

News and Views

SPECIALIST SHORT COURSES ON POLYSACCHARIDES

The increasing interest in the science and applications of polysaccharides will be expected to result in the development of specialist short courses. Thus on 21 and 22 November 1990 a two day course on 'Polysaccharides: Structure Spectroscopy and Applications' was held at the University of East Anglia in England. This consisted of a series of lectures by well known United Kingdom scientists dealing with the use of X-ray diffraction, NMR and mass spectroscopy for the determination of polysaccharide structure as well as overviews of polysaccharide solution properties and microbial polysaccharides.

Of particular significance is the intention of the University of Trondheim to hold an advanced course on *alginates* and their applications. Professor Olav Smidsrød and his colleagues have long been the leading group working on alginates, and the scientific programme which includes lectures by some 15 international experts covers sources, biochemical and structural aspects, the relationship between structure and function and application in a range of industries. Delegates attending this advanced course would be expected to be taken to the frontiers of alginate research and technology.

The course will be held from 3 to 5 June 1991. Further details can be obtained from: Department of Continuing Education, The Norwegian Institute of Technology, N-7034 Trondheim, Norway.