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The State of ACIL

by ACIL Chair John Molloy

As I prepare to pass the leadership of ACIL to Trevor Boyce next month, it seems appropriate to review our organization's progress. It certainly has been a wild ride marked with significant changes in how we operate and how we approach bringing true "value" to our membership.

In early 2009, ACIL sent a request for proposals to move to a management organization from an employee-based structure. The board chose the Milton Bush-Richard Bright team to provide leadership, and they began as ACIL's CEO and COO respectively in June 2009. The team with the full support of the board has performed excellently. To support that conclusion, I will highlight some of their accomplishments:

Moved through the difficult task of severing ties with employee staff. The changes lowered costs and increased member service.

Sublet the K Street space, and then leased flexible office space at a considerable savings. The lease ends in 2011, providing additional cost savings as we continue operating in a virtual environment.

Reorganized our financial records and placed them on a sound platform.

Validated our data base and placed the information on a uniform platform.

Developed a focused approach towards re-establishing the "value" of ACIL to its existing members.

ACIL ANNUAL MEETING
October 9-12, 2010
Westin Gaslamp Hotel
San Diego, CA

Click on the following links for additional information

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ACIL Maximizes Membership Value

Continuing its quest to increase the value of ACIL membership, ACIL management and leadership met with Test America CEO Rachel Jannetta, COO Keith Wheatstone and VP Dave Spurlock on August 26th in Fort Washington, PA to discuss the many benefits of ACIL membership. At the meeting, Test America's top management learned that significant business development opportunities existed within ACIL, so in addition to the technical and advocacy benefits

Contracted with recognized professionals to knowledgeably support the sections--the first direct investment in the sections in over a decade.

Developed and implemented a strategically based marketing approach to generate new members - riding the coattails of current members to reach former and prospective new members.

Increased membership and dues revenue in 2010 in a down market.

Brought ACIL a balanced operating budget forecast for 2010.

Implemented a program to meet with members to hear their views, understand their expectations and align ACIL to meet their needs.

Supported our highly successful Government Affairs Committee with a "Value of Independent Testing" video.

Continued our government affairs efforts to support our sections and membership. Specific accomplishments include:

Environmental - the win in Rhode Island that prevented the state from taking drinking water testing and making it a state-only province; obtained concessions on DOT shipping regulations that would have affected all our businesses and initiated a members-only listserv for breaking issues important to the section.

Food Sciences - direct impact on new FDA regulations; direct contact with government agencies to reinforce the capability of private sector laboratories to meet health challenges in food emergencies, as well as positioning ACIL in the impending federal food safety legislation.

CAS - impact on OSHA regulations; direct intercession with the US Army and Congress on body armor testing, created the Standards Alert Newsletter and turned the PT program into a money-making operation.

CMET - Re-engaged Federal agencies responsible for duplicative accreditation requirements and jointly published the ACIL/NACLA Guide 1825 to assist member laboratories with aligning current quality systems to ISO/IEC 17025.

already enjoyed, they plan to send sales and marketing staff to ACIL events to network, and learn about industry trends and shifts in the market. If you would like ACIL management and leadership to meet with your top management to discuss ACIL benefits, contact Richard Bright.

MacKenzie Markets ACIL Meeting

Special thanks to E.S. Babcock & Sons CEO Allison MacKenzie for her efforts to spread the word about the ACIL Annual Meeting. She e-mailed and telephoned a laboratory located near San Diego to tell them about the benefits she enjoys as an ACIL member and encourage them to attend the meeting. If you know a laboratory which would benefit from attending the ACIL Annual Meeting, we hope that you will follow Allison's lead. To view her e-mail, [click here](#).

IEEE-EMC Conference



Developed an excellent newsletter that provides valuable information with regular delivery.

Conducted a first class mid-winter meeting and organized what will be an excellent annual meeting in San Diego next month.

Everything about ACIL is looking up. The future is bright. We are now planning for the 75th Anniversary meeting in New York City in 2012. I'm looking forward to ACIL coming back to my neighborhood, and hope to see you all soon.

When not running ACIL, John serves as President and CEO of H2M, Inc. in Melville, NY.

ACIL exhibit pictured above. ACIL participation at the IEEE-EMC Conference has already generated two new members with several others in process, according to ACIL Executive Officer Tony Anderson who staffed the ACIL exhibit pictured above.

