

# the physics community

## New publication surveys postdoctoral employment

A recently published report shows that nearly 2000 physicists and astronomers were holding postdoctoral positions in 1973, and that 80% of these postdocs were supported by federal funds. The report, *Postdoctoral Positions in Physics and Astronomy*, presents statistical data obtained primarily from AIP's 1973 Register Survey of Physicists and Related Scientists, together with information from the 1974-75 Faculty Survey. This report is the first comprehensive study of postdoctoral positions in physics and astronomy.

The study reveals that three-fourths of all postdocs were employed in academia, and most of the rest worked for federally-funded research and development centers or for the federal government. The major subfields of postdoctoral employment were elementary particles (17% of all postdocs); solid-state physics (16%); nuclear physics (12%); atomic and molecular physics (12%); theoretical physics (7%) and astronomy (10%).

The report concludes that in addition to providing temporary research employment for physicists and astronomers, postdoctoral positions may also serve the physics community by easing mobility between subfields to counter fluctuations in supply and demand. In 1973, medical physics, biophysics and geophysics showed the greatest net gain of postdocs with backgrounds in other subfields.

Individual copies of this study may be obtained from Beverly Fearn Porter, Director, Manpower Statistics Division, AIP, 335 E. 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

## Carroll Johnson elected ACA vice-president

Carroll K. Johnson has been elected vice-president of the American Crystallographic Association for 1976, succeeding Isabella L. Karle (US Naval Research Laboratory). Robinson C. Burbank of Bell Laboratories has retired from the association's presidency and is followed in office by Karle.

Johnson obtained his doctorate in biophysics from MIT in 1959 and conducted postdoctoral work in structural crystallography at the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia. In 1963 he joined Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he is a member of the neutron structural chemistry group. At present he is on a one-year assignment



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at Stanford University, where he is taking part in a joint project between a University of California (San Diego) protein crystallography group and a computer-science artificial-intelligence group at Stanford.

Johnson's research interests include diffraction theory, x-ray and neutron crystallographic methodology and computer applications.

Also elected, for a three-year term as secretary, at the association's December 1975 business meeting was Deane K. Smith. Smith is in the Department of Geochemistry and Minerals at Pennsylvania State University.

## AIP begins auxiliary publications service

In 1976 the American Institute of Physics will provide its own depository service for the journals published by AIP and its member societies. This service, the *Physics Auxiliary Publication Service (PAPS)*, is a depository for material that supplements articles published in AIP and member-society journals, but whose reader interest is too limited to warrant publication in the journal in full. PAPS has been approved by the AIP Publications Board and will replace the present use of the National Auxiliary Publication Service by some authors and editors.

All PAPS material will be available on microfiche, and any material 98 pages or less in length will also appear in *Current Physics Microfilm*, the monthly microfilm edition of the complete set of journals published by AIP. The fee to the depositor is \$20.00 for the first 98 pages (8½ in. × 11 in. size) of deposited material and \$15.00 for each 98 pages or fraction thereafter. This fee includes ten microfiche dupli-

cates to be sent to the author. Material larger than 11 in. × 14 in. may require special handling and thus involve extra cost.

The existence of supplementary material should be mentioned by the author in a footnote to the article, so that interested readers may order copies from AIP. The cost is \$1.50 for each microfiche of 98 pages or \$5.00 for photocopies of up to 30 pages with an additional charge of 15 cents for each additional page.

Further information on PAPS may be obtained from A. W. Kenneth Metzner, Director, Publications Division, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

## AIP Placement Center active at OSA meeting

Brisk activity characterized the placement center operated by the American Institute of Physics for the Optical Society of America at its annual meeting in Boston in October. According to Margot Breslaw of AIP's Placement Service, there was one industrial employer conducting interviews for every three of the 50 placement registrants attending the meeting. This may be compared to one industrial representative for every six registrants, characteristic of recent meetings of other societies. Eight specific jobs were posted for every ten placement registrants present. Employer representatives present reported seeing a group of particularly well-qualified people.

## AVS chooses Hoffman as president-elect

The members of the American Vacuum Society have elected Richard W. Hoffman as the 1976 president-elect. Hoffman, professor of physics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, will succeed N. Rey Whetten, who will begin his term as president on 1 January. Jack H. Singleton of Westinghouse Research Laboratories was re-elected clerk, and J. Roger Young of General Electric Research and Development Center will serve another term as treasurer.

The new president-elect of the AVS received his PhD in 1952 from the Case Institute of Technology (now Case Western Reserve) and joined its faculty in the same year. Hoffman's principal areas of research are the magnetic properties of thin films and surfaces and the origin of intrinsic stress in metallic and dielectric films.