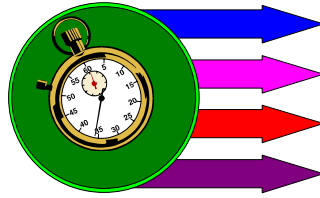


# ***Sustained Delivery***

August 2006



## **Newsletter of the AAPS Modified Release Focus Group (MRFG) Membership**

### ***In this Issue of Our Newsletter***

- Attend the MRFG Annual Business Meeting
- VOTE for 2007 MRFG Chair-Elect
- Let's hear from you in the upcoming Membership Satisfaction Questionnaire
- NEW FEATURE - *Student Focus* column
- MR Technology Corner – Gastroretentive CR
- Updated Charter for MRFG
- New Structure for MRFG Leadership

### ***Newsletter Editor's Note – Dr. Dave Wallick***

Thanks to those that responded to my request for ideas about increasing student member participation in the last issue. And special thanks to Elanor Pinto of the University of Florida for agreeing to host a new column in our Newsletter – *the MRFG Student Focus*. Check it out in this issue, and be sure to look for it in each new issue to come. Students are indeed our future.

Enjoy this new issue of *Sustained Delivery* – the communication focal point of our Modified Release Focus Group.

### ***MRFG Chair's Corner – Dr. Dave Wallick***

All MRFG members join me in welcoming to our Steering Team our first Student Representative, Elanor Pinto of the University of Florida. Elanor is already contributing to MRFG activities by hosting a new Student Focus column in this issue of the Newsletter. She brings to the Steering Team a wealth of student group leadership experience, and some nice ideas about how to enhance student experience in the MRFG. If you are one of our about 100 student members in MRFG, consider Elanor to be your representative on the Steering Team. Contact information for reaching Elanor can be found in

the Steering Team Leadership List at the end of this Newsletter.

As well, please participate in your MRFG by voting for 2007 Chair-Elect, by responding to the Membership Questionnaire soon headed your way, and by attending the 2007 MRFG Annual Business Meeting at the AAPS National Meeting in San Antonio in October. See details below. The leadership of the MRFG is proud to offer a range of services to our membership – check out the Newsletter, the MRFG-sponsored programming at AAPS National Meetings, the resources available on the MRFG Home Page and on our Discussion Board on the AAPS website, and plan on meeting your professional colleagues and friends at the MRFG Annual Business Meeting.

At the end of the year, two positions on our MRFG Steering Team will open. If you are interested in joining this active Team, please send me an e-mail - [Dr. Dave Wallick](mailto:Dr. Dave Wallick).

### ***Attend the MRFG Annual Business Meeting***

All MRFG members are encouraged to attend the 2006 Annual Business Meeting, to be held at the site of the AAPS National Meeting:

Tuesday, October 31, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, Room 206B, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, TX

Announcement of 2007 Chair-Elect, results from the Membership Questionnaire, an overview of 2006 Progress against goals, our 2007 Goals and Plans, and time to hear your thoughts will all be on the agenda at the Annual Business Meeting.

*Room assignments are subject to change, so please verify the location on-site in the final program.*

## ***VOTE for 2007 MRFG Chair-Elect***

Don't miss your opportunity as a MRFG member to vote for your choice as 2007 Chair-Elect for the MRFG. In September, you will receive by e-mail (via MRFG List Serv) an e-ballot with two very qualified representatives running for the position of 2007 Chair-Elect. Please review the qualifications of the two candidates, vote your choice, and return the e-ballot as indicated. The position of Chair-Elect is new for MRFG; please see the New Organization Structure described in the article later in the Newsletter. Don't miss the chance to VOTE for the next generation of leadership in your Modified Release Focus Group. Election winner will be announced at the MRFG Annual Business Meeting and in the Dec issue of *Sustained Delivery*, our MRFG membership Newsletter.

## ***MRFG Membership Questionnaire***

In September, each MRFG member will receive by e-mail (via the MRFG List Serv) a questionnaire designed to understand membership satisfaction and ways to improve offerings to membership. Please take a moment to answer the questionnaire. The leadership of the MRFG is committed to better serving the wants and needs of our members, and this all starts by keeping abreast of what you, as a member, desire.

e-Kudos to Dr. Steve Howard and Dr. Samantha Lai, with expert guidance from Maria Nadeau of AAPS, for assembling the questionnaire.

