



French Chemical Society Activity Report 2008-2009

SFC Reporter at EuCheMS DivChemEd: Pascal Mimero, CPE Lyon, FR

General Activity Report 2008-2009

Olivier Homolle, President of the SCF

In April 2008, the “Société Française de Chimie” has officially changed its name and is now called “**Société Chimique de France**” (new logo is available on the web site).

Given the decreasing number of members of the SCF, the executive committee of the SCF (elected in autumn 2007) decided to set up a strategic committee to find solutions to make the SCF more dynamic and more efficient. To support this modernization of the SCF, an updating of the website was also decided and the new web site should be available around mid-2009.

In 2008, the strategic committee started to make an inventory of the needs and expectations of the French chemists and an inventory of the strengths and weaknesses of the SCF. This strategic brainstorming led to the creation of 10 working groups dedicated to specific subjects:

Internal organization	M. Taillefer	1 – Relationships between the direction committee and the scientific divisions, the regional sections and the thematic groups.
	M. C. Vitorge	2 – Relationships between SCF and the youth
	B. Sillion	3 – Relationships between SCF and the chemical industry
	N. Moreau	4 – Relationships with other scientific societies and groups related to chemistry
Consolidation of the national role of the SCF	G. Férey	5 – Valorization of the scientific expertise of the French chemists
	J. C. Bernier	6 – Institutional relationships with governmental organizations, other French scientific societies, research and teaching organizations
Consolidation of the international role of the SCF	M. Che	7 – Relationships with European chemical societies and other European institutions
Communication	M. C. Vitorge	8 – Communication towards current and potential SCF members
	A. Marquet	9 – Communication towards general public
	O. Homolle	10 – Strategic and political communication

The object of these working groups is to manage more efficiently all those subjects which were identified as a priority for the SCF. Each group leader has gathered a small team to take over all aspects of the subject.

For example, the group 1 is dedicated to the improvement of internal communication namely information transmission between the direction committee and the scientific divisions, the regional sections and the thematic groups. This is really essential as most of the SCF activities are developed by the scientific divisions, the regional sections and the thematic groups. Besides, Marc Taillefer has just organized a large meeting with the presidents of scientific divisions, the regional sections to discuss all together and share point of views.

Moreover, the regional section Ile de France of the SCF was restarted energetically by Edmond Amouyal in 2008.

In addition to the specific awards attributed by the scientific divisions, the SCF has granted in 2008 several **national and international awards**:

- Le Bel Award: Andrew Greene
- Sûe Award: Jean Roncali
- French-German Award: Martin Jansen
- Spanish –French Award: Miguel Julve Olcina

To strengthen our links with the chemical industry, Bernard Sillion (leader of group 3), has created at the end of 2007 a new division dedicated to industrial chemistry. This new division is very dynamic and efficient and has already set up a new sub-group working on “Chemistry and Ecology”.

To make the chemists community better known, it was decided to work closer with the other French scientific societies or groups in the field of chemistry or molecular sciences. Nicole Moreau (leader of group 4) has initiated very fruitful discussions with the GFG, the SFBBM, the société de chimie thérapeutique, the comité Adebitech....

To raise the awareness of the young public, many activities were developed in 2008 thanks to the group 2 such as conferences and cooperation with chemistry schools, support to the chemical competition “Olympiades de la chimie”, participation to the forum “Village de la chimie”, etc.... Marie Claude Vitorge regularly meets students in chemistry to give them advice regarding professional orientation and job seeking.

At the European level, the SCF was represented at the 2nd EuChems congress in September 2008 in Torino by Igor Tkatchenko (scientific committee) and Michel Che. The SCF is also very well represented in the EuChems divisions.

Concerning communication aspects, several projects have been initiated in 2008 by the group 8, managed by Marie Claude Vitorge: new logo, new web site, preparation of a flyer for the promotion of the SCF, diffusion of communication tools to the SCF members These new tools should increase the SCF visibility and hopefully attract new members!

The group 9 has developed several communication projects dedicated to the general public. Efforts are made to publish press releases and to associate general public events to scientific conferences. Andrée Marquet and Marie Claude Vitorge will be of course largely involved in the preparation of the International Year of Chemistry 2011.

The SCF monthly journal « **L'Actualité Chimique** » and the biweekly electronic newsletter “**SFC Infos**” are very useful information diffusion tools and increasingly appreciated by the French chemical community.

One of the objects of the group 5 is to promote the French scientists in identifying some specific experts who could be consulted on different points if necessary. This long lasting work was taken over by Gérard Férey. It should allow us to answer more efficiently to the numerous questions coming from politics and the society on subjects which are of very high importance for the chemical community.

