

APS plans international conference with foreign societies

APS, together with the Canadian, European and Japanese Physical Societies is sponsoring an International Conference on Communications and Research in Physics to run concurrently with the APS spring meeting, 28 April to 1 May 1986. The purpose of the meeting, which will be held at the Washington Convention Center, is to improve international communications in physics and explore means for heightened research collaboration among physicists from different countries. All persons registered for the general APS meeting are welcome to attend the international sessions as well.

APS has invited representatives of physical societies from 65 countries in Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. At this writing, representatives from almost 50 countries have replied, and most expressed great interest in the meeting and said they intended to come if possible.

Under the direction of Leo Falicov, who is also Chairman of the APS International Physics Group Executive Committee, invited symposia with international participants are being organized in the following subfields: condensed matter and chemical physics; nuclear physics; particles, fields and cosmology; plasmas, fusion and fluids; astrophysics; and electron, atomic and molecular physics. In addition, workshops are being arranged on: scientific meetings; publications; public policy.

A dinner for the international delegates is planned for Monday evening 28 April at the Hyatt Hotel in Washington. On Wednesday evening 30 April, there will be an expanded prize-winners' reception buffet to which international delegates and Washington dignitaries will be invited.

Plans for the international meeting were initiated by 1984 APS President Mildred Dresselhaus and 1983 President Robert Marshak at the APS Executive Committee Meeting on 28 January 1984 in San Antonio. Dresselhaus had noted in her contacts with foreign physical societies that there is a great

deal of interest in APS among physicists abroad, particularly APS activities in developing and industrialized countries, the International Physics Group, and the computer-aided publication of APS journals. Marshak suggested that an APS international meeting with representatives of other phys-

ical societies be considered. In the spring of 1985 APS President Robert R. Wilson sent official invitations to his counterparts in other countries. Organization of the symposia and workshops is now well underway and the Society anticipates a highly successful meeting.

STEP grants available for 1986 meetings

Since the inception of the STEP program in the fall of 1984 (PHYSICS TODAY, January 1985, page 117), 36 foreign graduate students studying in the United States have been awarded travel grants to help them attend meetings of APS and its Divisions. The students were from 20 countries and attended 29 US universities. The travel grants were provided by the "Short-Term Enrichment Program" of the Office of Student Support Services of the US Information Agency, through the Institute of International Education.

APS hopes to participate again in the program in 1986. Awards are expected to be available for the general meetings in 1986: Atlanta, 27-30 January; Las Vegas, 31 March-4 April; and Washington, 28 April-1 May. Awards also will be available for the international conference that is to take place in conjunction with the Washington meeting. STEP grants may be available for the following divisional meetings: Electron and Atomic Physics, Eugene, 18-20 June; Plasma Physics, Baltimore, 3-7 November; and Fluid Dynamics, Columbus, 23-25 November. Priority will be given to applicants who are authors of contributed papers.

To be eligible for a STEP award, an applicant must be a foreign, full-time graduate student at a US institution of higher learning, and the student must not have previously received a STEP grant. Students with refugee, immigrant or tourist visa status are not eligible. Teaching and research assistants are normally eligible, but US government employees and those hav-

ing US government fellowships are not.

The deadline for STEP applications for each meeting are the same as the deadlines for the receipt of abstracts, as announced periodically in the APS *Bulletin*.

An applicant should submit a letter of nomination from his or her department head; an abstract of the contributed paper to be presented at the meeting; and a letter stating the need for travel funds, the applicant's nationality and visa category, and affirming the applicant's status as a full-time graduate student in the US.

Completed applications should be sent to STEP Travel Grant Program, c/o Harry Lustig, APS, 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Air Travel Service offers discounts for 1986 meetings

APS recently entered into an agreement with Air Travel Service to handle all air travel at reduced rates to and from the three 1986 general meetings. The discount, which varies according to many factors, can be up to 50% of regular coach fare. A person planning to attend the January meeting can make a reservation with the designated airline through a special toll-free reservations telephone number (800-241-5644). It is important to identify oneself as a participant in an APS or AAPT meeting. Detailed information on how to use this new service for the January meeting is in the November 1985 issue of the APS *Bulletin*. □