## ***MRFG Student Focus – Elanor Pinto, Student Representative on MRFG Steering Team***

Student members compose of 20% of the AAPS MRFG's membership. We decided to catch up with some of the student members and see how they have spent their summer. There were seven AAPS student-hosted symposiums held this summer: [GRASP](#), [Great Lakes](#), [Joint Asian Conference](#), [MIKI](#), [Moving Targets](#), [PGSRM](#), and [SERIS](#). These symposiums brought together students and scientists from all over America and from overseas (Singapore, China, Germany, Netherlands, etc.).

Graduate students and scientists from academia and industry attended and gave presentations on their work in modified release technologies. At the SERIS symposium, Dr. Mahdi B. Fawzi, Executive Vice President of Wyeth's Preclinical Development, gave a basic overview of controlled release devices used at Wyeth. At PGSRM, several posters were presented on the use of polymers, liposomes, and micelles in modifying the release of various drugs. Dr. Joke A. Bouwstra, from Leiden / Amsterdam Center for Drug

Research's Department of Drug Delivery Technology, gave a talk on transdermal drug delivery at the Joint Asian Conference.

These events are a great way to introduce novice students to the field and to the current research in pharmaceutical sciences. Lifeng Kang, of AAPS' National University of Singapore Student Chapter, said that the Joint Asian Conference exposed the student attendees to "new techniques in drug development research and educational opportunities at a wide range of international universities." In addition, these events can be more than just educational. Sarathi V. Boddapati, of Northeastern University, praised GRASP's networking opportunities. In addition, Sarathi elaborated how the event was great for "students looking to start their careers" since it provided opportunities for interaction with "faculty and representatives from industry."

The student-hosted symposiums are one of the many ways that students can actively participate in AAPS. MRFG is looking for enthusiastic student members who are interested in becoming more involved. If interested in the focus group, please contact [Dr. Dave Wallick](#). If interested in submitting ideas or topics for the MRFG Student Focus column, please contact [Elanor Pinto](#).

## ***Modified Release Technology Corner Technology Update on Gastroretentive Controlled Release by Dr. Hye-ok Choi, 3M Corporation***

### **Recently Published Patents/ Patent Application in the Field of Gastric Retention**

**Orally administered drug delivery system providing temporal and spatial control (Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited)**

**Publication number: US6960356**

#### **Abstract:**

A pharmaceutical composition in the form of tablets or capsules provides a combination of temporal and spatial control of drug delivery to a patient for effective therapeutic results. The pharmaceutical composition comprises a drug, a gas generating component, a swelling agent, a viscolyzing agent, and optionally a gel forming polymer. The swelling agent belongs to a class of compounds known as superdisintegrants (e.g., cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone or sodium carboxymethylcellulose). The viscolyzing agent initially and the gel forming polymer thereafter form a hydrated gel matrix which entraps the gas, causing the tablet or capsule to be retained in the stomach or upper part of the small intestine (spatial control). At the same time, the hydrated gel matrix creates a tortuous diffusion path for the drug resulting in sustained release of the drug (temporal control). ...

**Bioadhesive drug delivery system with enhanced gastric retention (Spherics, Inc.)**

**Publication number: US20050064027**

**Abstract:**

Bioadhesive macrosphere delivery systems ("BDDS") having prolonged gastric retention time due to bioadhesion rather than physical density or size are described. In general, the microspheres have diameters that are greater than 200 microns, more preferably greater than 500 microns. The bioadhesive microspheres are released in the stomach where they reside in close proximity to the gastric mucosa for a prolonged period of time. Increased residence of BDDS in the upper GI can lead to increased systemic absorption of drug in the preferred site of systemic absorption, namely the upper GI tract (upper to mid- jejunum). The BDDS may be engineered either as a capsule with drug delivery controlled by a diffusion-limited membrane or degradable shell, or as a solid matrix system with drug delivery controlled by a combination of diffusion and polymer degradation kinetics.

