



Date: May 24, 2017  
To: CCDG Board & Membership  
From: Rich DeMuro, President  
Re: 2016/2017 Year End Review

*Officers*

Rich DeMuro  
Waters Corporation  
President

Joe Jones  
United States Drug Testing Labs  
Past President/Sponsorship Chair

Robin Sukta  
MLS Analytical  
Treasurer

Amy Alexander  
United States Drug Testing Labs  
Secretary

*Committee Chairs*

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Takeda  
Communications Chair

Mary Jones  
United States Drug Testing Labs  
Membership Chair

Shelby Kuenzi  
Restek  
GC School Chair

Charles Marshall  
Thermo Fisher Scientific  
Awards Chair

Kristin Sulaiman  
LabPro  
Programs Chair

Mike Woodman  
Agilent Technologies  
LC School Chair

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Denise Anderson  
Diageo

Michael Andre  
Restek

Shelly Krause  
INX International

Doug Lewis  
United States Drug Testing Labs

Larry Martin

Jerry Shkolnik  
Zyomic Technologies

I am happy to report to the CCDG board and membership that CCDG has completed a successful 2016/2017 season. Our core commitment to promoting an interest in the separation sciences and providing a forum for the exchange of chromatographic knowledge was satisfied by a robust schedule of dinner lectures and a well received HPLC training workshop. The following provides a summary of CCDG's seasonal activities, a discussion of its overall welfare, and goals for the 2017/2018 season.

**Officers, Committee Chairs, and Board**

At the May 2016 Open Board Meeting new officers were elected, Committee Chairs assigned and board members installed. Rich DeMuro succeeded Joe Jones as President, Amy Alexander succeeded Larry Martin as Secretary and Robin Sutka agreed to continue as Treasurer. Continuing their roles as Committee Chairs were Mike Cwik for Communications, Mike Woodman for LC School and Charles Marshall for Awards. Joe Jones, Mary Jones, Kristin Sulaiman, and Shelby Kuenzi were installed as new Committee Chairs for Sponsorship, Membership, Programs, and GC School, respectively.

**Dinner Lectures**

Under the leadership of Kristin Sulaiman, CCDG hosted or co-hosted 5 dinner lectures during the 2016/2017 season. Kristin has demonstrated a tremendous ability and enthusiasm for organizing quality, smooth-running events and CCDG is extremely fortunate to have, and grateful for, her service.

The dinner meeting format is proving to be quite popular and all meetings have been well attended at various locations in the northern, northwest, and southern suburbs. All meetings were sponsored by corporate sponsors to help offset the cost of the events.

39 people attended the September 2016 meeting at the College of Lake County in Grayslake where Ed Ledford of Zoex discussed GC x GC. In November, Paula Hong of Waters enlightened 31 attendees at Lake Forest College on the nuances of HPLC Method Transfer. The January 2017 event at the Embassy Suites in Rosemont was the most popular dinner meeting as 48 people listened to Loyola University's Jim DeFrancesco share his experiences as a former DEA agent as it related to the history and analysis of opiates and synthetic opioids. In a promising sign for the group, Jim has since become an active CCDG member. In April, David House and Binwu Zhao of Orochem discussed molecular modeling as an alternative to column screening for the development of chiral separations to an audience of 28 at Wheatstack in Lisle.

In a first for CCDG, a joint meeting with the Chicago Mass Spec Discussion Group was held in May at Westwood Tavern in Schaumburg. Kate Mastovska of Covance provided practical tips and tricks for improving both GC-MSMS and LC-MSMS analyses of analytes in complex matrices. 65 people attended the event on the strength of the topic, speaker and joint marketing efforts of CCDG and CMSDG. The success of this event bodes well for continuing the collaboration of the two groups for the 2017/2018 season.

### **Basic LC Training Workshop**

Mike Woodman, LC School Chair, once again coordinated a school proctored by Merlin Bicking that was held on March 21 - March 23, 2017 at GTI in Des Plaines. We attracted 7 paying students including 3 from Michigan, 3 from Chicagoland and 1 from Wisconsin. The 8th student, an employee of GTI, was provided a complementary registration in exchange for the use of GTI's facilities to host the school. Instruments and laboratory instructors were donated by prominent LC vendors Shimadzu and Waters.

Educational outreach is a key component of CCDG's mission and extremely important to our fiscal health as school tuition has historically provided a large portion of the income we use to fund our other activities. The instruction we provide is enthusiastically received and universally well rated by our students. Yet, like similar organizations, filling seats for multi-day basic chromatography workshops is becoming increasingly difficult. It is apparent that we will need to consider alternative formats and student recruiting strategies to maintain the viability of our educational programs.

### **PittCon 2017 & MATT**

2017 presented 2 unique opportunities to market CCDG to the Chicagoland scientific community and beyond. Taking advantage of a heavily discounted booth rate for non-profit organizations, CCDG staffed a table at PittCon 2017 held at McCormick Place in Chicago, March 5 - 9. PittCon remains an important event for chromatography equipment manufacturers, supply vendors and practitioners. Significant interest in our LC School (and attractive CCDG beanie swag !) was noted. While it may or may not have resulted in an increase in student registrations, it certainly informed us that there is a need for basic LC instruction. Tapping into that need and converting it to students will be our challenge for 2018. 75 contacts were obtained from the exhibit and an additional 41 were obtained from our participation in an evening Separation Mixer; a very popular social event organized by Jonathan Edelman of the Delaware Valley Chromatography Forum. Special thanks to Membership Chair, Mary Jones, Treasurer, Robin Sutka, and CCDG member Ann Higginbotham for organizing and managing our presence at PittCon.

