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NEWSLETTER

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No. 61 October 1982

President Norman I. Krinsky
ASP 1982-1983

Norman Krinsky, who became the 10th President of the American Society for Photobiology on June 29th, 1982 holds the position of Professor of Biochemistry and Pharmacology at Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts. He received his graduate training in Biochemistry at the University of Southern California, receiving his Ph.D. degree in 1953. At that time, his work dealt with Vitamin A and carotenoids, and this interest brought him to Harvard University as a Post-doctoral Fellow with George Wald. There he worked on visual systems, with a particular emphasis on the biochemistry of Vitamin A in the visual process. This experience led him to begin investigating carotenoids in a variety of photosynthetic organisms, particularly with respect to their potential involvement in either photosynthesis or other light-driven reactions. He then began concentrating on the role of carotenoid pigments as protective agents, not only in photosynthetic organisms but in non-photosynthetic systems as well. The involvement of carotenoids with the quenching of singlet oxygen prompted him to study carotenoid function in in vitro systems where results indicated that carotenoids function not only as protective agents but may also be involved in quenching radical reactions. These studies established a general interest in the area of radical generation in biological systems and the study of natural protectants against radical damage. In particular, he has been concerned about radical damage of platelets and the interaction of platelets and polymorphonuclear leukocytes during circulation. Most recently, he has been studying a polymorphonuclear enzyme, myeloperoxidase, that can generate radical species and is involved in killing bacteria and possibly harming the host organism. He is now actively engaged in studying mechanisms of UV-B photo-oxidation in intact animals, as well as pursuing his interest in carotenoid-radical species interactions by studying the potential anticarcinogenic effects of carotenoid pigments.

In addition to his research work, Dr. Krinsky is an active and enthusiastic teacher at Tufts University School of Medicine. For the past two years he has received a Citation for Excellence in Teaching.

In the 1960's Dr. Krinsky chaired the first Affirmative Action Program for medical students at Tufts. He worked closely with the administrations of Black colleges and of the Mount Bayou Medical Center in Mississippi to recruit Black medical students and created and supported programs for minority medical students. Many of those students are now playing important health care roles in their communities.

Over the years Krinsky also has been greatly involved in the development and evaluation of medical school curricula. Recently he has completed a report to the Dean of the Medical School and the President of the University making recommendations for proposed training in nutrition for medical students. Currently he serves as Coordinator of the Curriculum for First Year Medical Students, an administrative post, in which he works with faculty within the medical school and affiliated hospitals on the curriculum and with students about their academic issues in the first year.

ASP - 10th ANNIVERSARY - 1972-1982
PAST PRESIDENTS

Kendric C. Smith
1972-1974

John D. Spikes
1974-1975

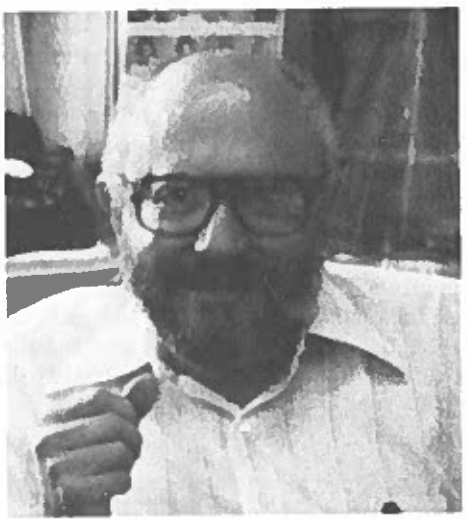
Jack Myers
1975-1976

Angelo A. Lamola
1976-1977

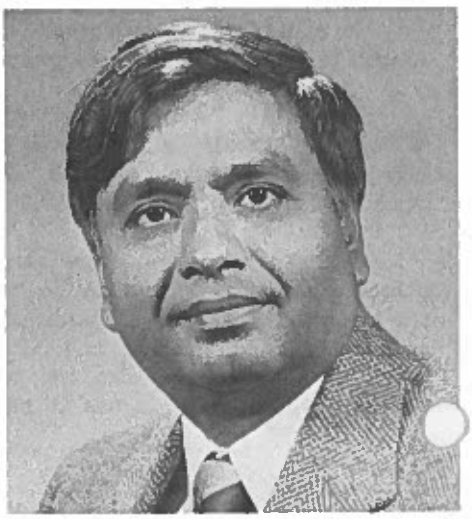
Frederick Urbach
1977-1978

James W. Longworth
1978-1979

Beatrice M. Sweeney
1979-1980



Howard H. Seliger
1980-1981



Govindjee
1981-1982

Congressional Corner - Harlee Strauss

The Following is a continuation of the congressional corner that appeared in the last (September) newsletter issue:

R&D dollars in next year's budget. The accompanying figures are a little out of date because they represent what was contained in President Reagan's budget which is now dead. However, the Congressionally approved budget, although very different from that proposed by Reagan, is not all that different with respect to R&D spending. So these graphs do give a good overview of the current funding situation.