**Controlled Regional Oral Delivery (Spherics Inc.)****Publication number: WO2006039022****Abstract:**

A composite formulation has been developed for selective, high efficacy delivery to specific regions of the mouth and gastrointestinal tract. The formulation is typically in the form of a tablet or capsule, which may include microparticles or beads. The formulation uses bioadhesive and controlled release elements to direct release to specific regions, where the drug is absorbed in enhanced amounts relative to the formulation in the absence of the bioadhesive and/or controlled release elements. ...

**Gastroretentive drug delivery system comprising an extruded hydratable polymer (Euro-Celtique, S.A.)****Publication number: US20050249798****Abstract:**

According to the present invention there is provided a pharmaceutical product for retention in the stomach. The product is produced by extrusion. The use of extrusion enables the product to take many useful forms. The product may comprise a sheet of hydratable polymer, the hydrated sheet being of a size which will not pass out of the stomach, for example a shaped sheet or a roll. The product may also comprise a sealed hollow tubular extrudate, for example a tube sealed at both ends. The product may comprise a filled capsule.

**Self-expanding device for the gastrointestinal or urogenital area (Mnemoscience GmbH)****Publication number: US20060142794****Abstract:**

Devices for treatments of diseases and disorders associated with the gastrointestinal tract, especially the stomach, or urogenital tract are described herein. Initially, the device is in a temporary form which is suitable for oral or rectal administration. After exposure to a stimulus, such as a temperature or pH change, the device changes shape to a permanent form, which allows it to become mechanically fixed in the stomach, esophagus or intestine. In one embodiment, the device is used to reduce the volume of the stomach, esophagus or intestine without interfering with the flow of the food through the gastrointestinal tract. The device may be used to help overweight patients lose weight and to deliver drugs to treat disorders and diseases in the in the stomach or intestine. The devices are manufactured from a stimuli-sensitive

polymeric material, which is biocompatible and primarily adapted to the mechanical properties and geometry in the area to which it is applied. In the preferred embodiment, the material is a shape memory polymer. Depending on the desired application, the polymer may be either biodegradable or non-degradable.

**Gastroretentive Controlled Release Pharma-ceutical Dosage Forms (Yissum Research Development Company of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem)****Publication number: EP1235557****Abstract:**

Pharmaceutical gastroretentive(^) drug delivery system for the controlled release of an active agent in the gastrointestinal tract, which comprises: (a) a single- or multi-layered matrix having a two- or three- dimensional geometric configuration comprising a polymer that does not retain in the stomach more than a conventional dosage form selected from (1) degradable polymers that may be hydrophilic polymers not instantly soluble in gastric fluids, enteric polymers substantially insoluble at pH less than 5.5 and/or hydrophobic polymers and mixtures thereof; (2) non- degradable polymers; and any mixtures of (1) and (2); (b) a continuous or non-continuous membrane, that does not retain in the stomach more than a conventional dosage form, affixed or attached to said matrix, the membrane comprising at least one polymer having a substantial mechanical strength; and (c) a drug; wherein the matrix when affixed or attached to said membrane prevents evacuation from the stomach of said delivery system for a period of time of from about 3 to about 24 hours. The system may further comprise a shielding layer. The delivery system is particularly suitable for the delivery of drugs having a narrow absorption window in the gastrointestinal tract, drugs intended for local treatment of the gastrointestinal tract and drugs degraded in the colon, and is intended for human and veterinary use.

**Novel floating dosage form (B. Lohray, S. Tiwari, R. Pai, K. Murthy, P. Mehta)****Publication number: US20060013876 Abstract:**

Present invention relates to a novel pharmaceutical composition containing an active ingredient(s) which is retained in the stomach or upper part of gastrointestinal tract for controlled delivery of medicament for improved local treatment, and/or better absorption from upper parts of gastrointestinal tract for effective therapeutic results. Present invention also provides a method for preparation of the said dosage form preferably in the form of a bilayer tablet, in which one layer constitutes for spatial control and the other being for temporal control.