Indeed, one of the most important (and most difficult) roles of the SCF is to represent the chemical community in our society and the SCF makes many efforts in public affairs (groups 6 and 10). In 2008, Jean Claude Bernier has represented the SCF before the French research and education ministry (in particular concerning the reform of the French universities) to defend the French chemists interests at the highest national level. These positions were taken collectively with the society of mathematics and physics, for the defense of sciences in general. In this frame of mind, the SCF participated very actively to the organization on May 18, 2009 of a special day dedicated to chemistry, where the main stakeholders in the field of chemistry were gathered: industry, research, education representatives addressed a global alliance message to politics to show their willingness to increase interactions and cooperation between the different partners in chemistry. A committee, called “Comité Ambition Chimie” was created to ensure that concrete actions would come out from this event.

2008 was a very fruitful year, and the executive committee would like to thank warmly all the persons who contributed to these projects.

Prospects for 2009:

Priority number 1 is still to meet the expectations of the French chemists. Attracting new members to the SCF is a real challenge that we all need to take up.

In addition to usual activities, every project initiated in 2007-2008 will be pursued within the 10 working groups. The SCF will keep on participating actively to the “Comité Ambition Chimie” and to the International Year of Chemistry 2011.

Olivier Homolle
President of the SCF
2009-06-29

Thematic Group on Food and Flavour Chemistry

Coordinator: Hervé This, INRA Team of Molecular Gastronomy, AgroParisTech, Paris (herve.this@paris.inra.fr)

Since its creation, the French Group of Food and Flavour Chemistry developed at slow pace, but regularly. In relationship with EuCheMS, the group (through some of its representant) organized a congress, in Paris on August 29-31, 2007 : EuroFoodChem XIV. This was an opportunity to meet French chemists, and some collaboration were established. Later, the 24 June 2008, a single conference day was organized at AgroParisTech, Paris. Organization in Paris of the European Day of Molecular Gastronomy

During all this time, the flow of information from Europe never stopped, and the distribution list became more and more active, with colleagues sending offers (positions, PhD funding, etc.). Because of this success, we had to create a platform for information, in May 2009 :

<http://www.agroparistech.fr/-Le-Groupe-Francais-de-Chimie-des-.html>

Preparation of the next meeting of the Group in Angers (ESA)

Finally, for now more than one year, the magazine L'Actualité Chimique is publishing articles in a specific column having the name of the Group. The papers already published are :

- Hervé This. La chimie des aliments et du goût. *L'Actualité chimique*, 315 (1), 7-9.
- Hervé This. Histoire d'une pièce d'argent. *L'Actualité chimique*, 2008, 315 (1), 9-11.
- Hervé This. L'œuf dur : un festin de réactions chimiques. *L'Actualité chimique*, 2008, 316 (2) 5-9.
- Hervé This. Dans la famille mousses au chocolat ... *L'Actualité chimique*, 2008, 319 (5), 5-9.
- Hervé This. Descriptions formelles, pour penser et pour la formulation. *L'Actualité chimique*, 2008, 322 (8), 11-14.
- Hervé This. Réinventons la tradition. *L'actualité chimique*, 2008, 325 (12), 5-7.
- Hervé This. Pourquoi des précisions culinaires ? *L'Actualité chimique*, 2009, 326(1), 5-7.
- Hervé This. Science des aliments. *L'Actualité chimique*, 2009, 326 (1), 50-51.
- Christophe Cordella. L'adultération du miel, *L'Actualité chimique*, 2009, 330 (3), 9-11.
- Hervé This. La couleur des bouillons. *L'Actualité chimique*, 2009, 331 (4), 9-11.
- Hervé This. Goût, odeur, saveur, arôme ? *L'actualité chimique*, 2009, 332 (5), 9-11.

Thematic Group on Formulation

Prof. Alain Durand, Formulation Group

The Thematic Group for Formulation is a multidisciplinary group in which people from Academia and Industry discuss about topics concerning the design and elaboration processes of formulated products fitting targeted properties. The formulated products considered in the Group cover a wide variety of chemical compositions: polymer dispersions or solutions, direct or inverse emulsions, colloidal suspensions of divided solids, concrete... In addition to mixing people from Academia and Industry, the regular seminars of the Thematic Group for Formulation deal with:

- Research: fundamental or applied,
- Teaching: at both Licence and Master level,
- Congress Organization: an annual national meeting called "Journées de Formulation" and an international meeting called "Formula". The latter is now co-organized with other European societies (Formula IV was in London in 2005, Formula V was in Potsdam in 2007).

