

Spring Meeting Update

Reaching for New Frontiers

The Spring APS/FASEB Meeting will be undergoing a face lift in 1993 to make it more user friendly. The current FASEB meeting attracts 9,000–15,000 scientists, representing the largest meeting in the experimental biological sciences. It provides an extensive scientific program, a valuable placement service, and an outstanding exhibits program.

Past efforts to make the meeting more useful to the attendees focused on the development of an integrated program by the establishment of themes and intersociety programs. These provided a thin veneer of integration that could not mask the fact that the Spring Meeting was really a meeting of four to six societies meeting in parallel. As a result, the meeting was known for its overlapping sessions and for the presentation of similar symposia by several societies, creating a meeting that many “loved to hate.”

Size was also a reason for the love/hate relationship scientists had with the FASEB meeting. While it allowed for the presentation of a broad range of research, it did not make it easy for investigators to focus on their defined areas of investigation. As a result, many scientists have been seeking meetings that were smaller and integrated around a common topic. To address the problems with the FASEB meeting format and to make it more useful to the attendees, an Intersociety Program Committee met in October 1991 to review the content, format, and organization of the spring meeting.

To alleviate these problems in 1993, the Committee decided to eliminate the “theme” program and instead establish a program of intersociety “topics” that would carry over from year to year. The topics were selected because of their intersociety appeal and their potential for generating interest and excellence. The Committee’s goal is to build these intersociety programs into the best meetings of the year in each of these areas. Programs in each area will be constructed by representatives of the program committees of the participating societies and will be open to all FASEB members. One society would serve as the clearing house for receipt and han-

dling of abstracts, etc., for each topic.

The Committee came up with an initial list of topics, but the slate is fluid, changing with the needs of the attendees and the societies. The most important point made by the Committee was that the topic programs must be excellent. The topics selected for the 1993 Spring Meeting are Cardiovascular Biology; Cell Injury and Toxicology; Molecular Regulation of Cell Function (including growth factors, endocrine, and metabolism); Epithelial Cell Function (including renal, gastrointestinal, and pulmonary); Immunoregulation (including neural and cellular); Neural Control and Regulation; Energy Metabolism, Diet and Exercise; and Growth Development and Aging.

Having addressed the issue of coordination, the Committee then had to decide on a name for the meeting, hoping to identify one that would enable the participating societies to take scientific ownership of the meeting. The need for a name change was a result of the restructuring of FASEB and the decisions of the FASEB Board.

At the FASEB Retreat, it was decided that future Spring Meetings were to be called and organized by the societies and FASEB’s role was to be one of meeting management. With the ASBMB, ASCB, and Biophysical Society all having their own meetings, the Board had expressed the view that the Spring Meeting should no longer be called the FASEB Meeting but should be referred to as a FASEB-managed meeting. The Committee, therefore, had to come up with a new moniker for the meeting.

Extensive discussion by the Committee produced *Frontiers in Experimental Biology*, a name that describes the excitement of our science and provides an opportunity to make a smooth transition from the FASEB name. The change allows for a transition from FASEB to the new acronym “FEB”. In the future, the meeting can be referred to as FEB ‘93, Experimental Biology ‘93, or *Frontiers* ‘93. With a new name and format, the Spring Meeting should be beneficial to members of all the FASEB member societies.

Unique Materials

Work published in the Society’s journals must necessarily be independently verifiable. Authors describing results derived from the use of antibodies, recombinant plasmids and cloned DNAs, mutant cell lines or viruses, and other similarly unique materials are expected to make such materials available to qualified investigators on request. Authors should also submit published nucleic acid/amino acid sequences to a widely accessible data bank. Sequence data submission forms for the National Biomedical Research Foundation—Protein Identification Resource Database (NBRF-PIR) are available from the APS Publications Office, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814. Tel: 301-530-7186.