**[Recently Published Journal Articles in the Field of Gastric Retention](#)*****Compressed collagen sponges as **gastroretentive** dosage forms: in vitro and in vivo studies***

*R. Gröning, C. Cloer, M. Georarakis, RS Müller, European Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, In Press, Accepted Manuscript, 2006*

**Drug delivery to the upper small intestine window using **gastroretentive** technologies [Review]**

A. Streubel, J. Siepmann and R. Bodmeier, *Current Opinion in Pharmacology*, 6:1-8, 2006

**Floating hot-melt extruded tablets for gastroretentive controlled drug release system**  
M.Fukuda, N.A. Peppas and J.W. McGinity, *Journal of Controlled Release*, *In Press, Accepted Manuscript*, 2006

**Gastroretentive Accordion Pill: Enhancement of riboflavin bioavailability in humans**

L. Kagan, N. Lapidot, M. Afargan, D. Kirmayer, E. Moor, Y. Mardor, M. Friedman and A. Hoffman, *Journal of Controlled Release*, Volume 113, Issue 3, 20 July 2006, Pages 208-215

**Novel sustained release, swellable and bioadhesive gastroretentive drug delivery system for ofloxacin**

M.D. Chavanpatil, P. Jain, S. Chaudhari, R. Shear and P.R. Vavia, *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*, Volume 316, Issues 1-2, 19 June 2006, Pages 86-92

**Gastroretentive dosage forms: Overview and special case of Helicobacter pylori [Review]**

P.L. Bardonnet, V. Faivre, W.J. Pugh, J.C. Piffaretti and F. Falson, *Journal of Controlled Release*, Volume 111, Issues 1-2, 10 March 2006, Pages 1-18

**Development of sustained release gastroretentive drug delivery system for ofloxacin: In vitro and in vivo evaluation**

M. Chavanpatil, P. Jain, S. Chaudhari, R. Shear and P. Vavia, *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*, Volume 304, Issues 1-2, 4 November 2005, Pages 178-184

**Calcium silicate based microspheres of repaglinide for gastroretentive floating drug delivery: Preparation and in vitro characterization**

S.K. Jain, A.M. Awasthi, N.K. Jain and G.P. Agrawa, *Journal of Controlled Release*, Volume 107, Issue 2, 3 October 2005, Pages 300-309

**Formulation strategies for absorption windows [Review]**

Stanley S. Davis, *Drug Discovery Today*, Volume 10, Issue 4, 15 February 2005, Pages 249-257

## Recent Modified Release Technology News (Press Release)

Phosphagenics successfully delivers insulin across the skin in humans. (August 24, 2006)

Cyto Pulse Sciences, Inc. Awarded \$2 Million by NIH for DNA Vaccine Delivery System. (August 16, 2006)

Generex Biotechnology Announces Introduction of New Glucose RapidSpray(TM) Product. (August 10, 2006)

Study Shows Bioral® Delivery Technology Delivers Influenza siRNA Therapeutic and Reduces Virus Levels by 200 times in Mice (August 9, 2006)

DelSite Presents New Data on GelSite(R) Nasal Powder Delivery System at Controlled Release Society Meeting (July 13, 2006)

Aegis Therapeutics' ProTek™ Formulation Technology Increases Stability and Reduces Immunogenicity of Protein and Peptide Therapeutics (July 14, 2006)

SurModics' Hydrophilic Coating Used on CYPHER SELECT(TM) PLUS: The first third-generation drug-eluting stent by Cordis Corporation recently received CE Mark. (July 11, 2006)

Intec Pharma and Impax Laboratories to Collaborate on CNS Drug Using Accordion Pill™ Gastric Retention Technology. (June 27, 2006)

Dendritic Nanotechnologies Announces Initial Roll-Out of New Priostar Dendrimer Family (June 19, 2006)

SR Pharma PLC Announces A Key Technical Breakthrough With Its Lyophilized (Dry Powder) Liposomal-Based siRNA Formulation (June 6, 2006)

## New Organization Structure for MRFG Leadership – Dr. Dave Wallick, MRFG Chair

A review of Focus Group structure, alignment, and activities by the AAPS Members Groups Coordination Committee during 2005 culminated in March 2006 with mandates aimed at bringing organizational consistency to all FG executive leadership models. MRFG has to change our leadership model to meet these new requirements. Hence forth, the MRFG Executive Committee will consist of a three-member group consisting of a Chair, the immediate Past-Chair, and the new Chair-Elect. Each of these roles will be one year in length, with a three year commitment for Chair-Elect as they progress to Chair and then Past-Chair in succession. A Steering Team will be selected by the Chair to advise on matters of importance to the FG and to the Executive Committee.

MRFG membership elections for the 2007 Chair-Elect will be held in September. The new MRFG leadership structure should be operative by the beginning of 2007.

