

## LIFE LINES

**Marie Dvorackova**, see *JALCA* 97, 369, 2002

**Marketa Julinova** graduated from Tomas Bata University, Zlin, in Czech Republic in 2001. She gained an M.Sc. degree in Environmental Technology at the Faculty of Technology and at the same time entered on a PhD program at the school and obtained her doctorate in biological degradation of plastics in 2004. She is well experienced in the field of biodegradation of pollutants, particularly of blends of plastics with biopolymers.

**Hana Mikulcakova** graduated from Tomas Bata University, Zlin, Czech Republic in 2004. She gained an M.Sc. degree in Environmental Technology at the Faculty of Technology. Her thesis dealt with problems of biological degradation of blends under aerobic conditions.

**Jan Kupec**, see *JALCA* 97, 369, 2002

**Janez Scancar**, assistant professor, graduated in 1997 at the Biotechnical Faculty, Chair of Biology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. At the same University he obtained his Ph.D. in 2001. Since 1997 he is employed at Josef Stefan Institute, Department of Environmental Sciences, Ljubljana, Slovenia. In 2001 he gained "Marie Curie" fellowship and performed his postdoctoral studies (2001-2002) at CNRS-LCABIE-University of Pau, France. His research topics deal with the development of the analytical techniques for speciation of chromium, aluminum, cadmium, zinc and tin in environmental and biological samples. He also developed analytical procedures for the determination of Pt in samples of various animal and human tissues after electro-chemotherapy of cancer with Pt-containing drugs in laboratory and clinical trials. He investigated the partitioning of heavy metals in the terrestrial environment and waste materials, bioavailability of trace elements from soils and sediments, oxidation - reduction processes of chromium and safe disposal of waste materials. He studied the physiological and sub-cellular responses in the organism of some endemic amphibian species in Slovenia (e.g. *Proteus anguinus*) to elevated trace metals concentration in their environment. Dr. Scancar participated at numerous post-graduate level classes, seminars, conferences, workshops, on various topics such as cycling of metals in biological systems, biogeochemical cycles of pollutants, ecotoxicology, and human health related studies of trace metals. He is senior researcher at Josef Stefan Institute, Department of Environmental Sciences, and Head of the Group for Inorganic Environmental Analytical Chemistry and assistant professor at Josef Stefan International Postgraduate School. His research work on chromium speciation deals with the development of reliable analytical procedures for determination of chromium species in variety of sample matrices e.g. chromium(VI) in leather samples, chromium(VI) in cement, airborne chromium(VI) at workplace, chromium(VI) in soil samples. He investigated oxidation of chromium in quicklime treated sewage sludge and alternatives for safe disposal of chromium-rich waste materials.

He is actively involved in the EU project EVISA: European Virtual Institute for Speciation Analysis for Improvement of Health, Food, Industry and Environment. Within the EVISA project he was co-organiser of the chrome workshop for industrial partners, held in May 2004 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He actively collaborates with Lether Industry Vrhnika, Slovenia. During his scientific work he has published 33 original scientific articles.

**Tina Osterman**, B. Sc., performed her diploma work on the topic of determination of Cr(VI) in dyed leather samples. She made the experimental part of her diploma at the Department of Environmental Sciences of Josef Stefan Institute under working supervision of Dr. Janez Scancar, assistant professor. She successfully completed her diploma in November 2005 at University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, under supervision of Prof. Natasa Bukovec and co-supervision of Dr. Scancar.

**Natasa Bukovec**, professor, graduated in 1970 in Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Chair of Inorganic Chemistry, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. At the same University she obtained her Ph.D. in 1978. Since 1971 she has been employed at Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Chair of Inorganic Chemistry, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Her research work deals with synthesis of metal complexes and their characterization with FT-IR, UV-VIS and NMR spectroscopy; HPLC chromatography and X-ray crystallography. She is also studying the alternatives of safe disposal of waste materials. In addition to her basis research she is actively involved in the education process and supervised numerous doctoral, master and diploma works. She has published more than 60 original scientific articles. As a renowned professor she edited and contributed to more than 80 secondary and primary school textbooks and educational materials.

