

CHINESE SCHOLARS PROGRAM GOES INTO HOME STRETCH

In 1983 The American Physical Society, in cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Ministry of Education, initiated a program to bring exceptionally promising Chinese scientists to conduct research in the United States for periods of two years. (See *PHYSICS TODAY*, July 1983, page 82, and June 1986, page 113.) The Chinese-American cooperative basic research program in atomic, molecular and condensed matter physics, also known as the Chinese Scholars Program, will reach its natural "sunset" in 1990. The final group of participants will be arriving next fall for their two-year stays, and hosts are still being sought for some of them.

Most educational exchange programs between the US and China are designed for students working toward a PhD, but the Chinese Scholars Program is intended for established scientists. Originally the program focused on the generation of physicists whose careers were disrupted by the Cultural Revolution between 1966 and 1976. The program has prepared carefully selected participants to direct younger scientists and to assume senior positions in research laboratories when they return to China. In recent years the program was expanded to include younger scientists.

The participants meet several times each year and are encouraged to maintain contact with one another during their stay. It is expected that these networks will endure and help unify and strengthen the Chinese physics community, and it is hoped that close links will be established and maintained with US physics as well.

Approximately 50 scholars have participated in the program, about 20 of whom are presently in the US. Each one is carefully matched with a host scientist and institution, so that collaborative research can be conducted. The visiting scientist receives

a modest stipend from the host institution. Periodic refresher visits to the US are arranged for the program's alumni, and American hosts are encouraged and enabled to visit China.

To receive information on hosting a participant in the Chinese Scholars

Program, contact Benjamin Beder-son, Chairman of the American Coordinating Committee of the Chinese Scholars Program, Department of Physics, New York University, 4 Washington Place, New York NY 10034.

GROUP WILL INVESTIGATE STRATEGIC PLANNING OF PHYSICS RESEARCH

Responding to a recommendation from the APS Panel on Public Affairs, the APS council voted at its 17 April meeting in Baltimore to support a study group to examine the way physics research priorities have been set in the past, and whether APS could contribute to the decision-making process in the future. The group has been allocated \$25 000 for its work and will convene this summer.

A motion presented to council by Andrew Sessler, chairman of POPA, detailed the proposed composition of the study group. Its chairperson shall be appointed by the APS president, in consultation with the president-elect and the chair of POPA. The study group chairperson will then choose a maximum of 11 eminent society members, drawn from the major subfields of physics, who have knowledge and experience with physics funding. The group will meet for a one-week session this summer, probably in the Washington, DC, area.

As stated in the motion, the purpose of the study is to "identify, assess and recommend to the council an effective method for strategic planning of physics research, namely, the identification of needs and the allocation of resources over the next decade, with special emphasis on the next five years." It should be emphasized that the group will only study the means and effects of APS participation in such planning; the group will not attempt any planning.

The study group on the strategic

planning of physics research will report its findings to the APS council at its 30 October meeting.

COUNCIL ADOPTS STATEMENT ON GRAPHIC MATERIALS

In response to an initiative from the APS committee on the status of women in physics, the following statement was adopted by the APS council at its meeting in Baltimore on 17 April.

"The Council of The American Physical Society has long been concerned with the serious underrepresentation of women and minorities in the profession of physics and, over the years, has established a number of programs that attempt to counter this trend. The Council now urges each member of the Society to help in this effort by being sensitive to all matters that affect the atmosphere of the physics workplace.

"In particular, actions that create a hostile, intimidating or offensive work environment for any group undermine the affirmative action efforts of the Society and should be eliminated. These actions include the public posting of materials that are insulting, derogatory or exclusionary to a particular group.

"We call upon all members of the Society to help ensure that persons of every race, gender and ethnic origin may feel a welcome part of the physics community."