

Sakurai Prize for Theoretical Particle Physics established

The APS Council, during its meeting in San Francisco last November, voted to establish a new APS Prize, called the "J. J. Sakurai Prize for Theoretical Particle Physics." This new prize will include a cash award of \$5000 and be awarded annually. It is intended to recognize and encourage outstanding achievement in particle theory by a young physicist. The first prize is scheduled to be awarded during the April 1985 APS meeting in Washington.

Like several other APS Prizes, this one is intended to serve as a memorial to a deceased physicist. Jun Sakurai was a theoretical particle physicist who had been educated at Harvard and Cornell. After serving on the staff of the University of Chicago, he moved to Los Angeles, where he became a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. He died in October 1982, at

the age of 49, while visiting CERN in Geneva, Switzerland (PHYSICS TODAY, February 1983, page 87).

Endowed principally by the generosity of his immediate family, the fund that supports the Sakurai prize also contains contributions from a number of friends of J. J. Sakurai.

In order to establish a very high standard of judgment in the selection of the initial recipient, the first Prize Committee will consist of a panel of outstanding theoretical particle physicists. Chaired by Professor Yoichiro Nambu, University of Chicago, the group includes two Nobel laureates: Julian Schwinger (UCLA) and Sheldon Glashow (Harvard); two overseas particle physicists: Leon Van Hove (CERN) and K. Nishijima (University of Tokyo), and the APS Vice-President, Sidney Drell, deputy director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.



SAKURAI

Topical Groups of APS to be formed

The professional interests of APS's 34 000 members cover such broad technical areas of physics that the Society over the years has subdivided itself into ten technical divisions (astrophysics, biological, chemical, condensed matter, electron and atomic, fluid dynamics, high polymer, nuclear, particles and fields, and plasma) and a Forum on Physics and Society.

It has been argued for many years that even this extensive array of divisions does not provide each member with a specialized technical affiliation adequate to fulfill completely his need for identification with a peer group. Moreover, over the years various *ad hoc* technical groups have broken away from APS to establish independent technical entities (for example, from special conferences to new societies). The principal motivation for this action has been the conviction that APS does not provide a proper environment for such technical activities to prosper.

Recognizing the problems introduced by its divisional approach to organization, the APS Council ap-

proved the formation and operation of Topical Groups of APS. These groups will operate independently of divisions and the Forum and have as their objective the advancement and diffusion of knowledge in fields not conveniently covered by the Divisions. The purposes of the Topical Groups will be to plan and hold meetings either at separate conferences or at regular meetings of the Society. Rules for the formation and operation of APS Topical Groups are presented in the April 1984 *Bulletin of The American Physical Society*.

Society affirms support for free communication

The freedom of scientific communication, which defines the ability of physicists to discuss their research results freely with their scientific colleagues, has become a serious question recently. Moves by the present Administration in Washington to limit this freedom have been opposed by APS in a series of

separate initiatives. The APS Council, at its session during the November 1983 meeting in San Francisco, approved a resolution affirming the principle of unfettered communication in APS meetings and journals (see PHYSICS TODAY, January, page 99). Past-President Robert Marshak wrote a guest editorial for the same issue of PHYSICS TODAY (January 1984), and sent copies to influential senators and Congressmen.

More recently, Robert Park (APS Director of Public Affairs) prepared a memorandum for the use of Solomon J. Buchsbaum (AT&T Bell Labs), who serves as chairman of the White House Science Council, an advisory group for the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Park's memorandum focuses on the industrial aspects of scientific communication and national security. He addresses the subject of "Critical Technical Data," which are subject to control under the Department of Commerce via its Export Administration Regulations, and points out that every aspect of microcircuit fabrication now is included in this category. The effects of regulation could be devastating to American technology. □