**Radmila Milacic**, assistant professor, graduated in 1979 at Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. At the same University she obtained her Ph.D. in 1989. Since 1979 she is employed at Josef Stefan Institute, Department of Environmental Sciences, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Her research topics deal with the development of the analytical techniques for speciation of chromium, aluminum, cadmium, zinc and tin in environmental and biological samples. She is senior research scientist, Head of a Laboratory for Environmental Analytical Chemistry at the Department of Environmental Sciences of Josef Stefan Institute. She is assistant professor at Josef Stefan International Postgraduate School. She is a member of Slovenian Chemical Society. She is a principal investigator of several national research and applicative projects. She is a coordinator of the 6 FW EU project SARIB: Sava River Basin: Sustainable Use, Management and Protection of Resources. She is WP leader of the EU project EVISA: European Virtual Institute for Speciation Analysis for Improvement of Health, Food, Industry and Environment. For more than 20 years she has been

developed with co-workers the analytical techniques for speciation of chromium in different environmental, industrial and biological samples. She has also investigated the partitioning of chromium and oxidation-reduction processes of chromium in tannery waste and sewage sludge amended soils. She actively collaborates with Lether Industry Vrhnika, Slovenia. During her scientific work she has published more than 70 original scientific articles and contributed 3 chapters in books (Al speciation). She is a Receiver of the Zois admission for important scientific achievement in 1999 (Zois rewards and admissions are the most respected Slovenian prizes in the field of science).

**Gerhart Wolf**, studied chemistry at the University of Erlanger and Munster, obtaining his Ph.D. in 1989. He then joined the Central research laboratory of BASF. In 1994 became responsible for the development of tanning agents and auxiliaries. He is currently responsible for technical services and customer services and industry management in Ludwigshafen, Germany

**Harald Kiesow**, graduated as a leather technician at the German Leather Institute in Reutlingen in 1980. He then became a teacher at the same institute. In 1985 Mr. Kiesow joined the Leather Department of BASF in Ludwigshafen, Germany. For several years he worked as a field technician covering technical applications in the manufacture of leather from beamhouse to finishing. Since 1999 his work has focused on leather dyeing technology and leather article quality.

**Laszlo Somogyi**, graduated in organic chemistry from the Eotvos University in Budapest, Hungary. He completed his Ph. D. studied in the field of peptide syntheses and CD spectroscopy and this same university. After defending his thesis he moved to the Scripps Ranch Institute in La Jolla, California, for a two year post doctorate fellowship. In 2001 he returned to Europe and joined the specialty chemicals research department of BASF in Ludwigshafen, Germany. Since January 2006, he has been a product development supervisor at the Leather Department of BASF Europe, responsible for dyestuff development.

**Wenhua Zhang**, see *JALCA* **100**, 432, 2005

**Bi Shi**, see *JALCA* **99**, 220, 2004

**Jeff Shi**, received his Ph.D. in Polymer Science & Engineering from the University of Massachusetts in 1993. He had completed his post-doctoral study at the Clark University in Massachusetts from 1993 to 1995. Later he joined W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. in Delaware as a senior R&D scientist. He also worked as a Chief Representative of Shanghai Office, Polysol Corporation and Chairman of the Board of Vanward Ink Co., Ltd. in China. Dr. Shi has been working as a R&D director and member of the Board at Dymatic Chemicals, Inc. in China since 2001. He has been also a member of the Board in Wacker Dymatic Silicones Co., Ltd. He is author of more than 30 technical publications.

## BUCKMAN LABORATORIES NEWS RELEASE

Buckman Laboratories, Inc of Memphis, TN announced that on January 1, 2007, Mr. George Stockman was promoted to the position of Director of Business Development for the U.S. Leather Chemicals Division of Buckman Laboratories, Incorporated. Mr. Stockman has been a member of the Buckman team since 2001, serving in the capacity of Corporate Accounts Manager.

