EUROPEAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY EXPANDS ACTIVITIES, WITH JACOB AS PRESIDENT

Maurice Jacob, a member and former head of CERN's theory division, and a former president of the French Physical Society, is the newly elected president of the European Physical Society. He succeeds R. A. Ricci of the National Institute for Nuclear Physics in Legnaro, Italy, who served for three years as EPS president. The vice president of EPS is Norbert Kroo of Budapest's Solid-State Physics Institute, who is expected to assume the presidency in 1993.

On a visit with PHYSICS TODAY staff in New York, Jacob filled us in on some of EPS's more important recent initiatives. One concerns finances and a proposed reorganization of the society to make it more strictly a union of European physical societies. EPS currently has about 4500 individual members, but if it were reorganized as a union, as the council of Britain's Institute of Physics recommended in March, its membership would jump to around 50 000. A broader base could provide dues for expanded activities, including publication of journals, organization of conferences, a more important role in advising funding agencies, and joint projects with physicists and physics societies in East Europe.

Jacob emphasized that EPS has a dual structure: It is both an association of national societies and a set of specialized divisions cutting across national boundaries. The aim is to make most members of national societies EPS members as well, and in May the EPS council asked the new executive committee to propose a restructuring that would encourage wider membership.

Jacob reminded us that *Europhysics Letters* has been a success, and he told us that *Europhysics News*, the monthly bulletin of the European Physical Society, now has a full-time editor, Peter G. Boswell. The plan is to expand news coverage in *Europhysics News*, making use of a network of stringers on the model of the *CERN Courier*.

Jacob also told us that EPS has been discussing with the European Science Foundation in Strasbourg and the council of the European Community in Brussels the establishment of European conferences modeled on the Gordon Conferences that have been so successful and influential in the US. Like the Gordon Conferences, the European versions would be devoted to specialized topics, would last about five days each and would *not* publish proceedings. The idea is to provide a relaxed and informal environment in which participants can talk very freely, without fear of being quoted in the press or held to positions they might later regret. (Two such European conferences were organized in 1990, and six in 1991; eight are planned for 1992.)

The hope is that the EC will provide substantial support for quite an elaborate set of Gordon-like conferences, in several other fields as well as physics. In addition, Jacob said, EPS is trying to set itself up to act as an effective adviser to the EC's DG-XII, the division of the secretariat that is responsible for funding technology research (except for information technology, which is run by DG-XIII).

Regarding affiliations with physical societies to the East, Jacob said that there now are four physics societies vying for leadership in the USSR, and that EPS is waiting for the dust to settle. Since Jacob's visit, physical societies in two Baltic states have applied for membership.

EPS has established a supplementary secretariat in Budapest, and EPS Executive Secretary G. Thomas is now based there. In a report to members last spring, retiring EPS President Ricci said that the move is "aimed at providing the basis for fully integrating our colleagues in Eastern Europe into all aspects of the physics community's activities." EPS has secured foundation funding to send complimentary subscriptions of *Europhysics Letters* to Eastern Europe, and an agreement with IBM provides for setting up several academic computer centers in Eastern Europe, each equipped with an IBM 3090 machine.

—WILLIAM SWEET

LATIN AMERICAN PHYSICS FEDERATION CONSOLIDATES

At a recent Latin American symposium on physics, which took place in São Paolo in July, the Latin American Federation of Physical Societies held several meetings and decided to expand its activities on a number of fronts. FELASOFI (Federacion Latino Americana de Sociedades de Fisica) originated in the mid-1980s and currently has as members the physical societies of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Honduras and Venezuela.

At four meetings held during the Second Latin American Symposium on Physics, motions were approved to:

▷ publish a Latin American journal of physics

▷ resume publication of a FELASOFI bulletin

▷ publish a directory of Latin American physicists

▷ have each Latin American physics society do a national survey

▷ organize a Fifth Latin American Symposium on Experimental Physics.

During the Fourth Latin American Symposium on Experimental Physics, which was held in Bariloche, Argentina, two years ago, a series of Pan-American conferences in experimental physics took place, with organizational assistance from Leon Lederman and Roy Rubinstein of Fermilab. Small grants obtained by Lederman and Rubinstein also have provided some organizational seed

money for FELASOFI.

The current president of FELASOFI is Gil da Costa Marques of the Institute of Physics, University of São Paolo. He can be contacted via BITNET at FELASOFI@IF.USP.ANSP.BR.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS FOR THIRD WORLD PHYSICISTS

The American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers, the American Association of Physicists in Medicine and the American Geophysical Union—while the word "American" appears in each name, the members of these scientific societies have been making a special effort to reach out to their colleagues in developing countries. The sponsored-membership programs of APS, AAPT, AAPM and AGU allow scientists and educators living outside the US to receive publications and other membership privileges free of charge.