Smart Grid TCC Pays Lip Service to ACIL

Stunned when the Smart Grid Testing and Certification Committee (SGTCC) declined ACIL's nomination for one of the most respected and accomplished professionals in the business to join the committee, ACIL continues to consider alternative ways to provide valuable insight and input to this important and relevant government entity, including pursuing high-level meetings with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The ACIL Smart Grid Task Force submitted a position paper on laboratory qualifications in August to the SGTCC, noting concerns about not using domestic standards, which could increase susceptibility to terrorism, adding unnecessary layers and complexity by creating new organizations like the Interoperability Program Management Organization and developing onerous and unattainable laboratory qualification requirements. To date, ACIL has not received an official response to this paper.

A seasoned veteran at working with the Federal government, ACIL CEO Milton Bush commented, "At this point it appears that the Smart Grid process is not as open and transparent as professed. I am surprised and confused about the SGTCC's lack of interest in having our nominee, as well as a major trade association's presence, on the committee."

CSC Joins NACLA
Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), a Department of Defense contractor and global leader in providing technology-enabled business solutions and services, joined NACLA in July, according to NACLA President Arman Hovakemian, Measurement Science Department Head at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division

NACLA Webinar

NACLA Purpose, Vision and Objectives
Thu, September 23, 2010
11:00 a.m. EDT / 8:00 a.m.

[Click here to reserve your place!](#)

Learn about NACLA's value and relevance, NACLA's place in the

ACIL Works to Mitigate Impact of New DOT Rules

by Judy Morgan

On July 30, 2010, the Department of Transportation (DOT) granted ACIL's petition for rulemaking, initiating an investigation needed to precipitate the new DOT rules, which went into effect on January 1, 2010 and inadvertently caused issues for environmental

laboratories trying to comply with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sample bottle requirements.

The DOT changes to 49 CFR Part 173.4, "*Small Quantity Exceptions*" align US regulations for hazardous materials shipment with international standards. But the addition of 173.4a "*Excepted Quantities*" expanded the drop test for air shipments, requiring all inner receptacles be filled to 95% capacity for solids and 98% capacity for liquids. Glass sample bottles currently used to collect samples per EPA methods and requirements are not suitable to pass a drop test with the added weight of almost full volume.

For now, environmental laboratories are avoiding air shipments of sample bottles while waiting for relief from the DOT. DOT staff is working to provide guidance and clarification where necessary, including a presentation at the 2010 NEMC conference reviewing this regulation and other proposed rules. ACIL's Environmental Sciences Section continues to monitor the progress of this initial step to modify the regulation and work with DOT to facilitate input on future rulemakings.

Judy is VP, Director of Technical & Regulatory Affairs for Environmental Science Corporation in Mt. Juliet, TN and the Chair of ACIL's Environmental Sciences Section.

FDA Joins Upcoming ACIL Meeting

In an effort to learn how to incorporate the private laboratory community into its emergency response network, the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) asked to attend the October ACIL meeting in San Diego. Plans call for a joint meeting with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and FDA staff on October 12th, 8:00 - 10:45 a.m., to discuss increasing the use of commercial environmental and food safety laboratories in government-conducted emergency environment and food safety monitoring programs.

Government staff will review the design of the three major government emergency laboratory networks: EPA Emergency Response Laboratory Network (ERLN), EPA Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) and USDA/FDA Food Emergency Response Network (FERN), and their experience using these networks in exercises and during recent emergencies. Participants will discuss specific ways to partner with the EPA and FDA to strengthen and improve the functionality of the ELRN, WLA and FERN.

accreditation world and how it differs from other accreditation bodies at this 30-minute webinar from Doug Leonard, Managing Director of Laboratory Accreditation Bureau and NACLA Past President, and Robert Uttenweiler, NACLA Executive Officer.

NACLA Training

ISO/IEC 17025 - Internal Auditor and Independent Contractor Training
Uncertainty of Measurement Overview
November 29 - 30, 2010
Indian Rocks Beach, FL

This 2-day workshop, provided in conjunction with Laboratory Accreditation Bureau (L-A-B) with additional sponsorship support from AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC, offers participants the ability to practice as a group the instruction presented by Douglas Leonard, President and COO of L-A-B. Participants receive the \$99 NACLA rate at the Holiday Inn Harbourside Hotel. For complete details and registration flyer, [click here](#).

ACIL Advocacy Efforts Showcased at NEMC

At the suggestion of ACIL member David Speis (Accutest), ACIL CEO Milton Bush attended the August National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC) to detail ACIL's success in reversing Rhode Island's (RI) bid to "in-source" environmental testing previously reserved for the private sector. Milton also briefed participants on the evolving situation in New Jersey (NJ), regarding a revised air analysis method that supplants the existing EPA method. ACIL believes that the NJ method is technically flawed and does not meet transparency and due process requirements, planning to challenge it similarly to the RI issue. To view Milton's complete presentation, [click here](#).

