

## Canadian



**THAMARA LAREDO** (right), a PhD student from the University of Guelph, receives the ECS Canadian Section's 2007 Student Award, handed by the symposium organizer **SASHA OMANOVIC** (left).

Fifty two participants from across Canada and the UK gathered in Montréal, Québec on November 3 to attend the 2007 fall symposium of the ECS Canadian Section, organized by Prof. Sasha Omanovic from McGill University. Ten invited speakers presented excellent lectures on the topic of "Electrochemistry in Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology." The speakers included:

- Andrew Nelson, University of Leeds, UK: "Toward an Effective Chip based toxicity sensor based on membrane fluidity and organization."
- Mohamed Mohamedi, INRS Énergie, Matériaux, et Télécommunications, Varennes, Québec: "Carbon Nanostructured Electrodes for Mediatorless Biofuel Cells."
- Aya Sode, a PhD student from Prof. Dan Bizzotto's research group, University of British Columbia: "Pt/Zn Alloy Electrocatalysis and the Application to Fuel Cells."
- Aicheng Chen, Lakehead University, Thunderbay, Ontario: "Electrochemical Biosensor Based on Nanostructured Materials."
- Jacek Lipkowski, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario: "Building a Model Biological Membrane at an Electrode Surface."
- Zhifeng Ding, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario: "A New Strategy on Scanning Electrochemical Microscopy for Live Cells."
- Gregory Jerkiewicz, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario: "Electrochemical Preparation and Characterization of Biocompatible Passive Layers on TMA."
- John Luong, Principal Research Officer and Leader of the Biosensors and Nanobiotechnology Group, National Research Centre - Biotechnology Research Institute, Montréal, Québec: "Sensitive and Selective Electrochemical Detection of Arsenic Using Carbon Nanotubes, Platinum Nanoparticles, and Newly Isolated Arsenite Oxidase."
- Thamara Laredo, a PhD student from Prof. Jacek Lipkowski's research group, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, presented a 2007 Student Award Lecture: "Electric Field Driven Changes of Gramicidin in Supported Lipid Membranes."
- Janine Mauzeroll, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Montréal, Québec: "Scanning Electrochemical Microscopy and Its Application to Transport Studies of Biological Substrates."

A poster session followed the oral presentations. During the wine and cheese reception, two student poster awards were presented to: Caroline Miville-Godin (First Place, \$100, Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal, Montréal, Québec) and Ziad Bou-Saleh (Second Place, \$50, McGill University, Montréal, Québec).

## Georgia

The ECS Georgia Section organized a Workshop on Electrochemistry, MEMS, and Nanotechnology, November 16, 2007, at the Student Success Center, at Georgia Tech. The Section introduced the local chapter workshop, which takes place every second year, giving students and young scientist the opportunity to present their ongoing research. The plenary speaker was Sang Bok Lee from the Department of Chemistry at the University of Maryland. His talk, entitled "Fast Electrochemistry of Conductive Polymer Nanotubes: Synthesis, Mechanism, and Application," was well received. The participants enjoyed a pizza lunch followed by six talks and eleven posters presented on diverse topics from "Seedless Growth of ZnO Nanorod Arrays" to "Optimization of Polypyrrole Based Glucose Biosensors with Nanopillar Array Electrodes" to "Microfabrication of Multifunctional AFM-SECM Arrays."

Prizes were awarded for the best presentation to A. Choudhury, from the School of Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech, for a talk on "Design Issues in Piezoresistive Microcantilevers for Surface Stress Measurement." The best poster awards were given to X. Liang, from the University of Georgia, for a poster on "Ge Atomic Layer Deposition on Au," and J. Wiedemair, from the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Georgia Tech, for "AFM-SECM Tip-integrated Platinum-Carbon Composite Electrodes Fabricated by Ion Beam Induced Deposition." Students and faculty from the University of Georgia, Auburn University, and Georgia State University attended the meeting. Workshop organizers were Peter J. Hesketh and Christine Kranz.

## Israel

The annual meeting of the Israel Chemical Society now has a dedicated symposium on electrochemistry which will be organized by ECS active members as part of the Israel Section's activities. Last year, Israel Rubinstein was in charge of the annual symposium. This year's organizer, for the symposium that took place in February in Jerusalem, was Daniel Mandler. An important keynote visiting speaker in this symposium was Joachim Maier from Max Plank Institute in Stuttgart Germany. In addition, the Section had two symposia in December '07 and January '08 on power sources, and was organized by Emanuel Peled and Doron Aurbach.