



November 2007  
Vol. 91, Issue 7

# Central Texas ACS

Newsletter of the Central Texas Section of the American Chemical Society

**Thursday, November 15, 6:30 – 9:00 pm:**

## Obesity and How It Relates to the Progression of Cancer

Dr. Stephen D. Hursting

The County Line on the Lake Barbecue Restaurant  
5204 FM 2222, Austin

Social "hour" from 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Dinner 7:00 - 8:00 pm, Talk 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Dinner \$15 - Students \$10

RSVP by November 12 at (512) 653-6311

Or email [chair@centraltexasacs.org](mailto:chair@centraltexasacs.org)

### Biographical Sketch:

Dr. Hursting earned a BA in biology from Earlham College and a Ph.D. in nutritional biochemistry and an MPH in nutritional epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, along with post doctoral training at the at National Cancer Institute. From 1995 to 1999, Dr. Hursting was an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Epidemiology and Carcinogenesis at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer. From 1999-2005, he was Deputy Director of the NCI's Office of Preventive Oncology, Division of Cancer Prevention. Currently his research program focuses on the nutritional modulation of the carcinogenesis process with a particular emphasis on the molecular, cellular and hormonal changes underlying important nutrition and cancer associations with a focus on energy balance/obesity.

### Abstract

Obesity wreaks havoc on the human body. This much we know. Obese men and women have high rates of type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Perhaps less commonly known is that obesity also increases the risk of developing cancer. In the United States, as many as 90,000 people die each year from cancers, such as colon, prostate and breast, which are associated with being obese.

Dr. Hursting and his colleagues, Drs. Susan Perkins and Nomeli Nuñez, assistant professors of nutritional sciences, are digging deep into the genes, molecules, hormones and cellular processes that could be causing cancer in people with weight problems. They're also looking at how lifestyle factors like exercise and diet interact with these molecular processes to prevent or promote cancer.



# Central Texas ACS: November 2007

## Chair's Page

### Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Can you believe it is already November? The meeting this month is our last for 2007. This year has been fun, and I am sad to see my term as chair come to an end. But what a year it has been! The most memorable and amusing moments of 2007 include an overly crowded meeting in February where Mr. Bugge saved the day after we struggled to get a 3 foot projector cord to reach an electrical outlet 10 feet away, ridiculously red meat at Texas Land and Cattle, and Betsy's mole doll giveaways. Aside from all of the good times had by all, this year's speakers have proven to be among the best! Worth noting are Dr. Frankie Wood-Black's vivacious presentation on gasoline prices which happened on a day in March with perfect patio weather, Dr. Thomas Holmes' engaging interactive discussion on chemistry in science fiction, and renowned astrophysicist Dr. David Lambert's explanation on how the elements came to be.

October was a busy month for our organization. With the help of many volunteers, another successful National Chemistry Event took place on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. NCW is one of two annual community outreach events held by the local section. I want to extend, on behalf of all of us in the Central Texas ACS section, our heartfelt thanks to Dodie Wells, Betsy McGrew and Deborah Hess for making this annual event so meaningful to participants and volunteers alike. If you missed out on this volunteer opportunity, be sure and participate in our next Earth Day celebration next April.

The speaker for this month is Dr. Stephen Hursting from the University of Texas. As we ironically gorge ourselves on bar-b-q at The County Line, he will explain to us how obesity has been linked to cancer. This is the last meeting for 2007, but it is not too late to attend your first.

I have enjoyed my time as chair this year, and look forward to serving the local section again in the future in any way I can.

Sincerely, Jackie Padilla

### Councilor's Corner

Most of the input of ACS members into the national ACS organization is through the 31 committees responsible to the President, to the Council, or to the Board of Directors. Nine of these are open only to Councilors, but the other 22 are open to any ACS member who is interested and expresses that interest to the Committee on Committees. The committees usually meet at the biannual national ACS meetings. I can provide information to anyone interested.

My own current assignment is to the Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E). This committee operates through subcommittees and I am on Site Selection and Regional Meetings. One recent activity of the Site Selection Subcommittee was to decide, aided by surveys of attendees, that although Chicago is a very interesting city to visit, the hotels and convention center are so scattered that attendees waste too much time and effort in getting around. Consequently we worked with ACS staff to have the fall 2011 national meeting moved from Chicago to Denver.

Members of the Regional Meeting Subcommittee are assigned to monitor activities of a specific Regional Board and the upcoming regional meetings in that area. My assignment is to the Rocky Mountain Region, which had its meeting in Denver last month. Richard Palmer of Duke University is assigned to the Southwest Region, which includes the Central Texas Section. The attendance at Denver was disappointingly low and mostly from the Denver local area, so that the meeting came about 200 room-nights short of meeting their hotel guarantee. Normally the sponsoring section would have to pay for that overbooking, but a representative from ACS national used the lure of the upcoming 2011 national meeting to persuade the hotel to combine the guarantees from the two meetings, in all likelihood canceling the bill to the local section.

Regional meetings usually make money, sometimes considerable money, for the sponsoring local section, but this is not necessarily the case. Careful planning is essential. Along this line, it is time to remind you that the Southwest Regional meeting will be held in Austin in the fall of 2011. That seems comfortably far away, but preparations should begin about two years in advance. The first step will be to select the General Chair. Any nominations or self-nominations will be welcomed by the section officers.

