

## Canadian



**ARASH SHAHRYARI** (left), a PhD student from McGill University, received the 2008 Student Award, from ECS Canadian Section Second Vice-Chair (Programs), Prof. **SYLVIE MORIN**.

More than one hundred participants from across Canada and the U.S. gathered in Montréal, Québec on November 8 to attend the 2008 Fall Symposium of the ECS Canadian Section, given by Janine Mauzeroll and Steen B. Schougaard. The symposium topic was a retrospective of the most important advances in fundamental and industrial electrochemistry. Eight invited speakers discussed what they thought were the most important advances in their respective electrochemical niches.

Allen J. Bard from the University of Texas at Austin, gave the plenary lecture entitled: "The Rise of Modern Electrochemistry." Dominic Rochefort, from the Université de Montréal, presented a lecture entitled, "Was the Glucometer a One-Hit Wonder? Perspectives in Electrochemical Enzymatic Biosensors." Raymond Breault from Rio Tinto Alcan, Saguenay, Québec, discussed "Electrochemical Scale Inhibition." Andrzej Lasia, from the University of Sherbrooke, presented a lecture entitled, "Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy. Powerful and Sensitive: Use It with Prudence."

Other lectures included: Michel Gauthier, from Phostech Lithium Inc., who gave a talk on "The Emergence of Lithium Batteries in the Energy Supply and Storage Field." Paul Natishan, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory and ECS Senior Vice-President, discussed: "Carbon Induced Passivity of Alloys Treated under Paraequilibrium Conditions." David Creber, Rio Tinto Alcan, presented a lecture entitled, "Light Metal Production: Challenges and Opportunities in Industrial Electrolysis." Arash Shahryari, a PhD student from Prof. Sasha Omanovic's research group at McGill University, presented the 2008 Student Award Lecture entitled, "Enhancement of Biocompatibility of 316LVM Stainless Steel by Electrochemical Cyclic Potentiodynamic Passivation."

This event greatly benefitted from the financial contributions of HEKA Electronics, Buehler Canada, Gamble Technologies, Phostech Lithium Inc., the UQAM Faculty of Sciences, and London Scientific.

A poster session followed the oral presentations. During the wine and cheese reception, two student poster awards were presented to Catherine Nowierski (First Place, \$100, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario) and Sana Dhaybi (Second Place, \$50, UQAM, Montréal, Québec).

## Pittsburgh



**KONSTANTIN PIMENOV**, ECS Pittsburgh Section Chair, at the ECS booth during National Chemistry Week 2008.

The Pittsburgh Section of ECS participated in the National Chemistry week held on October 24-25, 2008. National Chemistry Week is a community-based program of the American Chemical Society. The annual event brings together local sections of ACS and other professional organizations, as well as businesses, schools, and individuals, in communicating the importance of chemistry in our lives. The 2008 National Chemistry Week in Pittsburgh was held at the Carnegie Science Center. The ECS Pittsburgh Section was one of the 30 organizations conducting science related demonstrations and presentations featuring the themes, "Having a Ball with Chemistry" and "Chemistry and Medicine."

The Section demonstrated basic principles of electrolytes on the examples of sports drinks. In performing the presentation, ECS members had support from volunteers from the local middle school. The event has drawn more than 4,000 people in 2 days. The Section plans to participate in the 2009 National Chemistry Week. The theme of the future event is "Chemistry – It's Elemental."

## San Francisco

The San Francisco Section held a Nanowire Energy Science Seminar on November 6, 2008 at Exponent Systems in Menlo Park, CA. Opening remarks were made by Jake Christensen, Robert Bosch GmbH. The invited speaker, Yi Cui of Stanford University, discussed his ongoing work on inorganic nanowires with emphasis on their applications in the areas of nanowire batteries, solar cells, and transparent conducting electrodes. The seminar was attended by 26 people from local universities and industries.

On November 8, 2008, the Section sponsored a well-attended one-day short course on Wafer Electroplating. Dr. Thomas Dinan of Electrolytics, Inc. and NanoNexus, Inc. covered the fundamental principles, techniques, and equipment used for electroplating thin metal-films onto ceramics and semiconductor wafers for electronics and MEMS applications.

## Taiwan



**ANDREW LIN** giving a lecture at an electrochemistry workshop sponsored by the Taiwan Section.

A workshop on electrochemistry, aimed at industrial personnel and graduate students was held on Sept. 11, 2008. The workshop was attended by approximately 100 people. Nearly 65% were graduate students and the rest were from academic institutes and industry. The one-day workshop covered topics in electrochemistry fundamentals and applications including fuel cells, batteries, capacitors, solar energy harvest, and photocatalysis. The emphasis was on generally applicable fundamentals. With numerous illustrative examples, this was an excellent learning opportunity for graduate students in electrochemistry, materials science, and chemical engineering. It was also a great self-study guide and reference for scientists and engineers who work with electrochemistry and electrochemical technology.

"The 4th Asian Conference on Electrochemical Power Sources" (ACEPS-4) will be held in November 8-12, 2009, at the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei, Taiwan. This conference will provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of developments related to power sources using electrochemical devices, including fuel cells, batteries, capacitors, and solar cells (photoelectrochemistry). Scientists and engineers from institutes and industries from all over Asia will be gathering and inspiring each other, and many fruitful discussions are expected. The website for this conference is: <http://www.2009aceps4.org.tw>.

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65 South Main Street  
Pennington, NJ 08534-2839, USA  
Email: [interface@electrochem.org](mailto:interface@electrochem.org)

**ECS** [www.electrochem.org](http://www.electrochem.org)