

International Physics Group seeks names for committee

The International Physics Group of APS is seeking nominations for new members of the IPG Executive Committee. The IPG Executive Committee set a deadline of 15 April for submission of nominations for Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer and one Member-at-Large. The IPG will hold an election in November, and the new officers will begin their terms in January 1986. According to the IPG Bylaws, the Vice-Chairman will serve in that office for two years before succeeding to the office of Chairman for a two-year term. The new Secretary-Treasurer will hold office for four years and the newly elected Member-at-Large will serve for a three-year term.

This election is the first that IPG has

held since it was established in 1982. (Current officers of the Executive Committee were appointed.) Since 1982, IPG membership has grown to over 3900 physicists and continues to increase rapidly. In addition to publishing a newsletter in the APS *Bulletin*, IPG initiated the Latin American Assistance Program, is planning a program to match donors of old journals with recipients in developing countries, and has disseminated information and announcements of international conferences to the membership. The next planned activity is a Colloquium on International Experimental Facilities for Condensed-Matter Physics to be held at the 1985 March APS Meeting in Baltimore.

The IPG Executive Committee comprises a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary-Treasurer, and four Members-at-Large. From now on elections will be held every other year, with vacancies being filled by appointment in the intervening years. The Executive Committee members currently are Leo Falicov, Chairman; Neal Lane, Vice Chairman; Sunil Sinha, Secretary-Treasurer; and Allan MacKintosh, David Scott, Sergio Rezende and Joaquin Sitte, Members-at-Large.

Please send nominations for the 1986 Vice Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and new Member-at-Large to the APS IPG Nominating Committee, 335 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017, no later than 15 April 1985.

APS, NSF cooperate on equal opportunities for women

In December, former APS President Mildred S. Dresselhaus wrote to the NSF to offer the help of the APS in remedying the great lack of women on physics faculties (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, October 1984, page 121). Dresselhaus's letter received a speedy response from NSF staff member Jane Stutsman, enthusiastically accepting the offer of assistance. Stutsman is Executive Secretary of the NSF Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Technology. The letters are excerpted here. *Dresselhaus letter:*

For more than ten years, the Society [APS] has recognized the need to tap the talent pool of women who, while they comprise more than half of the total population, account for only 3% of the population holding PhD degrees in physics and an even smaller percentage (1.5%) of the senior physics faculties in universities which grant those degrees. The Society has investigated the factors which contributed to this condition and has devised strategies to remedy it. NSF, with its responsibility for the health of science in the United States, has been an ally in this endeavor.

After establishing the Committee on Equal Opportunity in

Science and Technology and acting on the advice provided by its members, the Foundation developed the program of Visiting Professorships for Women. This program took the bold step of addressing directly the lack of women on science faculties and thereby provided to the academic community enormous leverage in nurturing the educational careers of young women. . . . From its inception, the program of Visiting Professorships for Women has been more successful in attracting senior women than even its proponents had expected.

APS has initiated an additional effort to increase the number of senior women on the physics faculties of PhD-granting universities by establishing a panel to assist with the transfer of select individuals from nonacademic research institutions. The biggest obstacle which has been encountered in this transfer process is the lack of a mechanism for funding the timely initiative of strong research programs by the newly arrived faculty member. The APS initiative would have a much better chance of success if NSF could provide a mechanism for addressing this

challenge. As you know, we have an abundance of talent in APS anxious to serve the nation. If we can be of assistance, . . . please do not hesitate to let me know.

NSF reply:

Your comments about the Visiting Professorships for Women program are most appreciated. We are proud of the accomplishments of this young program. We also are hopeful of similar success with our Research Opportunities for Women program [see *PHYSICS TODAY*, November, page 125], which is in its first year of operation. I have enclosed program announcements for these programs.

We will be replacing five members of the Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Technology in the spring. We would welcome nominations from APS. . . .

The cooperation and support of the APS and other professional organizations is very important in assisting NSF to ensure that the nation's science and technology work force maintains its excellence while representing the diversity of our populations. We look forward to working with you. □