

## Summer Meetings: Pacific Division, AAAS Affiliates, and Interciencia

### Pacific Division, Davis, California

More than 1000 scientists attended the meeting of the Pacific Division of the AAAS at Davis, California, between 22 and 27 June. The sessions stimulated discussion and coverage in several West Coast newspapers because of the controversial regional topics which were addressed.

A symposium on fire ecology, for example, included speakers who challenged the advisability of rapid reseeding after forest fires. One paper in the Mono Lake symposium suggested that misuse of 19th-century data on lake levels had led to incorrect policies for water resource allocation to southern California. Scientists in a symposium on off-road vehicles documented the physiological damage done to desert vertebrates by the noise of motorcycles and similar vehicles. A presentation on education outside the traditional settings featured speakers from such groups as Alcoholics Anonymous and the Unification Church. Other equally provocative results were presented at sessions on San Francisco Bay, semiarid environments, plant pathogens, public health microbiology, ecosystem modeling, sociobiology, statistical analysis of football data, and the language of science.

The Pacific Division meeting also featured a barbecue dinner, a public address on the science of tomato production by outgoing president William Sims (University of California, Davis), and field trips to scientifically interesting sites such as the California Botanical Gardens. Eleven regional science associations held their meetings in conjunction with the Division, contributing to the diversity of the program. The Division's five most active sections (geology, biology, social science, education, and atmospheric science) also arranged for substantive parts of the proceedings. Student papers given at the meeting qualify for prizes for excellence awarded by the Division.

The Division has published one book from a previous meeting (*San Francisco Bay: The Urbanized Estuary*) and expects to issue a companion volume based on the symposium presented at Davis (centered on use and protection of the Bay). A book on the biology of North American mosses from a previous meeting is in press, and two books from last year's meeting in Moscow, Idaho, one on western geology and the other on the Cenozoic history of the Pacific Northwest, are being edited now.

In June 1981 the Division will meet in Eugene, Oregon, with a symposium tentatively planned on volcanology. Other ideas for Eugene sessions are expected from Division affiliates in the next few months. The meeting for June 1982 is slated for Santa Barbara, probably with a major focus on oceanography (marine geology and biology). For further information about Division meetings and publications, contact Alan E. Leviton, c/o California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118.

### AAAS Affiliates and Science Policy

In the spirit of continuing collaboration among AAAS and its affiliates in science policy activities, a "Consultation of Presidents of AAAS Affiliated Societies" was held on 18 June in Washington, D.C. President-elect D. Allan Bromley chaired the meeting, which focused on the outlook for federal funding of research and development (R&D) in a reduced federal budget.

Willis H. Shapley, AAAS public policy consultant and principal author of the "Research & Development: AAAS Report" series, opened the discussion with a brief summary of the current R&D budget status. Questions were fielded by congressional staff members, executive branch officials, and representatives of the societies who contributed to the "Intersociety Preliminary Analyses of R&D in the FY 1981 Budget."

After a reception and dinner, keynote speaker Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. (D-Calif.), gave the congressional view of R&D funding. Brown is chairman of the subcommittee on science, research, and technology of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology.

In order to have an effect on the budget process, Brown stressed, scientists need to expand their base of support through massive public education efforts and to engage in the political process where the priorities are actually set. He pointed out that "public support of science has been based on a faith in benefits which result to society from that support." That faith, he emphasized, "is now being challenged by a series of science-related failures, such as Three Mile Island, DC-10 crashes, and the discovery of hazardous waste dumps, to name only a few."

Charging the participants to become involved in the political process, Brown said that scientists in general, and leaders of scientific societies in particular, have a social responsibility both to demonstrate that there are real benefits to the public from its support of science and to assure the careful planning needed to produce these benefits.

Sixty society presidents or their representatives attended the forum, reception, and dinner. Many participants also stayed for the R&D Policy Colloquium, which followed on 19 and 20 June.

AAAS plans to hold similar events with the affiliated societies on other areas of mutual interest.

### Interciencia, Medellin, Colombia

The Interciencia Association (IA) joined with the Asociación Colombiana para el Avance de la Ciencia in sponsoring an Inter-American Seminar, "Under-Utilized Biological Resources," held near Medellin, Colombia, 6 through 9 June.

Forty-three experts from ten countries participated in the meeting, which was the 11th since IA inaugurated its symposia series in 1976.

Presentations, in Spanish and English, dealt mainly with plant resources and microbial processes, especially in tropical America. One group of papers dealt with region-wide questions such as taxonomic and inventory needs and the storage and distribution of germ plasm. Others analyzed recent work on species as diverse

## Call for Nominations: 1981 General Election

The Committee on Nominations will meet this fall to select candidates for the 1981 general election. The Committee invites AAAS members to submit nominations, including self-nominations, for the positions of President-Elect and members of the Board of Directors for consideration at that meeting.

