Metrological Traceability: Can an ambiguous terminology create a barrier to trade? The Analytical Chemistry Division’s Interdivisional Working Party on the Harmonization of Quality Assurance will explore this important question in a workshop on “Metrological Traceability of Measurement Results in Chemistry: Working towards an IUPAC View.” Join the project team—Paul De Bièvre, Renè Dybkaer, Ales Fajgelj, and David Brynn Hibbert—on Sunday 14 August at 16:00 in Hall 10 (BICC level 3) for the presentation of a first-draft report on this timely topic. The workshop will be followed by a discussion session. See related preprint by Paul De Bièvre, on page 8.

President’s Address
Saturday 13 August at 19:00, Hall 2 (BICC level 2)

An important part of every IUPAC General Assembly is the State of the Union Address in which the president reports on the overall health of the organization. This year, President Leiv K. Sydnes will address the assembly twice. He will deliver his first talk in a more convivial manner and to all IUPAC Members on Saturday 13 August at 19:00. Then, one week later, on Saturday 20 August, he will present his more formal statutory report to the Council assembly. In his address, the president will highlight how the Union has to be sensitive and responsive to the following:

- formal requests and expectations from its members
- professional expectations from the scientific community
- adequate requests and questions from practicing chemists
- regulations and legal aspects in societies at different levels of development
- curious as well as biased questions from lay people and the general public

A newsletter published for IUPAC’s 2005 General Assembly 13-21 August 2005, Beijing, China

Greetings from Beijing

The Project Place

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry exists to advance worldwide chemistry. Just what does this mean? A snapshot of IUPAC activity at various times in the past would indeed reveal quite different—but entirely legitimate—interpretations of this mission. Some people think of nomenclature, the chemistry students’ necessary evil; some think of the naming of new elements, a tight and rigorous, but important, process; some think of the ratification of units and accuracy of measurements, all essential for efficient chemical progress; some think of research conferences, the continued on page 2

Why Gallium?

Chris and I are having so much fun every other month producing Chemistry International that we decided to treat ourselves with a special newsletter just in time for the GA—it is Gallium. Why Gallium you might ask? In short, the symbol for gallium is Ga . . . and GA stands for General Assembly. continued on page 13

Introducing the Young Observers

This year, Young Observers will again participate in sessions of the General Assembly. Following the same model used in 2003, IUPAC and the Canadian, USA, and UK National Adhering Organizations have selected 24 chemists, with varied backgrounds and interests, from 9 countries: Brazil, Canada, Chile, India, France, Russia, Turkey, UK, and the USA. Their participation is likely to add vitality and a valuable perspective to the committee work in which they will participate. In the past, several younger chemists have become directly involved in IUPAC. Please welcome them and let’s show them what IUPAC is all about. For a brief review and presentation of these Young Observers, see page 4.

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