

AIBS

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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2000 P STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

November 30, 1961

FROM: The Biology News Bureau
Harold F. Osborne

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A committee of eminent American scientists will meet at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., December 12 to survey activities which biologists should undertake in order to make biological knowledge most beneficial in the years ahead.

The meeting will be the first of a new Long-Range Planning Council of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, appointed by Dr. Tracy M. Sonneborn, Indiana University zoologist and AIBS president.

Chairman of the Council is Dr. William C. Steere, director of the New York Botanical Garden, New York. Host member is Dr. Joshua Lederberg, executive head of the Department of Genetics of the Stanford Medical School.

Other members are Dr. Damon Boynton and Dr. Lamont C. Cole, Cornell University; Dr. George L. Clarke and Dr. Kenneth V. Thimann, Harvard University; Dr. Barry Commoner, Washington University at St. Louis; Dr. H.J. Muller, Indiana University; Dr. C. Ladd Prosser, University of Illinois; Dr. Otto H. Schmitt, University of Minnesota; and Dr. Leo Szilard, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Sonneborn said the Council has been charged by the Governing Board of the Institute with recommending areas in which unified action will be productive of good for professional biologists and the public. It may propose priorities for which it recommends programs be undertaken. The group will have no concern with immediate problems or present activities of the Institute.

It will have no time table, no restrictions and no limits on what it may propose or suggest and will function as long as it is needed, Dr. Sonneborn added.

The American Institute of Biological Sciences, a voluntary organization of 85,000 biologists belonging to 48 learned societies, is the agency through which they achieve united action on common problems.

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COLUMBUS 5-5622

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

ROCKEFELLER CENTER, TIME & LIFE BUILDING, NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

August 26, 1963

Dr. Leo Szilard
Dupont Plaza Hotel
Dupont Circle
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Szilard,

Further to my letter of August 16, I am happy to be able to tell you that financial support by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the Conference on Theoretical Biology is now assured.

In behalf of Dr. James F. Danielli and AIBS, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to the Conference which will be held at the Nassau Inn, Princeton, New Jersey. The Conference will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, November 22 and end in the late afternoon of Monday, November 25, 1963.

The AIBS conferences offer an unusual opportunity for a group of approximately twenty-five participants, representing the several branches of science which bear upon a chosen topic, to meet for an informal exchange of research experience and data, current viewpoints, and suggestions for future research. In contrast to the usual scientific gathering, these meetings are organized primarily for informal discussion and discussion in depth rather than for the presentation of formal papers.

Each session opens with an introductory statement designed to orient the group to a specific topic, to emphasize unsolved technical and conceptual problems, and to stimulate lively discussion. Such an introductory statement, if uninterrupted, might require about thirty minutes for presentation. The participants, however, as an essential aspect of the conferences, are encouraged to interrupt the "introducer" with questions and comments in order to clarify points at issue and to evoke pertinent discussion from the speaker and others present. This active interchange leads to further elaboration and the presentation of additional material by the other participants as well as by the intriducer. I enclose a reprint of my article, "The Interdisciplinary Conference," which gives further information concerning our conference procedure.

August 26, 1963

These conferences, therefore, may be looked upon as exercises in communication. Accordingly, participants are expected to be present not only throughout the scientific sessions but also at meals and at cocktails preceding dinner, in order that fullest advantage may be taken of the opportunities to become better acquainted.

In order to share the experience of the Conference and the data and viewpoints elicited by the discussion with a wider scientific audience, we plan to publish the edited proceedings. The discussions will be recorded by a stenotypist, but this should not inhibit spontaneous and vigorous participation as each participant will have an opportunity to amend his remarks or make deletions prior to publication of the volume, which will be edited by a member of the group.

The AIBS is prepared to reimburse you for your travel expenses between Washington and Princeton, and for your incidental expenses en route. You will, of course, be our guest at the Nassau Inn during the period of the Conference.

Dr. Danielli outlined the program for the meeting in his letter of May 28 and in his subsequent follow-up letter, and further information will be sent to you shortly after your acceptance of this invitation has been received.

We very much hope that you will be able to attend the Conference and shall look forward to your early reply.

Most sincerely,

Frank Fremont Smith
Frank Fremont-Smith, M.D.
Director (pg)

FFS:hw

Encl.

cc: Dr. J. E. Danielli

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

ROCKEFELLER CENTER, TIME & LIFE BUILDING, NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

October 11, 1963

Dr. Leo Szilard
Dupont Plaza Hotel
Dupont Circle
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Szilard,

We have received no reply from you to our invitation of August 26 to participate in a Conference on Theoretical Biology. This Conference, under the sponsorship of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, will be held at the Nassau Inn, Princeton, New Jersey, beginning on Friday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m. and ending at about 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 25, 1963.

