

## Your Separation Science Society Needs You!

*It is that time of year again when hopefully all of you are busily renewing your Chromatographic Society membership. For the Society it is also the time of year when we look forward to our AGM and start preparing materials such as our Annual Report and annual accounts. Another aspect of looking forward to our AGM is consideration of elections to our Executive Committee. The Executive Committee of the Society consists of ten voting members, four of which (President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) are designated Officers and, currently, two co-opted non-voting members.*

*In the interests pursuing our mission to do all we can to further the development of separation science, details of related events have also been included in our Diary.*

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This year three voting members will be retiring. The Notice of Elections will be going out soon and while our retiring committee members are eligible to put themselves forward again, we are always looking for new blood. In the past it might have been safe to say that the main pre-requisite of 'the ideal Chrom.Soc. committee member would have been a desire to work very hard on behalf of the Society in organising its activities, for example organising one-day symposia. However, as the economic climate is changing and the environment in which our members are working becomes more demanding, there is a realisation that is unrealistic to require Committee members to give up significant amounts of their time, particularly during working hours. As such we are considering re-establishing levels of 'salaried' support for Society activities more in line with that that was enjoyed when we had our own office. Accordingly while it would still be very useful if prospective Committee members were prepared to work hard (!), but hopefully the emphasis will now be more on having good ideas and a bit of either breadth of experience or youthful enthusiasm. Importantly you should care about chromatography and want to do something about its development! If you think you fit the bill then consider standing. You know it makes sense.

Even if you are not able to join the Society as a member or stand for our Executive Committee, I certainly hope you will be able to join us at one of our symposia taking place during the year. In this context, please make a particular note in your diary for our first two meetings of the year. We like to give as much advance notice as possible of our meetings but occasionally some revisions are necessary.

The Society will not now be directly involved in an event/course that was provisionally arranged for April and, partly because of this, our first meeting of the year has been moved to March. The schedule for the first half of the year therefore now reads as shown in the Diary of Events shown below.

In the interests pursuing our mission to do all we can to further the development of separation science, details of related events have also been included in our Diary. In particular your attention might be drawn to PBA2009 to be held in Agra, India and the Reid International Bioanalytical Forum.

With respect to PBA2009 there is still time to submit abstracts for posters. This International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis series normally alternates between Europe and the USA so this meeting in India is an exciting new venture. However it is a fair reflection of the direction in which pharmaceutical R&D is heading.

If you are just interested in attending a meeting in India per se, then you should take a look at the highly attractive travel packages - see the Taj Mahal on the cheap! With respect to the Reid meeting, while the Forum Syndicate will no longer be "under the auspices of the Chromatographic Society", we are still fully supportive of the Forum and its objectives.

The Forum Syndicate, led by Howard Hill, has a well earned reputation for setting up a programme highly relevant to the needs of the bioanalyst in the pharmaceutical industry and this year's event will be no exception. Also as in previous years, a problem-solving focus in a convivial collegiate atmosphere is guaranteed.

### Diary of Forthcoming Chromatographic Society (and Related) Events

2009	
1st – 4th March	PBA2009 - Agra, India
18th March	Separation Science in the UK: State of the Nation - The Heath, Runcorn
13th-14th May	SPRING SYMPOSIUM & AGM - Advances in LC-MS and Related Hyphenated Techniques, Stadium of Light, Sunderland
28th June – July 2nd	HPLC2009 - Dresden, Germany
6th – 9th July	Reid International Bioanalytical Forum - University of Surrey, Guildford
September	Big Prep 5 - Venue and date to be confirmed
27th – 29th October	Two mini-symposia at L.A.B. UK - NEC, Birmingham
3rd November	Advances in Gas Chromatography - The Heath, Runcorn

### 2010

Programme under development but will include a series of meetings on the impact of separation science on pharmaceutical R&D, a meeting on "separation science and data and involvement in ISC2010 (almost certainly to be held in Spain).