

**ACS Division of Chemical Information (CINF)
Annual Report 2014
Division Highlights**

In addition to the information presented in the administrative form and events forms, the CINF Division would like to report on the following business and considerations.

CINF Division Business

CINF has an active core group of functionaries to support division activities ranging from national meeting programming to division awards to international collaborative projects. The semi-annual in-person business meetings at ACS national meetings are supplemented with regular virtual meetings of the division committees, including the Executive Committee. Most division business is conducted virtually, including division elections, the division newsletter and career support, and we recently updated our bylaws to support such participation. The division uses a variety of outlets to communicate with functionaries, including the ACS Network, DropBox, and email lists. This year, we launched our first “virtual-only” committee, the newly resuscitated Careers Committee, and had an overabundance of volunteers. The committee meets regularly, using conference calling and e-mail to pass information between members, and they are planning a career symposium aimed at young chemists for the Boston conference.

CINF also made strides towards reviving its Membership Committee, which has already begun making some positive contributions. This year, they began running member profiles in the *Chemical Information Bulletin* so that members can “get to know” one another. Members of the committee began work on a survey of the membership, which will be distributed in 2015; this survey aims to learn what members value about their current membership and what kinds of services and initiatives they hope to see from CINF in the future.

In addition to working within CINF, our division has a healthy system of liaisons to other societies and even specific divisions within those societies. This is maintained by encouraging CINF members who belong to other groups to pass information to and from the other societies and has resulted in a number of joint programming ventures. This year, CINF joined with the Special Libraries Association Chemistry Division to plan programming around chemical health and safety, which will form the theme of the Bisociety Symposium held at the Special Libraries Association’s 2015 Annual Conference.

Other Meeting Highlights

The annual CINF Division Herman Skolnik Award Symposium focused on the work and interests of the 2014 awardee, Engelbert Zass. Luncheon speakers included a student editor of the chemistry sections of Wikipedia, who gave an insightful talk about the processes, policies, and mechanics of creating that popular tool, as well as

Berend Mons, whose discussion of data and data access was thought-provoking to all demographics of the division.

This year, the division worked on increasing participating on its committees. Long-range planning efforts included a “committee dinner,” to which all new CINF members were invited, at which committee chairs and representatives were on hand to describe their committee’s work. Although it was difficult to schedule a convenient time that did not conflict with other activities, those who attended had the opportunity to discuss the workings of the various committees and brainstorm activities for the coming year.

Innovative Project Grant

The Division of Chemical Information (CINF) partnered with the Division of Chemical Health and Safety (CHAS) to submit matching grants towards the goal of developing a laboratory risk assessment process using a web based template. The grant sponsored a joint two-day meeting of key members of these divisions to review information sources and address a number of challenging questions. This project continues to develop, including a symposium planned for the upcoming ACS fall meeting in Boston co-sponsored by CHAS, CINF and CHED to consider challenges in chemical safety instruction. See the project blog (<http://www.irampp.org/blog/>) and separate event entry for more details on the activities.

Challenges & Opportunities

- Networking – The Division is small and specialized, diverse in sector, and broadly geographically distributed. We need more frequent and accessible programming and networking venues beyond national meetings; we are not always notified about programming opportunities at regional meeting (and, in fact, even regional meetings in some regions are challenging for our members to access). The online meeting venue remains largely untapped, mainly because ACS offers little functional support in this area, and we rely on the kindness of CINF members’ home institutions for facilities, support, and bandwidth.
- Meeting Reach – Much volunteer effort is invested into organizing quality programming for national meetings and occasionally regional meetings, but the majority of the membership, as well as those in related scientific venues who could benefit (and return on some of the investment), are not able to tap into this contribution and maximize on CINF volunteer efforts
- Supportive Infrastructure – Division members are volunteers who do full-time, professional work to support the chemical enterprise and are involved in ACS primarily for scientific interests; yet, much of their valuable volunteer time is sunk in basic paperwork that should be automated, communication confusion among myriad friendly but not always aligned ACS offices, and inflexible and unresponsive technical systems (PACS, ACS Network). The return for volunteers in a small division is borderline and stalwart members burn out. Since our division consists of information management

professionals, perhaps some volunteer efforts could be applied in closer collaboration with ACS infrastructure to help solve these problems for CINF and other affected divisions.

