

# the Alembic



## Chair's Corner



I am happy that February is almost at an end and spring is approaching. The February meeting had a group of 15 at dinner and the talk. The topic was interesting and there were many examples of plants used as medicines. It was also fascinating to see how nature has been improved upon via chemistry to obtain better medicines. On a related note, I was just reading about studies that have been recently done on herbal remedies to test their effectiveness. The government is sponsoring major research initiatives in this field. The newest studies have shown that glucosamine and chondroitin did not diminish arthritis pain more than a placebo did. It will be interesting to see more results from these studies.

I hope that for the next meeting on March 9 we do not have as much snow as we did a few weeks ago. What is the saying about weather in Wisconsin? If you don't like it, wait a few minutes and it will change.

It is interesting to read about food and nutrition issues with respect to the chemistry involved. I was just reading about listing the amount of trans-fat in foods on the nutritional label. The FDA allows amounts less than 0.5 g/serving to be listed as zero on the label. Trans-fat content can be determined more accurately than in 0.5 g increments, depending on the method used. The methods of analysis that are used are GC or IR, with the IR method not as sensitive as the GC method. If you want to be sure whether there are trans-fats present, you can look at the ingredient list and look for partially hydrogenated oil. If the oil is present, then trans-fats are also present, even if the label says 0 g/serving. So if you are concerned about trans-fats in your diet, read the label carefully.

I hope to see you at the meeting on March 9.

*Laura*

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# Membrane Filtration in Water and Waste Water Treatment Applications

**Robert J. Wenta**

US Filter/Siemens-Director of Sales  
Membrane Systems for the HPI/CPI/O&G Industries

7:30 PM Thursday, March 9, 2006

US Filter - Zimpro  
301 West Military Road, Rothschild

Dinner 6:00 The Palms Supper Club  
(5912 Bus. Hwy. 51 in Schofield)



The discussion and associated Power Point slide show present Microfiltration and Membrane BioReactor (MBR) technology for water and waste water treatment. Current applications and design conditions for use of the technology are discussed. The presentation demonstrates advantages for use of the technology in place of conventional approaches such as sand filters and activated sludge biological treatment.

**Brief Bio:** Education: University of Wisconsin Stevens Point-BS Chemistry-1989

Experience: Waste Management-2 years, Environmental Contract Analytical Lab-2 years (GC and GCMS) US Filter: 14 years.

- At US Filter Mr. Wenta has held the following positions:
- Field service engineer-biological, solids dewatering, and separations technologies
- Applications design-solids dewatering and oil water separations technologies
- Laboratory manager-Treatability/Process testing and development
- Product manager oil water separations technologies
- Sales and Marketing manager-Hydrocarbon and Chemical Processing Industries
- Director of Sales-Membrane Systems-Hydrocarbon and Chemical Processing and Oil and Gas Industries (current).

Mr. Wenta has worked with and for the Hydrocarbon and Chemical processing industries for 17 years. Within this time period, he has also worked for the municipal sector and general industries. Mr. Wenta has published papers on biological treatment and liquid/solids separation.

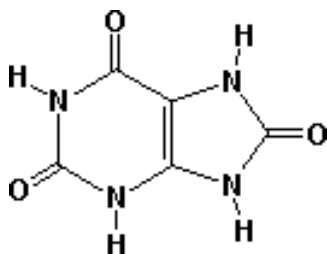
Gather at 5:30 for liquid refreshments. Eat at 6:00 at the Palms. **Please call or e-mail Jim Adams at: (715) 359-2440 or baad2008@verizon.net before 5 on Wednesday, March 8 to make a reservation for dinner.**

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The Palms is located roughly one mile north of the Business 51 Exit off Highway 29, on the west side of the road next to McDonald's in Schofield.

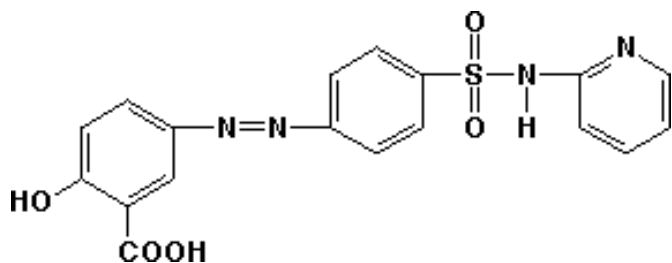
## ACS - Central Wisconsin Section 2006 Meeting Schedule

DATE	LOCATION	SPEAKER	TOPIC	HOST
March 9	Rothschild - Schofield	Robert Wenta	Membrane Filtration in Water and Waste Water Treatment Applications	Jim Adams
April 19	Eau Claire	Suzanne Quillen Lomax	Application of Chemistry to the Examination of Works of Art	Dave Lewis
Sept. 20	Stevens Point	Robert S. H. Liu	The Chemistry of Vision	
October 18	Marshfield	Ramon Barnes	Analytical Plasma Source MS Analysis for Nutrition and Toxicology	

### Molecules of the Month



The **uric acid** test is used to learn whether the body might be breaking down cells too quickly or not getting rid of uric acid quickly enough. Saturation of this acid in the human blood stream may result in one form of kidney stones when the acid crystallizes into solid inside the kidney.



**Sulfasalazine** is a sulfa drug that has been used to treat rheumatoid arthritis since the 1930's. It not only decreases the pain and swelling of arthritis but also may prevent damage to joints and reduce the risk of long term disability.

ACS-CWS Web Page

[www.uwsp.edu/chemistry/acscws/](http://www.uwsp.edu/chemistry/acscws/)

Up-to-date information about section activities including the Alembic and meeting notices.

Also visit [www.chemistry.org](http://www.chemistry.org) for latest chem news.

### Special National Meeting Event

If members of the local section will be attending the ACS National Meeting in Atlanta, GA, please plan to attend the Silver Circle and Retiree Breakfast on Tuesday, March 28. The event is at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, Salon 1, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and is sponsored by the Senior Chemists Working Group of the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC).

The breakfast will feature ACS Immediate Past President, Bill Carroll, as our invited speaker. Entitled "Why Innovation Matters to the U. S. Economy," Dr. Carroll will brief members on the recent National Academies' report, Rising Above the Gathering Storm, and how government, industry, and the ACS are addressing the recommendations. After his remarks, there will be an opportunity for networking with other members about local section/division senior/retiree involvement.

Tickets for the hot breakfast buffet are \$10 and may be purchased during the registration process, or may be added to your existing registration.

Please purchase your ticket as soon as possible and before March 15. Limited quantities will be available at the door, and seating is limited, so please purchase in advance.

We hope to see you there!

Will Lynch, Chair, Local Section Activities Committee  
Clifford Chang, Chair, Senior Chemists Working Group of LSAC.