Members of the AACC International Milling & Baking Division gathered May 5–7 in Fort Worth, TX, U.S.A., for their annual Spring Technical Conference. The meeting started with a golf tournament at The Golf Club at Fossil Creek. The competition was strong and a putting contest was needed to break the tie. Following the golf tournament, the Milling & Baking Division Executive Committee met. Nick Weigel, ADM Milling Company, chaired the 2010 Milling & Baking Division Spring Technical Conference, where attendees received a range of applied research-oriented information. Attendees were provided updates from the AACC Intl. Audit Task Force and their progression toward a common survey the food industry can use, consumer trends in relation to the dietary guidelines, and how the Grains for Health Foundation is working to improve public health. In addition to a wealth of technical information on the unique phytochemicals in sorghums, attendees had an opportunity to sample a few baked goods made with sorghum. A few presentations focused on the future of wheat, including crop sustainability, sourcing, and new technology. The second day of the program was more research driven with information given on enzyme technology, how to improve nutrition with fiber, and solutions for reducing saturates in trans-fat-free products.

Bill Atwell, Cargill, was awarded the distinguished John C. Halverson Award for his many contributions to the technology of milling and baking. During his award lecture, Atwell provided a colorful look into his R&D innovations through the years in refrigerated doughs and gluten-free baked goods.

This year, the board of the AACC Intl. Cereals&Europe Section funded and granted the Best Presentation and Best Poster Awards during the Ninth European Young Cereal Scientists and Technologists Workshop (EYCSTW) held in Budapest, Hungary, May 25–27. At the end of each session, the chair nominated one participant based on the scientific merit and the quality of the presentation. The final selection of the winners among nominees was then made by an independent researcher. The names of the winners were announced during the closing session of the workshop and each winner received a certificate, gifts, and a 500 euro cheque. Best Presentation Award went to Anita Hirte from the Laboratory of Food Chemistry at Wageningen University, the Netherlands, for her oral presentation “Permeability of crust is key to crispness retention.” Best Poster Award went to Jibin Hu from Rothamsted Research at Oxford Brooks University for his poster “Spatial patterns of wheat grain composition in relation to nutritional quality and processing properties.”

See you next year in Helsinki, Finland, in May 2011!
On April 22, 2010, the Northwest Section of AACC International held its annual Northwest Section William F. Geddes Memorial Lectureship. Christophe Courtin, Katholieke University Leuven, Belgium, received this year’s lectureship and award from the AACC Intl. Northwest Section. Courtin was nominated for his leadership in cereal chemistry. He is also serving as the program chair for the 2010 Annual Meeting, which will take place October 24–27 in Savannah, GA, U.S.A. He fulfilled the mission of the annual lectureship in “bringing to Minnesota outstanding persons not normally available to the section to speak on advances in any aspects of cereal science and technology.”

For the first time in section history, the annual Geddes award was given and received on Skype via the internet. Plans were set to bring Courtin to Minnesota for weeks, and at the last minute, a volcano in Iceland decided otherwise. All air traffic over Europe was placed on hold due to the ominous ash cloud. As a result, Courtin could not come to Minnesota. However, he recorded his presentation using technology provided by AACC Intl. Headquarters and presented electronically to the meeting participants. Participants were also able to ask questions of Courtin during the Skype session. While this was not the same as having Courtin present for the occasion, it was a truly enjoyable experience for all those who attended. As Len Marquart presented him the award plaque, Courtin “reached out across the ocean” accepting the award on the web camera. This interaction set the tone for a fun and enthusiastic atmosphere for the rest of the day.

The Northwest Section was also honored to host a group of 14 students from North Dakota State University (NDSU), coordinated and accompanied by Deland J. Myers Sr. Students Harkanwal Sandhu (NDSU) and Catrin Tyl (University of Minnesota) were given student recognition awards for their participation and leadership in AACC Intl. activities during the last year.

After the awards, the Northwest Section hosted presentations and a panel discussion on the topic of Refined vs. Whole Grain Supply Chain Management. Speakers from grain sourcing to school food service offered insights into the process of getting whole grain goodness to young people. Discussions highlighted challenges centered on cost, convenience, and communication throughout the supply chain. The workshop ended with a lively panel where speakers were able to interact directly with one another and the audience. Visions for the future established during the afternoon discussions included leveraging school buying influence to obtain healthy products that are convenient and cost effective, customization of products within standardization, training for school staff in whole grain baking/cooking, and creative mindsets across the supply chain within an attitude of collaboration.

Welcome Corporate Members

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Karpink, Robert J., plant manager, Ann Arbor, MI, U.S.A.
Kim, Inchon, J&Global, Seoul, SOUTH KOREA
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Nasir, Muhammad, assistant professor, University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore, PAKISTAN
Nordquist, Jared, Rogers, MN, U.S.A.
Rahn, Darrin M., Ames, IA, U.S.A.
Schmitz, John F., Rich Products Corporation, Buffalo, NY, U.S.A.
Do you have something to say?

*Cereal Foods World* encourages readers to submit news items and letters to the editor.

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- Calendar items
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AACC International has long been a resource for technical information and a pipeline for presenting breakthrough research related to grain science. To continue this vital tradition, and to focus on the core of the organization, AACC International is rededicating itself to its primary mission—the global advancement of grain science.

To increase the quality of research and satisfy the diverse needs of members, AACC International will focus on 7 key initiatives. These will guide the association in providing members with relevant information, strong scientific communities, and significant opportunities for disseminating research findings. Join us as we build a stronger association that serves you…