

of electric polarizabilities of atoms, molecules and small clusters.

Although Bederson is scheduled to retire from NYU this fall, he plans to keep his affiliation with the school and to conduct his editorial activities there when he is not at APS's Ridge facility on Long Island.

Lazarus, the outgoing editor in

chief, received a PhD in physics from the University of Chicago in 1949. He joined the physics faculty at Illinois as an instructor that year and became a full professor in 1959. His research in solid-state physics has dealt mainly with the defect and electronic properties of solids and high-pressure physics.

APS ESTABLISHES GUIDELINES FOR PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

At a meeting in November in Tampa, Florida, the council of The American Physical Society voted to adopt a set of guidelines outlining professional conduct by physicists.

The guidelines were drafted by a subcommittee of the APS Panel on Public Affairs that was chaired by Robert Richardson of Cornell University. They elaborated on a previous statement on integrity in physics, which was issued in April 1987 (see PHYSICS TODAY, June 1987, page 81). "There were many who felt [a new statement] was unnecessary," says Martin Blume of Brookhaven National Laboratory, who chaired POPA at the time the new guidelines were drawn up. But a general change in attitudes regarding scientific misconduct and the fact that other science societies had issued more detailed ethics guidelines "made it clear that we had to say something more than the relatively simple statement of 1987," Blume says. In 1990 the APS council asked POPA to draft a new statement on ethics.

The new guidelines include specific recommendations on how physicists should handle research results, publication, peer review and conflict of interest. The guidelines address professional activities only and do not discuss matters related to teaching, classified research or general morality.

The text of the guidelines follows:

The constitution of The American Physical Society states that the objective of the society shall be the advancement and diffusion of the knowledge of physics. It is the purpose of this statement to advance that objective by presenting ethical guidelines for society members.

Each physicist is a citizen of the community of science. Each shares responsibility for the welfare of this community. Science is best advanced when there is mutual trust, based upon honest behavior, throughout the community. Acts of deception, or any other acts that deliberately compro-

mise the advancement of science, are therefore unacceptable. Honesty must be regarded as the cornerstone of ethics in science.

The following are minimal standards of ethical behavior relating to several critical aspects of the physics profession.

A. Research results

The results of research should be recorded and maintained in a form that allows analysis and review. Research data should be immediately available to scientific collaborators. Following publication the data should be retained for a reasonable period in order to be available promptly and completely to responsible scientists. Exceptions may be appropriate in certain circumstances in order to preserve privacy, to assure patent protection, or for similar reasons.

Fabrication of data or selective reporting of data with the intent to mislead or deceive is an egregious departure from the expected norms of scientific conduct, as is the theft of data or research results from others.

B. Publication and authorship practices

Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the concept, design, execution and interpretation of the research study. All those who have made significant contributions should be offered the opportunity to be listed as authors. Other individuals who have contributed to the study should be acknowledged but not be identified as authors. The sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed.

Plagiarism constitutes unethical scientific behavior and is never acceptable. Proper acknowledgement of the work of others used in a research project must always be given. Further, it is the obligation of each author to provide prompt retractions or correction of errors in published works.

C. Peer review

Peer review provides advice concerning research proposals, the publication of research results and career advancement of colleagues. It is an essential component of the scientific process.

Peer review can serve its intended function only if the members of the scientific community are prepared to provide thorough, fair and objective evaluations based on requisite expertise. Although peer review can be difficult and time-consuming, scientists have an obligation to participate in the process.

Privileged information or ideas that are obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and not be used for competitive gain.

Reviewers should disclose conflicts of interest resulting from direct competitive, collaborative or other relationships with any of the authors and avoid cases in which such conflicts preclude an objective evaluation.

D. Conflict of interest

There are many professional activities of physicists that have the potential for a conflict of interest. Any professional relationship or action that may result in a conflict of interest must be fully disclosed. When objectivity and effectiveness cannot be maintained the activity should be avoided or discontinued.

It should be recognized that honest error is an integral part of the scientific enterprise. It is not unethical to be wrong, provided errors are promptly acknowledged and corrected when they are detected. Professional integrity in the formulation, conduct and reporting of physics activities reflects not only on the reputations of individual physicists and their organizations but also on the image and credibility of the physics profession as perceived by scientific colleagues, government and the public. It is important that the tradition of ethical behavior be carefully maintained and transmitted with enthusiasm to future generations.

Physicists have an individual and a collective responsibility to ensure that there is no compromise with these guidelines.

APS NAMES DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The American Physical Society has added a new position to its staff, that of director of international scientific