- ACS Recognition - The CINF Executive Committee frequently receives comments from the review of the CINF Annual Reports that express surprise that we do not have a larger membership considering that “everyone uses chemical information.” While it is true that everyone uses it, most ACS members do not manage it behind the scenes, just as almost every citizen uses products that benefited from improved chemistry but most do not work on further improvements to that chemistry. Chemical information is by and for all chemists, but managing it to enable rigorous and accurate leveraging of this knowledgebase is specialized work. We find it disheartening that most of our members’ jobs are not reflected in the job categories listed by the ACS for its membership; the majority category on the CINF membership demographic reports is N/A followed by “other” for job title, department, industry, etc.
- Collaboration – there is a lot of opportunity to address many of these challenges as well as enhance the quality and reach of member efforts and interests through collaboration, across divisions, across divisions and local sections and ACS offices and divisions, across societies (scientific and professional); currently the environment is permissible and nominally supportive, greater focus in this area will be critical in enabling members and the ACS to best position and support the professional membership as the discipline and the enterprise becomes increasingly global and interdisciplinary. One idea that has come up for discussion (inspired by the CHAS Division) is to establish an information related committee within each of the other technical divisions, to foster targeted professional discussion and potential collaboration.

2015 Annual Report FORM

Governance

1. Does the Division have a Vision and/or Mission Statement?* Yes

2. When was your division's strategic plan last updated?* 08/27/2011

3. What are the primary challenges confronting your Division?

While chemical information is a critical, high functioning global enterprise across education, research, and industry, the work of managing and stewarding information is specialized at the professional level. The CINF membership is small at just above 1000 regular members, with broad diversity in nationality, disciplinary background and programmatic focus. One challenge is fostering and supporting a

broad program of relevant activities for the membership with a small resource base. Coupled with this is the challenge of connecting our specialized information expertise with the topical expertise of the other technical divisions and ACS service activities that involve chemical information. We continue a long tradition of networking, collaboration and outreach both across and beyond the Society to extend our program and audience reach. While many of our members are very active in other divisions and on many committees of the Society (7 CINF members on 4 ACS National committees, including 2 elected committees and 1 committee chair), there is still very little formal recognition tied to the Division, either at the governance or financial levels, of this type of outreach across the society and representing chemical information beyond. In addition to recognition of our efforts to encourage and enable more engagement by our membership, it would be helpful for DAC to consider how the Society might foster more opportunities for cross-society meetings and projects. Finally, the increasing cost of meeting attendance means that a relatively small percentage of our membership gets to take advantage of the CINF programming at national meetings, on which we spend most of our funds as a division. We require more support from ACS creatively to deliver our meeting content to those members who are not able to travel to the meeting.

Please see the attached documentation for more discussion.

CINF Division Mission

The ACS Division of Chemical Information (CINF) is committed to promoting the generation of, access to, and use of the world's knowledgebase in chemistry and the related sciences.

The Division fosters the sharing of expertise in science informatics, information technology, and librarianship to ensure members benefit from the experience of others and are able to improve the dissemination and utilization of scientific information. We do this through innovative, high quality programming, education, career mentoring, collaboration and outreach, and recognition of excellence.

4. Were Division elections conducted according to its Bylaws?* Yes

5. What offices were filled by elections during the past year?*

Chair-Elect, Treasurer, Councilor, Alternate Councilor

5a. Were any positions left unfilled that were expected to be filled?* No

6. What additional support do you need from DAC or ACS staff?

Direct engagement with the Division officers to consider needs and suggestions particular to the Division and our governance.

7. What can DAC do to improve the Annual Review Process?

Provide a downloadable version of the form to fill in offline; pre-populate membership and programming numbers from other ACS records.

