

## NEWLY ESTABLISHED PHYSICS PLANNING COMMITTEE ORGANIZES INITIAL ACTIVITIES

A physics planning committee headed by APS president-elect Eugen Merzbacher met for the first time in June 1989 and identified two major areas for its initial efforts. The first involves assessing the difficulties encountered by young PhD physicists as they seek to establish research careers—an effort the committee refers to as the “PhD + 10 problem.” The committee will evaluate, according to minutes of the June meeting, “conditions under which beginning research physicists develop their careers, the encouragement they receive, and... systemic roadblocks they encounter during what should be their most creative and productive years in science.” A subcommittee will gather pertinent information, drawing on the American Institute of Physics, the National Science Foundation and the National Research Council, among others.

The second, more ambitious initiative will examine what APS can do to assure that physics maintains its momentum in the United States, and to assure that physicists will be able to take advantage of promising research opportunities. To this end, taking the National Research Council's 1984 report “Physics Through the 1990s” as a point of departure, Andrew Sessler of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory will prepare for the committee a “loose-leaf notebook” containing statements from representatives of the various subfields and relating their known needs and opportunities to the NRC document. (“Physics Through the 1990s”) is a prospective survey of the field that was prepared by a committee headed by William F. Brinkman of AT&T Bell Labs. It was the successor to similar surveys done in 1966 and 1972 by committees headed by George Pake of Xerox and D. Allan Bromley of Yale, respectively. For a detailed account of the Brinkman report, see *PHYSICS TODAY*, April 1986.)

As described in the committee's minutes, compilation of the notebook is to be “an informal and informational exercise. It is not meant to be a definitive statement of agreed-upon

needs for any subfield. Rather... it is to be a reasoned listing of what knowledgeable persons in a subfield now see as the near and far opportunities, of which the committee should be aware.... The ‘loose-leaf’ nature of this compilation implies that further iterations are expected, complementing the first draft, and that indeed the entire exercise is thought of as a continuing open-ended process.”

The planning committee also decided at its June meeting to meet with officials from Federal agencies to improve its understanding of funding processes, and to explore ways of organizing joint efforts with all the professional societies representing physical sciences.

The physics planning committee was established last fall, when the APS council accepted a special study group's recommendation that a new high-level committee be formed to work toward formulating a balanced

plan for physics (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, December 1988, page 89, and March 1989, page 92). The study group's report appeared in the January 1989 *Bulletin of The American Physical Society*. At present, the physics planning committee has three vice chairmen: Brinkman, Leon M. Lederman of the University of Chicago and Fermilab, and Sessler. The ten other committee members, who were chosen with a view to their awareness of physics funding issues and their ability to represent the subfields broadly, are Bill R. Appleton (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), David E. Baldwin (University of Texas), Ernest Henley (University of Washington), Paul M. Horn (IBM), Charles Kennel (University of California, Los Angeles), Daniel Kleppner (MIT), George Pake (Xerox), Martin Perl (SLAC), Stuart Rice (University of Chicago), and Michael Witherall (University of California, Santa Barbara).

## NSF AWARDS APS AND AAPT COLLEGE CURRICULUM PLANNING GRANT

The American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers have been awarded a planning grant of \$87 700 by the National Science Foundation to encourage the participation of the physics research community in undergraduate curriculum development. The grant will provide support for a series of workshops, to take place over one year starting in 1990.

The workshops will draw upon the pedagogical expertise of the physicist-educators associated with AAPT and will involve researchers from APS divisions. In addition to a general planning workshop, focused workshops will also be held for the major subfields.

The grant will be administered by Brian Schwartz of Brooklyn College, the APS education officer, and Judy Franz of the University of West Virginia, the president-elect of AAPT. For further information on the workshops, contact the APS Education

Office, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017.

## SECOND PRINTING OF CAREER BROCHURE

The APS Committee on the Status of Women in Physics has mounted a successful campaign to reprint a career booklet for high school students entitled “Physics in Your Future.” Since its original appearance in 1983, 30 000 copies of the booklet have been distributed; because of continuing requests, a second printing of 30 000 has been authorized. IBM, Xerox and AT&T donated funds for the second printing.

Single copies of “Physics in Your Future” are free upon request. Bulk orders are \$1.00 per copy for up to 100 copies, and \$0.70 for more than 100 copies. To order write to APS, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017.