A list of current Board members is given on the contents page of *Science*. Candidates for terms to start on 9 January are listed in the 22 August issue.

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer, at the AAAS address, no later than 8 October 1980. Each nomination must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae of the proposed candidate.

as high Andean tubers, tree legumes, and American bamboo, or on specific problems such as the biological fixation of nitrogen.

Presentations on the final day concentrated on information and experience which could be helpful in formulation of a proposed IA regional network for co-operation in research and development for underutilized biological resources. Richard Evans Schultes, director of the Harvard Botanical Museum, was leader of the U.S. component. Selected papers from the meeting will be published in *Interciencia*.

At an officers' meeting following the seminar, IA made plans for future regional scientific meetings, including a workshop on materials from renewable resources, to be co-sponsored with the Jamaican Society of Scientists and Technologists in November 1980 at Kingston. IA and the Association of the Scientific, Engineering and Technological Community of Canada (SCITEC) will cosponsor two symposia at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Toronto in January. Other symposia in the planning stage are "Participation of the National Scientific Community in the Development Process" (Caracas, March 1981) and "Liquid Fuels from Biomass" (Brazil, late 1981).

IA, which was founded 6 years ago, also publishes a bimonthly trilingual journal, *Interciencia*, edited and published in Caracas under the direction of Marcel Roche. The president of IA is Leonard M. Rieser, vice president of Dartmouth College, and past president, AAAS.

## ANZAAS Holds Jubilee Congress

The 50th Congress of the Australia/New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) was held at Adelaide, South Australia, 12 to 16 May, on the theme "Science for a

Sustainable Society for Us by 2000 A.D. Why? How?" To mark this Jubilee Congress, AAAS sent a delegation headed by Edward E. David, Jr., president, Exxon Research and Engineering Co., Inc., and past president, AAAS. Other AAAS representatives were John A. Behnke, editor of *BioScience*, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York; J. Ernest Flack, Department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering, University of Colorado, Boulder; Gerald Holton, Department of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Bartholomew J. Tortella, intern, Beth Israel Hospital, Boston.

Problems and opportunities specific to Australia were emphasized throughout the Congress. Australia is in a somewhat special position vis-à-vis questions of development, with vast natural resources on the one hand and a rather isolated position in terms of world geography on the other. The Congress, therefore, was used as a sounding board where participants voiced plans and concerns about the future.

Multiple concurrent sessions were organized on a variety of topics. While all the traditional branches of science were represented in section symposia, a number of new experimental sections were organized in subjects such as musicology, and history, philosophy, and sociology of science, these trial sections met with great success.

The connections between science and politics were explored by several Congress symposia, one of which dealt with the high cost of health care technology. Australia, like the United States, is immersed in the matter of determining appropriate levels of federal support and/or control of the health care system. Speakers from the government and organized medicine presented disparate viewpoints and agreed only that a clear, comprehensive health care policy is needed.

In a country where drought is far

more common than an oversupply of water, sessions on water sources, supply, and management were well received. Flack made a contribution to one of the sessions, presenting the American experience with urban water conservation and how it might apply to Australia.

Energy sessions included contributions by David and by Melvin and Gene Elle Calvin. The Calvins described a new mechanical model for duplicating the photosynthetic process without plants.

Other sessions dealt with the possible effects of the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere; genetic engineering; land use, especially the development and management of arid lands; and the development of new major food and feed crops such as cassava, chick peas, beans, and soybeans.

## Proposals and Resolutions Invited for 1981 Council Meeting

The AAAS Council will hold its next meeting on 7 January 1981 during the Association's Annual Meeting in Toronto. Organizations or individuals who wish to present proposals or resolutions for possible inclusion in the meeting agenda should send them in writing to the Executive Officer at the AAAS address, *for receipt no later than 5 November 1980*, so that they may be considered by the Committee on Council Affairs at its fall meeting. The Committee asks that the following guidelines be observed:

- 1) All proposals and resolutions should be consistent with the objectives of the Association and deal with matters appropriate for consideration by the council of a scientific organization.
- 2) Resolutions should be written in the traditional format, beginning with one or more "whereas" statement-of-fact clauses and concluding with a "therefore be it resolved" paragraph which presents a position that follows logically from the stated premises.
- 3) Proposals and resolutions that deal with technical matters must be accompanied by substantive supporting data and references.
- 4) Any proposal involving substantial expenditure of AAAS funds—such as a recommendation for the establishment of a study or investigative committee—should be presented in the form of a research proposal, with budget included, so that the financial implications of positive action are clearly stated.
- 5) All proposals and resolutions adopted by Council at its forthcoming meeting will be published in the Proceedings Issue of *Science*. Proponents who wish the AAAS to undertake any wider distribu-