If we have not heard from you by Friday, October 18, we will have to assume that the invitation is declined.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee for the Conference, and Dr. James F. Danielli, Chairman, may I say how eager we are to have your participation in this important multidiscipline Conference.

Most sincerely,

Frank Fremont-Smith

Frank Fremont-Smith, M.D.
Director *FR*

FFS/pg

cc: Dr. James F. Danielli

engagements

!! COME TO COLUMBUS IN SEPTEMBER !!

The AIBS in 1948 was asked to arrange a joint session in Washington for a number of biological societies. Although of an impromptu nature, this first AIBS-sponsored annual meeting was a great success. Last year, six member societies again requested that the AIBS arrange for meetings at Columbus and Ohio State University for 1950. This will, therefore, be the second annual meeting of biological societies under AIBS sponsorship. To many of our members, AIBS may still be only a name. However, after the Columbus meeting we are sure you will realize that it is a tangible, flesh-and-blood organization capable of unifying the biological societies by providing a framework for annual biological sessions. The local committee is cooperating effectively in making this Columbus session a landmark in the history of campus scientific meetings.

On March 9 and 10, the local committee, representing eight societies, met with the Executive Secretary of the AIBS to initiate plans for the September 11-12-13 meeting. On April 2-4, the same group met again to consolidate preliminary plans and develop further details of the joint sessions. The local group at both of these conferences consisted of:

F. S. Howlett	- American Society for Horticultural Science (Chairman)
G. W. Blaydes	- Botanical Society of America
W. D. Gray	- Mycological Society of America
Lois Lampe	- American Bryological Society
D. C. Rife	- Genetics Society of America
C. A. Swanson	- American Society of Plant Physiologists
E. S. Thomas	- Ecological Society of America
E. N. Transeau	- Phycological Society of America
C. J. Hylander	- American Institute of Biological Sciences

We are very fortunate in having Ohio State University and the city of Columbus as our hosts. The president of OSU and his associates are generous in their offers of the various facilities and services. As a result, all of the meetings (except the annual dinners) can take place in adjacent buildings on campus; in adequate rooms and in an atmosphere conducive to presentation and discussion of papers. The Ohio State Museum, located on the campus and near the meeting rooms, is providing ample and suitable space for campus registration headquarters of AIBS, for the Biologists' Smoker, for the Biological Sciences Exhibit, and for comfortable lounging rooms.

HEADQUARTERS: The downtown headquarters will be divided between the Neil House and the Deshler-Wallick, whose managers are cooperating in providing a total of over 900 rooms for our use. The co-headquarters in these two hotels (only a block apart and both on the direct bus line to the campus) assures members easy access to registration desks and information booths which will be set up in both hotels. The campus headquarters will be in the main lounge of the Ohio State Museum off the entrance lobby on North High Street.

HOUSING: For purposes of keeping societies together, and utilizing to the best advantage the maximum number of rooms each hotel can furnish, the Botanical Society of America, the Bryological Society, and the Phycological Society will have a priority on reservation space at the Neil House. The Genetics Society of America, the American Society for Horticultural Science, the Ecological Society of America, the American Society of Plant Physiologists and the Mycological Society of America will have a priority of reservation space at the Deshler-Wallick. Society Secretaries will have reservation blanks for these hotels and mail them to their membership. In addition to the rooms which have been reserved for our societies at the two hotels, there will be available on campus a dormitory accomodating 500 men, and one accomodating 50 women. Blanks for reservations of these rooms will also be distributed by the secretaries to their society membership. Since these dormitory rooms must be vacated by noon on Wednesday to make room for the American Physiological Society, members of the Genetics Society and others planning to stay over to Thursday or later must select hotel space. Hotel and dormitory blanks will be mailed to society secretaries by the local housing committee. All requests for housing information should be addressed to Dr. Glen W. Blaydes, Botany Department, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.

REGISTRATION: Many services and facilities must be provided in order to have a smoothly-running annual meeting of several thousand people. Satisfactory meetings do not just happen. It requires much planning and many hours of work - much of which is voluntarily contributed by local committee personnel. However, it also takes some professional staff and a considerable amount of working capital. The local committee voted unanimously to have the annual meeting pay its own way, in order that no extra assessment would have to be made on the participating societies. The expenses will be covered by a registration fee, which has been set as low as possible and yet is sufficient to cover all possible exigencies. Thus, after the meetings, there will be no deficit to be prorated among the societies. The registration fee decided upon is three dollars (\$3.00). Wives of members will be given complimentary badges admitting them to all activities. The registration fee will cover the following costs: (1) publication of the general program which will be mailed to each member of a participating society in advance of the meetings; (2) completely staffed information headquarters and registration centers at strategic points in town and on campus, with a visual index of all attending the meeting; (3) all refreshments and facilities for the Biologists' Smoker; and (4) use of projection equipment and operators. Other associations such as the AAAS have found that a large number of persons attending meetings neglect to pay the registration fee. This puts an undue hardship upon those who conscientiously do so. We feel that no biologist has ever shirked this responsibility at the AAAS meetings; let us prove this by having a one hundred percent registration in Columbus. Failure to register is largely due to lack of realization that this fee pays for services which every person participating in the meeting uses. Thus, every member attending the Columbus meeting should have as his first objective upon arrival the registering and paying of the registration fee. The badge, indicating payment of registration, should be worn at all times for this reason, if for no other.