Based on a recommendation from its host, CCDG's and USDTL's Joe Jones, CCDG staffed a table at the annual meeting of MATT, the Midwest Association for Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, held in Rosemont, April 20 - 21. As with PittCon, significant interest was noted in our LC School among this targeted audience of clinical tox, clinical TDM, and forensic tox professionals. One visitor suggested that accreditation applicable for this marketplace could help justify the cost of our instruction. Tox and TDM laboratories are often staffed by Medical Technologists who receive little to no academic training in chromatography and often struggle with the complexity of multi-purpose chromatographic instrumentation. Targeting our educational efforts to such a specific sub-set of laboratory professionals may provide a path forward to maintain our existing workshop model.

## **Membership**

Mary Jones, Membership Chair, has been doing a fantastic job maintaining our membership and contact lists, soliciting new and renewal memberships, and creating and managing the e-blast notifications for our events. Each event is typically announced by a weekly e-blast in the four weeks leading up to the event. This is a process we will want to continue as we seek to grow our membership and drive attendance to our events. As of May 24, 2017 CCDG has 68 dues paying members, representing no change from 2016 and an active contact list of 458. The best recruitment tools continue to be workplace solicitation by our board and regular CCDG members and dinner lecture attendees.

## **Corporate Sponsors**

Another highlight of the year was the work of Joe Jones, Sponsorship Chair, in attracting corporate sponsors not just for CCDG's season but also for each dinner meeting. Through Joe's efforts the number of corporate sponsors increased from 10 to 12. Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorship tiers were established with appropriately tiered benefits for each level. The professionalization of CCDG's approach to sponsorship will serve us well as we look to maintain existing sponsors and recruit more for the coming season.

## **CCDG Web Presence**

Under the continuing leadership of Mike Cwik, Communications Chair, our web presence at [www.chichrom.org](http://www.chichrom.org) has remained up to date. After being involved in CCDG for many years, Mike will be relocating from the Chicago area soon and a new Communications Chair will be needed. CCDG thanks Mike for his dedicated service and wishes him well during his move and transition.

Dinner lecture videos posted to our YouTube Channel are consistently popular. The number of views for the 8 posted videos from our last 3 seasons range from a low of 34 to a high of 2499 with an average of 880. These numbers suggest that our speakers and topics are of interest to the separation community. This year we were unable to obtain permission to post video of 2 of our 5 events. Going forward, we will need to formalize the process of asking for and obtaining permission to record and post.

Our LinkedIn Group (92 members) and Facebook page provide additional exposure on the web.

## **Awards**

Under the stewardship of Charles Marshall, Awards Committee Chair, CCDG recognized 2 individuals for their service to CCDG and the chromatography community at large. At the April dinner lecture, Joe Jones received the Armstrong-O'Neill Distinguished Service Award for his dedicated service to CCDG. The Armstrong-O'Neill award has a long and proud history of recognizing individuals who have served CCDG with distinction. Joe is a worthy recipient for providing leadership to the reconstituted group as President from 2014 - 2016 and for his dedication as Sponsorship Chair since 2016.

At the PittCon 2017 Separation Mixer, CCDG presented an award of appreciation to event organizer, Jonathan Edelman of the Delaware Valley Chromatography Forum. Jonathan is a tireless promoter of the science of chromatography, a strong advocate for the education of novice chromatographers and an inspiration for CCDG and all chromatography discussion groups.

CCDG's \$500 Travel Award remains available to applicants using separation techniques in their undergraduate or graduate research to support the presentation of their work at a scientific meeting.

## Conclusion

CCDG had a successful and productive 2016/2017 season. In the spirit of perpetual improvement, I propose the following recommendations and challenges for the upcoming 2017/2018 season:

1. Install officers and committee chairs at the May 2017 Annual meeting
2. Install co-chairs to our GC and LC GC School Committees
3. Explore alternative models and enhanced recruiting techniques for our educational programs
4. Maintain our current schedule of 4, CCDG dinner meetings and 1 joint CCDG/CMSDG meeting with a target 45 attendees each
5. Develop and incorporate into our event planning notification of our intent to record and post dinner meeting lectures. Speaker permission should be sought as soon as invitation to speak has been accepted.
6. Increase the number of corporate sponsors from 12 to 14 sponsors.
7. Maintain the relevance of the CCDG web presence through [chichrom.org](http://chichrom.org), LinkedIn and Facebook.
8. Increase the number of dues paying members to 100.
9. Develop a web-based project management tool such as BaseCamp site.
10. Develop and collate project checklists for event planning to.
11. Pursue local scientific meeting presence to more directly market CCDG to laboratory professionals

In closing, I want to thank the CCDG Board, our officers, committee chairs and members for your dedicated service and commitment to CCDG. Our success is wholly dependent upon your involvement and I firmly believe that together we will maintain and build upon this success during the 2017/2018 season.



Rich DeMuro  
President, CCDG