

Regional Meeting Starts Today

Medical Chemistry
Gets ACS Attention

Journal of Commerce special BALTIMORE — Latest research developments in medical chemistry and in environmental problems will highlight presentations at the 12th Middle Atlantic regional meeting of the American Chemical Society which begins today and continues through Friday at the Hunt Valley Inn near here.

Papers presented at the meeting will discuss such subjects as a new drug effective against a spreading strain of malaria, a toxic inquiry in a common lawn and garden pesticide, the influence of metals including aluminum on aging, and how carcinogenic carbon tetrachloride can be added inadvertently to drinking water.

In the environmental area, discussions at the meeting will include EPA's new studies of contaminated ground water from long-standing landfills and spring and summer herbicide runoff into streams.

Over 1,000 Expected
Over 1,000 chemists are expected to attend the meeting, according to chairman Dr. Fred Cornack of the University of Maryland, Delaware County.

Extramarineal Chemistry, Toxic Materials in the Estuarine Watershed, Environmental Contamination of the Middle Atlantic Bight, Radioisotopes, Drug Synthesis, Metal Ion Interactions with Nucleic Acids (genetic material), Laser Chemistry, Energy Storage, and Advances in Analytical Methods in Clinical and Forensic Technology are among the 25 special symposia of invited speakers from across the country and foreign lands.

Dr. Arthur M. Beebe of General Electric Co. will address a luncheon Wednesday on "Incentives to Investment in Technology." As a keynote address on Thursday will honor two educators in the region — one for eminence in high school chemistry teaching and the other, the R. Garrett Reed Award, for college chemistry teaching.

PCB, A Serious Update
A survey of PCB and related problems in Chesapeake Bay studied and health effects on people will be reported Wednesday morning by Dr. Max Eisenberg of the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in Baltimore.

Update by crops of toxic metals from average diets applied to farmland will be described by Dr. Bruce McCaffrey of the State University of New York at Binghamton. In particular, he will note the efficient uptake of cadmium and steel and the discovery that sweet corn assimilates much more cadmium than field corn.

U.S. Customs chemists will describe on Wednesday afternoon a way to identify the country of origin of chromium ore. Because of the U.N. sanction against Southern Rhodesia, a prime chromium ore producer, the U.S. prohibits its imported ore from that country while allowing it from others, such as Russia and China.

Needs have developed for clinical and forensic study of rarely considered metals such as aluminum (implicated in

some brain damage), cobalt (implicated in heart and lung lesions), chromium (implicated in diabetes, oncogenesis, respiratory cancer, and kidney, bone, and joint lesions) and nickel (implicated in heart, stomach, stroke, heart stress, lung lesions, and malignancies), according to Dr. Frederic Henders of National Medical Services Inc., in Willow Grove, Pa.

Ground Contamination
Case studies in Delaware and Pennsylvania of ground contamination by some carcinogens and other undesirable substances from long-term industrial landfills will be detailed by Dr. T.O. Nason of EPA's Annapolis field office on Thursday morning.

Aquatic plants in the upper Chesapeake Bay may be in trouble from agricultural runoff of herbicides and during the growing season, according to reports Wednesday morning. Herbicides were found from June through September in samples from the Susquehanna, Potomac, and Upper Chesapeake Bay (John J. Austin Jr. of EPA's Annapolis field office), and the Rappahannock (chemicals of the Smithsonian Institution's Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies in Edgewater, Md.). The second group found a peak in June and a depletion in August of aquatic plants in the nearby Chesapeake Bay.

Chlorine used to kill bacteria in drinking water often contains carcinogenic carbon tetrachloride as a contaminant from the production process. By this means, carbon tetrachloride has been added inadvertently to drinking water in Philadelphia and many other cities, according to James McBurney of EPA's Annapolis field office.

MONS 000870