Committee on Chemical Abstracts Service (CCAS) Seeks Feedback

By Michael Filosa, CCAS Associate Member-2010

The Committee on Chemical Abstracts Service (CCAS) met at the Spring meeting in San Francisco under the leadership of the new Chair, Spiro Alexandratos of Hunter College. CCAS meets twice annually in conjunction with the Spring and Fall National ACS Meetings. The CCAS meetings are attended by committee members, associates, liaisons and key CAS staff, led by CAS President, Bob Massie. The mission of the committee is to act as an information conduit between ACS members and CAS management and viceversa. We wish to solicit the opinions of ACS members on Chemical Abstracts Service so that we can evaluate those opinions and concerns and present them to CAS management. Similarly, CCAS will also help CAS communicate with ACS members.

CAS is the largest operating division within the ACS. It plays an important role both in fulfilling one of the Society’s key objectives – the dissemination of chemical information – as well as providing a financial surplus to fund Society programs. CAS employs more than 600 chemists in Ohio, and others around the globe. Despite a difficult economy in 2009, CAS met its financial targets for the ACS. This reflects a continued investment in technologies and content acquisition, as well as the exceptional value that CAS services bring to academic, patent office, and private sector research. CAS wishes to continue to improve its services, and your feedback is highly valued. Please contact any CCAS representative. We want to hear from you.

Since the Spring Meeting, CCAS has established a group on the ACS Network, thanks to the efforts of CCAS member Grace Baysinger of Stanford University. You can read about current activities of the CCAS, as well as questions presented by ACS members and answered by CAS staff led by marketing Vice-President, Chris McCue. The CCAS Group is open to guest access at: https://communities.acs.org/groups/chemical-abstracts-service-committee. ACS Network registration is not necessary to access this resource.

You are free to contact me at michael.filosa@zink.com with any of your questions or concerns or any of the other CCAS members, including CCAS
Chair, Prof. Alexandratos at alexsd@hunter.cuny.edu. A complete listing of current CCAS members is available at the CCAS Group on the ACS Network. To quote Professor Alexandratos from his most recent report from the Fall CCAS meeting, “I can assure you that CAS president Bob Massie and his entire staff are committed to being responsive to the issues you raise. Each query will be addressed. CAS operates for the benefit of the scientific community and CCAS can be your first point of contact if there is an issue that concerns you.”