

**Updated: January 2023**

**HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF HETEROCYCLIC CHEMISTRY**

**1968** ISHC founded by Raymond Castle, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

ISHC Presidents:

1973-75, Raymond Castle (founder), Albuquerque, USA  
1976-77, Edward Elslager, Warner-Lambert Parke-Davis Pharmaceuticals, USA  
1978-79, Miha Tisler, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia  
1980-81, Leroy Townsend, University of Michigan, USA  
1982-83, Wolfgang Pfeleiderer, University of Konstanz, Germany  
1984-85, Stewart Schneller, University of South Florida, USA  
1986-87, Henk van der Plas, University of Wageningen, Netherlands  
1988-89, Yoshio Ban, Hokkaido University, Japan  
1990-91, Victor Snieckus, University of Waterloo, Canada  
1992-93, Jan Bergman, The Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden  
1994-95, Albert Padwa, Emory University, USA  
1996-97, Hal Moore, UC Irvine, USA  
1998-99, Christopher Moody, University of Exeter, UK  
2000-01, Yoshi Yamamoto, Tohoku University, Japan  
2002-03, Steven Weinreb, Penn State, USA  
2004-05, \*Marco Ciufolini, University of British Columbia, Canada  
2006-07, Margaret Brimble, University of Auckland, NZ  
2008-09, Jeffrey Aubé, Kansas University, USA  
2010-11, Richard Taylor, University of York, UK  
2012-13, Dawei Ma, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, China  
2014-15, Daniel Comins, NCSU, Raleigh NC, USA  
2016-17, Oliver Reiser, University of Regensburg, Germany  
2018-19, Masayuki Inoue, The University of Tokyo, Japan  
2020-22, Christopher Vanderwal, UC Irvine, USA  
2023-24, Teresa Pinho e Melo, University of Coimbra and Artur Silva,  
University of Aveiro, Portugal

\*Note: 2003, Alessandro Dondoni, University of Ferrara, Italy, was elected President –Elected but could not serve his term as President due to health problems.

ISHC Secretaries:

1973-1979 M. Malm  
1980-1981 G. Cheeseman  
1982-1989 Thomas Kappe  
1990-2004 Hans Neunhoeffer  
2005-2009 Johannes Froelich  
2012-2015 Michael Kerr  
2016-2022 David Williams

2023- Adrian Dobbs

ISHC Treasurers:

1973-1977 Leroy Townsend  
1977-1979 Kevin Potts  
1980-1989 Ludwig Bauer  
1990-2011 Stan Lang  
2012- Fred Luzzio

ISHC Publicity Chairs:

1994-1995 Willem Verboom  
1996-1999 David StC Black  
2000-2001 Dennis Liotta  
2002-2009 C. Oliver Kappe  
2010-2017 Tom Pettus  
2018- R. Alan Aitken

ISHC Senior Fellows:

1995 Raymond Castle  
1995 Alan Katritzky  
1997 Thomas Kappe  
2001 Henk van der Plas  
2001 Charles W. Rees  
2003 Albert Padwa  
2005 Hans Neunhoeffler  
2007 Victor Snieckus  
2015 Margaret Brimble  
2015 Yasuyuki Kita  
2022 Daniel Comins

ISHC Congresses:

1967 Albuquerque, NM, USA  
1969 Montpellier, France  
1971 Sendai, Japan  
1973 Salt Lake City, UT, USA  
1975 Ljubljana, Yugoslavia  
1977 Tehran, Iran  
1979 Tampa, FL, USA  
1981 Graz, Austria  
1983 Tokyo, Japan

1985 Waterloo, Ont, Canada  
1987 Heidelberg, Germany  
1989 Jerusalem, Israel  
1991 Corvallis, OR, USA  
1993 Antwerp, Belgium  
1995 Taipei, Taiwan  
1997 Bozeman, MT, USA  
1999 Vienna, Austria  
2001 Yokohama, Japan  
2003 Fort Collins, CO, USA  
2005 Palermo, Italy  
2007 Sydney, Australia  
2009 St. John's, Canada  
2011 Glasgow, UK  
2013 Shanghai, China  
2015 Santa Barbara, CA, USA  
2017 Regensburg, Germany  
2019 Kyoto, Japan  
2022 Santa Barbara, CA, USA

Progress in Heterocyclic Chemistry (PHC):

1989-1995 Vol 1-7, Editors: Hans Suschitzky and Eric Scriven  
1996 Vol 8, Editors: Hans Suschitzky and Gordon Gribble  
1997-2002 Vol 9-14, Editors: Gordon Gribble and Tom Gilchrist  
2003-2021 Vol 15-33, Editors: Gordon Gribble and John Joule  
2022- Vol 34, Editors: Gordon Gribble and R. Alan Aitken

Membership:

The beginning: 100-150 members  
1980's: 250-500  
1990's: 500 members (1990); Grew to 1000 (late 1990's)  
2000: 833  
2001: 850  
2002: 750  
2003: 770  
2004: 670  
2005: 664  
2006: 584  
2007: 560  
2008: 700  
2010: >400  
2011: >400  
2014: 413  
2015: 488  
2016: 337  
2017: 380

2018: 415

2019: 530

2023: 475

Vice-Presidents of the Society and Chairmen of the Congresses:

1967 - Raymond Castle  
1969 - R. Jacquier and N. Cromwell  
1971 - Tetsuji Kametani  
1973 - Leroy Townsend  
1975 - Miha Tisler  
1977 - Iraj Lalezari  
1979 - Stewart Schneller  
1981 - Thomas Kappe  
1983 - Tetsuji Kametani and Yoshio Ban  
1985 - Victor Snieckus  
1987 - Richard Neidlein  
1989 - Alfred Hassner  
1991 - James D. White  
1993 - Frank Alderweireldt  
1995 - C. K. Sha  
1997 - Tom Livinghouse  
1999- Fritz Sauter  
2001- Masakatsu Shibasaki  
2003- Robert M. Williams  
2005- Girolamo Cirrincione  
2007- David StC. Black and Roger Read  
2009- Mohsen Daneshtalab  
2011- Colin J. Suckling  
2013- Biao Yu  
2015- Tom Pettus  
2017- Oliver Reiser  
2019- Shuji Akai and Yasuyuki Kita  
2022- Chris Vanderwal

More History:

TO: Professor Stan Lang (2001)

FR: Professor Townsend

The first congress was held in Albuquerque in 1967 and the President of the Congress was Raymond Castle. There was no formal society (no constitution, by-laws, elected officers, etc.). All decisions were made by R. Castle with advice from the editorial board of the "Journal of Heterocyclic Chemistry" and supported by Miriam Malm as corresponding secretary. Of course, Raymond was the editor and owner of "The Journal." This arrangement was continued

for the first three congresses, e.g., I was selected at the editorial board meeting in Sendai during the third congress to host (be president of) the fourth congress in Salt Lake City. During my organization of the fourth congress, it was decided by R. Castle, E. Elslager, R. K. Robins and myself to complete the long overdue formalities involved in establishing the "International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry". The "first society business meeting" was convened during a luncheon on the 10th of July 1973 at the fourth congress in Salt Lake City. The slate of proposed officers was introduced and nominations were solicited from the floor. The proposed slate of officers was accepted by unanimous acclamation and Raymond Castle became the "first" president of the ISHC on 10 July 1973; Edward Elslager the second; Miha Tisler the third; Leroy Townsend the fourth; etc.