



Newsletter of the Chemical Institute of Canada Toronto Section  
Serving the chemical profession in the GTA

# The Catalyst

April 2011

## Your Executive Committee



**Satyendra Bhavsar**, Chair  
s.bhavsar@utoronto.ca  
Ph: (416) 327-5863

**Ravi Ramachandran**, Vice Chair  
**Nilima Gandhi**, Treasurer  
**Brooke Ozguler**, Secretary  
**John Purdy**, Past Chair, IYC Chair  
**Mark Vincent**, Former Chair  
**Leslie Barton**, Former Chair  
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**Nikhil Gunari**  
**Noel George**  
**Wasi Khan**  
**Ron Bobker**  
**Roseita Esfand**  
**Tayseer Mahdi**

**Congratulations to the following Toronto Section Members who have won CSC Awards in 2011:**

**Raymond Kapral, FCIC**  
University of Toronto  
E.W.R. Steacie Award

**André Simpson, MCIC**  
University of Toronto Scarborough  
W.A.E. McBryde Medal

## Annual General Meeting

The CIC Toronto Section Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on **Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011** starting at **6pm** at Scallywags Restaurant (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), 11 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto  
**Followed by a talk on "Vive Nano: A Story in Chemical Entrepreneurship" By Dr. Darren Anderson from Vive Nano (Abstract on 2<sup>nd</sup> page)**

**Complimentary (free) food will be provided**

Please notify Satyendra Bhavsar ([s.bhavsar@utoronto.ca](mailto:s.bhavsar@utoronto.ca) or 416-327-5863) if you plan to attend

## Did You Know?

*CIC Toronto Section announces events in a timely fashion via e-mails. If you are not receiving the e-mails, please send your e-mail address to [s.bhavsar@utoronto.ca](mailto:s.bhavsar@utoronto.ca)*

## Agenda for AGM

- 6:00 Gathering at Scallywags
- 6:30 Welcome
- 6:35 CIC Toronto Section AGM
- 7:00 Introduction of invited speaker
- 7:05 Talk by Dr. Darren Anderson, Vive Nano
- 7:45 Question/Answer & discussion
- 8:00 Adjournment

## Letter from Chair

This is the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) – celebrating achievements of chemistry and its contribution to well being of humankind. Our local section kicked off the IYC in Toronto with an engaging and entertaining talk by Dr. Joe Schwarcz, who has appeared numerous times on The Discovery Channel, CTV, CBC, TV Ontario and Global Television. The event was proclaimed by Mayor Rob Ford as the IYC kick-off in Toronto! A number of other activities are being planned – so stay tuned! You can participate in celebrating IYC through local section and/or many other different events (visit [www.chemistry2011.org](http://www.chemistry2011.org) or [www.iyc2011.ca](http://www.iyc2011.ca)).

During the 2010-11 year, my tenure as the chair, CIC Toronto Section enhanced varieties of activities. We are in a stronger position with a healthy executive committee and a number of other members expressing their interest in serving on the committee. As such, I am confident about even a more successful year after a new committee is elected at the AGM. Please consider attending the AGM (see announcement above) and, if possible, joining the executive committee – there are a number of benefits! For more information, feel free to contact me at [s.bhavsar@utoronto.ca](mailto:s.bhavsar@utoronto.ca).

**Satyendra Bhavsar, Ph.D., P.Eng.**



CIC Toronto Section (Chemical Institute Of Canada)

*Checkout our Facebook page for recent event pictures*



As part of the IYC events in Laval, a Guinness Record was established for the largest glowstick design representing the molecule of life: H<sub>2</sub>O. Here is a link for a video of the event – Enjoy!

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydeYqjNaFKk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydeYqjNaFKk)

## Vive Nano: A Story in Chemical Entrepreneurship

Talk by Dr. Darren Anderson (Vive Nano)

Vive Nano is one of Canada's top nanotechnology companies. We use inorganic nanoparticles to produce novel optical coatings, and polymer nanoparticles to deliver crop protection active ingredients more effectively. In this presentation I will give the history of Vive Nano and a description of the chemistry that we use to do what we do. I will also give some guidance to potential future entrepreneurs in the chemical sciences, as well as tips for new chemists looking to get involved in a young growing company. It is my opinion that future job growth for chemists and chemical engineers will be strongly reliant on high-growth start-up companies, and that everyone in the chemical sciences should be approaching their careers with an entrepreneurial frame of mind.

The talk is organized during the AGM

## Crystal Growing Competition - 2010

In this annual competition held during September – December 2010, teams of students from 17 local section high schools grew crystals of Copper Sulfate over five weeks. At the end of the growing period, two crystals from each school were submitted for judging, based on criteria such as crystal clarity, mass and form. Copper Sulfate used to prepare the crystals were donated by Anachemia Science.

60 students from the regional schools representing school boards from the Peel, York, Toronto and Durham took part in the competition. Students and their teachers put a lot of effort to produce high quality crystals of Copper Sulfate. It was indeed a challenging task for the judges to pick the best crystals in each of the categories. This year we are presenting a trophy in each category to the winning school, while the student winners are awarded CICTOR medals and certificates.