Over the 2008-2009 period, the Thematic Group for Formulation was involved in the organization of the congress Formula VI which will take place in Stockholm between 7 and 11 June 2010 at the Institute for Surface Chemistry. Members of the Formulation Group are involved in the Program Committee and in the International Advisory Board together with people from Sweden, Germany, UK and Spain.

Between 4 and 5 December 2008, the Thematic Group for Formulation organized the 13th edition of "Journées de Formulation" in Nancy, France. This edition was dedicated to formulation processes and formulated products design in relation to health and personal care. The number 15 of "Cahiers de Formulation" collecting contributions from the 13th edition of "Journées de Formulation" is currently edited.

The number 14 of "Cahiers de Formulation" collecting contributions from the 12th edition of "Journées de Formulation" organized in Compiègne, France, in December 2006, was published at the beginning of 2009. This volume is dedicated to the formulation of powders,

The "Cahiers de Formulation" series is written in French and referenced in the *Chemical Abstracts* data base.

The next session of “Journées de Formulation” will be held in Paris in 2009 between the 3 and 4 December and will be dedicated to the design of food formulations.

The Thematic Group for Formulation is involved in the European networking project InForm which has been launched on 6 July 2009. InForm is coordinated by the University of Manchester. The first planning of InForm took place on 6 July 2009 in London. InForm stands for integrating the nanoscale in formulations, and is a platform to share the best practice on the nanoscale in formulations, supported by the European Union through FP7. InForm aims to provide the most up-to-date forum to discuss nanotechnologies in formulations. To do so a number of travel grants will be made available to industrial and academic scientists to attend the InForm events. The aim of the Thematic Group for Formulation is to establish regular and long term networking activities with other European scientific societies dedicated to formulation.

Thematic Group on History of Chemistry

Danielle Fauque, President of the History of Chemistry Group (danielle.fauque@u-psud.fr)

The history of chemistry is represented by the Club d'histoire de la chimie (CHC), a group of the Société Chimique de France. It organizes several workshops and a symposium each year. With more than six hundred members, it treats all aspects of the history of chemistry, with special reference to the period from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. The first of its two most recent important events was the publication of the biographical dictionary of the presidents of the Society, *Itinéraires de chimistes: 1857-2007, 150 ans de chimie en France avec les présidents de la SFC* (EDP Sciences, 2007), edited by Laurence Lestel (past president), and presented to the members of the SCF in January 2008. The second was the two-day symposium on *Chimie et arts du feu*, organized in collaboration with the famous Manufacture de Sèvres, in Paris, in June 2009 (www.sfc.fr/GrHist/LettreN16.pdf).

The CHC also has links with the Société d'histoire de la pharmacie based in Paris. In addition it has organized two workshops. The first was held at the Faculty of Pharmacy (Paris) on the *Conseil supérieur d'hygiène publique* (17 May 2008). The second took place at the French Chemical Society's headquarters on *Bibliophilie et histoire de la chimie et de la pharmacie* (15 November 2008).

One workshop per year is devoted to *Varia* (the most recent in March 2008, the next in Autumn 2009). Other past workshops have treated *Fuchsine et bleu Guimet* (Dyestuffs in the XIXth century) (Lyon, 27 May 2008), and *Pigments et colorants* (Paris, 14 May 2009).

The CHC also has a number of contacts with foreign societies of history of chemistry, for example with Belgium. A joint “Journée franco-belge” has been organized in collaboration with Mémosciences, Louvain, and the Société royale de Chimie of Belgium (Bruxelles in 2004, and Paris in 2006), the next will be held in Paris on 18 November 2009. Members of the CHC have attended and given papers at the biannual international conference on the history of chemistry, specifically this year in Sopron, Hungary (7th ICHC EuCHEMS, 2-6 August 2009). Last year, the CHC welcomed Elena Zaitseva-Baum, a Russian researcher from the State University of Moscow, who gave an excellent lecture: *W. F. Louguinine and the French scientific community* (16 May 2008).

The Club d'histoire de la chimie publishes an on-line newsletter, containing information about different events on the history of chemistry. The booklet of abstracts of the papers given in this year's workshops is available on request. The CHC also tries to respond to questions about the history of chemists associated with the Society, many of which come from researchers abroad.

