

PERKINS MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE

Report of First Six Years of Operation and Discussion of Future Program

The John F. Perkins, Jr. Memorial Fund was established in 1967 to promote cultural and scientific benefits associated with international aspects of Physiology. The initial gift from the Perkins family has been supplemented annually by relatives and friends of Dr. Perkins with a view to providing sufficient capital endowment to permit operation of the Memorial from investment income. The funds are given to, and administered by the American Physiological Society. Responsibility for planning programs supported by the Fund is vested in the Perkins Memorial Fund Committee, which consists of two Past-Presidents of the American Physiological Society, two of its current councilors and one member of the Perkins family. The Executive Secretary of the Society is a member of the Committee, ex officio. Drs. Pappenheimer and Rahn agreed to guide the Committee during the first six years of operation and Mrs. John Perkins has been of constant help on behalf of the Perkins family. Members of Council who have rotated through the Committee were or are, Drs. Forster, Brobeck, Knobil, B. Schmidt-Nielsen and Selkurt.

The initial program adopted by the Committee provides supplementary aid to families of foreign scientists who are to work in the United States. John Perkins had noted that fellowships, research grants or sabbatical salaries were often inadequate to permit young physiologists from abroad to bring their families with them to the United States. The program initiated by the Memorial Committee was therefore designed to enable young scientists to bring their families and thus make full use of the cultural, as well as the scientific benefits associated with international exchanges. The program is unique in that it pre-supposes that the visiting scientist and his host have already made arrangements for scientific collaboration, and have sufficient funds to cover the needs of the visiting scientist himself. Application to the Perkins Fund is then made jointly by host and visitor to provide the extra amount needed to bring the family of the visitor and to encourage their participation in cultural and social activities.

From 1968-1974, the Fund has assisted the families of 13 physiologists from 9 different countries. Almost from the beginning, it became clear that relatively small sums were sufficient to make it possible for the applicant to bring his family, and in several cases the applicants would have decided not to come at all without their families. The average award has been about \$3,000 and the total expenditures of about \$40,000, spread over 6 years have already made possible a year of family-life in this country for more than 50 foreign guests, including the children. A brief description of each award is given in Table I.

TABLE I
FELLOWSHIP AWARDS 1968-1974

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Home University (Country)</u>	<u>Host (University)</u>	<u>Year of Tenure</u>
Dr. & Mrs. A. Chinet	1	Switzerland	Farhi (Buffalo)	68-69
Dr. & Mrs. R. Holland	4	Australia	Forster (Penn.)	69-70
Dr. & Mrs. K. Norum	3	Norway	Glomset (Washington)	69-71
Dr. & Mrs. S. Nosaka	2	Japan	Wang (Columbia)	69-70
Dr. & Mrs. D. Denison	3	England	West (California)	70-71
Dr. & Mrs. Y. Ohta	3	Japan	Farhi (Buffalo)	70-71
Dr. & Mrs. J. Wieth	2	Denmark	Tosteson (Duke)	70-71
Dr. & Mrs. J. Kay	2	England	Grover (Colorado)	71-72 Sept.
Dr. & Mrs. D. Robertshaw	0	Nairobi	Taylor (Harvard)	1972
Dr. & Mrs. K. Pleschka	3	W. Germany	Wang (Columbia)	72-73
Dr. & Mrs. M. Zade-Oppen	2	Sweden	Tosteson (Duke)	72-73 April
Dr. & Mrs. A. Malan	2	France	Rahn (Buffalo)	72-73
Dr. & Mrs. R. Cross	3	Australia	Barger (Harvard)	73-74 Sept.

Evaluation of Initial Program (1968-1974)

An informal written report has been requested of each recipient. These reports, written in narrative style, describe both the professional and social activities of the recipient, together with comments on long term effects, such as continuing correspondence with friends made in this country, and reactions of children on returning home. Our initial intention was to ask for this report two years after the family had returned home; the reason for this delay was to allow time for the scientific work to reach full fruition, and for the initial glow of excitement of travel to be replaced by some feeling for the long term benefits.

