

NEWS EVENTS &

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The new year started with a flurry of activity for the Executive Board. With the addition of new members and new officers, change and new learning experiences were in store. Work and anticipation have been mounting toward ABRF '99 *Bioinformatics and Biomolecular Technologies: Linking Genomes, Proteomes, and Biochemistry*, because it is just around the corner (March 19–21). Mark Lively and David Landsmann put together an interesting and informative program, and Marcella Jackson and Jean Lash have turned these plans into reality and helped to solve many unforeseen problems. Most of you are attending ABRF '99, and many are attending the first ABRF premeeting course, "Protein Sequencing by Mass Spectrometry," which will be taught by Prof. Don Hunt and colleagues. This is an opportunity for interactive training with the experts. Hope to see you there!

Major issues to be addressed by the Executive Board in the coming year include association management, assistance to the ABRF committees and working groups, and issues concerning resource laboratories. As the society continues to grow, new skills and professionalism are required. The Executive Board is continuing to investigate association management with an emphasis on cost efficiency. The Executive Board is also working with the committee and research groups regarding projects, support, communication, and efficient operation and productivity. The working groups are a unique feature of our society, a feature we are all proud of. No other society has groups that generate and publish data useful to members of the society and to researchers as a whole. Chairs and representatives from our committee and working groups are collaborating with the Executive Board during the ABRF '99 meeting to discuss these issues.

The Executive Board has written an article addressing the creation and support of resource facilities, which should be in the February issue of the *FASEB Journal* in February. Harmful and helpful policies with regard to cost, commitment, and support of resource facilities are addressed. The Executive Board welcomes feedback. Its members will address guidelines for core facilities during the coming year and continue to pursue science policy initiatives and funding issues that affect support for technology.

This is the first issue of *Journal of Biomolecular Techniques* that is the product of professional publishing. JBT will soon receive an ISSN number, contains peer-reviewed articles, and can be used for citation purposes. Clayton Naeve is doing an outstanding job as Editor-in-Chief. Clayton and the Executive Board encourage you to submit your best work to the official journal of the ABRF.

ABRF RESOURCE TECHNOLOGY ARTICLE PUBLISHED

A forthcoming issue of the *FASEB Journal* will publish an article by the 1998 ABRF Executive Board entitled "Research Technologies: Fulfilling the Promise." The paper addresses critical issues facing universities and nonprofit research institutions in maintaining technology infrastructure and in providing effective support for resource laboratories. The paper underscores that this is an issue important to all faculty and scientists, one that requires the cooperation of all partners, including researchers, administration, and funding agencies. The article focuses on three areas: the cost of high-quality technology resources, support of the intellectual infrastructure, and the commitment necessary to maintain both. Key issues are defined for each topic, and policies known to harm or nourish a good outcome are dis-

cussed. Of particular importance are considerations of the harmful effects of high-cost recovery on scientific productivity and of providing a full place in academic life for resource scientists. Several tables define the costs, activities, personnel, helpful policies, and appropriate roles for all involved in resource planning. The article is referenced with a number of studies from the National Institutes of Health, the National Academy of Sciences, the ABRF, and other sources. The authors' goal was to provide a document to help guide the planning of resource technologies and resource laboratories, which is essential to the scientific opportunities and challenges that face us.

JOINT ABRF AND ASBMB SYMPOSIUM

Continuing with the tradition of presenting emerging technologies for modern life sciences research to the biochemistry and molecular biology research community, the ABRF has joined with the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) in sponsoring a symposium. In 1999, ASBMB is meeting with several scientific societies, including the Pan-American Association for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Canadian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular and Cellular Biology, and the Division of Biological Chemistry of the American Chemical Society in the triennial meeting. The meeting program for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology '99 is entitled "New World Science for the Next Millennium" and takes place in San Francisco, May 16–20, 1999.

ABRF members worked diligently to recruit colleagues from South America to bring their views on research resources and present accomplishments resulting from the activities of those laboratories in what we feel will be an enlightening program. The result of the program planning is a series of five presentations from Brazil called "Core Facilities in the Southern Cone," highlighting resources and research covering familiar and modern technologies, as well as presenting intriguing research ideas. Topics include genome sequencing, rational drug design, macromolecular folding and interactions, and macromolecular crystallography.

