

## DISCUSSION SESSIONS AT THE SPRING MEETING

The number of abstracts submitted to the Society for the Spring meetings exceeds the number of 10-minute presentations that can reasonably be scheduled. This disparity is growing. On the basis of the decision of the membership at the Business Meeting last Spring, oral presentations are limited to approximately 850. The total number of abstracts received was reduced to approximately 850 by eliminating every  $n^{\text{th}}$  paper from oral presentation. It seems clear that experimentation with new, more efficient methods of presentation of scientific reports is desirable in order to accommodate a greater number of reports.

Therefore, an additional alternative mode of presentation will be used this Spring as an experiment during the noon break in the regular sessions. Groups (coinciding with those listed in the back of the abstract issue of Federation Proceedings) will be scheduled for discussion meetings according to the scientific compatibility of the abstracts submitted. Authors who agree to participate will come to ROOM 11, CONVENTION HALL, at scheduled times with their slides. The schedule will be posted outside Room 11. In so far as possible, the subjects covered will be Endocrinology and Reproduction on Monday; Neurophysiology and Sensory on Tuesday; Cardiovascular and Blood on Wednesday; Transport, Muscle and Miscellaneous on Thursday; and finally Respiration and Environment on Friday. A Discussion Leader will be present to evoke and aid the discussion process. Since the usual 10 - minute talks will not have been given, the abstracts will serve as the basis for initial questions. If nothing else, this mechanism will allow people to know where they can meet authors of the excluded abstracts without having to search them out privately. Since the time of presentation is saved, it will be possible in this fashion to greatly increase the number of reports which can be handled per room-hour. If it is found to be a satisfactory method of sharing ideas and data, perhaps it can be used to replace some of the regular sessions for sub-areas where well-focused discussion groups could be identified. The likelihood of success of this mode of presentation would probably be increased by having a larger set of abstracts from which to choose compatible groups. Nonetheless, it is hoped the experiment using the otherwise randomly excluded presentations will allow the Society to evaluate this different kind of scientific meeting. Anyone with suggestions of how to improve the likelihood of success of this experiment please contact me.

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