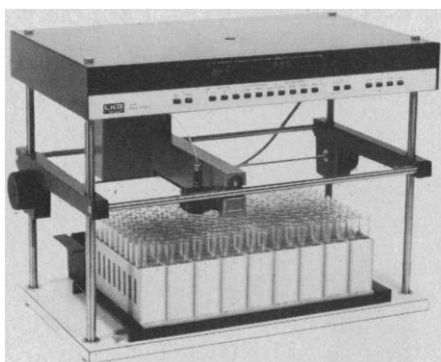


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rial anti-Semitism. The statement contained in 9) that the number of the Jewish papers has diminished to zero is false, as may be seen from those data. I emphasize that I cannot check the truthfulness of the information in the table, since we do not consider our authors from the point of view of their nationality.

4) I am actually a member of the National Committee of Soviet Mathematicians, which includes 25 persons; as one of them I really have an influence 1/25 the size of the committee.

5) The negative decision about Margoulis' participation in the International Congress was unanimously made at a sitting of the National Committee of Soviet Mathematicians.

6) I have not been asked any questions about Margoulis' absence from the congress, and I have not given any answers about that subject.

7) I have not written any letters to the socialist countries ("satellites") concerning the organization of the congress.

8) I did not invite the writer Shetsov to speak at the Steklov Institute.

10) I never use the expression "judenfri," which is foreign to my native language; nor do I use any Russian expression equivalent to that.

I consider the article in *Science* to be founded on false information and to be a personal, malicious slander against me.

L. S. PONTRYAGIN

*Steklov Institute, Vavilov Street 33,
Moscow, Soviet Union*

Academic Ties with the Middle East

R. Jeffrey Smith's article on the controversies over Middle East investments in American universities (News and Comment, 2 Feb., p. 421) has recently come to my attention. As the article notes, a proposed agreement between the University of Pennsylvania and the Arab Development Institute in Libya was under consideration when the above institute withdrew the proposal. It was a controversial issue on our campus, and opinions were divided. However, I wish to state publicly my confidence in the fairness of the review process, which was taking place under procedures developed by our faculty, and my confidence in the judgment of the members of our faculty who were involved in the process, both the sponsors of the proposal and those who were reviewing it. There were no improper political pressures or discriminatory actions.

The University of Pennsylvania will maintain a strong interest in the Middle

East, as in many other areas of the world, and will welcome research and training programs that are consistent with its mission, standards, and policies.

VARTAN GREGORIAN

*Office of the Provost,
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia 19104*

Nutrition Program

In a recent article, William J. Broad (News and Comment, 8 June, p. 1060) cites the infant nutrition program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at the Baylor College of Medicine and that of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) as examples of needless duplication of research and lack of coordination. Unfortunately, the article does not acknowledge the efforts we have made to avoid these problems.

The language of the Conference Report of the House of Representatives No. 95-1579, 18 September 1978, directs the Children's Nutrition Laboratory (CNL) of USDA at Baylor "to insure that there is close cooperation and coordination" with NICHD. The Conference Report further stipulates "that the USDA and the NIH develop appropriate interagency mechanisms to insure coordination of this program" and that our two agencies make the "research and program plan of [the CNL] consistent with the purposes of the [NICHD]." In order to carry out these directives, we and our staffs have met six times within the past year and have established a firm working relationship. In November 1978 we held a series of intensive discussions with the staff of the CNL in Houston. During these meetings we worked out a cooperative agreement among USDA, NICHD, and the Baylor College of Medicine. This agreement establishes an interagency advisory committee for the CNL. Both of us belong to this advisory committee, which is designed to foster cooperation and avoid unnecessary duplication of research on infant nutrition.

In addition to this arrangement, we agreed that both agencies must concur in the selection of a director of the CNL. We also agreed which areas of infant nutrition research each agency will emphasize. NICHD will continue to foster research on the clinical aspects of infant nutrition, especially those relating to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The CNL will devote its research efforts to ascertaining nutritional requirements of normal infants and to defining stan-

dards for nutrient intake during infancy. The CNL will also work to develop precise methodology for such determinations.

Our agencies share a keen interest in research on lactation, human milk, and colostrum. In fact, NICHD has contracted with the Baylor College of Medicine to develop procedures for the collection, storage, processing, and distribution of milk for clinical research. Some of the staff of the CNL work on this project, and the staff of the Human Nutrition Center of USDA follow the progress of this contract with interest. Cooperation, not competition, best describes this venture.

We are now in the midst of planning a conference on optimal nutrition during pregnancy that our agencies will sponsor jointly. We anticipate more such cooperative enterprises in the near future.

NORMAN KRETCHMER
*National Institute of Child Health
and Human Development,
Bethesda, Maryland 20205*

D. MARK HEGSTED
*Human Nutrition Center,
Science and Education Administration,
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C. 20250*

Interferon

In her two articles on interferon research (Research News, 15 June, p. 1183; 22 June, p. 1293), Jean L. Marx does an admirable job summarizing the many aspects of work in a most active field. I realize it is impossible to mention all investigators who made significant contributions. However, I would like to point out the omission of the name of Kurt Paucker of the Medical College of Pennsylvania, who has made many important original observations in interferon research. One of his milestone contributions (with K. Cantell and W. Henle) was the demonstration that interferon can inhibit cell division.

In Marx's first article, Edward Havell and I are given credit for finding "that the principal interferon made by leukocytes is not the same as the major form of interferon produced by fibroblasts." Although Havell and I did make contributions in this area, I believe the major portion of work elucidating antigenic differences between leukocyte and fibroblast interferon was done in Paucker's laboratory.

JAN VILČEK
*New York University School of
Medicine, New York 10016*

14 SEPTEMBER 1979

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