### Toronto Local Section Winners

#### Category - Best Overall Crystal

Sanjeev Narayanaswamy  
- George S. Henry Academy

#### Category - Best Quality Crystal

Han (Helen) Li, Fang Jun (Lulu) Zhang  
- Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute

Furthermore, we should all be proud that our local section winner, **Sanjeev Narayanaswamy from George S. Henry Academy** also **won third place in the best overall category at the 2010 Canada-Wide Crystal Growing Competition.**

Congratulations to George S. Henry Academy teacher, Ms Cathy Roske and her student on this great achievement!

Congratulations to all the winners!

*Dr. Ravi Ramachandran, Crystal Growing Contest Coordinator, CIC Toronto Section*



Best overall (Top) & Best quality (Bottom) crystals from the CIC Toronto Section Crystal Growing Competition 2010



*Judges in action. left: Dr. John Purdy, Right Dr. Ravi Ramachandran*

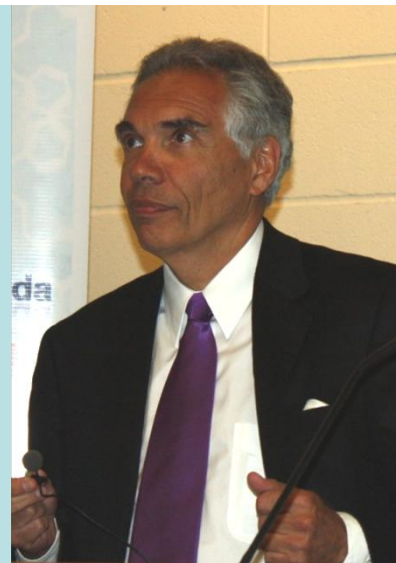
For a listing of all winners and their winning crystals at the national contest, visit:  
[http://www.chemistry.ca/index.php?ci\\_id=2662&la\\_id=1](http://www.chemistry.ca/index.php?ci_id=2662&la_id=1)

# *Recent CIC Toronto Events Memories...*



## **Are cows more trustworthy than chemists?**

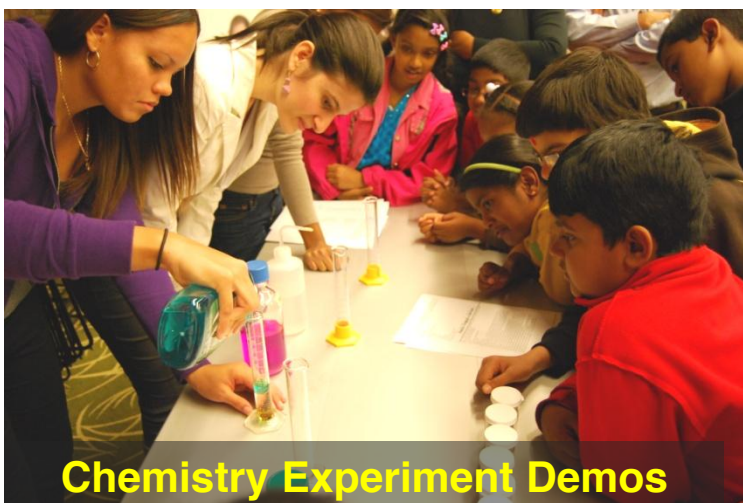
On Friday March 4, 2011, the CIC Toronto section was delighted to present a talk by the renowned Dr. Joe Schwarcz, Director of the Office for Science and Society at McGill University. "Dr. Joe" gave a brilliantly illustrated and hilarious account of some of the misconceptions about chemistry that he has encountered in his work on radio and television and also in everyday life. (The title of the talk originated from a quote by a Columbia University professor who, when asked whether she preferred butter or margarine responded "I would rather trust a cow than a chemist".) After the talk CICtor hosted a wine and cheese reception. The lecture hall at the University of Toronto, where the talk was held, was filled to capacity and there were many faces there that we haven't seen for quite a while – we hope to see them again at CICtor events again in the near future! Many thanks to Syngenta for sponsoring this event.



## **Waste Management Facility Tour**



## **Ministry of Environment Lab Tour**



## Student Awards Night 2010 – Award Winners



## DONORS

The CIC Toronto Section thanks the following companies and organizations for their participation in, and support for, our activities

**Anton Paar Canada**

**BYK Chemie**

**CANTOX**

**Cognis Canada**

**Croda Canada**

**Dominion Colour Corp**

**Durham College**

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**Innocan Innovation Centre**

**National Silicates**

**Provincial Environmental Services**

**Ryerson University**

**Syngenta Crop Protection Canada**

**Toronto District School Board**

**University of Toronto**

**University of Toronto Mississauga**

**University of Toronto Scarborough**

**Xerox Research Centre of Canada**



## Sponsor representatives at the Student Awards Night

From left - James Stevens (Cognis Canada), Dr. Ravi Ramachandran (Syngenta Crop Protection Canada), Dr. John Purdy (Past-Chair, CIC Toronto), Fred Khory (Croda Canada), Prof. Kagan Kerman (Univ of Toronto, Scarborough), Dr. Joanne Wan (CANTOX), Prof. Rob Batey (Univ of Toronto), Dr. Satyendra Bhavsar (Chair, CIC Toronto), Dr. Juris Strautmanis (Univ of Toronto Mississauga)