

MRS CONVENES IN BOSTON IN DECEMBER

The meeting of the Materials Research Society scheduled for 2–6 December in Boston should attract more international participation than usual: It is being held in conjunction with the biennial International Conference on Electronic Materials (ICEM-96), sponsored by the International Union of Materials Research Societies (IUMRS). ICEM-96 will add a strong international focus on electronic materials to the interdisciplinary scope of topics traditionally offered at MRS meetings. Sessions will be held in the meeting rooms of three contiguous hotels: the Boston Marriott and Westin Hotels at Copley Place and the Sheraton Boston Hotel.

New topics being introduced at the meeting include electrochemical synthesis, materials for microsystems, solid-state chemistry of inorganic materials, morphological control in multiphase polymer systems and low-dielectric constant materials. Each day at 12:05 pm, from Monday, 2 December, through Thursday, there will be two talks to acquaint nonspecialists with the frontiers in materials research. On Tuesday, Physics Nobelist Pierre-Gilles de Gennes will speak about the evolution of polymer materials. Other talks will deal with electron microscopy, electrical resistance measurements of a carbon nanotube, nanophase materials, metallic glasses, metallic corrosion, disposition of excess weapons plutonium and the fourth unit of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

MRS will offer five half-day tutorials during the meeting. The tutorials on Monday will deal with magnetic and laser resonance techniques and with the revolution in packaged electronics. The three tutorials on Tuesday concern low-dielectric constant materials for deep-submicron interconnects; silicon-on-insulator materials synthesis, device operation and characterization techniques; and plasma etching in microtechnology.

On the eve of the meeting, Sunday, 1 December, at 6:30 pm there will be a Junior Faculty Forum, examining what it takes to get tenure. The next

day, from 1:30 to 5:30 pm, IUMRS will offer an international forum on materials research and education policy. Speakers at the forum will comment from the perspective of their respective countries.

At the plenary session on Monday, at 6 pm at the Boston Marriott, John P. McTague, vice president of technical affairs for Ford Motor Co, will discuss "Where in the World is Science and Technology Going?"

On Tuesday, from 8 to 9 am in the Boston Marriott, MRS will hold a public affairs forum to acquaint attendees with the work of the National Research Council's committee on condensed matter and materials physics, which has been set up by NRC's board of physics and astronomy as part of its effort to reassess all branches of physics for a new physics survey. On Tuesday evening, at 7 pm, MRS will sponsor a panel discussion on "Alternate Careers: Life Beyond the Lab."

MRS is running symposiums on materials education, to encourage participants to contribute talks and posters on teaching methods, materials curriculums and modular courseware. They will be held Tuesday and Wednesday.

The MRS exhibit will be divided between two hotels, with some booths at each hotel relating to the sessions being held there. The exhibit area in the Marriott will be in University Hall and the Atrium Lounge. It will be open from 12 to 6:30 pm on Tuesday, from 9:30 am to 5 pm on Wednesday, and from 9:30 am to 1 pm on Thursday. At the Westin, the exhibit space will be on the third and fourth floors and will be open from 9:30 am to 5 pm on Tuesday, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and from 7:30 to 10 pm on Wednesday, and from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Thursday. There will be a complimentary reception at the Marriott exhibit area on Tuesday from 5 to 6:30 pm.

Job seekers can visit the job placement center, which will be open from 8 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Thursday, in the Boston Marriott. There will also be a career workshop. For information about the workshop, contact

csv@aip.org or call 301-209-3190.

On Wednesday evening at 6 pm, MRS will hold its awards ceremony in Salon E of the Boston Marriott, followed by a wine and cheese reception at 8 pm.

MRS's highest honor, the Von Hippel Award, will be presented to **Alan H. Cottrell**, an honorable distinguished research fellow at the University of Cambridge in England, for "converting crystal dislocations from a handwaving hypothesis to a rigorous discipline; transforming our understanding of brittle fracture; making varied and crucial advances in the theory of radiation damage; and for transforming the teaching of materials science throughout the academic world through his pioneering textbooks."

At the awards ceremony, Cottrell will speak on "The Art of Simplification in Materials Science."

The MRS Medal Award will be given to **Jerry D. Tersoff**, a research staff member at IBM's T. J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York. Tersoff is being recognized for "his contributions to the theory of strain relaxation in thin films." The award announcement explains that Tersoff "showed that this roughening is thermally activated, rather than continuous, and he identified a kinetic competition between roughening and dislocations." Tersoff will speak about his work on Tuesday at 5 pm.

The Turnbull Lecturer Award will go to **Robert E. Newnham**, the Alcoa Professor of Solid State Science at the Pennsylvania State University. The title of his lecture, to be given on Monday at 10 am, is "Molecular Mechanisms in Smart Materials." The award honors Newnham for "pioneering the field of ceramic composites for electronic and optical applications" and for his "leadership in establishing the broader discipline of materials science and engineering."

MRS will also present awards to a number of graduate students, who will be selected in part on the basis of the talks they give at a session starting at noon on Monday. ■