

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT - 1973-74

To the Members of the American Physiological Society

Dear Colleagues:

In keeping with requests from many of you for increased information about the activities of your Council, I will report to you in this and succeeding issues of *The Physiologist* during academic year 1973-74. I will not attempt to be comprehensive but rather to emphasize those matters which seem to me of greatest importance for the future of the APS. In this report I will concentrate on the meeting of Council and on the Business Meeting of the Society which took place in Rochester on August 19 and August 22, 1973 respectively.

Council received a report from the ad hoc Committee on Election Procedures chaired by Dr. Robert Berne. The Committee recommended the adoption of a procedure which would permit the nomination and election of President-Elect and Councilmen by mail ballot. The procedure allows for a sequential process of elimination and final selection by majority vote analagous to the procedure which has traditionally occurred at the Spring Meeting. This procedure will be drafted in the form of an amendment to the Bylaws and circulated to you well before the Business Meeting in April at which time the matter will be introduced for final resolution.

Council also voted unanimously to establish an ad hoc Task Force on the Neurosciences. In the continuing healthy growth and differentiation of the physiological sciences, it seems appropriate, from time to time to assess the quality of the services which the Society renders to members working in different aspects of the field. Researches in the physiology of nervous system have increased rapidly in number, range and complexity during recent years. Associated with this increased interest and effort, the Society for Neurosciences has emerged. Many members of APS are also members, in some cases founding members, of the new Society. In the judgement of Council, these developments make the time ripe to review the role of the APS in serving those of its members who are interested in the physiology of the nervous system. An ad hoc Task Force will be appointed to study this matter and report its findings and recommendations to Council and to members attending the Spring Meeting.

Dr. Sid Solomon, Chairman of the Membership Committee, recommended to Council the addition of 63 new regular members and 40 new associate members whose names will be brought to you for approval at the Spring Meeting. He also indicated the concern of the Membership Committee about the criteria for acceptance of candidates for membership. The problem involves the tension between those who feel that the APS should admit all professionally qualified, practicing physiologists and those who believe that some higher standard of professional achievement should be a requirement for membership. The Committee is drafting a new set of guide-lines for this process. If you have any suggestions or comments, please send them to Dr. Sid Solomon.

Council received a number of reports from standing committees. I list below a few of the highlights. E. B. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, made a preliminary proposal of a balanced budget involving expenditures of about \$1.5 million for 1974. Dr. Peter Curran, Chairman of the Publications Committee, reported that five new handbooks will be published during 1974. Dr. F. Jöbsis, Chairman of the Program Committee, reported that the program for the Spring Meeting includes, in addition to five symposia and fifteen introductory lectures, a three-day Colloquium on "Membranes, Ions and Impulses." The program for this Colloquium was organized by an ad hoc Committee, chaired by J. W. Moore, and consisting of representatives from the APS, the Biophysical Society, the Society of General Physiologists, the Society for Neurosciences and ASPET. Details about the rules for submission of abstracts for the Spring Meeting are being sent to you under separate cover. Council also received a written report from Dr. Jack Kostyo, Chairman of the Education Committee, which included a description of a new contract of APS with the National Library of Medicine to produce slide-tapes for use in teaching physiology.

Council also heard reports on relations between the several larger organizations with which APS is affiliated, e.g. the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS), and the Council of Academic Societies (CAS) of Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Special attention was paid to the new rules for financial relations between FASEB and the constituent societies which make it much more feasible for non-member societies to participate in FASEB sponsored meetings. For example, the Microcirculatory Society and the Biomedical Engineering Society under the sponsorship of APS will participate in the FASEB Spring Meeting.

In case you missed the announcement which was sent out earlier, on page 520 of this issue you may find instructions for how to apply for support for travel to the IUPS Congress in New Delhi in October 1974.

It was also reported that the AAMC is bringing suit against the Executive Branch of the U. S. Government for failing to spend monies appropriated by Congress for the support of biomedical research and research training. The case will be heard in the Federal Court in the District of Columbia in mid-October.

Council considered the plan for future meetings and gave tentative approval to Miami as the site for a hotel-based meeting in October 1977.

I hope that this brief description of Council activities which summarizes a more complete verbal report made at the Business Meeting in Rochester will be useful to you. If you have questions about any of these matters or suggestions about subjects about which you would like to read in future reports, please contact me or Dr. Orr Reynolds, Executive Secretary of the Society.

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Tosteson