During this same session, Judy Morgan (ESC) presented another ACIL initiative at the Department of Transportation regarding sample bottles (see related story above).

Comments on CPSC's Reasonable Testing Program

On August 3rd, ACIL filed comments on the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) proposed "reasonable" testing program, noting that the proposed rule fails to:

- Differentiate between "firewalled" manufacturer laboratories and independent, third party laboratories.
- Recognize the certification marks of third party conformity assessment bodies.
- Include reciprocity provisions for foreign markets that are closed to US third party laboratories.

For the full text of ACIL's comments, [click here](#).

Committees and Sections

Contact [Tony Anderson](#) for the call-in information to join the section's monthly teleconference.

Construction Materials & Engineering Testing (CMET) Section

NACLA has received applications from Laboratory Accreditation Bureau and Construction Materials Engineering Council for recognition to the joint ACIL/NACLA 1875 guidance document for the accreditation of construction material laboratories, which compares three requirements standards: AASHTO R18, NISTIR 7012 and ISO/IEC 17025. The CMET Executive Committee

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continues to develop its [strategic plan](#) to assist members suffering due to the economy. The plan calls for a joint project with NICET to meet technician certification needs, lowering accreditation costs through the ACIL/NACLA partnership and expanding it from DOT to the FAA and the Army Corps of Engineers, and adding monthly webinars on business development topics. For more information on the strategic plan, contact Section Chair [Jim Kuhn](#). The next scheduled teleconference is September 9, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. EDT. The CMET Section meets at the annual meeting in San Diego, October 12, 2010, 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. PDT.

Food Sciences Section (FSS) formerly Microbiology and Analytical Chemistry (MAC)

Food safety legislation is gradually progressing in the Senate with possible passage in September. Due to the upcoming election, the House may have to accept the bill as passed by the Senate without going into conference. The next FSS teleconference is September 15, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. EDT. A joint ESS/FSS meeting with EPA and FDA representatives will be held at the annual meeting in San Diego on October 12, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., followed by an FSS business meeting until 11:45 a.m. PDT.

Conformity Assessment Section (CAS)

Fifteen members and two non-members attended the section meeting held in conjunction with the 2010 IEEE-EMC Conference in Fort Lauderdale on July 26, 2010, featuring presentations from three accrediting bodies and the TCB Council as well as ongoing section work, such as the PT Program, EMC Standards Alert, and ANSI/ASC C63® section participation. ACIL also had an exhibit at the 2010 IEEE-EMC Conference to promote membership, already garnering two new members with others expected. The section started a new PT round robin; contact ACIL Executive Section Officer, Tony Anderson, to participate or gather additional information. The next CAS teleconference is September 22, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. EDT. The CAS section meets at the annual meeting in San Diego on October 12, 2010, 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. PDT.

Environmental Sciences Section (ESS)

Following ESS participation at the EPA Water Security Alliance summit meeting in San Francisco, the EPA has accepted our invitation to participate in the annual meeting in San Diego. There will be a joint ESS/FSS session on October 12, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. The section is currently gathering member comments on the draft of its white paper discussing the benefits of third party accreditation. For further information, contact David Speis (Accutest). Several members of the ESS participated in the 2010 TNI/NEMC Conference, reporting a strong program this year with excellent presentations and good cooperation between regulators, laboratories and industry. The DOT decided that ACIL's request to revert DOT's rule change for domestic air transportation

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of water samples has merit, and they will propose a future rule making action (see article in this newsletter for more details). The next ESS teleconference is September 16 at 11:00 a.m. EDT. The section will hold a business meeting at the annual meeting in San Diego on October 12, 2010 following the joint ESS/FSS meeting from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. PDT.

Here We Grow Again!

Welcome to former and new members alike. To learn more, click on the company name to visit their website or on the contact name to send an e-mail.

Environmental Sciences: [J. Wilson Hershey, Lancaster Laboratories, Inc., Lancaster, PA 17605](#)

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Conformity Assessment: [Suzanne Kiraly, CSA International, Toronto, ON, Canada M9W 1R3](#)

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Conformity Assessment: [Dean Ghizzone, Northwest EMC, Inc., Hillsboro, OR, 97124](#)

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Food Sciences: [Eric Graves, ABC Research Corporation, Gainesville, FL 32607](#)

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Associate Member: Rebecca Smith, Pickering Laboratories, Inc.,
Mountain View, CA 94043

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