The joint ABRF and ASBMB Symposium was organized by Drs. Raghuvir K. Arni and Ronald L. Niece and is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, from 10:15 AM to 12:30 PM. The program opens with a description of shared resources for modern medical and life science research.

PROGRAM

ABRF and ASBMB Symposium: Core Facilities in the Southern Cone

Chairs: *Raghuvir K. Arni, IBILCE/UNESP, Brazil and Ronald L. Niece, University of California, Irvine*

Role of Shared Resources in Multilaboratory Research *Ronald L. Niece, University of California, Irvine*

Dr. Niece will draw on the results from ABRF Survey Committee data collected over the past decade on the composition and capabilities of share resource facilities.

Sequencing the Genome of *Xylella fastidiosa* *Fernando C. Reinach, University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil*

Dr. Reinach will present results for the sequencing effort and the organization of the network involved in determining the complete sequence of *X. fastidiosa*, which infects the xylem of orange trees, causing the disease called citrus variegated chlorosis. Thirty-three laboratories are collaborating in the sequencing effort, with each sequencing a few cosmids from an ordered library.

Macromolecular Crystallography in South America and the National Synchrotron Source for X-ray Diffraction

Raghuvir K. Arni, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Brazil

The co-organizer, Dr. Arni, will focus on the resources for macromolecular crystallography and the allocation of beam time. A core, multi-user facility has seven beamlines with an injection energy of 120 MeV and final energy of 1.37 GeV for vacuum UV spectroscopy, x-ray absorption spectroscopy, extended x-ray absorption fine structure (EXAFS), x-ray diffraction, small-angle x-ray scattering, and protein crystallography, which are open to all users.

Protein Folding Intermediates as Studied by Hydrostatic Pressure

Jerson L. Silva, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Dr. Silva describes the use of pressure to trap intermediates that occur during folding or in the assembly of protein-DNA complexes and viruses. The dynamics and structure of the intermediates can be characterized by fluorescence, light scattering, nuclear magnetic resonance, and hydrodynamic methods.

Rational Design and Biodiversity in the Search for New Antichagasic Drugs

Glaucius Oliva, University of Sao Paulo-Sao Carlos, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Dr. Oliva will discuss the interinstitutional team studying a glycosomal enzyme from *Trypanosoma*

cruzi. A multidisciplinary approach focuses on potential antichagasic activity of compounds based on drug design and identified by screening natural products from the Brazilian biodiversity.

Characterization, Possible Origins, and Biological Significance of Deterministic Behavior in Protein Folding and Subunit Interactions

Sergio T. Ferreira, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Dr. Ferreira will describe a protein association that appears to lack concentration dependence, an apparent violation of the law of mass action that results from negligible subunit exchange between dimers during biologically relevant time scales. Several spectroscopic techniques, including absorption, fluorescence, circular dichroism, and nuclear magnetic resonance, are used in combination with the thermodynamic tools of hydrostatic pressure and temperature and chaotropic agents.

**PE BIOSYSTEMS AND ABRF 1999
TRAVEL AWARDEES**

Thanks to a generous donation from PE Biosystems, Travel Awards to the ABRF '99 meeting are granted to 16 recipients:

Arie Admon: Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel
Carol Bayles: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA

Sylvie Bourassa: Laval University, Ste-Foy, Quebec, Canada
Catherine Cooper: Macquarie University, North Ryde, Australia
Bo Ek: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden
Vitor Faca: Medical School of Ribeira, Ribeirao Preto, Brazil
Wagner Fontes: University of Brasilia, Brasilia, Brazil
Kathryn Lilley: University of Leicester, Leicester, UK
Yong Luo: Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH, USA
Amy Marrs: National Jewish Medical and Research Center, Denver, CO, USA
Theresa Martinez: ZymoGenetics Inc., Seattle, WA, USA
Glenn Miller: Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA, USA
Ale Narvanen: University of Kuopio, Kuopio, Finland
Gretta Roberts: Guy's, King's & St. Thomas' Dental School, London, UK
Phyllis Spatrick: University of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA, USA
Karen West: Cleveland Clinic Foundation-Eye Institute, Cleveland, OH, USA

The 1999 PE BioSystems/ABRF Travel Award Selection Committee members are Lowell Ericsson (chair), Karen De Jongh, Ken Mitchelhill, Len Packman, Al Smith, and Tim Schlabach (PE BioSystems representative).