

Updated: January 2025

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
2025-26, Antonio Burtoloso, University of São Paulo, Brazil

*Note: 2003, Alessandro Dondoni, University of Ferrara, Italy, was elected President –Elect 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- Frederick 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 Neunhoeffer
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
2024 Aveiro, Portugal

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
2022-2023 Vol 34,35, Editors: Gordon Gribble and R. Alan Aitken
2024- Vol 36- Editors R. Alan Aitken and Justin M. Lopchuk

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
2024- Teresa Pinho e Melo and Artur Silva
2026- Antonio Burtoloso

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.