8. How many Executive Committee meetings were held during the calendar year?* 4

9. Did your Division hold an open meeting for Division members?* Yes

9a. Do the Division by-laws require an open meeting?* Yes

Member Relations

Did your total membership increase or decrease in 2014?* Increase

2. Did the Division have an adequate number of volunteers to cover your requirements? No

2a. If the answer to 2 (above question) is NO, please explain. *

Many of the opportunities for networking beyond the Division are associated with the National Meetings, and our membership attendance is limited so we are spread thin over this very large event. National Meeting planning takes a significant investment of volunteer time, especially navigating the technical program systems (all of them have been challenging) and coordinating the Division events. This leaves little volunteer time left for other activities beyond the National Meetings. We have a core of dedicated members who are willing to perform many of the needed tasks in running Division activities and programs, but we struggle to get volunteers outside of this core base. Finally, a significant number of our members are students, whom we welcome to learn more about our work but do not have the experience or time to take on many of the planning roles.

3. How does your Division use its website to serve its members? *

Communication about Division activities, including upcoming meetings both within and beyond the Society, awards, member publications, career development, joint projects, links to Webinars.

3a. What is the URL for your website? * <http://acscinf.org/>

4. When was your Divisions website last updated? * 02/06/2015

Programming

1. In general, how would you assess the programming your Division delivered during 2014 ACS national meetings?*

Excellent; two tracks remarkable for small division, broad reaching co-sponsorship and topics engaging across chemistry. One challenge is having more flexibility in the style and content of the symposia; we would like to consider more workshop/roundtable discussion style programming around current topics, and we might be interested in exploring "short course" type symposia, as well.

CINF hosted 25 technical symposia and 222 presentations at the two 2014 national meetings. Topics ranged broadly and included energy information resources, taxonomies and ontologies, rare disease drug discovery, translational cancer bioinformatics, electronic notebooks, ethical considerations in scientific publishing cloud computing, computational methods applied to biologics development, text mining, natural products information resources, the influence of science communication on science-based policy development, linking chemical information with the IUPAC InChI (International Chemical Identifier), global challenges in communication of scientific research, inspiring the next generation in computational chemistry and cheminformatics, libraries and publisher/researcher partnerships, ChemEpInformatics, new technologies in chemical education and the IUPAC solubility series. Half of these were co-sponsored by other ACS divisions and committees, including COMP, MEDI, ORGN, PHYS, CHAL, CHED, ETHC, PROF, YCC, ANYL, HIST, AGFD, SCHB as well as the Chemical Structure Association and the RSC Computers in Chemistry Interest Group. CINF co-sponsored another 15, primary with COMP. We also participated in the CHED/PRES symposium "Sustain-Mix: Sustainability Across the Society. We hope to continue actively reaching out to co-list with other divisions. It would also be of interest to increase more jointly arranged programming. While we actively co-plan symposia with COMP and CHED, we would be interested in reaching beyond these closely-allied subdisciplines to recruit more speakers and coorganizers from some of the other divisions.

We traditionally hold a Division Luncheon highlighting a timely application of chemical information in society. In Dallas we featured a chemistry post doc who also works to improve the chemistry entries in Wikipedia. In San Francisco we were inspired by a molecular biologist speaking to the importance of rigorous data stewardship for research and knowledge discovery. We are looking to emphasize this professional development angle for our members and other interested colleagues in other divisions, to showcase work of division members in a more interactive way than the technical program.

2. How far in advance does your Division plan its national meeting programming? *
2 Years

3. Do you have a Regional Meeting Coordinator for your Division?*

No
a. If the answer to 3 (above question) is YES, provide contact information for your Division's Regional Meeting Coordinator.

b. Did someone attend a planning session last year?*

No

4. Do you have a Program Chair for your Division?*

Yes

a. If the answer to 4 (above question) is YES, provide contact information for your Division's Program Chair.

Erin Davis
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b. Did someone attend a planning session last year?*

No

5. Do you have Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group (MPPG) Representative for your Division?*

Yes

a. If the answer to 5 (above question) is YES, provide contact information for your Division's Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group (MPPG) Representative.

Roger Schenk

rschenck@cas.org

b. Did someone attend a planning session last year?*

Yes

Best Practices

1. Please describe techniques used to develop volunteers.

Mentoring new volunteers who serve on committees. The Division sponsored a new members dinner in San Francisco to introduce the work of the committees and recruit new members for them.

Please see the attached documentation for more details.

