

OOS to Address Research Problems in Science and Technology for Physically Handicapped Individuals

Handicapped scientists and engineers will work with the AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science (OOS) to draw up a research agenda for science and technology for the physically disabled. This unique approach, actively involving handicapped scientists in every phase of the work, will give the resulting agenda a validity previous studies have lacked.

Funding for the project comes from the Office of Problem Analysis of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Applied Science and Research Applications Directorate (ASRA).

The National Science Foundation is already supporting a significant number of research projects dealing with science and technology for disabled persons, making it a logical base from which to explore the many lines of research and development that have potential for benefiting the handicapped. This kind of research requires a multidisciplinary approach which includes not only the natural sciences and engineering, but also the social, behavioral, and medical sciences. It also requires the early and meaningful input of handicapped scientists and consumers—which the AAAS is in a unique position to organize for NSF.

Although extensive research in science and technology for handicapped individuals has been carried out by NSF and other federal agencies in the past, successful research results too often have lacked the attention and follow-up needed to carry them through the feasibility and implementation processes. Because of this, NSF's ASRA Directorate has been directed by the Congress to establish a science and technology program focused on the problems of the disabled and to do so in a cooperative mode with other federal agencies dedicated to serving handicapped individuals and their families. The AAAS project will help to develop the agenda to fulfill this mandate.

One of the continuing problems in R & D for the handicapped is that the consumers, that is, the physically dis-

abled themselves, have not been adequately involved in the problem analysis, research design, and evaluation. The results are often inappropriate—sometimes bizarre—technologies. When research has been done on the needs of the handicapped, it has too often been done on populations in hospitals rather than on the independent handicapped persons who are living and working in the community. To avoid the development of inappropriate or unmarketable devices and the possible mismatch of problems and solutions, it is necessary to involve able, independent handicapped people with the researchers in defining their needs and shaping research and development priorities. The Office of Opportunities in Science has done this with highly satisfying results in all its research and other programs with handicapped scientists and will again integrate the professional expertise of handicapped scientists and engineers in the formation of a proposed R & D agenda in science and technology for the handicapped.

This project began in September and will be completed in December. It is expected to assist NSF in meeting the legislative requirements for planning a program of sponsored research and development of technological aids for handicapped persons, and in providing the scientific knowledge that facilitates the development, evaluation, marketing, and use of such aids. A group of eight to ten persons—some experienced in research planning and familiar with the issues of science and technology for the handicapped (including two social scientists) and some handicapped scientists and/or engineers familiar with R & D developments and needs of the handicapped—will be chosen to advise the project.

In addition, later this fall the Association will organize a two and one-half day workshop of handicapped scientists and engineers, researchers interested in science and technology for the handicapped, and representatives of handicapped consumer organizations to re-

spond to questions and issues regarding proposed lines of research and to make recommendations and suggest priorities for a research agenda. Following the workshop, AAAS/OOS staff and project advisers will produce a report which (i) provides supplementary documentation and examples of the scope and implications of the issues raised at the workshop; (ii) outlines promising lines of research; and (iii) identifies priorities and sequences where appropriate.

The principal investigators for the project, Dr. Janet Welsh Brown, program head, OOS, and Dr. Martha Ross Redden, director, Project on the Handicapped in Science, invite comments concerning the project, examples of technology to be considered, or other suggestions.

Interested persons may write to the Office of Opportunities in Science at the AAAS address or call 202-467-4496 (voice or TTY).

MARTHA ROSS REDDEN
*Director, Project on the
Handicapped in Science*

INTERCIENCIA Marks Second Anniversary, Sets Symposia

A reception commemorating the second year of publication of *INTERCIENCIA* was held in Caracas on 17 May. Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, cabinet ministers, and several hundred members of the scientific, educational, and diplomatic communities honored *INTERCIENCIA* editor Marcel Roche and Salvatore Pluchino, secretary-treasurer of the Interciencia Association.

INTERCIENCIA began its third year of publication with its first special issue, which appeared in July and was devoted to the ecosystems of the Amazon basin.

