's Message**

Greetings to the Wichita Local Section!

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the section meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2010. Please see the details in the newsletter. We are pleased to host Dr. Ariel Fenster from McGill University who will be speaking on the topic of Genetically Modified Foods. We will be having a great dinner, great time of fellowship, and a great speaker. Don't miss out!

This section meeting, as in the past, is also the time that outstanding Senior Chemistry students will be recognized. In addition to recognizing some superior students, we will be recognizing some long-time members of American Chemical Society from this local section. Robert Barnhardt, Jr., and William Carper will be recognized as 50 year members! We wish to thank these gentlemen for their long commitment to American Chemical Society!

Finally, for some interesting history in the world of chemistry in honor of the month of April:

- James D. Watson, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, was born April 7, 1928
- Francois Raoult, Raoult's Law, died at the age of 70 on April 1, 1901
- And finally, John Walker invented matches April 7, 1827

Without matches - no fire! So, I invite each of you to get "fired" up about your local section of American Chemical Society and join us in Wichita on April 20!

Truly yours,

Robin Jackson, Chair ACS Wichita Section

### **Councilor's Report**

Due to its length, the Councilor's report from the Fall ACS National Meeting held in San Francisco in March is appended to this document.

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### National Chemistry Week Poster Contest

We wish to express a big “thank you” to the Wichita Local Section of the American Chemical Society for providing participation awards and prizes for students who entered the 2009 National Chemistry Week Poster Contest. Students from seven schools submitted entries in three grade divisions -- over 70 posters! The posters were judged by several chemistry faculty and student affiliate members at Emporia State University. One poster in each of the grade sections was chosen and submitted to compete at in the National Contest. The posters going to national were submitted by:

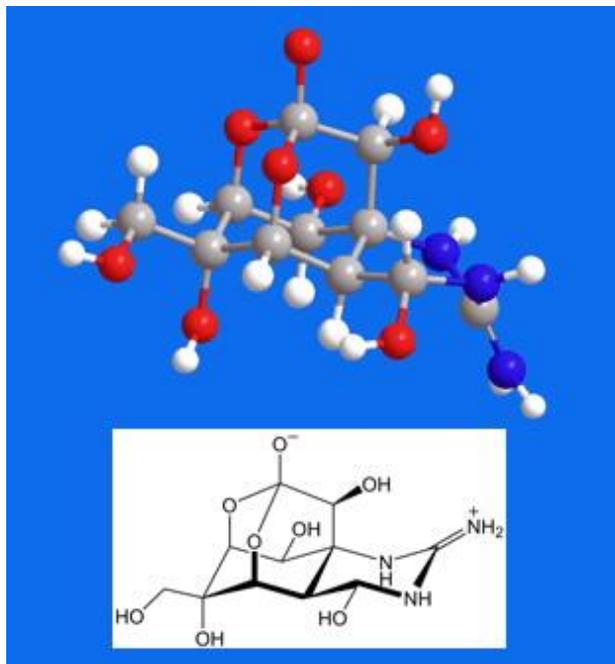
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Ashley Rietcheck, 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Audra Nowak, 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Colby Neussen, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Each participant received a National Chemistry Week Nanomole and the three winners also received an ACS Mole Doll. The teachers are important participants in the process, too. They encourage students to make poster and see that the posters actually get submitted for the contest. Each of the teachers received ACS thermal color changing pens.

Malonne Davies,  
National Chemistry Week Coordinator,  
ACS Wichita Section

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### Molecule of the Week



Tetrodotoxin is one of the most poisonous substances known—it’s 100 times more lethal than KCN. Its name comes from Tetraodontiformes, the order of fish that includes pufferfish (fugu), porcupinefish, and triggerfish. Tetrodotoxin is produced by bacteria in the organs of these fish and other marine animals. The total synthesis of racemic tetrodotoxin was achieved by Y. Kishi and co-workers in 1972. In 2003, M. Isobe et al. and J. Du Bois et al. reported asymmetric total syntheses by very different methods.

### Wichita Section Web Site:

<http://membership.acs.org/w/Wichita/>

### 2009 Section Officers:

Chair: **Robin Jackson**  
Central Christian College  
1200 South Main  
P.O. Box 1403  
McPherson, KS 67460  
620-241-0723 (ext. 355)  
[robin.jackson@centralchristian.edu](mailto:robin.jackson@centralchristian.edu)

Chair Elect: **OPEN**

Secretary/Treasurer: **Jim Bann**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Chemistry  
Wichita State University  
Wichita, Kansas 76260-0051  
Phone: 316-978-7373  
[jim.bann@wichita.edu](mailto:jim.bann@wichita.edu)

Councilor: **Paul Rillema** (2006-2009)  
Department of Chemistry  
Wichita State University  
Wichita, KS 67260-0051  
316-978-3732  
[paul.rillema@wichita.edu](mailto:paul.rillema@wichita.edu)

Alternate Councilor: **Art Landis** (2006-2009)  
Department of Chemistry  
Campus Box 4030  
Emporia State University  
Emporia, KS 66801  
620-341-5992  
[alandis@emporia.edu](mailto:alandis@emporia.edu)

### Immediate Past Chair

**Alan Oberley**  
Kapaun Mt Carmel High School  
8506 East Central Ave  
Wichita, KS 67206  
316-636-2437  
[aoberley@kapaun.org](mailto:aoberley@kapaun.org)

### Executive Committee Members

**Malonne Davies**  
Department of Chemistry  
1200 Commercial St., Campus Box 4030  
Emporia State University  
Emporia, KS 66801  
620-341-5958  
[mdavies@emporia.edu](mailto:mdavies@emporia.edu)

**Newsletter Editor**  
**Stephen Donnelly**  
Department of Chemistry  
Fort Hays State University  
Hays, KS 67601  
785-628-4506  
[sdonnell@fhsu.edu](mailto:sdonnell@fhsu.edu)

**Webmaster**  
**Eric Trump**  
Department of Chemistry  
Emporia State University  
Emporia, KS 66801  
620-341-5991  
[etrump@emporia.edu](mailto:etrump@emporia.edu)

**Tom Wiese**  
Department of Chemistry  
Fort Hays State University  
Hays, KS, 67601  
785-628-4505  
[twiese@fhsu.edu](mailto:twiese@fhsu.edu)