## Updated Charter for the MRFG

The purpose of the Modified Release Focus Group (MRFG) is to provide a forum for scientists – representing academia, industry, and regulatory agencies - involved in the mechanistic understanding, formulation design & development, process development & scale-up, as well as the related regulatory aspects of

modified release dosage forms. Modifying the release of a drug from a dosage form is desired to control the physiological site and timing of drug uptake by the body. This Focus Group will give scientists a forum to exchange ideas and share learnings in the field of modified drug release technology.

Modified release formulation design can be conducted for oral and non-oral administration routes. For an oral dosage form, modification of drug release can be achieved via mechanisms that include drug diffusion, dosage form erosion, osmosis-mediated drug delivery, and others. Particulate, matrix, and coated systems represent a major portion of the oral modified release dosage forms. Modified drug release from dosage forms is complemented by the allied processes of drug design, of dosage administration, and of membrane transport & absorption of drug to the biological site of action; discussion of these phenomena are the subject of other AAPS-sponsored Focus Groups. The MRFG develops joint programming with these other Focus Groups to offer members comprehensive coverage of important drug delivery challenges and technologies.

### **Mission and 2006 Plans for the MRFG – MRFG Steering Team**

Some of the chartered activities of the Modified Release Focus Group (MRFG) are to:

- Solicit and submit programming ideas related to modified release topics for AAPS annual meetings.
- Organize educational events such as workshops and symposia, as appropriate.
- Pose questions or answer those of others' in the MRFG Forum, a chat board for Focus Group members (non-confidential information, only, please).
- Bring together scientists interested in this area via email distribution lists, newsletters, face to face meeting at the annual meeting, etc.

MRFG Goals for 2006 are to:

- Implement 2006 PT Arden Conference program on **Oral Controlled Release Development and Technology** and special edition of PharmSciTech e-journal dedicated to the Conference in 2006.
  - *Dr. Steve Howard to lead overall.*
- Facilitate membership participation in MRFG.
  - continue to publish regular editions of the membership e-newsletter, "*Sustained Delivery.*"
  - expand MRFG outreach to student-members.
  - continue efforts to engage FG membership via MRFG Discussion Board.

- seek cooperation from other Focus Groups on planning and conducting joint meetings
- *Dr. Dave Wallick to lead overall.*
- Continue to provide new and high quality MR programming ideas to AAPS membership:
  - submit proposal and implement Parenteral MR Delivery WebCast in 2006.
  - solicit programming topics, seminars, symposia, workshops, and roundtables from MRFG for all AAPS National meetings
  - seek cooperation from other Focus Groups on developing joint programming topics
  - *Dr. Jian-Xin Li to lead overall.*

### **Meet Your MRFG Steering Team Leadership**

Your Steering Team is ready to meet the needs of the MRFG membership. Feel free to contact them for answers to your questions or to share your ideas for a better MRFG.

Chair: Dr. Dave Wallick, Dow Chemical, [dewallick@dow.com](mailto:dewallick@dow.com), phone 989-636-1018

Co-Chair: Dr. Jian-Xin Li, FMC BioPolymer, [jianxin\\_li@fmc.com](mailto:jianxin_li@fmc.com), phone 609-951-3783

Past-Chair: Dr. Ping Lee, Univ. of Toronto, [ping.lee@utoronto.ca](mailto:ping.lee@utoronto.ca), phone 416-946-0606

Past Chair: Dr. Samir Mehta, Intas Pharmaceuticals, [samir\\_mehta@intaspharma.com](mailto:samir_mehta@intaspharma.com), phone 919-870-0597

Dr. Esteban Bornancini, GlaxoSmithKline, [esteban.r.bornancini@gsk.com](mailto:esteban.r.bornancini@gsk.com), phone 610-917-5909

Dr. Hye-Ok Choi, 3M, [hhchoi@mmm.com](mailto:hhchoi@mmm.com), phone 651-733-0412

Dr. Steve Howard, Howard Consulting, [jshoward.1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jshoward.1@sbcglobal.net), phone 203-797-1991

Dr. Avi Thombre, Pfizer, [avinash.g.thombre@pfizer.com](mailto:avinash.g.thombre@pfizer.com), phone 860-441-8734

