

Tenth ISF Congress—A Review

[Report by Frank Bradley, Retiring Secretary-General of the International Society for Fat Research, Ruislip, Middlesex, England]

The International Society for Fat Research, which meets in a different country every two years, held its tenth congress in Chicago, Illinois, from September 27 to October 1, 1970, in conjunction with the 44th Fall Meeting of the American Oil Chemists' Society who were hosts to ISF members from some 30 countries. All previous congresses of ISF had been held in Europe, where interest in fat research has always been strong and where many Government-sponsored laboratories are working in this field; it was therefore a bold experiment on the part of ISF members to go so far afield, even though their American colleagues could offer many inducements, not least the sharing of much new knowledge and techniques in research and in the application of these in commercial practice. A total of 1241 people took part in the Congress, including 294 registrants from 36 countries outside North America; more than 360 papers were read and discussed.

To handle so many papers during the four working days of the Congress made it necessary to hold as many as 11 simultaneous sessions, but thanks to the excellent facilities of the Conrad Hilton Hotel where all meetings were held, and to the careful timing of papers, members had little difficulty in following a selected program of papers in different sessions. The full program, with detailed abstracts of all the papers, had been published in advance of the meeting and this doubtlessly contributed to the smooth running of the Congress.

W. O. Lundberg, Director of the Hormel Institute, Austin, Minnesota, and a past President of AOCS, presided over the Congress, while S. S. Chang, the reigning AOCS President, together with other AOCS officers, fulfilled all

the usual duties of an AOCS meeting in addition to those of hosts to ISF members. In his address of welcome Dr. Chang spoke of the joint meeting of the two societies as marking a new era in the history of AOCS and as a major step towards greater international co-operation in oils and fats chemistry and research, leading to more rapid and satisfactory solutions to world problems in this field.

It was significant that, according to established ISF practice, all registrants at this meeting became members of ISF until the time of the next ISF Congress. Thus the General Meeting of ISF members which was held on the opening day was attended by many new members from the AOCS ranks. The main business was to decide upon the country and place of the next congress, and members accepted with acclamation an invitation from Scandinavia to meet in Gothenberg in June 1972, under the auspices of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences and under the Presidency of Professor Sune Bergström, of the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm. A proposal to meet in Italy in 1974 was made by Professor Fedeli, who presented an invitation on behalf of the University of Milan, and this will be considered again in 1972. Reinhard Marcuse, of the Swedish Institute for Food Preservation Research, Gothenberg, was elected as the new Secretary-General of ISF in succession to Frank Bradley who had held this office since 1964.

It had been hoped that H. P. Kaufmann, to whose inspiration and initiative ISF owed its origin in 1954, would be present in Chicago, but unfortunately he had been involved in a serious motor car accident. At the ISF Founders' Lunch which had been arranged in his honor by the Armour Industrial Chemical Company of Chicago, the President of that company paid tribute to Professor Kaufmann and to the group of some 40 scientists who had actively supported his proposal to form an international society for oils and fats research so long ago. The record of ISF Congresses, culminating in the present World Congress in Chicago, had fully justified their faith.

The technical sessions of the Congress were arranged partly in the form of symposia on topics of particular interest, and partly as collections of papers of general interest. Seldom can such a wide range of subjects have been treated in depth at one meeting of oils and fats scientists. Some idea of the many subjects covered may be gained from the titles of the 14 Symposia, most of which ran into three or more sessions: Oilseeds Processors and World Protein Needs; Chemistry and Biochemistry of Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids; Metal Catalyzed Lipid Oxidation; Deep Fat Frying, Chemistry, Technology and Nutrition; Cruciferous Oilseeds; Basic Aspects of Detergency; Modern Oil Processing; Computer Systems and Applications in the Oils and Fats Industry; Lipids, Platelets and Thrombosis; Flavors and Off-Flavors in Oil and Oil-Based Products; Chemistry and Biochemistry of Tocopherols; Biochemistry of Hydrocarbon Degradation; Long Term Nutritive Effects of Dietary Fats; Atherosclerosis and Lipid Metabolism.

Our stay in Chicago was all too short. Except for the ladies, for whom a pleasant program of excursions had been arranged, few people had leisure time to explore this fine city. Our memories are chiefly of the busy Chicago Loop, of imposing Michigan Avenue, and of the magnificent Art Institute, to wander through which was sheer delight. We visitors from overseas owe a debt of gratitude to our AOCS hosts for their truly warm hospitality and for the opportunity of meeting our fellow scientists in one of the great cities of the world.

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