So far, we have received 8 such reports, of which two were written spontaneously before receiving our request. These reports, together with informal photographs, which accompany them, are filed at the APS Headquarters; some of them will undoubtedly be of special interest to physiologists of the future. All responses, written or verbal, have been highly favorable - both from recipients and hosts. Most of the 13 recipients have published one or more technical articles based on work accomplished during the visit, and some have reported that their research and subsequent professional orientation have been profoundly influenced as a result of their visit. A recent recipient has suggested forming an association of past-Perkins Fellows to meet every three years at the International Congress of Physiology. At least one Perkins Fellow has made arrangements for a young United States scientist, whom he met here, to spend a year abroad. There seems little reason to doubt that all of the Fellows, thus far, have established warm relationships with people in this country, and that these will be of an enduring nature.

Continuation of Initial Program

Since no doubts have been expressed about the value of the present program, there seems no reason to alter it in any essential way. If the Fund continues to make possible visits by two scientists and their families each year, it seems obvious that in the course of time, the program will have a very significant impact on the world of international physiology and perhaps, via the children, in other fields as well.

Nevertheless, the Committee is considering ways to improve the present mode of operation of the Program. Three suggestions have been made and approved by members of the Committee.

- 1) Extension of awards to U.S. Physiologists who are planning to work abroad for a year. The need for this type of support has developed during the past few years, owing partly to reduction of Federal Funding in this country and partly to devaluation of U.S. currency. Supplementary support in the range of \$3,000-\$5,000 may be a decisive factor in making possible a highly productive year abroad for a U.S. physiologist and his family. The Committee will therefore consider applications made jointly by U.S. physiologists and their foreign hosts.
- 2) Announcing the Perkins Awards. Except for initial announcements in 1968 in "The Physiologist" and in "Respiration Physiology", the availability of the Awards has not been widely disseminated. This was intentional because the program was experimental; most of the awards were associated with hosts who knew John Perkins personally, and who were known by members of the Committee to be sympathetic with aims of the Memorial. With six years of experience behind us, it now seems appropriate to emphasize the availability of the Fellowships to a broader group, both here and abroad. This can be done partly through publication of the present report in "The Physiologist" and partly through IUPS and Secretaries of foreign physiological societies.

- 3) Establishment of a Memorial Lectureship at the Triennial Meetings of IUPS. For this purpose the Perkins Committee would be authorized to withdraw a sum of the order of \$1,000 every 3 years to support an IUPS lecturer. Selection of the Lecturer (from any nation) would be entrusted to Council of IUPS. Dr. Rahn will discuss this possibility at the next meeting of IUPS Council in Stockholm.

Mrs. J. F. Perkins
Dr. H. Rahn
Dr. B. Schmidt-Nielsen
Dr. E. Selkurt
Dr. O. Reynolds
Dr. J. R. Pappenheimer, Chairman

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THROMBOSIS AND HEMOSTASIS

A National Conference on Thrombosis and Hemostasis will be held in Dallas, Texas, November 20-22, 1974 sponsored by the Council on Thrombosis of the American Heart Association.

The meeting will provide a national interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of new scientific and medical advances relating to the problems of thrombosis and hemostasis.

Symposia are planned on the Relationship Between Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis; Initiation Mechanisms of Coagulation; Thrombosis Regulating Mechanisms; Prosthetic Devices, Surfaces and Thrombogenesis; and Thrombotic Disease: Diagnosis and Therapy.

Workshops involving specific problems in blood platelets, coagulation, and immunology are included in the program. Abstracts will be solicited for free communications. All interested are invited to attend. No registration fee is required for members of the Council on Thrombosis or for those registered for the Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association. All others will pay a registration fee of \$50. For further information and for abstract forms write to Section on Scientific Programs, American Heart Association, 44 East 23rd Street, New York, New York 10010.