

## Publications

### Library Focus Group

On March 4, 1991, a group of librarians and library administrators met with the chairman of the Publications Committee and APS staff to share their experiences as subscribers to the consolidated *American Journal of Physiology (AJP)*, indicate the advantages and disadvantages of possible alternate modes of publication, and discuss electronic publishing.

William and Mary); Hoyt Galloway (director, Walter Reed Army Medical Center Medical Library); Jeff Gardner (director of the Office of Research and Development, Association of Research Libraries); Margaret Kunz (head of acquisitions, National Institutes of Health Library); Richard Lyders (executive director, Houston Academy of Medicine, Texas Medical Center

Committee felt, however, that no change could be put into effect until the possible impact on institutional subscriptions was investigated.

Topics discussed included citation history and impact factors, indexing, binding, library measurement of usage and circulation, user satisfaction, the effect of title and volume number changes, declining library budgets, and the effect of subscription price increases. Several scenarios for breaking up the consolidated journal and their possible effects on institutional subscriptions were discussed in detail.

The group also gave valuable input on the status and future development of electronic publishing in their own institutions. The distinction was made between database publishing using CD-ROM or on-line databases and the publication of true electronic products. Topics covered included preservation and archiving, indexing, mechanical problems, service to users, interlibrary cooperation, and the library's changing role as the new technology develops.

The information and advice obtained will prove invaluable in further discussion by the Publications Committee, Editors, and Council of the future of the consolidated *AJP*.

The meeting was organized on behalf of the Society, by M. H. Conway, president of The Conway Group, a consulting firm specializing in communications and consulting for associations and their publishing programs.



Library Focus Group Participants

Participants of the Focus Group were Shelley Bader (director, Paul Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, George Washington University Medical Center); Naomi Broering (director, Dahlgren Memorial Library, Georgetown University); Lois Ann Colaianni (associate director for Library Operations, National Library of Medicine); Isabel Czech (manager of publication selection, Institute for Scientific Information); Merle A. Kimball (Serials Collection Development, College of

Library; Incoming President, Medical Library Association); Elizabeth McElroy (head, White Memorial Library, University of Maryland, College Park); and Salvador Waller (director, Howard University Medical Dental Library).

The professional input of the participants was sought because the production and mailing of the multi-journal consolidated *AJP* has increased in complexity every year since its inception in 1977 owing to its ever-increasing size and weight. The Publications



Journal Editors Meeting

(l-r standing) J. A. Williams, D. H. Alpers, J. A. Schafer, M. J. Fregly, W. H. Dantzler, J. A. Michael, C. Desjardins, K. A. Hruska, M. A. Farrell Epstein, M. Frank. (l-r seated) D. Benos, B. B. Rauner, J. S. Cook, V. S. Bishop, L. Chambers, L. S. Jefferson.