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Editorial

AIChE Addresses Energy and Biotech Trends

Two key areas that have been widely covered not only in *CEP*, but in the mainstream media, are energy security and the exponentially growing biotech sector. Although gasoline prices have dropped back down to pre-Katrina levels, the vulnerability of the U.S.' energy security is still fresh on our minds. With the technical expertise of the AIChE membership, the Institute is shifting into high gear to address this issue. Two key examples are the establishment of AIChE's Commission on Energy Challenges and the well-received liquefied natural gas (LNG) conference, which recently took place in Vancouver, Canada on Sept. 11–14 (jointly sponsored with CSCHE).

One of the Commission on Energy Challenges first forays into reaching out to the membership was at an open forum held in Cincinnati, OH, on Sunday, October 30, in conjunction with the AIChE Annual Meeting. Over 200 attendees listened to opinions about energy options and asked thought-provoking questions (p. 12). *CEP* will also continue to cover energy issues with such articles as the provocative one written by Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Dr. Charles Forsberg (pp. 20–22) and the news story on the renewed interest in clean coal technologies (pp. 10–11). Furthermore, a special issue on energy is slated for April 2006.

As the biotech market continues to experience robust growth, AIChE has been there to stay on top of the trend. For instance, the creation of the Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) Consortium by AIChE's Society of Biological Engineering (SBE) has generated quite an interest among the industry leaders. For more information, visit www.aiche.org/SBE/Corporate/CHO.aspx. Also, expect to see continued coverage on biological engineering as the editors of *CEP* work with the leadership of SBE to develop timely supplements (scheduled for the February and November 2006 issues), similar to the Industrial Biotechnology Special Section that was published in the Oct. 2005 issue (pp.34–56).

On a different subject altogether, we hope that you will take the time to visit AIChE's modernized website (www.aiche.org), which also includes *CEP*'s site (www.cep magazine.org). Volunteer members and AIChE staff have put in countless hours to develop a website that's easier to navigate and more useful than ever. We hope that it will be one of your portals to communicate not only with the Institute, but with other members of AIChE. If you have comments or questions, please use the online contact form and it will get directed to the appropriate party. And, as always, if you have a specific question or comment about *CEP*, please email us at cepedit@aiche.org.

Seasons greetings from the staff of *CEP*.

Kristine Chin,
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief