Electrochemistry Gets Supporting Actor Nod

You might not think that a blockbuster Hollywood film about 9-foot-tall humanoids, with variegated blue skin, and tails, would be a vehicle for even a mention of electrochemistry. But you would be wrong. In *Avatar*, "electrochemical" made it to the big screen:

> **Grace:** What we think we know is that there is some kind of electro-chemical communication between the roots of the trees, like the synapses between neurons. And each tree has ten to the fourth connections to the trees around it, and there are ten to the twelfth trees on Pandora.
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> **Parker:** Which is a lot, I'm guessing.
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> **Grace:** It's more connections than the human brain. Get it?! It's a network. It's a global network and the Na'vi can access it!

Sadly, Sigourney Weaver (who played the role of Dr. Grace Augustine in *Avatar*) will not be accepting an Acheson Award anytime soon; although you might make a case that she has made "contributions to the advancement of any of the objects, purposes, or activities" of ECS by the mere mention of "electrochemical" in a wide-release movie.

While mentioned in *Avatar*, the word "electrochemical" certainly hasn't made it (yet) into the lexicon of popular culture (let alone be understood out there); but the many things that The Electrochemical Society does certainly falls within the definition of a true global network. International meetings, technical Divisions, Sections, Student Chapters, and a series of online publications are all threads. One of the most enduring strands that has enhanced the community has been the "news"—by, about, and for the people who make up ECS. Starting with the first journal published by ECS in 1902, this news has been all-encompassing in our world: new and relevant technical information (brief or extended, painstakingly reviewed or accelerated), the latest awards given (including Nobel prizes), reports about people elected to leadership roles (from presidents of ECS to those of major universities), positions available and fellowships to be had. The technical news was always first and foremost, and though the "other" news was always needed and wanted, it wasn't until the launch of *Interface* in 1992 that this other news finally had a place to call home.

After so many years of publication, it's easy to forget that *Interface* is a relative newcomer; but it has become such an important activity for ECS, supporting this global network of scientists working in a broad range of phenomena that we know as electrochemical and solid-state science and technology. In fact, this magazine's charter makes it clear that it was intended to be a network itself: to contain "information that encourages synergistic exchange" among the Society's constituents.

Not only does *Interface* share the most interesting and news-worthy topics, but it also serves as a kind of "lifetime achievement" record for the organization. A glance back through the issues offers a look at some of the stars who have made ECS what it is today—cover stories from Gordon Moore to Nobel laureate Rudy Marcus; and a look at a kind of brief log of the astounding technical wealth of our science—articles on clean energy, fuel cells, nanotechnology, micro-power sources, solid-state lighting, bio-implants, ceramic materials for extreme environments, biofuels, and reviews of the landmark science published in all the Society's publications (this last being the focus of this issue). Some of it has even appeared in the movies.

First as a consultant to ECS in the early stages of the magazine, and then on staff, I have had the great pleasure to find my way into the network of people who have contributed so much time, thought, and enthusiasm to keeping the magazine fresh and relevant. Through the efforts of only three (but an incredible three) Editors, namely Paul Kohl, Jan Talbot, and Krishnan Rajeshwar, *Interface* has become a great communication mechanism for ECS authors, readers, members, meeting attendees—for anyone interested in the science. This magazine (free online) is a kind of avatar itself: it embodies the ideas and concepts of all branches of electrochemistry and represents that activity out in the world.

While professional networking and community might be relatively new jargon, ECS has been doing those essential things since its founding in 1902. *Interface* is only the latest iteration of this activity, and soon it will be followed by another when ECS launches its professional community networking site. While we can't promise more connections than the human brain, we can promise another strong, flexible, responsive, and useful fiber in the network of electrochemical and solid-state science and technology. Oh, and one more thing, we'd like to thank the Academy and Jim Cameron for helping to raise the profile of electrochemistry in the popular culture.

Mary Yess
Deputy Executive Director
Managing Editor, *Interface*