

The Chemical Consultant

Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Inc.

Scientific, Engineering, Business & Management Consultants
Volume 31, No. 3
July– September 2020

FUTURE MEETINGS

All members are invited to attend.

Annual Council Meetings October 6 7 pm EDT via GTM (all members welcome)

Probable Next Council Meeting November 10

ACC&CE Officers & Leaders

Richard M. Goodman
President
RMGConsulting@msn.com

Al Sagarese Vice President, fcllc1002msn.com

Kokila (Koki) Doshi, Secretary, koki.msa@gmail.com

J. Stephen Duerr, Treasurer chemlabconsulting@gmail.com

David M. Manuta, Past President dmanuta@dmauta.com

Charles Leonard, Webmaster, <u>charlie@cleonard.net</u>

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 – https://chemconsult.org 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

A SPECIAL WISH TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS—STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY

This newsletter begins with a letter from our President, David Manuta, which appears on pages 2 and 3.

On page 4 is a Letter from our Incoming President Richard M Goodman. On page 6 is an article from a member, Marvin DeTar. On page 7, there is a letter from your Editor including the results of our election. Our pair of Annual Meetings takes place via Go To Meeting on October 6.

I am continuing to request comments and articles from our members. Marvin DeTar has risen to the challenge in this issue.

Please address all comments to: jvpii@jvporcelli.com.

Joe Porcelli, Editor

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

The ACC&CE has followed our Bylaws and has successfully elected new Officers and Councillors. Our President is Richard Goodman, our Vice President is Al Sagarese, our Secretary is Koki Doshi, and our Treasurer is Steve Duerr. Our Councilors are Cathy Byrne, Marvin DeTar, Bill Hoffman, David Manuta, and John Wetzel. There is room for one more Councilor. The transition will be smooth. Richard and his Team know that people like Bernie Ennis, Charlie Leonard, Joe Porcelli, me, et al. will be available to help.

I received an unsolicited telephone call on Friday (9/18/20) with the 44 country code. The UK is country code 44. I spoke to a young woman barrister (attorney across the Pond) on an insurance case. Insurance cases in the US are often not ones that we usually seek since, as I tell others, these folks can be slow to pay for professional consulting services. [The paradox is that we cannot be late when our premiums come due to them.]

Based on the exchanges of emails with this young barrister, she set up a video conference with the senior barrister handling this case. The more senior barrister walked me through the particulars of the case. When she was done, it was clear that I was conflict free and that I have the relevant experience that they were seeking. The retainer is forthcoming.

I then asked a question that I always ask of new Clients -- How did you find me? The answer that I received was priceless. The young woman barrister was tasked with finding an expert who has skills in coatings, curing issues, design criteria, applications of local codes/zoning, etc. She perused the https://www.chemconsult.org website and she identified several of us whom she felt were capable of performing these necessary consulting services. After realizing that the necessary consulting services could be had with the ACC&CE, she called me.

The more senior barrister indicated that the case is worth the equivalent of ca. \$50 million -- to make those who suffered losses whole again. My request for appropriate remuneration was quickly agreed to. The first documents for expert review should come through via email in the coming days.

I think back to "the days of yore" -- when I incorporated my consultancy. Email was in its infancy back then plus we didn't have PayPal and video conferencing. There would be no reasonable way to be notified, let alone be able to secure such a consulting assignment. To secure such a consulting assignment during the pandemic is of great value to me and, to boot, our Association is in line to receive the 5% commission remittances on consulting income derived from this assignment.

CONTINUED

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (Continued)

As this assignment develops, I intend to seek guidance from our peers in the ACC&CE -- who can provide expert consulting services in areas outside of where mine are. Since the older that I get, the less that I know, I expect to identify the challenges and then work with our ACC&CE colleagues to fill-in any gaps.

While there is uncertainty when the ALL CLEAR for resuming normal life in our COVID-19 world will be sounded, THE SHOW (as P. T. Barnum once said) must go on. Richard will, of course, do a great job as President and I'll do what I can to support his efforts as Councilor. The important issue here is the continued value proposition of the ACC&CE. As long as those with challenging projects will seek our expertise, the ACC&CE will continue to rise to the occasion and find the best/right solutions for our Clients.