James E. Boggs

# Central Texas ACS: November 2007

## Calendar of Events



**Thursday, November 15**

Speaker: **Dr. Stephen D. Hursting**

***“Obesity and How It Relates to the Progression of Cancer”***

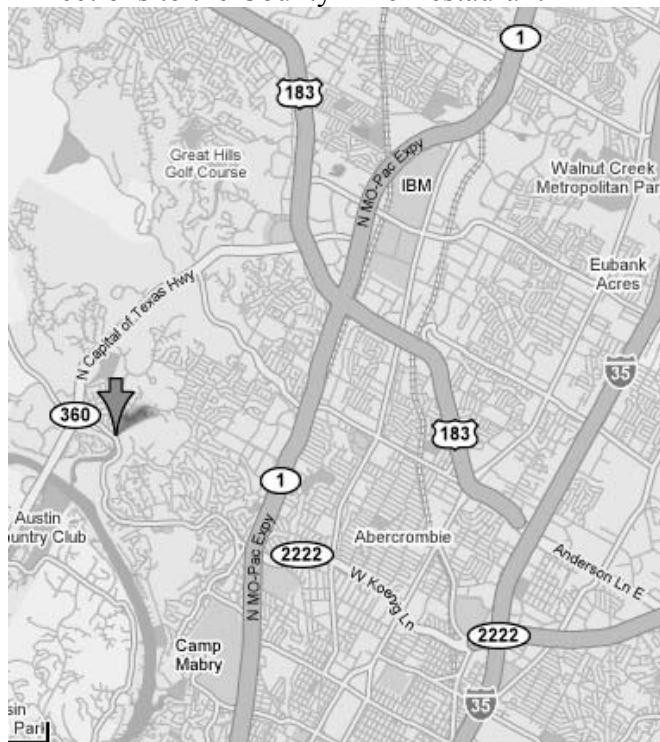
Social "hour" from 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm.

Dinner 7:00 - 8:00 pm,

Talk 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

The County Line on the Lake Restaurant  
5204 FM 2222, Austin.

### Directions to the County Line Restaurant



Recently joined ACS? Members who joined in 2007 are eligible for one free local section meeting dinner. Do it this month!

### National Chemistry Week

National Chemistry Week 2007 under the able direction of Betsy McGrew was a big success. Her load was lightened this year by help from Deborah Hess and Dodie Wells. This year's theme was "The Many Faces of Chemistry," and celebrated chemists in many different fields. In keeping with this theme the activities reflected various aspects of chemistry. There were eight activities. Some were new and some have been used in past years. "Grease release" showing the activity of detergents and the "Nose Knows" and testing for starch in food were suggested by the National ACS office and were new. "Rinky Dinks" showing how #6 plastic shrinks when heated is one of Betsy's favorites and is an old standby. Testing for protein and glucose, marbling with shaving cream, and magic writing with goldenrod paper rounded out the activities.

Based on the number of pieces of celery used in the starch activity and the number of "goodie bags" distributed about 75 children participated in the activities along with their parents and supervising adults. It was the enthusiasm of the children as they watched colors appear, pictures shrink or smells emanate from balloons that made our volunteer time worthwhile.

We had 40 volunteers from the following organizations: St. Ed's U Student Affiliates, UT grad students, ACEE, Sapling Systems, TX State ACS Student Affiliates, Faradaic Enterprises, Cedra Corp, TX State Faculty, USGS, UT Student Affiliates, Southwestern U Student Affiliates, Cerilliant, Zimmer, Systems and Materials Research Corp, Applied Analytical, and Microanalytics. It was great to see the support. Thanks to everyone that helped out. The comradeship of this activity is one of the things that made it memorable. If you missed helping this year, put National Chemistry Week on your calendar for next year. You will be glad you did.

A special thanks goes to the Staff of the Austin Children's Museum for opening their doors to us and helping set up the event, especially Cybil Gustafson the events coordinator and Dylan Paschall's who was on duty that night and set up tables, ordered the pizza and directed volunteers to the appropriate people for assignments.





# Central Texas ACS: November 2007

## 2007 Executive Committee: Officers and Program Directors

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*Keep your contact information current to receive the latest emails from your local section!*

Chair	Jackie Padilla	URS	chair@	centraltexasacs.org	219-6569
Chair-Elect	Betsy McGrew	Stratagene	chairelect@		321-3321
Past-Chair	Kenneth Pavlat	Applied Analytical	pastchair@		339-1462
Secretary			secretary@		
Treasurer	Dr. Stan Hajost	Applied Analytical	treasurer@		339-1462
Councilor 1	Dr. Barry Streusand	Applied Analytical	councilor1@		339-1462
Councilor 2	Prof. Jim Boggs	University of Texas	councilor2@		466-9145
Alt. Councilor 1	Dr. Linette Watkins	Texas State University	altcouncilor1@		245-3125
Alt. Councilor 2	Dr. Denny Wagoner	AnalySys Inc.	altcouncilor2@		385-5886
National Chemistry Week	Betsy McGrew	Stratagene	NCW@		321-3321
Public Relations Chair	Jackie Padilla	URS	media@		219-6569
Women in Chemistry	Larisa Watson	University of Texas	wic@		471-7680
Awards Chair	Dr. Stanley Cavitt	Texaco Chemical (ret)	awards@		345-0407
Membership Chair	Dr. Linette Watkins	Texas State University	membership@		245-3125
Nominations Chair	Dr. Diane Kneeland	University of Texas	nominations@		232-0680
Chemistry Olympiad	Dr. Neal Grice	Dept State Health Services	chemolympiads@		926-7844
Girl Scout Program	Betsy McGrew	Stratagene	girlscouts@		321-3321
Boy Scout Program	Dr. Barry Streusand	Applied Analytical	boyscouts@		339-1462
High School Coordinator	Dr. Neal Grice	Dept State Health Services	webmaster@		926-7844
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