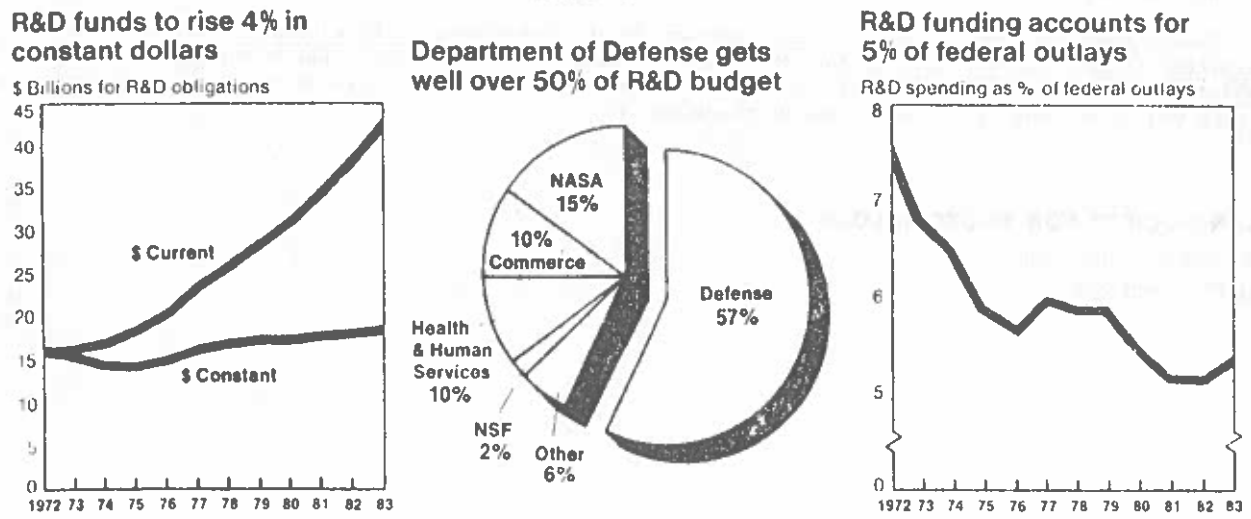
Figures 1A and 1C are graphs of federal funding for R&D over the last 10 years. Figure 1A shows there has been a slight increase in R&D funding if calculated in constant dollars, but figure 1C shows that federal R&D dollars have decreased if looked at as a percent of total federal outlays (money actually spent). Figure 1B shows the distribution of R&D funds in FY 83. As you can see, defense R&D takes the biggest chunk out of each research dollar.

Table 1A gives a further breakdown of federal R&D funding. The figures indicate that over the past 2 budget years, overall R&D funding has remained essentially constant. However, different subcategories have fared differently. In basic research, applied research, and development categories, funds have been shifted from nondefense to defense projects. In addition, nondefense-related applied research and development funding has decreased dramatically. This is in line with Reagan's announced policy of leaving all research with any (potentially) commercial value to the private sector. Non-defense basic research has declined by about 4% over the last two years. Again, the cuts are differential; social sciences taking far more than their share of the reduction.

Table 1B shows the selectivity of the cuts and the clear policy implications of these cuts, most simply. All science funding agencies have had their R&D funds cut except the Department of Defense and NASA. In addition, much of the NASA money, particularly the programs that have increased substantially, is defense related. The space shuttle, which will carry many military loads, is the most notable example. The Department of Energy and the EPA are taking substantial cuts (although Congress is restoring some of this money), again backing up the stated administration policy of leaving energy development to the private sector and environmental research to no-one.

To conclude, although aggregate R&D figures show science to be faring very well under Reaganomics, research priorities and funding are being drastically rearranged. Scientists ought to play a role in the setting of these priorities and can do this by paying attention and making their views known during the budget process.

Feb. 15, 1982 C&EN 9



A B C

FIGURE 1

Congressional Corner (cont.)

TABLE I

A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING % change FY 1981-1983 (corrected for inflation)		B AGENCY R&D BUDGETS % change FY 81-83 (corrected for inflation)	
BASIC RESEARCH	- 1.3	DEFENSE	+24.2
Defense	+16.9	NASA	+ 2.9
Nondefense	- 3.8	ENERGY	-35.9
APPLIED RESEARCH	-12.5	NIH	- 9.0
Defense	+ 5.3	NSF	- 5.9
Nondefense	-20.0	EPA	-52.5
DEVELOPMENT	+10.5	AGRICULTURE	- 9.3
Defense	+26.1	TOTAL R&D	+ 2.2
Nondefense	-21.6		
TOTAL R&D	+ 2.2		

Education in Photobiology

ASP Education Committee - Irene Kochevar, Joan Roberts, Kendric Smith, Barbara Zilinskas.

One goal of the ASP is to improve the quality and availability of photobiology education. The members of the Education Committee would like the help of the membership in attaining this goal. Our immediate objectives are to determine what photobiology courses are currently available, to assemble materials (articles, course outlines, etc.) which may be of use to those teaching photobiology and to explore the possibility of producing educational materials. Your responses to the following questions will help us learn what courses are available and what the ASP may be able to do to aid those teaching photobiology.

1) Are courses in photobiology or selected aspects of photobiology available at your school? Please list the title, department, name of instructor and, if possible, a very brief description of the content. Is a lab given with the course?

2) If no course is given, describe the reason.

3) Would increased availability of materials (video tapes, articles, slides) be helpful?

4) Do you know of or have any educational materials which would be valuable to others who teach photobiology?

Please send your responses to: Irene Kochevar, Ph.D., Department of Dermatology, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA 02114. A summary of the results will be published in the ASP Newsletter. Any additional comments about education will be appreciated. Thank you. (Please send comments to be received by the end of October. Again, thank you.)

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