Be well, stay safe. Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

David M. Manuta, Ph.D., FAIC President, Manuta Chemical Consulting, Inc. 431 Gordon Avenue

Waverly, OH 45690-1208 USA Tel: 1.740.947.7998 (Voice) Tel: 1.740.352.2991 (Mobile)

Fax: 1.740.947.1565 http://www.dmanuta.com

E-mail: dmanuta@dmanuta.com or mc2@dmanuta.com

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LETTER FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

Richard M. Goodman (Certificate # 747)

I want to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thank you to David Manuta. His steady hand and dedicated service as President has brought the ACC&CE through a trying time and into a stable situation going forward. Our membership numbers have stabilized; our finances are sound. We have a leadership succession: the very capable Al Sagarese is the new Vice President and prepared to take over as President in the future. The number of CHIs have remained high and several of our members have been able to obtain clients through the process.

As I conclude my tenure as Program Chair I want to highlight the status of our presentations in last half of 2020. We have enjoyed significant attendance at these last few virtual technical presentations, averaging about 12 (30% of membership). And these presentations have been worthwhile and informative. Peter Sebulsky's talk on Sept 8 on "The Phillips 66 Explosion in Pasadena Texas - 30 years later" was quite educational. Thank you to all the presenters.

As I take over as President of ACC&CE my most fervent desire is to be able to maintain the momentum that David has generated. He has graciously agreed to assume a position as councilor so I will have the opportunity to seek his guidance as needed. I frankly do not see a big need for any drastic changes to our current operations. We can always use new members; we can always use members to step forward to take over key functions, as webmaster, newsletter editor, etc. as the current key performers of these jobs look to their replacements. But I am confident that we have within the current membership and our new members talented people motivated to move into these positions.

Of historical note, for those who track this. I was President from 2010-2012, a rather tumultuous time. The association transitioned from one managed by an Executive Director, with live meetings at restaurants in New Jersey to a virtual organization with member/volunteers doing all operational functions, including webmaster, virtual meeting operations, newsletter publishing, treasurer, etc. In view of the current disruption caused by the Coronavirus ACC&CE is indeed fortunate that we had converted to a virtually run organization before Covid 19.

I wish all our members good health for the next year.

Richard M. Goodman, President



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

> Mission Statement: The application of Fundamental Chemical Principles to solve problems.

Phone: 740-947-7998 Fax: 740-947-1565 Cell: 740-352-2991 email: mc2@dmanuta.com http://www.dmanuta.com Vision Statement: To solve problems that aren't in any book.

Waverly, Ohio 45690-1208



J. Stephen Duerr, Ph.D., P.E., CPC Consulting Metallurgist/Chemist chemlabconsulting, LLC 514 Corrigan Way, Cary, NC 27519 908-500-9333

chemlabconsulting@gmail.com www.chemlabconsulting.com

SCHAUER ASSOCIATES

Dr. Richard L. Schauer Regulatory Consultant

P.O. Box 398, 1211 Dexter Corner Road Townsend, DE 19734 Phone: (732) 586-5678

Fax: (302) 449-6012

E-mail: rschauer@schauerassociates.com

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CONHC₆H₁₀CH₂C₆H₁₀NHCOOCH₂CH₂CH₂O

CH2 Catherine A. Byrne, Ph.D.
Consulting Polymer Chemist
Belmont Polymer Associates, LLC
10 Homer Road
CH2 Belmont, MA 02478-2311
O tel (617)484-1797
CH2
CH2

TALK ABOUT PRESSURE—A Case Story

Marvin DeTar (Certificate # 910)

The CEO called an emergency meeting. A major new product the company was providing its clients worldwide had begun to develop intermittent defects. No one knew the cause. The company's analytical team in Asia identified two new contaminants that were found near the defects. Everyone was puzzled. The problem had begun to affect multiple lines making the product worldwide. And worse, the company's clients were experiencing increasing amounts of downtime to perform corrective actions.

Molecular Technologies LTD was engaged to find a solution.

The first action taken was not to stop production; instead, to isolate all of the suspected defective product. The second was to have the plant send a sample of every item that touched the product anywhere on the production line on a line known to be making rejected product. Four hours later two boxes containing 25 items appeared on my desk. By using the relationships Molecular Technologies LTD had established with University instrument labs, every item except one was examined by silicon nuclear magnetic spectroscopy to detect the major contaminant. Thirty six hours later all twenty four items were eliminated.

