

# ICNIRS developments

Peter Flinn

Immediate Past Chairman, ICNIRS

With only just over two months to go until the next ICNIRS Conference (NIR-2011) in Cape Town, Chairman Pierre Dardenne has asked me to provide an update on some important developments within ICNIRS since we last met in Bangkok for NIR-2009.

## ICNIRS Membership

At the General Council Meeting during NIR-2009, it was decided to introduce individual membership (and voting rights) instead of such membership being on the basis of country. The amended Regulation about membership currently reads as follows:

- "Membership of the Council shall be open to any individual having an interest in near infrared spectroscopy or related fields.
- Delegates attending an ICNIRS Conference may become ICNIRS members by paying the membership fee at the same time as the Conference registration fee. Alternatively, individuals can apply for membership by writing to the Council Secretary, enclosing the membership fee.
- The fee for individual membership of ICNIRS is currently US\$50.00 for the period between two consecutive ICNIRS Conferences but may be adjusted by the Council General Meeting as required.
- The membership period shall commence from the first day of a given ICNIRS Conference and end on the first day of the following ICNIRS Conference.
- A financial member is entitled to vote at a Council General Meeting and to state that he/she is 'Member, ICNIRS'.
- This Regulation shall take effect from the first day of the 2011 ICNIRS Conference..."

This means that delegates attending the NIR-2011 Conference must register as members and pay the membership fee in order to be eligible to vote at the Council General Meeting.

It was originally intended that NIR-2011 delegates would pay their ICNIRS membership fees in conjunction with their conference registration fee. However, the

NIR-2011 organising Committee has problems with this so, on this occasion, it will be necessary to register separately for ICNIRS membership.

Because Marena Manley is chairing the NIR-2011 Organising Committee as well as being the current ICNIRS Secretary, it is probably unfair for her to be swamped with ICNIRS membership applications in the lead-up to the Conference. Thanks to the hard work and cooperation of our webmaster, Philippe Vermeulen and ICNIRS Treasurer Steve Holroyd, member registration is now able to be done on-line, through the revamped ICNIRS website.

## ICNIRS website

Everyone is urged to log on to the revamped website as soon as possible: [www.icnirs.org](http://www.icnirs.org)

I think you will all agree that Philippe, who is based at Pierre's laboratory in Gembloux, Belgium, has done a wonderful job in making the website more user-friendly. In particular, you will note the ability to pay your ICNIRS membership fee on-line and the members-only section of the site.

## Future ICNIRS Conferences

As we all know, NIR-2013 will be held in France. We look forward to receiving an update on plans for this conference from Veronique Bellon-Maurel during the NIR-2011 Conference in Cape Town.

A decision will have to be made at the ICNIRS Council Meeting in Cape Town in May on the host country for the NIR-2015 Conference, which will follow NIR-2013 (France).

Notice of bids to host NIR-2015 MUST be sent in writing to the Council Secretary at least two months before NIR-2011. **That means during March 2011!** This will allow details of the bids received to be placed on the ICNIRS website so that delegates can make an informed decision when they vote at the forthcoming Council Meeting.

Potential bidders for NIR-2015 should also carefully read ICNIRS

Regulation 14. This can be viewed on the ICNIRS website.

## Fellowship Awards

Nominations are now invited for the title of Fellow of NIR Spectroscopy. A maximum of two names can be put forward for ratification at the Council Meeting at NIR-2011. Nominations may be made by anyone but the nominee(s) should NOT be informed. Any nominations should be sent to ICNIRS Immediate Past Chairman, Peter Flinn, PO Box 31, Dunkeld, Victoria, Australia, 3294; E-mail: [theflinns@bigpond.com](mailto:theflinns@bigpond.com) **by no later than 1 April 2011**, so that a decision can be made by the ICNIRS Chairman's Advisory Committee. The name(s) will not be divulged prior to the Council Meeting in Cape Town.

## ICNIRS Travel Awards

Applications for travel awards to assist with costs of attending NIR-2011 closed on 1 January 2011 and are currently being considered by the Executive, with decisions due shortly. All applicants will then be advised in writing on the success or otherwise of their applications.