AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PHOTOBIOLOGY
LUX ET VITA
1972

NEWSLETTER

Published by the American Society for Photobiology /
1340 Old Chain Bridge Road, Suite 300 / McLean, Virginia 22101 / (703) 790-1745

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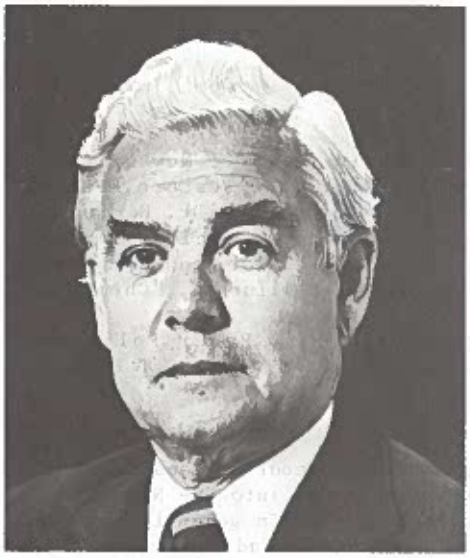
No. 87 February 1985

ASP - Newsletter



Dr. Warren L. Butler
1925-1984

The announcement of the death of Warren Butler on June 22, 1984, came as a profound shock to his friends and colleagues in the scientific community. It was only a short time ago that Warren was present at the Sixth International Congress of Photosynthesis in Brussels and many had the opportunity to hear him lecture. Yet six months later, it was discovered that Warren had cancer, and within another six months, he passed away. Even in this age of high-speed communication, few of his friends had even realized he had been seriously ill.

Warren's interests in the field of plant biology were broad and his contributions significant. In the area of plant development he made his first important findings when the detection and isolation of the photoreversible receptor, phytochrome, was reported in 1959. This work was the basis of his interest in the field of photomorphogenesis which led him to examine the so-called "blue-light response" in plants and to obtain definitive action spectra for this phenomenon. Warren also had an interest in developmental aspects of chloroplast membranes and studied this process with his usual thorough biophysical expertise. His application of sensitive absorbance spectrophotometric techniques allowed for a clear definition of the early events accompanying this complex process and drew on his expertise in the area of photosynthesis.

His work on energy transfer was not simply descriptive but led to a quantitative model, the tripartite model, that was based on his own analyses of fluorescence patterns as well as on a body of structural information on the organization of chlorophyll-protein complexes in thylakoids. Studies on Photosystem II provided critical insights on the nature of the primary electron acceptor complex and the fluorescence quenching process. Warren's attention had then turned to the problem of water oxidation and the enigmatic role of cytochrome b-559, and he was attempting to define a role for this electron carrier in the period preceding his death.

Warren's scientific achievements have been recognized by his peers. His election to the National Academy of Sciences was received with the same quiet dignity which characterized him. He was a private man, not a person one got to know easily, but those who did benefited greatly from their experience with him. There is a community of younger scientific investigators who will read his papers, come in contact with his ideas, and be influenced by his work. It is unfortunate they will never have the opportunity to meet him and grow to appreciate him as so many before had. The scientific society will be much the poorer because of his absence, and he will be missed.

In Memorium

Dr. Gordon J. Fisher died on November 10, 1984. Dr. Fisher was a member of the MRC Group in Radiation Sciences at the University of Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada. He was an author and reviewer for Photochemistry and Photobiology, and a friend of many ASP members.

Born in Toronto in 1944, Dr. Fisher was educated at the University of Toronto. He received his Ph.D. degree in 1973 from the Department of Medical Biophysics on the photochemistry of thymine and uracil in aqueous solutions. After post-doctoral work at the Royal Institution of Great Britain and the Gray Laboratories, he joined, in 1975, the Medical Faculty of the University of Sherbrooke. Since 1982, he had been an associate professor in the department of nuclear medicine and radiobiology and a member of the recently established MRC of Canada Group in the radiation sciences. His knowledge, guidance and wisdom which he offered so generously to his collegues and students will be greatly missed in many ways.

Basic Laser Course and Symposium - February 10-15

The following was received too late for the January Newsletter.

Pacific Laser and the University of Hawaii School of Medicine announce an International Update in Laser Medicine and Surgery, a multispecialty symposium and basic science course to be conducted in Honolulu February 10-15, 1985. Accreditation is offerred for 20 hours, category 1 in the Physicians' Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. Keynote speakers include: Kazuhiko Atsumi, M.D., Tokyo; Leon Goldman, M.D., Cincinnati; John Dixon, M.D., Salt Lake City; and Isaac Kaplan, M.D., Tel Aviv.

Basic Laser Course (4 C.M.E. credits)
Physics of Lasers,
Medical & Surgical Application of Lasers,
Laser safety & Equipment
Multispecialty Laser Update (16 C.M.E. credits)
Cardiovascular, Dentistry, Dermatology, Dendoscopy, General Surgery, Gynecology, Neurosurgery, Nursing, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Podiatry, Urology, Veterinary Medicine.

For Information: Norman Goldstein, M.D., Director, Pacific Laser, 119 Merchant Street, Suite 601, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. (808) 523-6842.

Cancer Workshop

(Also received too late for the January Newsletter)*

Interdisciplinary Cancer Research Workshop to be held at the University of New Orleans, February 8, 1985. The speakers and their topics will be: Dr. George Bakale, Case Western Reserve University, "A Physico-Chemical Technique for Identifying Chemical Carcinogens"; Dr. Hermann M. Bolt, University of Dortmund, "Quantitative Aspects of Metabolism and Carcinogenicity of Vinyl Chloride and Related Compounds"; Dr. David J. Brusick, Litton Bionetics, "Carcinogen Prediction Using in vitro Tests; The Current Status"; Dr. Beatrice Singer, University of California, "Chemistry of Vinyl Halide Reactions and Possible Biological Consequences".

