



Building Stronger Bones

My mother's advice to build strong bones was, "eat your vegetables and drink lots of milk." Good advice for a young boy but the bones I'm referring to are those that make up the structure of the Society. The Society's bones consist of the Board, committees, divisions, sections, and the organizational resources like the staff, finances, publications, meetings, physical facilities and technological capabilities. Although it isn't practical to distribute vegetables and milk to all members of the Society, you might want to know what else are we doing to build stronger bones for ECS.

On December 3, we increased our strength and some flexibility by moving our headquarters office to a new location. For those of you who haven't noticed, our new address is 65 South Main Street, Pennington, NJ 08534-2839 USA. Because we only moved a few blocks down Main Street, there has been no change to our telephone or fax numbers. If you honestly haven't noticed that we have a new address, I am actually pleased because it confirms my belief that we didn't miss a beat in the transition. Phone, fax, and Internet communications were only down for brief periods during the move and mail service was unaffected.

The move was a major challenge but now that we're settled in everyone is thrilled to be here. The new headquarters office provides the staff with many advantages and improvements over our previous location. We are farther away from the commercial activity and traffic in the center of Pennington, which is the primary reason we moved locations. Our new office building is approximately 30% larger and has been designed to accommodate the staffing, storage, and technology requirements of the organization. It is also set back about 100 meters from Main Street, which makes it more secluded and provides for better parking and easier accessibility. We are fortunate to be in a great facility that will serve as an excellent headquarters for The Electrochemical Society for many years to come.

Now that the "physical backbone" of the Society has been improved, we have set our plans on completing the upgrade on the Society's infrastructure by addressing the "business backbone." Specifically that means we are now working with

a software development/management company to design and implement a comprehensive association management system that is expected to improve the Society's business processes and lead to better programs and services. The system is a series of integrated databases that will enable the Society staff to better utilize data from our various programs and constituencies. Additionally, the software will enable us to provide more complete and accessible information about our publications, meetings, and other activities.

In keeping with our mission, the focus of these activities is to maximize our ability to disseminate high

quality scientific information in the fields of electrochemistry, solid-state science, and allied subjects. On the threshold of our Centennial in 2002, we are poised to lift the Society to new heights of service for our members and our professional community. ■

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Roque J. Calvo
Executive Director
The Electrochemical Society, Inc.