

current events

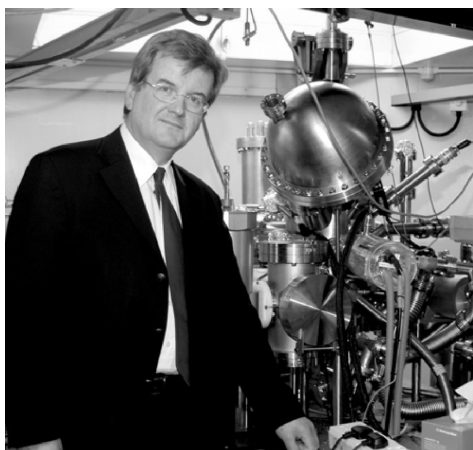
This section carries events of interest to the synchrotron radiation community. Works intended for this section should be sent direct to the Current-Events Editor (s.hasnain@dl.ac.uk).

Sine Larsen moves to the ESRF

Sine Larsen of the University of Copenhagen joined the ESRF at the beginning of June as one of the two Directors of Research. She is well known to the crystallographic community through her scientific work as well as through her International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) activities. She is the current General Secretary and Treasurer of the IUCr. Her scientific work encompasses both structural biology and structural chemistry. She is Professor of Structural Chemistry and the Director of the Centre for Crystallographic Studies at the University of Copenhagen. During the last five years she has deposited 36 structures in the Protein Data Bank. In her previous job she has demonstrated a capacity for combining scientific management and an active research programme. She succeeds Professor Peter Lindley who retired in the Spring of 2002. The ESRF is now a well established synchrotron radiation users facility and is increasingly putting efforts towards establishing itself as a strong science centre. The appointment of Dr Francesco Sette, as the Director of Research for Physical Sciences, last year from the ESRF rank was seen as unusual but was welcomed by the community in view of the high scientific credibility of Dr Sette.

Daresbury gets a new SR Science Director

Mike Chesters of the University of Nottingham joined the Daresbury Laboratory at the beginning of June as the CCLRC Director of SR Science. He was Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Nottingham and was the head of the School of Chemistry for three years from 1995 until 1998. He graduated from the University of London and gained his doctorate in surface chemistry in 1972. His early research interests may be summarized as the development and application of surface spectroscopic techniques. In the past five years he has become involved in wider aspects of the applications of chemical spectroscopy, largely through his interests in synchrotron IR spectroscopy and its applications in biomedicine. He recently led the development of a new IR microspectroscopy beamline at the SRS. Taking up this role as the CCLRC Director of SR Science he said that he feels enthusiastic about the challenge of maintaining and enhancing the impact of UK SR research as we look towards the Diamond

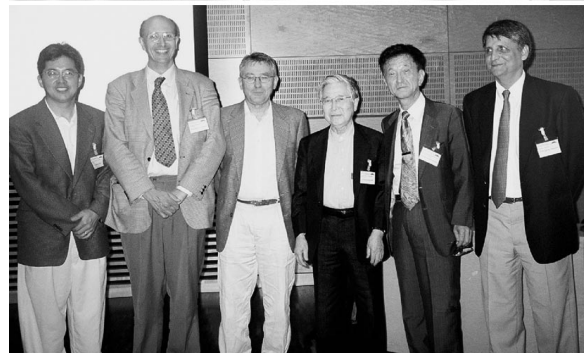


Mike Chesters, the CCLRC Director of SR Science.

Light Source coming on stream. Mike is particularly excited about the prospect of the 4th Generation Light Source (4GLS), which would continue a proud tradition of light-source innovation at Daresbury Laboratory.

International Structural Biology meeting in Tsukuba

The First International Symposium on Diffraction Structural Biology was held in Tsukuba in the splendid EPOCHAL Tsukuba International Congress Centre during 28–31 May 2003. The symposium was conceived by one of the science committees of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), established in January 2000 under the chairmanship of Professor Noriyoshi Sakabe. The committee's remit is to promote medical and pharmaceutical sciences, protein engineering, biology and other related fields on the basis of three-dimensional macromolecular structures. The symposium brought together all of the diffraction tools in a unique manner. For the first time there were sessions on structural biology using neutron, synchrotron and electron diffraction. A very full programme was provided over three days covering all aspects of structural biology using all of these diffraction techniques. Topics ranged from crystallization to structural genomics/proteomics. Automation was not only seen in the context of X-rays but also in the context of electron diffraction. The meeting was extremely well run. It was organized by Dr Nuobo Kamiya who was congratulated for putting together an excellent programme. The proceedings of the meeting will be published in the *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation*.



Top: some members of the International Advisory getting ready to perform the Sake ceremony at the symposium dinner. Bottom: lecturers of the concluding session are photographed with Professor Kohra, who was the first Director of the Photon Factory.