

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



My second communication as President comes after our successful fall meeting in Washington, DC. I was very pleased to meet with representatives from our Brazilian, South Korean, and Taiwanese Sections during the meeting, and to plan for future ECS Executive Committee visits to our Sections during the next year. The fact that I could host the Taiwanese on their “doubletenth” day of celebration (i.e., Oct 10) was especially pleasant for me.

Before the Washington meeting, I participated in the ISE (International Society of Electrochemistry) annual meeting in Banff, Alberta, in September. A co-operation agreement between ECS and ISE was signed by me and Prof. Christopher Brett, President of ISE, covering the mutual exchange of information between our two societies, sponsorship of meetings, Internet links, and meeting announcements. This is a step in the direction of further co-operation designed to best serve the membership needs of both societies, and bodes well for the future. Indeed the recipient of the 2007 Olin-Palladium Award of ECS was Sergio Trasatti from the University of Milan, a past president of ISE and Fellow of both societies. Sergio received the Award in Washington for his 40+ years of contributions to numerous aspects of electrochemistry and especially for our understanding of oxide catalyst layers so critical to the multi-billion dollar chlor-alkali and electrolyzer industries. A representative from Olin Corp, David Caufield, was present for Prof. Trasatti’s award address and reception, and was

very interested in the implications of the research on dimensionally stable anode (DSA) electrodes used extensively in the chlor-alkali industry.

The Washington meeting saw the introduction of several important initiatives designed to streamline the operation of our Society and strengthen the distribution and impact of our publications. First, the Executive Committee has been working on the merging of our Constitution and Bylaws, with a view to permitting ECS to address issues that need our attention in a flexible and timely manner. Some time ago, it was realized that there was considerable overlap between our Constitution and Bylaws, and that the process to make even simple changes in the running of the Society could take as much as several years. Indeed, this was the “case-in-point” with the proposed changes involving the Council of Sections, which I discussed in my summer 2007 *Interface* communication. We obtained outside legal advice on this matter, and it was recommended that the two documents be combined, because everything unique to our Constitution could easily be added to the Bylaws. A Society past president, Robert Frankenthal, undertook the task of merging them, with assistance and input from the Executive Committee and past president Robin Susko. The “merged” document will be voted on by the ECS membership next year, after being presented in May 2008 at the Society business meeting and the Board of Directors. The revised Society Bylaws will assist ECS in dealing with issues “in-need-of-action” in a timely fashion, with the Executive Committee, standing committees, and Board of Directors continuing to decide on the appropriateness of any suggested changes and amendments. The Society is fortunate to have had the input and wisdom of Robert Frankenthal in this important endeavor.

ECS has recently undertaken a significant, far-reaching investigation and survey of publication and membership issues, which are crucial for the long term health, strength, and international position of our Society. The firm of Simon Inger Consulting (SIC) undertook the task, in close cooperation with ECS headquarters staff especially in the area of our publications. The Executive Committee met with Simon Inger on two occasions over the past six months, and all of us were extremely impressed with his knowledge, insight, and ability to carefully assess the strengths of ECS, and challenges, when compared with comparable societies on the international scientific scene. Simon Inger recently completed his research and set forth recommendations in support of the development of new strategies for ECS in the area of our publications, our overall mission, and our service to our members in both the short and long term. The consultant noted that ECS is very-well positioned as a “not-for-profit” international scientific society with an excellent reputation because its primary goals are the dissemination of information to, from, and for its members and others in the community. We need to build on this strength, and over the next few years we will do just that as we gradually implement elements of the consultant’s recommendations, in consultation with the Society’s numerous committees and ECS membership.

As I continue in my term as President, I am very pleased with the health and strength of our Society and its positioning for the future. The combination of excellent headquarters staff, and an enthusiastic Board of Directors and Executive Committee representing the ECS membership, helps to ensure our bright and strong future in the electrochemical community.

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### ECS Olin Palladium Award Recipients

The Olin Palladium Award was established in 1950 for distinguished contributions to the field of electrochemical or corrosion science. The list of past recipients is a veritable “Who’s Who” in electrochemistry:

Sergio Trasatti (2007)  
Robert A. Rapp (2005)  
Eliezer Gileadi (2003)  
Norio Sato (2001)  
John B. Goodenough (1999)  
Royce W. Murray (1997)  
Jerome Kruger (1995)  
Jean-Marie Saveant (1993)  
John Newman (1991)

Brian E. Conway (1989)  
Allen J. Bard (1987)  
Martin Fleischmann (1985)  
Morris Cohen (1983)  
Isaak M. Kolthoff (1981)  
Roger Parsons (1979)  
Heinz Gerischer (1977)  
Marcel J. N. Pourbaix (1975)  
Veniamin G. Levich (1973)  
Leo Brewer (1971)

Thomas P. Hoar (1969)  
P. Delahay (1967)  
Norman Hackerman (1965)  
Herbert H. Uhlig (1961)  
Aleksandr N. Frumkin (1959)  
Karl F. Bonhoeffer (1957)  
Ullick R. Evans (1955)  
Nathaniel H. Furman (1953)  
Carl W. Wagner (1951)