2. Please describe how you recruit volunteers to serve the Division.

Scholarships, speaker invitations, requests to lists, networking at meetings (including non-ACS meetings), personal requests from active members via phone or e-mail.

3. How does your Division recognize its volunteers?

Awards, collegiality, opportunities to participate in meaningful collaborative projects, member profiles in *Chemical Information Bulletin*.

4. How does your Division provide meeting content to its members?

National Meeting programming, some recorded sessions, Bulletin synopses.

CINF also hosted 5 webinars this year on a range of topics, including drug discovery databases, public access to scientific publications, and copyright. These are freely posted on the Division's YouTube channel and have been viewed several hundred times.

5. Describe outreach activities to serve members who don't attend national meetings.

Many virtual committee activities, including the "virtually-only" Careers Committee, Webinars on timely topics, active listserv discussions.

6. What are the most important benefits your Division provides to its members?
Networking, programming, professional development, personal career support.

7. How does the Division provide information to its members on Divisional activities?

CINF keeps in touch with its membership, especially those distant and those unable to attend national meetings through the Chemical Information Bulletin, published just before and just after each national meeting (<http://bulletin.acscinf.org/>). The Bulletin features meeting synopses, member highlights and interviews, book reviews, and other items of interest submitted by the readership. We co-sponsor a listserv with the Special Library Association Chemical Division. We look forward to using the ACS merged mail service to send targeted e-mail to all of our members.

8. Describe activities aimed at students and young professionals.

Competitive scientific scholarships to National Meetings, career programming, outreach to YCC. CINF has also cosponsored the graduate student and post-doc reception at the National Meetings since its inception, and we have sent a representative to most of the recent undergraduate speed-networking sessions, as well.

9. List any Division awards.

Herman Skolnik Award established in 1976 to recognize outstanding contributions to and achievements in the theory and practice of chemical information science; Lucille M. Wert award established in 1989 to recognize chemists pursuing graduate studies in information, library, or computer science, leading to a career in chemical information, Val Metanomski Meritorious Lifetime established in 2006 to recognizes long term membership and outstanding service and active contributions to the Division. CINF also hosts the Scholarship for Scientific Excellence poster session, sponsored by a number of supporting organizations, and designed to reward graduate and postdoctoral students in chemical information and related sciences for scientific excellence and to foster their involvement in CINF.

10. Did the Division engage in any international outreach or activities, beyond inviting international speakers to present at a symposium or general session? Examples might be (but not limited to): meetings/symposia with international-based groups; a specific effort to recruit international speakers for the Division's meeting; the inclusion of international information in a newsletter or on the website; or, looking at international trends for the specific topical area.

Yes

10a. If yes, please describe. *

Joint symposia with the Royal Society of Chemistry Computers in Chemistry Group at the 247th ACS National Meeting in Dallas. Joint symposia with the Chemical Structure Association Trust at the 247th ACS National Meeting in Dallas. 10th International Conference on Chemical Structures/10th German Conference on Chemoinformatics, June 1-5 2014, Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands. Joint

workshop with the RSC on chemical safety information as part of an IPG grant with the Division of Chemical Safety.

11. List nominations for ACS Fellows.

12. Does the Chair have any other issues to be considered?

CINF would very much like to leverage the Presentations on Demand to deliver specific types of meeting content to its members. Currently, we can suggest symposia that we would like to see recorded and distributed, but it is ACS's choice as to which ones will actually be selected. While they choose sessions that may be of great interest across the Society, they are not always the only ones that would be of great interest to CINF members. For example, at the Fall 2014 meeting, we held two symposia, the Herman Skolnik Award Symposium and a "fest" symposium honoring a distinguished colleague, which were not selected for inclusion in the Presentations on Demand and which ACS rules forbade us to record or videotape ourselves. We believe that having a more robust suite of remotely-accessible meeting content could be a member draw, and we would like to have much of our meeting content recorded and made available to CINF members free of charge.

We would also like to see ACS experiment more with remote meeting technology during the National Meetings so that we can better support presenters and attendees who cannot actually attend the conference but who would like to teleconference in for a day or a symposium. This would allow us to get more participation from the "non-core" sections of our membership and give these individuals the opportunity to present their work to their peers.