

strategic assessments and studies outside the agency, and provide an additional outreach to the professional community concerned with such environmental problems.

AAAS will structure a 3- or 4-day orientation for the fellows with particular emphasis on environmental R&D and arrange for weekly seminars.

The selection committee for the program included: Roger Cortesi, associate deputy assistant administrator, Office of Health Research, EPA; Warren Easley, director, Regulatory Affairs, Monsanto Company; David Gushee, chief, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; William Moomaw, professor of chemistry, Williams College; Martha Sager, director, Environmental Systems Management Program, American University; Richard A. Scribner, manager, Science and Policy Programs, AAAS; Dennis Tirpak, director, Office of Exploratory Research, EPA; and Phyllis Windle, science and diplomacy fellow, Office of Environmental and Health, U.S. Department of State.

Puerto Rican Scientists Call for New Organization and Reforms in Science Education

At a recent meeting, Puerto Rican scientists and science students called for the creation of an organization to serve their interests and drafted recommendations for increasing their number and status in scientific, biomedical, and technical fields.

The meeting was held 22-24 April in Bethesda, Maryland, under the auspices of the AAAS and 12 institutes and divisions of the National Institutes of Health. Seventy-five Puerto Rican scientists, engineers, and students, mostly from the mainland United States, presented background papers, held work sessions on topics arranged by educational level, and heard panelists and speakers. The conference was chaired by S. Maria Hardy, physiologist, Louisiana State University at Shreveport, and chairperson, AAAS Committee on Opportunities in Science (OOS).

The conferees decried federal budget cuts which they perceived as conflicting with their goals. Among those cuts are: (i) proposals to eliminate the National Health Service Corps scholarship; (ii)



Mendez (left) and Raub at meeting of Puerto Rican scientists. [Photo Cesar Rodriguez]

proposed termination of National Science Foundation science education and research support for minority scientists; (iii) reductions in funding of the major NIH programs for minorities in biomedicine; and (iv) cuts in the Basic Educational Opportunity Grants.

Calling the distinction between mainland and island an artificial one, conferees called for much closer interaction and exchange through both formal and informal means. Puerto Rican scientists may work part of their professional lives in Puerto Rico and part on the mainland, so the meeting asked for a unified scientific association which includes both locations. However, on matters of education policy, inherent difference must be taken into account. For example, a resolution on bilingual instruction must note the native language.

Controversy surrounding the practice of "tracking" students by ability level, methods and objectives of organizing, and other topics surfaced during the meeting. The subject of statehood versus independence for the island was talked about among scientists between sessions but did not result in a formal resolution.

Recommendations which were endorsed included the following:

- 1) Materials should be produced which publicize the achievements of Puerto Rican scientists to encourage Puerto Rican students to think about such careers.

- 2) Wider dissemination should be made of traveling exhibits which offer students "hands on" experience in science to motivate them to pursue further study in technical fields.

- 3) The director of Puerto Rican scien-

tists must be updated and computerized for use in role model projects, network creation, and peer review assignments by science agencies.

- 4) Career orientation programs should be initiated to brief Puerto Rican (and other) students on graduate school application, financial aid, and the availability of academic resources, and research opportunities for undergraduate students.

- 5) Student attendance at scientific meetings should be encouraged as a way to learn how scientists conduct their business and to establish contacts.

- 6) Churches, Puerto Rican clubs, and Spanish language media should be used to disseminate information about science and scientists.

The scientists decided to set up regional networks around the United States and on the island as a prelude to creating a national association, which might be formed next January at the AAAS meeting in Washington, D.C. Besides the island, regional centers are proposed for New York, California, the Rocky Mountains states, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., with possible future sites in Texas, the Southeast, and the Chicago area.

The Office of Opportunities in Science at AAAS will serve as "mailbox" for the regional groups until the national organization takes over the function.

Conference speakers included Major General Enrique Mendez, deputy surgeon general of the United States Army and currently the highest ranking Puerto Rican in the military. Mendez pointed to the positive effect of the long tradition of Hispanic culture in the United States and its notable absence from publications

chronicling American history. The National Institutes of Health provided two speakers, Zora Griffo, special programs officer, and William Raub, associate director for extramural research training, both from the Office of the Director.

Also addressing the meeting was Rafael Valdivieso, director of the ASPIRA Center for Educational Equity in Washington, D.C., who outlined various studies done on the schooling of Puerto Rican students, with special reference to their training in science and mathematics. Manuel Gomez Rodriquez, dean of natural science and director of the resource center for science and engineering at the University of Puerto Rico, discussed the status of Puerto Ricans in science on the island, while Pedro Barbosa, entomologist at the University of Maryland, discussed the situation on the mainland.