Regional Section : Alsace

Jacques Streith, President of the Regional Section Alsace (jacques.streith@uha.fr)

The four main events which had been organised in the ALSACE region during the academic year 2008-2009:

- 1) The main event was the combined 25th JIREC and 13th MIEC held in Mulhouse over a three-day period (June 3-5, 2009): These two meetings had been organised by an ad'hoc committee whose members were mainly teaching and research personnel from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Mulhouse (ENSCMu) and the Faculty of Sciences: Jean-Charles MOUGENEL, chairman, Serge NEUNLIST, director of ENSCMu, Serge WALTER, Audrez ALAU, Céline PILLAT, Corinne TROUCHE,

Stéphanle FREITAG, Murielle TYRODE, Jocelyne BRENDLE, Claire MARICHAL and Carole ECOFFET. Besides the meeting booklet, a more detailed overview should appear in the coming months in L'ACTUALITE CHIMIQUE.

- 2) The University of Basel (Switzerland) and the Université de Haute-Alsace (UHA) had organised a joint scientific meeting in NANOTECHNOLOGY (see the attached program and a short report) on June 9 2009 on the Mulhouse campus. About 20 oral communications and as many posters had been presented in English. This very first joint meeting between physicists from Basel and physico-chemists and physicists from Mulhouse had been supported by UHA, the section ALSACE of the Société Chimique de France (SCF) and the European Physical Society (EPS), whose headquarters are located on the UHA campus. The meeting booklet had been handed out to all participants.
- 3) A scientific meeting had been organised on December 19 2008 at the Illkirch campus of the Université Louis Pasteur "in memoriam" for the late professor Charles MIOSKOWSKI. At that occasion, professor Jacques Streith, president of the Section régionale Alsace (of the former SFC) handed over the SFC Achille LEBEL medal (along with a check) to the widow of C. Mioskowski and delivered a short address to the audience (see attachement).
- 4) Five SCF-lectures have been organised, along with ENSCMu-ALUMNI, particularly for undergraduates and for the public at large (lectures available upon request):
 - ❖ **Jean-Michel CHEZEAU**, Professeur émérite, ENSCMu - *De Kestner à Pasteur, la saga des acides tartriques ...* (SFC/Amicale ENSCMU / 3 septembre 2008)
 - ❖ **Dr. Christian HUBSCHWERLEN**, Actelion Ltd - *La résistance aux antibiotiques: avons-nous perdu la guerre?* (SFC/Amicale ENSCMu/ 7 novembre 2008)
 - ❖ **Dr. Jean-François BIELLMANN**, Membre Correspondant à l'Academia Sinica en poste à Taipei (Taiwan) - *Comment faire des découvertes en chimie?* (SCF/Amicale ENSCMu: 11 décembre 2008)
 - ❖ **Samuel DUFAY**, Directeur Production du Département Audits en responsabilité sociale d'entreprise chez VIGEO - *L'investissement socialement responsable : vers une finance plus durable ?* (Amicale/SCF ENSCMu: 28 mars 2009)
 - ❖ **Dr. Christian BREVARD**, Président du Directoire, BrukerBiospin, Wissembourg - *De la chaptalisation à l'étude fine du cerveau en activité. Quelques applications remarquables de la Résonance Magnétique Nucléaire.* (SCF/Amicale ENSCMu: 4 mai 2009)

International events

Dr. Pascal Mimero, SCF International Reports

CIRUISEF: Following the 2007 edition dedicated to the Scientific Bachelors, AUF and Prof. Evelyne Garnier-Zarli organized a colloquium on October 27-30, 2008, held at the Scientific University Dhar El Marhaz in Fes (Morocco), dedicated to the Master level studies harmonization applying the Bologna frame within the Francophonie (French speaking Universities worldwide: Africa, Southern-Asia, Canada, Europa). The next colloquium will be dedicated to the Doctoral Studies and be held at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar Senegal, on November 24-27, 2009. Visit the CIRUISEF website (<http://ciruisef.fr.nf/>).

European Chemistry Thematic Network Association (ECTNA): SCF was represented at the ECTNA Annual Plenary Meeting held in Poznan (Poland) on April 15-18, 2009. Half of the Administrative Council was renewed as required by the Association statutes. A new President and Vice-President were elected:

- Prof. Henryk Koroniak, President (University Adam Mickiewicz, Poznan, PL),
- Prof. Gino Paolucci, vice-President (University 'Ca Foscari, Venice, IT)
- The other members are (newly elected and continuing "in office"): Prof. F. De Angelis, Past President of the SCI (University dell'Aquila, IT), Prof. M. Fajardo (Rey Juan Carlos University, Madrid, ES), J. Fröhlich (Vienna Technical University, AT), L. Gros (Hochschule Fresenius, Idstein, DE), M. Salisova (Slovak Chemical Society)

As a major announcement the 5th Thematic Network Contract was approved by the EU Commission for the next 3 years, ECTN becomes EC2E2N "European Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Education Network". Visit the ECTNA website (www.ectn-assoc.org).