

Lazarus appointed Editor-in-Chief

At its 27 April meeting, the APS Council appointed David Lazarus Editor-in-Chief for APS publications, a position that has been unoccupied since the retirement of the late Samuel Goudsmit in 1974. In this post, which he assumed on 15 May, Lazarus has executive responsibility for publication policies of all APS publications, including *Physical Review*, *Physical Review Letters*, *Reviews of Modern Physics*, *Bulletin of the American Physical Society* and *Physical Review Abstracts*.

Lazarus took his doctorate in physics at the University of Chicago in 1949. He then joined the University of Illinois where he is now professor of physics. During 1968-69 he was a Guggenheim Fellow at Orsay and Saclay, France, and during 1978-79 served as a visiting professor of physics at Harvard and MIT. His research specializations are the defect and electronic properties of solids and high-pressure physics. Lazarus will continue with his responsibilities at the University of Illinois while serving as Editor-in-Chief.

Lazarus has taken an active role in APS affairs, having served the Division of Condensed Matter Physics as a member of its executive committee and as divisional councillor, and on the APS publications committee.

In an editorial in the APS journals, he stated:

"My long-term goal for our publications is simple. I want our journals to be the best in the world, to include timely, well-written reports of all the best work done by all active physicists. To accomplish this end the general criteria are, *a priori*, also simple. All decisions should be based on whether or not they contribute to the utility of our journals from the viewpoint of the users, the authors and readers. From my limited vantage point at this phase, I would say we were not optimal and that a number of our policies, even of our journals, may have to be changed somewhat in the long run.

"To formulate a consistent program, I appeal to you, all our readers and authors, to write to me and tell me of your pleasures and displeasures with our current journals. All comments and complaints, however scurrilous



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and anecdotal, will be received and considered. Your suggestions for ways of improving our publications would be particularly welcome."

An amendment to the APS Constitution making the position of Editor-in-Chief an officer of the Society will be offered to the Membership this fall. In addition, the Editor-in-Chief will serve as a statutory member of the APS Council, the Executive Committee and the Publications Committee.

Two groups to advise on international affairs

A new subcommittee of the Panel on Public Affairs has been created and another POPA subcommittee has been made an independent committee. To lend more visibility to its work, the Council made the Committee on International Freedom of Scientists an independent committee reporting directly to the Council. Previously CIFS had been a subcommittee of POPA.

CIFS is charged with monitoring the human-rights concerns of scientists around the world and identifying problems encountered by scientists in pursuit of their scientific interest or in communicating with other scientists. It may recommend to the Council appropriate courses of action designed to alleviate such problems. Recent CIFS

concerns include the problems faced by scientists in the Soviet Union and Argentina.

Kurt Gottfried of Cornell University has been appointed chairman of the committee, succeeding Edward Gerjuoy.

The new POPA subcommittee is the Committee on International Scientific Affairs. Its principal mandate is to advise the APS on how the Society might best collaborate with and assist scientists in the developing nations on matters dealing with science and technology, primarily in relation to regional development.

As an initial project, the Committee has proposed a workshop to identify the channels through which international and interdisciplinary cooperation related to development can be fostered. The participants, including physicists from the developing countries, would be asked to explore how university physicists and multinational corporations might play a positive role in scientific and regional development within the less-developed countries, as well as identify new sources of support for cooperative programs. The APS Council has endorsed the proposal for submission to appropriate funding agencies.

So far the Committee consists of J. William McGowan of the University of Western Ontario, chairman, and Michael J. Moravcsik of the University of Oregon. Additional members will be selected after the workshop.

Council elects Alpher to Executive Committee

To fill the gap left by the resignation of Lewis M. Branscomb, the Council has elected Ralph A. Alpher (General Electric Research and Development Center), who has been a Councillor-at-Large since 1979, to the Executive Committee. Branscomb resigned following his election as chairman of the National Science Board.

A theoretical physicist, Alpher is best known for his work on the big-bang model for the origin and evolution of the universe. □