Begun in 1984, the APS Matching Membership Program now supports memberships for over 200 physicists from 55 countries. Here's how it works: Regular APS members or institutions agree to pay half the yearly membership dues of $70, and APS picks up the rest of the tab. The recipient is then entitled to all the privileges of APS membership, including subscriptions to PHYSICS TODAY and the APS *Bulletin*; he or she may also join an APS division, topical group or section free of charge.

Unfortunately, demand for the APS matching memberships far outstrips the supply of sponsoring members, and rather than turn away applicants for matching memberships, the society has found itself footing the entire bill for about half of the sponsored members.

The American Geophysical Union currently supports about 300 foreign members through its Lloyd V. Berkner Membership Grants, which consist of free three-year memberships to researchers—particularly younger individuals—in countries "striving to develop geophysical sciences." The grants are paid for through the Berkner Fund, which was established by AGU following Berkner's death in 1967. Individual members also can and do support foreign peers under the program. Grant applications are reviewed by AGU, with priority given to scientists from areas that have the least access to AGU publications.

Berkner grant recipients receive *Eos* each week and can subscribe to AGU journals at regular member rates. They also receive PHYSICS TODAY and can vote and run for office within AGU.

Now winding up its second year, the AAPT Sponsored Membership Program supports 45 physics teachers from 25 countries. It is similar to the APS program, with AAPT and each sponsor splitting the cost for the foreign membership.

"It almost makes you cry to realize how isolated some of the sponsored members are, and the severe limitations of their resources," says Robert Beck Clark, a professor at Texas A&M University who is on the AAPT Sponsored Membership Panel. "But on the other hand, it is heartening to see how delighted they are to receive *The Physics Teacher*." Sponsored members also receive PHYSICS TODAY.

The newest effort is AAPM's Partners in Physics Program, which is intended to reach medical physicists in developing countries, including India, China and Eastern Europe. AAPM members living in North America and the association each pay half of a partner membership. Participants receive PHYSICS TODAY and *Medical Physics*. According to Perry Sprawls of Emory University Hospital, who is overseeing the program, 75 AAPM members have taken on partners since it was announced in January. While agreeing to pay for a partner membership is admirable, Sprawls says, "we are also encouraging the partners to develop a good personal relationship."

KNAPP BECOMES PRESIDENT OF SANTA FE INSTITUTE

Edward Knapp, who rejoined Los Alamos National Laboratory two years ago as a senior fellow and who became director of its Meson Physics Facility, LAMPF, at the end of last year, took office as president of the Santa Fe Institute, part-time starting in March and full-time this month. Knapp is a former director of NSF and a former president of Universities Research Association, the consortium that acts as a board of directors for Fermilab and the SSC. He also was the founding head of the Los Alamos accelerator technology division and a member of the group that conceptualized LAMPF.

Knapp takes charge of the Santa Fe Institute at a time when it seems to be securing a definite niche for itself as a place for the cross-disciplinary study—mainly theoretical—of complexity and complex systems. The idea of establishing such a place was hatched six or seven years ago in conversations among a group of intellectuals that included physicists Murray Gell-Mann (Caltech), David Pines (University of Illinois, Urbana–Champaign), Peter Carruthers (then at Los Alamos, now at the University of Arizona) and the late Herbert Anderson (Los Alamos), as well as Knapp himself and the institute's retiring president, chemist George Cowan.

The general model for the evolution of research at the institute, Knapp says, is for a workshop to lead to a collaboration and ultimately to a residential project. Perhaps the most successful effort so far has involved the collaboration of physicists, mathematicians, statisticians and economists on various nonequilibrium problems in economics.

Knapp says it is hoped that the Santa Fe Institute eventually will be able to support a program for residential visitors, on the model of the Institute for Theoretical Physics in Santa Barbara. Funding for the institute comes primarily from private foundations such as the MacArthur Foundation and Citibank. Robert O. Anderson, the former chairman of Arco, is the chairman of the institute's board.

AAPT PRESENTS FIRST KLOPSTEG AWARD TO HANSMA

The first Paul E. Klopsteg Award of the American Association of Physics Teachers has been presented to Paul K. Hansma, a professor of physics at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The annual award was funded through donations Klopsteg had made to AAPT since 1978. The Klopsteg Award is given to an outstanding physicist who will give a lecture at the summer AAPT meeting on a subject of "current significance."

Klopsteg, who died in May at the age of 101, had a long career as a scientist, administrator and inventor. He helped found AAPT and served as its first vice president from 1930 to 1932 and as president in 1953. He also served in other science organizations, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Academy of Sciences and the National Science Foundation. During World War II Klopsteg headed the physics division of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, and during the