

Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry®

© Copyright 1983 by the American Chemical Society

Volume 31, Number 4 July/August 1983

Editorial: A Message to Our Readers

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, and this issue of the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* serves to commemorate this important milestone in the history of this division. I am sure you will find most interesting the accompanying article in this issue that describes the past history and present activities of this division as well as its aspirations for the future. In addition, as part of the 186th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society to be held in Washington, DC, Aug 28–Sept 2, 1983, the American Chemical Society will sponsor a special plenary session devoted to the theme "Agricultural and Food Research: Looking Ahead". This program will feature such eminent scientists and government representatives as Dr. Melvin Calvin, Nobel Laureate and Professor of Chemistry, University of California at Berkeley; Dr. Howard Goodman, Chief, Department of Molecular Biology, Massachusetts General Hospital; Dr. Orville Bentley, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Science and Education, U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Congressman George E. Brown, U.S. Representative from California and Chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture. Also included in this program will be the presentation of the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Sterling-Hendricks Award to Dr. Calvin. All of you are cordially invited to attend this session, which deals with a subject that should be of concern to all of us, namely, how are we going to feed the hungry world of tomorrow and how we, as chemists, can best contribute to the solution of this problem.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage our readers to become more actively involved in one of the key activities essential to the publication of a high-quality scientific journal, and that is the reviewing process. A journal is only as good as its reviewers, which implies that each paper that has been accepted for publication must have undergone a rigorous but fair evaluation by competent experts in that particular field. To accomplish this objective necessitates the identification of a panel of experts who are willing to devote a substantial portion of their valuable time to the review of papers. This journal has thus far been most fortunate in this regard, but an expansion and an updating of our pool of experts are clearly desirable. To this end, we have recently sent many of you questionnaires as to your willingness to serve as a reviewer in your area of expertise. The response to this questionnaire has been most encouraging, and I wish to thank those of you who took the time to respond. But to those of you who did not respond or may not have received this questionnaire, I would appreciate hearing from you with or without the questionnaire. In particular, I would urge well-recognized experts in the field to channel papers for review to young, developing scientists as a means of increasing their involvement in their own specialty and, at the same time, contributing to an upgrading of the scientific quality of this journal.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in Washington this fall on a more personal basis and am anxious to hear any expressions of opinion or suggestions you may care to convey.

Irvin E. Finer