

## AAPM chooses Wright to be president-elect

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine has elected new officers and acquired new, consolidated, headquarters.

Ann E. Wright, the 1981 president-elect, will succeed Colin G. Orton, who took office as president 1 January.



WRIGHT

Wright studied at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute (MS, 1967; PhD in radiological physics, 1970). She was instructor of radiology at the Baylor College of Medicine from 1968 to 1970 and has, since, been assistant, then associate, professor of radiological physics at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where she is also the head of the physics section of the division of radiation oncology. Since 1976 she has also served as a member of the special faculty of the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Wright has done research on radiological physics measurements using solid-state devices, and interactions of radiation with molecules and penetration in inhomogeneous media.

Joseph Blinick has been elected the 1981 treasurer of the AAPM. He has, since 1974, been the chief radiation physicist of the department of radiology at the Maine Medical Center in Portland and assistant clinical professor of therapeutic radiology at Tufts Medical School.

The Board of AAPM decided in its recent Dallas meeting to locate all AAPM business in one headquarters. This move, to AIP in New York, was accomplished on 1 January. It will permit AAPM to cut costs and to pub-

lish its newsletters and reports in-house. Anke Junge, formerly AIP Publications senior editorial supervisor, has become the executive secretary.

## Research for a history of solid-state physics

Groups of scholars in Britain, Germany and the United States, in cooperation with other scientists and historians, have begun doing research for a history of solid-state physics.

With the general goal of promoting the understanding of technological innovation, the social relations of science and the history of science, interviews are being conducted with pioneers in the field, both academic and industrial scientists. At the same time, unpublished papers and correspondence are being located and preserved. The investigation is concentrating particularly on the time from the advent of quantum mechanics (the 1920's) to the first proliferation of industrial applications (the 1950's).

The work will lead to the publication of extensive historical studies. Short bibliographic reports will also be circulated.

Initial funding has been given by AIP and a number of private corporations and foundations. The work is being helped by the advice of eminent physicists: in Britain, Sir Nevill Mott; in the United States, John Bardeen and Frederick Seitz; and in Germany, Heinrich Welker.

The AIP Center for History of Physics is organizing the US section of the project. For further information contact Spencer Weart, AIP, 335 E. 45th St., New York, N. Y. 10017.

## AVS starts fusion technology division

The American Vacuum Society has formed a Fusion Technology Division to consolidate and foster AVS fusion-related activities. Manfred Kaminsky (Argonne) is the chairman for 1980-81. The activities of the new division will include participation in the program of the AVS National Symposium, arrangement of topical meetings and workshops and participation in AVS standing committees.

Some of the areas for which divisional committees are planned are: gas fueling and pumping of large vacuum vessels for plasma devices and reactors; the handling, storage and recovery of radioactive gases; measurements of

pressures in plasma devices and reactors; design of large vacuum vessels; leak testing of large-size plasma devices and reactors; plasma-wall interactions; plasma diagnostics; vacuum-materials development; inertial-confinement fusion driver technologies, and inertial-confinement target development. All interested members of AVS are invited to join. Inquiries about the division, as well as suggestions concerning its activities, should be addressed to Manfred Kaminsky, Physics Division-203, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439.

## Southeastern research consortium is formed

The Southeastern Universities Research Association, Inc, a new consortium of university research departments, was recently incorporated. It is similar in structure to Associated Universities (which operates Brookhaven National Laboratory) and Universities Research Association (which operates Fermilab). Started by the presidents of the College of William and Mary, the University of Virginia and Virginia State University, the new consortium now includes about a dozen institutions in the southeastern US.

The consortium intends to engage in large joint research projects, primarily in physics. Its first activity is the preparation of a proposal to Federal agencies for a national electron accelerator for nuclear studies. The energy range of the proposed machine will be 0.5-2 GeV, with possible extension to higher energies. The current is projected to be around 100 to 200 amps and the duty factor close to 100%. Such a machine was recommended by the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee to the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation earlier this year (PHYSICS TODAY, May 1980, page 20). The Southeastern Universities Research Association is considering a linac followed by a stretcher ring to smooth the electron pulses into a continuous beam. The design is being developed by a group at the University of Virginia and at SLAC under the leadership of James S. McCarthy.

Universities that have joined the consortium as of this writing, in addition to the three mentioned above, are American University, Catholic University of America, Louisiana State University, University of Maryland, University of Miami, Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.