Further information can be obtained from the Workshop organizer: Dr. Peter Politzer, Department of Chemistry, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana 70148, Tel: (504) 286-6850.

* Ed. Note:
Fully cognizant of the problems in planning and implementing workshops, courses, and meetings, the editor reminds members that the schedule timetable for insertion of material into the Newsletter is critical. The April 1984 issue timetable is correct until August of 1985. In general, material should reach the editor five weeks before the targeted issue. Last minute additions may be attempted by phone. Please write the editor if you would like another copy of the timetable. The editor appreciates all contributions.

Photochemistry Award

Dr. Marcel Nicolet, Professor at Brussels University, was the recipient of the Polychrome Corporation Award in Photochemistry at The New York Academy of Sciences' 167th Annual Meeting. Dr. Craig Burrell, President of the Academy, presented a certificate of citation and an award of $1,000 to Dr. Nicolet for his outstanding contributions to the science of photochemistry. Professor Nicolet has made extraordinary contributions to atmospheric science and to the understanding of the photochemistry of the earth's upper atmosphere. He provided detailed models for the diurnal, seasonal and solar cycle variations in density and temperature of the thermosphere.

CONGRESSIONAL SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 1985-1985

The American Society for Photobiology and the Biophysical Society invite members to apply for a Congressional Science Fellowship, which is being co-sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The deadline for application is 1 April 1985. The one year appointment begins 1 September 1985.

The program selects scientists to spend one year on the staffs of individual congressmen, congressional committees, or congressional support agencies.

The purpose of the program is (1) to make practical contributions to more effective use of scientific knowledge in government, (2) to educate the scientific community about the public policy process, and (3) to broaden the perspective of both the scientific and governmental communities regarding the value of such science-government interaction.

The Fellow will receive a stipend of $25,000 and additional expenses up to $1,500 for vouchered relocation and travel in connection with the Fellowship.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Prospective Fellows are expected to show exceptional competence in some area of science, and have a strong interest and preferrably some experience in applying scientific knowledge toward the solution of social problems. Candidates are expected to be members of the American Society for Photobiology or the Biophysical Society.

COMPLETE APPLICATIONS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP MUST INCLUDE:

-Three letters of reference (to be mailed directly to the Program Coordinator, see below).

-A statement from the candidate about qualifications and career goals. This statement should not exceed 1000 words and should cover at least the following areas:

(1) Why the Fellowship is desired
(2) How the candidate is qualified
(3) What issues and congressional situations interest the candidate
(4) What role the candidate envisions as Congressional Science Fellow
(5) What role is hoped for relative to the candidate's career goals.

-A full curriculum vitae

Applications and related letters of reference should be addressed to: Dr. E.C. De Fabo, ASP Coordinator, Congressional Fellowship Program, The American Society for Photobiology, 1340 Old Chain Bridge Road, Suite 300, McLean, VA 22101.

News from AIBS

At the November Council meeting in Washington,DC, Herb Ward, Professor of Biology at Rice University, became the 1985 AIBS President. Other new officers include W. Donald Duckworth, President-Elect and Paul A. Opler, Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service Editorial Office in Fort Collins, as Secretary-Treasurer. New Board members are John Patrick Jordan, Administrator, Cooperative State Research Service, USDA and Boyd R. Strain, Professor of Botany, Duke University. Peter H. Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, is Past President. Charles H. Southwick of the University of Colorado-Boulder and Kendric C. Smith of Stanford University completed terms on the Board.

Meetings

1985

March 17-22 — Sensing and Response in Microorganisms - Weizmann Institute of Science and Kibbutz Ayelet Hashahar, Israel. Lecture, poster and discussion sessions on: Biochemical, Biophysical and Genetic Aspects of Taxis and Sensory Transduction in Microorganisms. Address for correspondence: Mrs. Ruth Goldstein, The Aharon Katzir-Katchalsky Center, The Weizmann Institute of Science, 76 100 Rehovot, Israel, (Tel: 054-82148, Telex: 361900 WIX IL).

April 15-19 — European Symposium - Photomorphogenesis in Plants - Wageningen, Netherlands. Sessions: The molecular nature of the receptor pigments (phytochrome, cryptochrome and UV receptors); The measurement by plants of quantity, quality, direction and duration of light; The molecular mechanism(s) by which photosystems function; The interaction

Aug. 4-9 XIIth International Conference on Photochemistry - Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan. Contact: Dr. K. Obi, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan.

Sept. 1-5 First European Conference on the Spectroscopy of Biological Molecules. Reims, France. Topics: (I) Introduction to vibrational spectroscopy as applied to biological systems, (II) Experimental methods including recent developments on Raman, microRaman, non-linear Raman, SERS, FT-IR, and microfluorescence, (III) Theroetical aspects of vibrational spectroscopy of biomolecules, (IV) Applications in biology and medicine. All inquires should be sent to: Professeur M. Manfait, Laboratoire de Spectroscopie Biomoleculair, Faculte de Pharmacie, 51096 Reims Cedex, France.

News from the ASP Council

Dr. Fred Jansen, ASP Councilor, recently assumed the duties of Marketing Director at Applied Photophysics Limited of London and relocated to England.

As a Project Manager for Photochemical Research Associates in Canada, Fred successfully developed several photochemical solar energy storage systems and then moved into sales and marketing. He was instrumental in establishing the recently announced E.W.R. Steacie Award for excellence in Photochemistry in Canada (awarded by the Chemical Institute of Canada).

All the best to Fred in his new position.

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