Dr. Samantha Lai, Pfizer, [samantha.lai@pfizer.com](mailto:samantha.lai@pfizer.com), phone 973-385-5969

Elanor Pinto, [epinto@ufl.edu](mailto:epinto@ufl.edu), University of Florida, Department of Pharmaceutics / Drug Delivery & Formulation, Gainesville, FL, Student Representative

## **Pulsatile Delivery** – bullets of useful information

### ▪ Announcements:

- *AAPS Workshop on Challenges in Developing Fixed-dose Combination Oral Solid Dose Products, Sept. 13 – 14, 2006* - Combination products are becoming increasingly important, both as new products and as line extensions of approved products for synergistic therapeutic effects and/or to improve patient compliance. Oral solid dosage forms comprise the vast majority of pharmaceutical dosage forms. Developing combination oral solid dose products presents a set of unique challenges arising from stability, process development, and mechanical properties of the constituents. Given the growing number of combination products in development pipelines, and the meager amount of published information on the challenges in developing these products, there is a need for a forum for elucidating and discussing these challenges and means to address them. The workshop will be held at Hyatt Crystal City Arlington, VA. For more information, see: <mailto:http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com/meetings>
- *Real World Applications of PAT and QbD in Drug Process Development and Approval Workshop, Sept. 11 – 12, 2006* - The Food and Drug Administration took a proactive approach to bring a scientific and risk-based framework founded on pharmaceutical process understanding, which is essential for prediction of product quality attributes. As a result of this proactive approach, PAT and QbD initiatives gained momentum amongst the pharmaceutical scientists. However, there seems to be little clarity on how to implement the concepts of PAT and QbD in real world applications, to get drug applications approved by the agency. Although many events (in the form of symposiums and workshops, etc) has been organized to address these issues, we believe none of the programs were directed at showing case examples of PAT and QbD in new drug applications and the feedback for streamlining the process. Industry is eager to understand the risk/benefits and specially return on investments by applying PAT and QbD. This workshop is geared to provide discussion on these topics. We hope that the attendees will also be able to: Gain knowledge about application of PAT/QbD concepts in drug development Determine the critical issues related to API and Drug Products manufacturing using PAT and QbD concepts Learn how to approach regulatory submission strategies with PAT by case examples from companies who are

well into such process Learn from regulatory bodies-their experience of reviewing such applications

For more information, contact:

<http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com/pat>

- At the beginning of July, the MRFG consisted of 576 members. Thank you for your support of our FG, and let us know how the FG can better meet your needs as a MR practitioner.
- All MRFG members are encouraged to attend the 2006 Annual Business Meeting, to be held at the site of the AAPS National Meeting:

Tuesday, October 31, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
Room 206B, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center,  
San Antonio, TX

Room assignments are subject to change, so please verify the location on-site in the final program.

- To receive regular copies of *Sustained Delivery*, the newsletter of the AAPS Modified Release Focus Group, join the MRFG ([http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com/inside/focus\\_groups/fgap.asp](http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com/inside/focus_groups/fgap.asp)) and sign up for the listserv (<http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com/inside/listserves/index.asp>) to keep current on your MRFG newsletter, *Sustained Delivery*, and other Focus Group communications.
- As a MRFG member, participate in MRFG activities - for instance, check out the MRFG Discussion Board ([http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com/forums/forum.asp?forum\\_id=16&forum\\_title=General+Chat](http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com/forums/forum.asp?forum_id=16&forum_title=General+Chat)) to ask a question, start a topic, or share your expertise for the enrichment of others - and learn, share, or serve, as you like. New discussion topics have been added recently. Check it out.
- Pass this Newsletter issue to your friends and colleagues, and encourage them to share in the information exchange and networking opportunities by joining AAPS and the Modified Release Focus Group.
- Send your questions or comments about the new MRFG *Sustained Delivery* newsletter to the Editor: Dr. Dave Wallick, [dewallick@dow.com](mailto:dewallick@dow.com). Your topics or contributions for the next newsletter, scheduled for Dec 2006, are welcome. Let us know:
  - about upcoming meetings of interest to the MRFG membership
  - about recognitions and awards for MRFG members
  - about your new technical or commercial MR highlights (public info only)
  - about your program ideas for future AAPS meetings.