MEALS: Noon lunches will be available at several convenient cafeterias on the OSU campus; these will also provide morning and evening meals for those housed in the dormitories. Annual dinners will be at the co-headquarters hotels, and tickets for these will be available at the registration desks. All questions about society banquets and other special meals should be addressed to Dr. David C. Rife, Zoology Department, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.

PROGRAMS: The complete general program will make it unnecessary for the individual societies to go to the expense of printing their own. This will include titles of papers, room assignments, business and general meetings, and all information necessary to orient the visitor on the OSU campus and in Columbus. This will be mailed to all members well in advance of September 11. To attain this goal, complete cooperation will be needed from all those planning to present papers, from society secretaries and program committees. It has been agreed by the local committee that the absolute deadline for such information to be in the society secretaries' hands must be May 27. This will give the secretaries two weeks to assemble the material into copy suitable for mailing to Dr. Howlett in Columbus by June 10. Dr. Howlett and the subcommittee on meeting-rooms will then have one week to integrate the material into the general program, and to forward the final copy to the Executive Secretary of AIBS by June 15, which is a necessary deadline if the programs are to be printed and distributed by mid-August. To meet all these deadlines means that every member planning to submit title of a paper must do so prior to May 27.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES EXHIBIT: The role of the Science Exhibits at the AAAS has proved the worth of including such a service at our annual meetings. A large and suitable hall at the Ohio State Museum will be equipped with booths for publishers, biological supply houses, optical equipment concerns, and others who have pertinent material to display. Exhibits will be carefully selected so that irrelevant and extraneous material will not be included. A visual index of members attending the meetings will be in this hall, as will an AIBS information booth. Several comfortable lounging areas, suitable for meeting friends and resting tired feet, will be scattered throughout the exhibit hall. The Ohio State Museum staff will exhibit local material of biological interest.

SPECIAL INTERESTS: The local committee has appointed a capable ladies' committee to plan a program which will interest the wives and daughters of members who might not wish to concentrate on biological subjects. Present plans include a luncheon and tour of early Indian earthworks, an afternoon tea at the Art Museum, and a tea and tour of the Ohio State Museum. Dr. Transeau has kindly consented to plan some special trips to laboratories or to other similar facilities which might be of interest to members as well as wives and guests. It has also been suggested that a members' photographic exhibit of botanical and zoological subjects might be of interest. Your Executive Secretary would appreciate letters from such

Come to Columbus in September - 4 -

members who might be interested in contributing to such a photographic exhibit. If enough interest is shown, we will find suitable space for it.

Clarence J. Hylander
Executive Secretary, AIBS
2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

the degree of Master of Science in Conservation - the first time such a degree is to be awarded in this country. In addition to being a well-known botanist, Dr. Sears has written such illuminating books as "Deserts on the March", "This is Our World", and "This Useful World". In addition to the General Ecology and Ecological Basis of Human Society, which Dr. Sears will teach, students will take courses in geology of soils, oceanography, bio-geo-chemistry, forestry and microbiology. Initiation of this program at Yale indicates the growing trend to train men in a problem which cuts across the traditional scientific fields, and requires integration of subject matter and techniques formerly dissociated by departmental barriers.

THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF GENETICS

The Genetics Society of America is planning a special program for their meeting with AIBS at Columbus, in September. Dr. M. R. Irwin, of the Genetics Department at the University of Wisconsin, is chairman of the program for this Semi-Centennial of Genetics. To initiate this program, on the evening of September 11, the Genetics Society is contributing a lecture by Dr. Goldschmidt on the general theme of the Impact of Genetics on Biological Sciences. This will be the keynote address of the Monday evening general meeting of AIBS and all participating societies; the remainder of the program will be announced later. A three day session is planned to follow, with papers beginning the morning of September 12 and ending the evening of September 14 with a talk by Julian Huxley.

The fiftieth year of the founding of the science of genetics affords an opportunity for geneticists in general to assay the accomplishments of genetics, at the same time serving as the best answer to the anti-genetics propaganda of the Soviet scientists, aimed not only at genetics but at the scientific method in general. Anything which can be done for genetics in this way will have implications in other fields.

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