

Introducing . . .

## Heinz Valtin



Photo by Jonathan E. Sa'Adah

On January 1, 1992, Heinz Valtin succeeded Carl Gisolfi as chair of the APS Program Committee and the Program Advisory Committee. Valtin has assumed this post during a time of major changes in the scientific programming of APS, which were begun during the tenure of Gisolfi. These changes, which were reassessed and reaffirmed at the Strategic Planning Retreat of the APS Council last January, are 1) a revamping of the spring meeting of the Society (formerly FASEB), now renamed Experimental Biology '93, '94, etc., and 2) the initiation of APS Conferences..

The spring meetings will emphasize major themes in experimental biology that will be carried from year to year and that will be organized largely as invited intersociety symposia and as minisymposia constructed from volunteered abstracts. Approximately two APS Conferences are to be held each year, between June and December so as not to interfere with the spring meetings. These conferences will deal with the most current topics of physiological investigation, and they will be selected competitively from submitted proposals. All expenses for the conferences are guaranteed by the APS. Valtin states that the aims of the scientific programming of APS should be "to have each session, so far as possible,

reach from the molecule to the organism, and to make the scientific programming of APS so exciting that the best minds in science will be attracted to the discipline of physiology."

Valtin is a graduate of Swarthmore College, and he received the MD degree from Cornell. For 12 years he chaired the Department of Physiology at Dartmouth Medical School, where he held the Andrew C. Vail Professorship and where he is currently the Constantine and Joyce Hampers Professor. He is known worldwide for his highly successful textbooks, especially *Renal Function*, which is about to go into its third edition. He has received many teaching awards and for many years has directed an NIH Training Grant in renal function and disease.

Valtin's research, supported by the NIH for nearly three decades, has been focused on the urinary concentrating mechanism, including the cellular action of vasopressin. He is known particularly as the developer of the Brattleboro Rat, an extremely useful animal model of hypothalamic diabetes insipidus that is used extensively to this day by investigators on four continents. An international conference on this animal was held at Dartmouth in 1981, and the proceedings of this meeting, published as an *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, remains a much-consulted reference.

Valtin has held many advisory positions, including NIH study sections, editorial boards, and the National Board of Medical Examiners. Through the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS), he has been very active in international physiology. He was involved in founding *News In Physiological Sciences*, and he has served on the Joint Managing Board of this journal since its inception. In his capacity as Chair of the Renal Commission of the IUPS, Valtin organized the first conference in Africa ever to be devoted entirely to the kidney. That meeting, held in Nairobi in 1986, was followed nine months later by a pan-African conference on "The Kidney and Electrolytes"; the founding of the African Association of Nephrology arose out of these two conferences.

For six years ending in 1990, Valtin served as Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee of the IUPS, and in this capacity he became very instrumental in promoting the causes of physiology in the Third World and in eastern Europe. He has lectured in Latin America and in many countries of eastern Europe. His services in the latter region have been recognized by the Purkinje Medal from Czechoslovakia and the Pavlov Medal from the former Soviet Union.

Valtin invites the membership of the APS to contribute ideas to what he hopes will be increasingly exciting and current scientific meetings.

Plan to Attend

**Experimental Biology '93**

New Orleans, LA

March 28–April 1, 1993