

The Chemical Consultant

Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Inc.

Scientific, Engineering, Business & Management Consultants
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FUTURE MEETINGS

Council Meetings

There will be a virtual meeting the second Tuesday of every month at 7 pm ET

Next Meetings: 7 pm EDT on: July 10 August 14 September 11

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Richard L. Schauer Membership rschauer@schauerassociates.com The Association of Consulting Chemists & Chemical Engineers (ACC&CE) is a network of senior-level consultants with a broad range of functional expertise and many years of experience in the chemical and allied industries.

The purposes of the organization are:

- To offer prospective clients a "clearing house" which they can use to find the most qualified consultants or team of consultants whatever their particular problem may be.
- To furnish support to its members as they conduct their consulting practices.

This newsletter is intended to support those purposes as well as to educate prospective new members and prospective client organizations about ACC&CE, and how we can be most helpful to them.

The ACC&CE has an interactive website – <u>www.chemconsult.org</u> that allows prospective clients either to input their problem or to search for those consultants most skilled in their area of concern.

IN THIS ISSUE

This newsletter begins as usual with a letter from the President, David Manuta, which appears on pages 2 and 3. On page 5 is a message from your editor.

On page 6 are short descriptions of our two newest members.

On page 7 is another article by our new Programming Chair, Richard Goodman, who further describes his plans and his progress in creating new programs for the association.

Finally, I repeat my request once again for comments and articles from our members. Please send them to: jvpii@jvporcelli.com.

Joe Porcelli, Editor

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. David M. Manuta, (Certificate #882), President of ACC&CE

I pen this letter from my hotel room in Kansas City, MO. My visit to this metropolis straddling the border of Kansas and Missouri is for two (2) Informal Administrative Hearings for workers made ill due to their employment at the local facility in the federal nuclear weapons program.

My engagement in these Informal Administrative Hearings is based on my knowledge of the federal nuclear weapons complex resulting from more than one (1) decade as Research Staff Member II (*de facto* chief scientist) at the now closed Portsmouth (OH) Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS); a mammoth facility tasked with enriching the concentration of the uranium-235 isotope to customer (the US Department of Defense or multiple operators of nuclear power plant reactors) specifications.

The genesis of my involvement dates back to when one of my late neighbors came to my table at a local restaurant with the simple request, "Can you help me obtain the funds from the federal government due a widow after the death of her husband who had worked at PORTS?" Irene had been in the gallery at our local courthouse and she remembered my testimony at a trial that ultimately helped to exonerate a man of second degree murder charges.

Irene was a woman whom everyone in town took very seriously. When Irene asked you to do something, the expectation was THAT YOU WILL GET THIS TASK DONE. I had not previously done any expert work in the federal government sector, so after I accepted her request, I needed to figure out how to GET THIS TASK DONE. It took about six (6) months for a local physician and me to team up as experts to secure the funds that Irene had sought.

As it turns out, this federal compensation program is a difficult one for lay persons to navigate. The success at PORTS soon produced leads at two (2) of the other nuclear facilities in Ohio [at Fernald (near Cincinnati) and at Mound (near Dayton)]. My firm is now handling federal nuclear weapons complex sick worker claims from the Pinellas facility (near Tampa, FL) to the Hanford site (in Washington State) and just about everywhere in between.

In my most recent Informal Administrative Hearing, I was asked to provide expert testimony in support of a gent who had worked for many years at the Argonne National Laboratory – East (ANL-East). The Informal Administrative Hearing was held at the cavernous federal building in downtown Chicago.

The Client is now in remission from a bout with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL), a disease of the white blood cells. Our contention was that his occupational exposure to the degreasing solvent trichloroethylene had caused his diagnosed medical condition of NHL. A January 2018 report from the government toxicologist assigned to this Case indicated that a definitive linkage of exposure to trichloroethylene triggering NHL **had not yet been made**.

(Continued on next page)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (Continued)

On the basis of the toxicology report, the Claims Examiner Denied this request for earned benefits. This Denial then resulted in an Appeal including the Informal Administrative Hearing.

In my Due Diligence, I found that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registration (ATSDR) had published a detailed report on their investigation at the Camp Lejeune, NC Marine Base. Trichloroethylene had been found in the drinking water there and NHL, among other diseases, was definitively connected. The report was published in January 2017.

I was APPALLED to find that a highly credible report in favor of the Client had been published about one (1) year in advance of the toxicologist's report. This report (in my considered opinion) was DE-LIBERATELY WITHHELD from the Claims Examiner, since the Claim could have been Accepted in January 2018, had the Claims Examiner known of the existence of the January 2017 ATSDR report.

Had this Claim been Accepted in January 2018, the Client would have met the criteria for receiving his earned benefits AND the Informal Administrative Hearing would have been obviated.

There are ethical and professional standards that ALL expert witnesses need to comport with in order to be able to work on a consistent/regular basis. [This is one (1) of the reasons why the Better Business Bureau A+ rating is so valuable to my firm.] The credibility/reliability of our Expert Opinion sets us apart from the *mere* fact witnesses.

The government toxicologist (in my considered opinion) acted more like "a Hired Gun" (advocating for a paid position), rather than as an Expert Witness (advocating for the facts). There isn't any place for Hired Guns in this profession.