For further information, contact Karen Ehrlich, OOS, at the AAAS address.

MICHELE ALDRICH

Office of Opportunities in Science

AAAS Launches New Radio Program

AAAS is now on the radio with a daily 90-second science news feature program. Called "Report on Science," the program is being produced for CBS-owned and -operated radio stations in several of the top radio markets in the country.

The program covers all scientific disciplines. It is based heavily on *Science 81*, although items are taken from other sources, including meetings, reports, and publications. Allen L. Hammond, editor of *Science 81*, is the featured on-air reporter. Carol L. Rogers, head of AAAS public information activities, is the AAAS project director/producer.

The program was developed after several months of negotiation between the director of the CBS radio stations news service and AAAS. It joins several other CBS news features on such topics as business, health, fitness, and consumer issues. AAAS is responsible for the editorial content of "Report on Science," while CBS handles all production and distribution aspects.

CBS plans to syndicate the radio programs as part of its total news feature package to a larger number of stations throughout the United States over the next several months.

AAAS members can currently hear the programs on the following stations: KCBS, San Francisco; KMOX, St. Lou-

is; KNX, Los Angeles; WBBM, Chicago; WCAU, Philadelphia; WCBS, New York City; WEEI, Boston; WWJ, Detroit; and CKEY, Toronto, Canada.

"Report on Science" is the second radio program in the AAAS stable. It joins "Focus," a half-hour panel discussion program produced for noncommercial stations (see *Science*, 3 October 1980, pages 53 and 54).

R&D Colloquium

The sixth annual AAAS Colloquium on R&D and Public Policy will be held 25-26 June at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. The Colloquium, "R&D and the New National Agenda," will cover such topics as federal R&D, defense R&D, program and policy changes at key federal agencies, and the R&D outlook for science and engineering.

Leaders in government, industry, and the scientific and technical communities will discuss issues of current concern relating to R&D and public policy-making in the new Administration. Among the questions they will address are: What will be the focus of federal R&D funding? Which programs are being cut back and which increased? Are these funding changes indicative of a philosophical change on the part of government, and if so, what is that change? How is Congress reacting to the new Administration's budget recommendations for R&D?

Research and Development: AAAS Report VI, by Willis H. Shapley, Albert H. Teich, and Gail J. Breslow, will be available in advance of the Colloquium. The report will cover R&D in the federal budget for FY 1982, and other topics on R&D and public policy.

For registration forms and additional information write R&D Colloquium, Office of Public Sector Programs, at the AAAS address, or call 202-467-4310.

Minority Forums Held Across Country

Representatives of associations of minority scientists and of committees on minorities within mainstream scientific societies have participated in three regional meetings convened by the AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science (OOS). The meetings brought together scientists, educators, and administrators from academia, private industry, and

both the legislative and executive branches of government to devise strategies for improving access of minorities to science.

Meetings were held in Atlanta, 30 January; Los Angeles, 27 March; and Washington, D.C., 9-10 April.

Forum objectives are to open the lines of communication among the associations and committees and to mobilize their resources to implement specific action plans which participants will develop. A repeated concern has been the necessity for a coalition and information clearinghouse for organizations working toward improved opportunities for minorities in science.

Summaries of the three regional meetings will be available from Paula Quick-Hall, Minority Forum, OOS, at the AAAS address. Persons who wish to be informed of any networks which develop as a result of these meetings are invited to contact OOS.

Annual Meeting Survey

Last fall a survey was conducted of approximately 1 percent of the total AAAS membership; the sample was drawn from the membership at large (two-thirds) and those members who had attended the Houston or San Francisco meeting (one-third). Approximately 60 percent of those surveyed returned their questionnaires. The sampling reflected the disciplinary interests of the membership and its geographical distribution.

Some of the survey's results are as follows: The age of the average member is 44.5 ± 13.5 years and the average time of membership is 9.6 ± 7.4 years. About 71 percent have doctorates; 32 percent hold teaching positions; 37 percent are in R&D; and 60 percent are employed at educational institutions. Only 5.3 percent of those in the general member sample attend AAAS Annual Meetings regularly, although 50.2 percent attend other association meetings; 44.5 percent do not attend any meetings.

Of those who attend AAAS Annual Meetings, about one-third do so for professional reasons and two-fifths for the meeting program itself. Of those who do not attend, about one-third give costs and lack of funding as the principal reason, and one-sixth the time of the year.

Although there was no particular preference for any region of the country, the Northeast and the Pacific Coast were somewhat preferred over the Midwest and Southeast. Almost any time of the year was preferable, with a slight dislike