

Dear colleagues

The next Nuclear Chemistry Gordon Research Conference will be held on the campus of Colby-Sawyer College, New London, NH, June 15-20, 2008. We plan to focus on eight topics in heavy ion reactions that have made a lot of progress recently. The selected topics are listed below:

1. Direct reactions (Blumenfeld & Kemper)
2. Subbarrier fusion, fission, Surrogate reactions (Shapira & Berstein)
3. Fragmentation/multifragmentation (Benlliure & Gulminelli)
4. Properties of asymmetric nuclear matter (Di Toro, Yennello, Horowitz, Garg)
5. Symmetry Energy and Astrophysics (Di Toro, Yennello, Horowitz, Garg)
6. Reaction Dynamics (Lacey & Ono)
7. Particle Correlations (Danielewicz)
8. New opportunities in nuclear reactions (Sobotka & Senger)

The final programs will be organized with consultation to the co-chairs (names in parenthesis) who also will be the discussion leaders of the sessions. If you have suggestions on speakers or if you and your group are expecting exciting results by the time of the conference, please contact me or one of the session co-chairs.

In addition to the above eight sessions, there will be poster sessions. Two winners of the poster sessions will be selected to give short presentations of their work in the special Thursday evening session, which features Prof. Manuela Veloso of Carnegie Mellon University who will talk about Robot Soccer. You may have seen her appearance in the PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) series on RoboCup. Her energetic presentation and enthusiasm are infectious. I am sure we will have an entertaining as well as an educational evening. The traditional lobster dinner is served before the Thursday evening session.

Regular talks are scheduled in the mornings and evenings with the afternoons free for recreational activities. Every evening the conference participants gather to have snacks, beers, wines, music, ping-pong etc and scientific discussions. The conference atmosphere is especially conducive to extensive and open discussions among scientists. Because of the lively discussions among the participants, the Gordon conference has always been rated as one of the best conference in our field. A successful Gordon Conference requires participation of both senior and junior scientists. Please encourage your postdocs and students to attend, funds have been reserved to provide partial local support for the junior scientists.

This will be the 56th year that the nuclear chemistry GRC conference has been held. During these years, our field has seen a lot of changes. Similarly, there are also changes in the Gordon Research Conference Organization. GRC is moving towards a policy of requiring the attendance of 130 people in order for a conference to maintain good standing. For the nuclear reaction conference, this represents roughly a 25% increase in attendance. It is very important that the nuclear science community maintains our

presence at the GRC. There will be discussions about the future of these meetings. If you have comments, suggestions and general observations how to improve the meetings, please let me know. More information on this topic will be sent in later emails. Please send an email to me or register so that you will be informed of future mailings and discussions. For further updates, please visit the official conference at <http://grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2008&program=nuchem> which also contains a link to the chair conference page <http://www.nsl.msu.edu/~tsang/GRC/grc2008.htm>. I maintain the latter site. If you have suggestions or information related to the conference that you want to have it posted, let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you in June,
Betty Tsang