Every word that comes out of my mouth and every word that is memorialized on paper (or in computer memory) needs to be golden (or in "expert speak", credible/defensible). If "I don't "know", then I acknowledge that I don't know. "No comment" and "May I get back with you later" are also important phrases to use, as necessary. "Winging it" with the expectation of not getting caught, is not a good career strategy.

The Chicago Case (ANL-East) has, to date, not been decided. I've recommended that the toxicologist be immediately retired with ALL benefits intact. If the federal government does not take immediate action to retire this toxicologist, then I will recommend at the toxicologist's next performance appraisal that termination for cause and the loss of ALL benefits result.

The type of unprofessional behavior described here CANNOT BE TOLERATED. By not removing "the bad apples", we can all be tainted (by association).

Sincerely,

David M. Manuta, Ph.D., FAIC

President, Manuta Chemical Consulting, Inc.



 Dr. David M. Manuta, FAIC, President Fire Investigations/Litigation Support

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dr. Joseph V. Porcelli (Certificate #906)

In our first newsletter published in April, I discussed some results from the ChemShow, particularly the large addition to our mailing. The hope is that as we continue to communicate with these people by means of this newsletter and other actions, it should encourage new members and new potential clients.

Another topic in the previous newsletter involved the development of two new tri-fold brochures, to be available to all members, one aimed at prospective new members and the other at prospective new clients. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Tom Vichroski, and critical reviews by several members, spearheaded by members Bernie Ennis and Richard Goodman, we are very close to finalizing both documents. Once they are ready, any members wishing to obtain hard copies of either or both should contact David Manuta or Joe Porcelli. We also hope to have a pdf version of each that could be emailed to our members and prospective members and potential clients. We will keep all members informed when these are ready.

We continue to hold monthly council meetings on-line via GoToMeeting (GTM), with the exception that in April, we broadcast a presentation my Mike Blumenthal, as the first of a possible series of presentations. This is described in an article by Programming Chair Goodman which appears later in this newsletter. The presentation worked reasonably well, and was well received by those of us who were on line. However, we need to stress that the effort is being put out for the benefit of all members, and we need to see more of you on line for future presentations and council meetings.

In the last newsletter I commented on the efforts to build up our LinkedIn group, both as another way of publicizing ACC&CE, as well as communicating with members and prospects. Further, several of our members have expressed interest in posting articles on our LinkedIn groups. We could use more ACC&CE members who are active and knowledgeable about its use to help us in these efforts to grow our LinkedIn group. We appear to have 42 members in our group, but a number of them are not members of ACC&CE. We have allowed this in the hopes of encouraging more people to join the Association if they are considering or are already active in consulting. I have tried to invite all ACC&CE members who are active in LinkedIn to join our group, but I cannot tell how many have received the invitation. This is why I am asking for help from the "experts".

Please communicate with me at **ivpii@jvporcelli.com** with your ideas and/or to volunteer.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

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Chemistry leadership for pharmaceutical drug design, development and manufacturing.

DMIT Consulting Services, LLC, provides expertise leadership to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and chemical industries. Primary focus is drug product synthesis design, development and optimization from discovery milligram lead to multi-ton commercial manufacturing.

Michael Schultz, PhD (#972)
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Mike Schultz is Managing Director of PTI Global Solutions, bringing process technology leadership to companies in the fuels, chemicals, and energy space. Services include: scale-up planning and risk assessment, pilot/demo plant design, technoeconomics, process modeling and simulation, independent engineering reviews, partnership development, project development.

Report of the ACC&CE Program Chair

By Dr. Richard M. Goodman (Certificate #747)

As we discussed in the last newsletter, we have started our virtual programming. We held our first virtual program on May 8. The speaker was Mike Blumenthal, PhD. His topic was "Food Industry Forensics." Dr. Blumenthal brings over 50 years' experience in food chemistry, food processes, packaging technology, and academics. Dr. Blumenthal is an Adjunct Graduate Professor (Programs) at the Rutgers University Food Science Department, and on the Advisory Council to the Chairman of the Department. The presentation was a talk he would use for his course at Rutgers. This talk covered the origins of forensic science from the French Revolution through Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's time. He spoke of the discovery of fingerprints, using mug shots as part of recording data on possible criminals and expounded in detail on how accurate Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's descriptions of the detective work by the fictional Sherlock Holmes were and how accurate in revealing forensic techniques. The slides from this presentation can be found on the ChemConsult.org website.

It should be noted that the attendance for this virtual presentation consisted only of members of the ACC&CE board who are have been active in the organization. This limited turnout helped promote my (Program Chair) shout out to the membership soliciting your interest in participating in programs. We have gotten one request. We are therefore preparing a presentation on "Getting Started as an Expert Witness." Our President David Manuta has extensive experience as an expert witness and has agreed to help prepare this talk. I expect to solicit one or two other speakers from the ACC&CE membership. This talk will cover very detailed advice and should be of vital interest to any member of ACC&CE who wishes to explore the very lucrative area of expert witnessing. We have not settled on the date as of the deadline for this Newsletter, so look for the announcement soon. We look forward to having a large and lively audience for this next virtual program.

Richard M. Goodman, PhD Program Chair

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