

William M. Awad, assistant professor of biochemistry, associate professor of medicine and current director of the program, reported that evaluations of accomplishment among physics PhD's indicated that they do as well or better than PhD's with other educational backgrounds. He added that some of the highest scores in both Medical College Aptitude Tests and National Board Examinations have been achieved by physicists, and their success appears to continue through their later careers.

Awad stated that over 80% of the PhD's in the program go on to receive house staff appointments at some of the most prestigious university affiliated hospitals in the US. "Typically specializing in internal medicine, diagnostic radiology, ophthalmology and radiation therapy, physicist-MD's bring with them a maturity and a wealth of new approaches to problems in medicine not often found in medical school graduates who have followed a more traditional path to their MD," said Awad.

To better evaluate the qualifications of physicist PhD's, the program has utilized the expertise of two physicists on the medical school faculty for guidance in evaluating the quality of material published by the candidates, the excellence of their previous graduate programs and the worthiness of different postdoctoral experiences. This has facilitated the appraisal of the physicist's credentials, a task that would otherwise be difficult for faculty members with purely medical backgrounds.

The pre-clinical segment of the program is completely separated from the four-year traditional curriculum. It involves six months of intensive basic science study followed by two courses totalling 2½ months duration (Introduction to Medicine and Mechanisms of Disease), which serve to introduce the student to the following clinical segment. Thereafter all students enter a full year of core curriculum, which involves rotation through the various clinical services; this year is identical in content to the junior year of most medical schools. The program ends with 10 to 12 weeks of elective clinical courses that serve to prepare each student for internship.

The curriculum is monitored by in-house testing and National Board Examinations. The latter are taken by most medical students throughout the US. According to Awad, the average scores for some of the PhD-MD classes are the highest for any of the over 80 ranked medical schools and experience has shown that physicists consistently place in the highest percentile of the testing group.

In 1974, because of the program's demonstrated success, enrollment was expanded to 28 admissions each year. In 1978, the program will be further expanded to 36 admissions for the eighth entering class.

—RAW

S of R elects Bagley as vice - president

Edward B. Bagley, chief of the engineering and development laboratory at the United States Department of Agriculture's Northern Regional Research Center, has been elected vice-president of the Society of Rheology. He succeeds Irvin M. Krieger, professor of physical chemistry and macromolecular science at



BAGLEY

Case Western Reserve University. Krieger now becomes the Society's president.

Bagley received his BSc in chemistry and physics from the University of Western Ontario in 1950 and a PhD in physical chemistry from Cornell University in 1954. He first worked as an industrial scientist at the Central Research Laboratory, Canadian Industries Ltd. and later on the faculty of Washington University in St. Louis, where he taught chemical engineering.

Joining the USDA's Northern Research Center in 1971, Bagley's background in synthetic polymers and polymer engineering was applied to studying the properties and behavior of natural polymers and chemical combinations of both natural and synthetic polymers. He participated in the development of starch-graft copolymers.

William R. Schowalter of Princeton University and Arthur B. Metzner of the University of Delaware were both elected members-at-large of the executive committee.

AIP to send journal articles by satellite

Beginning this month, the American Institute of Physics will investigate a new method by which the scientific community can quickly locate and obtain copies of journal articles. The experiment, directed by AIP's Rita Lerner and funded by the National Science Foundation, is

entitled "Assessment of Data Base Searching via Communications Satellite." The project is designed to evaluate the remote searching of a computerized file of abstracts of journal articles and bibliographic information, combined with the ability to transmit the full text to the user almost instantly. The result is a dramatic reduction in the time required to search for and obtain an article of scientific interest.

Scientists and engineers at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center, Ames Research Center, Lewis Research Center and California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory will participate in the test. Using a communications "linkup" between computer terminals routed through the geosynchronous Communications Technology Satellite, interested parties at the listed institutions will examine AIP's SPIN data base, consisting of abstracts from all AIP and Member Society journals published over the past several years. The data base, which will be maintained at AIP and at Lockheed Information Systems, is used by AIP to produce portions of the journals and is current with journal publication. Upon finding an abstract of interest, the user flashes AIP, where copies of the requested material can be sent by facsimile transmitter at the rate of one page every 30 to 90 seconds.

Following a year of actual operation, an evaluation of the timeliness and economic advantages of the system will be undertaken, with the assistance of Applied Communication Research of Palo Alto, a nonprofit group that does research on communication systems.

in brief

Applications for scholarships from the American Vacuum Society are being invited. The grants are offered to assist graduate work in vacuum science and technology, vacuum metallurgy, surface physics and thin-film research. Deadline for the completed application is 31 March 1978. Information may be obtained from: American Vacuum Society, 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017.

A visiting Women Scientists Program, in which women scientists visit schools in a given area for three to five days and encourage high-school girls to consider careers in science and technology, is being sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Information on the program is available from Carol Place, Research Triangle Institute, PO Box 12194, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709 (tel 800 334-9571, toll free, or 919 541-6319, collect). Expenses and an honorarium for program participants will be provided. □