Simultaneously, the remaining item, a mechanical pulley assembly, was examined. A sample of the ball bearing grease on the shaft was examined by Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy. It possessed both contaminants. The indicted part was examined in greater detail. The older parts that were on hand were 0.0001 inch longer. As the part was obtained from a prominent part supply company, enquiries were made. Indeed, the parts company had had to change part suppliers. Seventy two hours after the emergency meeting, the parts company shipment of all the remaining parts from the previous part manufacturer, now out of business, had arrived.

The engineering team sprang into action. A redesign of the pulley assembly was made. These were installed on every production line. Now the new substituted part could be used.

Eighty hours had passed. All product made after the emergency meeting on production lines that had been identified as causing failures and before the fix that was installed filled seven long truck trailers. It was estimated that 99.97% of the isolated product was perfectly good.

The company sent letters to every client explaining how the company arrived at the problem resolution. The company's quick action gained the respect from clients. News of the solution was shared with all of the plant managers and their analytical teams worldwide.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR (and Immediate Past President)

Dr. Joseph V. Porcelli (Certificate #906)

I just read what I wrote in the last Newsletter Editor's letter. Since then, things went better for parts of the country but the Midwest states looked worse. In the last week or so, things are going downhill a bit, with today's news saying New York and 24 other states have increasing cases.

I find that my second paragraph from the last Newsletter can be duplicated, just changing the date. As I did in April and then in June, I hope that all our members and readers continue to follow the practices recommended by the CDC and other medical experts and to stay home if possible and to stay safe! I also wish that the majority of the population would recognize the value of the advice being offered by respected medical personnel and institutions. I hate that this message is the same, and as I said 3 months ago, this isn't over yet!

ACC&CE has continued to function during the pandemic, thanks to having moved the operations on-line a few years ago. Our last monthly council GTM meetings have been growing in attendance, and an excellent GTM presentation by one of our newest members, David Morse, was well-attended and well-received. I urge all our readers to pay attention to the emailed notices of our GTM meetings and other activities. All are welcome.

The Association has had its annual election for officers and council, and I'm pleased to say that we should have a smooth transfer of power next Thursday evening, October.

David Manuta has moved to Past President, being replaced by Richard Goodman as President. Al Sagarese has agreed to become Vice President, creating a vacancy of one councilor. Koki Doshi was re-elected as Secretary and Steve Duerr as Treasurer. Councilors Hoffman, Byrne and Wetzel continue their longer terms, and our new Councilors are David Manuta and Marvin DeTar.

Let's wish them all well.

Please communicate with me at **jvpii@jvporcelli.com** with your thoughts.

Sincerely, Joe Porcelli, Editor

Dr. Marvin B. DeTar

Molecular Technologies LTD

Chemical Consulting Services

1880 Ridgewick Drive Wickliffe, Ohio 44092 440 488-2326 mdetar@earthlink.net

AM Rossmeisl Consulting



Anne-Marie Rossmeisl Consulting Chemist

19 Nashua Road Pelham, New Hampshire 03076 USA

1-603-560-9689 (cell) or 1-603-635-8432 (home)

Twitter: @amrchemconsult E-mail: amrossmeisl@gmail.com

http://amrossmeisl.wix.com/amrossmeislconsult

Edward Richman, Ph.D. President



Richman Chemical Inc. 768 N. Bethlehem Pike Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002 www.richmanchemical.com T: (215) 628-2946 x12 F: (215) 628-4262 C: (215) 704-3335 er@richmanchemical.com

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FORRESTAL CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL

www.forrestalconsultants.com

FORRESTAL CONSULTANTS LLC

Princeton Forrestal Village 116 Village Boulevard, Suite 200 Princeton, New Jersey 08540-5799

(609) 951-2285

Facsimile: (609) 371-9247 info@forrestalconsultants.com

Alfred A. Sagarese, PE

President

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ACC&CE Dr. Heather Wahab, Ph.D. Chemical Consultant Tel: 973-462-2745 Email:dr heathera@gmail.com

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Steve Duerr —<u>chemlabconsulting@gmail.com</u> Joe Porcelli—<u>jvpii@jvporcelli.com</u>

THE CHEMICAL CONSULTANT

A publication of the
Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers
c/o J. STEPHEN DUERR, Ph.D., P.E., CPC
ACC&CE Treasurer
514 Corrigan Way, Cary, NC 27519, USA
Phone—(908) 500-9333
accce@chemconsult.org
https://chemconsult.org

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