Prior to employment at Buckman, Mr. Stockman worked at the Pfister & Vogel Leather Company (P&V) as Manager of R&D and Vice President of Manufacturing and later served as Vice President of Environmental Affairs for P&V's parent, U.S. Leather. While at P&V, George pioneered many aspects of the chrome recovery practices that have become industry standards. Similarly, he helped demonstrate and implement sulfide handling and treatment procedures to protect tannery personnel and the community.

This promotion is largely the result of Stockman's extensive leathermaking experience coupled with his great enthusiasm for developing new concepts and turning them into commercially viable products and services. For the past six years, Mr. Stockman has focused on assisting our customers by applying Buckman's existing functional chemistries as well as promoting the development of new alternatives. His unique insight into practical leathermaking concepts has led to the resolution of industry application and chemistry related problems, often using nontraditional means.

Mr. Stockman graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a B.S. degree in chemistry. He also earned an M.S. degree in environmental health engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

Buckman Laboratories is a privately-held, specialty chemical company with worldwide headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee, USA. Buckman provides the world's leading industries with a broad range of specialty chemicals including: Microbicides, Enzymatics, Polymers, Dispersants, Defoamers, Scale Inhibitors and Corrosion Inhibitors.

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## **LANXESS COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF ACTIVITIES FROM DOW GROUP IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Leverkusen, Germany - Leverkusen chemicals group announced on February 1, 2007 that LANXESS has completed its acquisition of Dow Chemical's chrome chemicals business in South Africa. The relevant antitrust authorities approved the purchase of the 50% interest in Chrome International South Africa (CISA), Newcastle, by LANXESS, which already owns the other 50% of CISA. The transaction was accomplished with legal and economic effect as of February 1, 2007. CISA will thus be fully consolidated in the financial statements of the LANXESS Group as of that date.

This first-ever acquisition by LANXESS further improves the profitability of the Leather Business Unit's chrome chemicals activities.

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**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LEATHER  
TECHNOLOGISTS AND CHEMISTS SOCIETIES**

## **THE INTERNATIONAL LEATHER FORUM**

**PARIS - 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007**

**100 VIPs INVITED BY THE IULTCS TO A SUMMIT MEETING  
FOR STRATEGIC AND MARKETING DISCUSSIONS  
ON THE GLOBAL LEATHER INDUSTRY.**

The International Union of the Leather Technicians and Chemists Societies, the “Learned Society” of the Leather World decided last May in Istanbul to organise this exceptional summit meeting called the **International Leather Forum**, also known as the “Istanbul Initiative”.

Democratically elected by the IULTCS members, with the help of professional journalists and representatives of the professional organisations, 100 VIPs will meet in Paris, in Palais Brogniart to reflect on the image of Leather, its markets, market positioning, support of the industry supply chain and innovation

### **The statement:**

Leather has, on one hand, an incredibly positive image in the mind of the consumer and it is utilised by the most famous Brands; it is also a wonderful historic example of recycling. On the other hand leather has in recent years lost a lot of markets and market share without creating any really new markets. There is also the risk of a loss of credibility when used in certain markets as a commodity.

The majority of tanneries are SMEs who are convinced of their skills and know how, but with a general lack of global strategic vision and marketing approach.

The leather industry sector is too small and fragmented to justify big resource allocations for R&D by the suppliers and the dedicated Leather Research Centres are also generally small and spread all around the world. As a consequence it is fair to say that no major innovations has occurred over the last few decades.

### **The proposal:**

As Marc FOLACHIER the President of the IULTCS said in Istanbul “there are places and times to compete and places and times to cooperate”. The goal of the International Leather Forum is to permit all the actors of the Leather World to talk together with their clients and suppliers, to permit senior executives to discuss issues with research scientists, marketing managers, manufacturers, trainers and other relevant parties around four main items:

**Training of tomorrows experts**  
**Priorities for research and the creation of a world research network**  
**Marketing positioning of Leather**  
**Positive communication and crisis communication**

At the end of the event a press conference will summarise the major reflections and resolutions of this working day. 2 February 2007

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