The Interciencia Association (IA) will sponsor the seventh in its symposia series in La Paz, B.C., Mexico, 7-9 November 1978. The symposium, "Plant Resources for the Development of Arid Lands," is cosponsored by the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT) and the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC). The 3-day symposium

Leo Schubert, 1916–1978

Leo Schubert, former secretary of Section C–Chemistry and a member of the AAAS Committee on Council Affairs, died 21 June following a heart attack.

Dr. Schubert was professor and chairman of the Department of Chemistry at the American University in Washington, D.C., at the time of his death.

At its meeting on 23 June, the AAAS Board of Directors approved the following statement in tribute to Dr. Schubert:

The Board of Directors learned with profound regret of the untimely death of Dr. Leo Schubert, one of the Association's most valued officers. A brilliant and greatly loved teacher of science, distinguished professor at the American University, former Secretary of Section C–Chemistry, and member of the Committee on Council Affairs, Leo Schubert was selflessly devoted to the advancement of science education. Both as a valued friend and scientific colleague, the Board feels his loss keenly.

Dr. Schubert had long been active in the affairs of the AAAS, as well as those of the American Chemical Society, where he served as president in 1964.

will include panels on indigenous plant resources, plants of pharmaceutical value, plants of industrial value, introduction of new plant species (genetic aspects), and plant resources in the struggle against desertification. Fifty to sixty scientists from Mexico, North America, and Latin America are expected to attend the event, which follows the IA Annual Meeting in La Paz, 5–6 November.

During the AAAS Annual Meeting in Houston, IA will sponsor a symposium, 6 January 1979, on "Opportunities for U.S.–Mexican Scientific and Technological Cooperation." Panelists will discuss specific cooperation in the areas of marine science, energy, biosaline research and geophysical research, as well as the ongoing cooperative endeavors of universities, technological research institutes, and the U.S.–Mexican bilateral agreement on science and technology.

Further information on the La Paz and Houston meetings may be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Interciencia Association, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

CSFR to Meet

The AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility will meet in Washington, D.C., 13 and 14 October. Meetings of the committee are open to the public. Anyone interested in attending should contact Rosemary Chalk, the committee's staff officer, for further details. Her address is AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

AAAS Committee Seeks Individual Complaints

The AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility is interested in reviewing individual complaints from U.S. scientists who believe that their scientific freedoms or responsibilities have been abridged. Complainants should submit written summaries to the committee and should provide appropriate documentation for their claim. By appealing to the committee, complainants should understand that they are authorizing the committee to make inquiries to other individuals and/or organizations on their behalf.

Letters should be sent to the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Fire Damages University of Lisbon

The AAAS Office of International Science has been asked to inform AAAS members about the serious damage and losses suffered by the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon. A fire on 18 March destroyed the central building which housed the National Museum of Natural History, the Geophysical Institute, and nine research centers. Extensive losses were sustained to both laboratory equipment and publications as well as to the museum collections. AAAS members affiliated with institutions able to provide either equipment and/or books and publications to replace

those lost in the fire should write directly to either the Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy, Lisbon, or to Professor Tiago D'Oliveira, Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon.

Short Courses for Industrial Scientists and Engineers

Fourteen short courses in the 1978–79 series of NSF Chautauqua-Type Short Courses for College Teachers will be open to a limited number of scientists and engineers in industry. Topics include biomass conversion, flowering plants, industrial organic chemistry, microcomputers, evaluation research, and engineering ethics.

These courses will be held at two of the regional field centers—the Oregon Graduate Center for Study and Research and the University of Hartford.

A descriptive brochure with application form is available from the Office of Science Education at the AAAS address.

ANZAAS Congress Set for 1979

The Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) will hold its 49th Congress 22–26 January 1979 in Auckland, New Zealand. With the theme "Directions for the Future," the Congress will include general symposia as well as research papers on specific disciplinary topics.

For further information, write to the Honorary Secretary, 49th ANZAAS Congress, (Professor T. N. M. Waters), University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand.

AAAS members who expect to be traveling in the area and are interested in representing AAAS at the Congress, and/or who know of colleagues who might be able to participate, are requested to contact AAAS, Office of International Science.

For more information about the activities and publications described in "AAAS News," write to the appropriate office, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, unless otherwise indicated.