

Report of the Intersociety Relations Committee

AOCS 1970-1971¹

Introduction

The Intersociety Relations Committee is a group of representatives of (at the present time) four Societies, organized as a specific committee, to establish a more formalized, routine, readily available mechanism, whereby chairmen of technical committees of any one of the member-Societies will be informed as to what is being attempted in his particularly specialized area within each of the other three Societies. Specifically, if a technical committee chairman is about to initiate an investigation or study, probably involving collaborative testing with the ultimate objective of establishing an official or standard method for his Society, he will be, more or less automatically, notified of any specific committee (and of its chairman) interested in the same task, within the other Societies. Thus the efforts of the two (or more) committees can be joined and much duplication of effort eliminated.

Obviously, to achieve these objectives the Intersociety Relations Committee will be concerned with the activities of hundreds of officers conducting the affairs of technical committees within these four Societies. Achievement of the objective, coordination and cooperation among so many individuals engaged in numerous undertakings, presents a major problem of communication.

The purpose of this report is to introduce the Intersociety Relations Committee to every officer of every technical committee of the four Societies (and hopefully to every member of these technical committees and of the individual Societies); to present a brief history of the formation and organization of the Committee; to describe the objectives; and finally to present a plan for eliminating needless duplication of effort.

Organization and Present Composition

The Intersociety Relations Committee at present consists of representatives of four Societies, i.e., the American Oil Chemists' Society, the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, the American Society for Testing and Materials, and the American Association of Cereal Chemists. The first three are charter members. The Cereal Chemists were elected to membership by vote of the Committee at a meeting held on February 16, 1968.

The Committee consists of three delegates appointed by the officer responsible for such appointments within each of the four Societies. The appointing officer also designates one of his three appointees to be chairman of the delegation from his Society. Thus the committee (at present) consists of 12 members. The Chairmanship of the Intersociety Relations Committee, as agreed at the inaugural meeting of the committee, will be rotated among the four Societies, the Chairman of each delegation serving a two-year term as chairman of the Intersociety Relations Committee. The American Society for Testing and Materials agreed to furnish a permanent recording secretary who would take minutes at each meeting and issue copies of these minutes to each delegate.

R. L. Terrill, Chairman of the ASTM delegation, was elected first chairman of the Intersociety Relations Committee and served a two-year term. He was succeeded by C. O. Willits at the meeting held on February 16, 1968. R. T. O'Connor became the third Chairman at the meeting on November 24, 1969. ASTM Staff Officer, L. C. Gilbert, served the Committee as its recording secretary for the first two years (until his retirement) and was succeeded by M. D. Huber, another ASTM Staff Officer at the third meeting, held on February 16, 1968. R. M. Sherwood now occupies this position.

Names and addresses of the individual members of the Intersociety Relations Committee, (the Delegation Chair-

man, Committee Chairman and Secretary) as of Jan. 1971, the date of the issuance of the minutes of the last meeting are as follows:

AACC	Committee Secretary
W. C. Schaefer, Chairman No. Marketing and Nutri- tion Res. Div. ARS, USDA Peoria, Ill. 61604	R. M. Sherwood American Society for Test- ing and Materials 1916 Race Street Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
R. R. Joiner Pennwalt Corporation Food & Agriculture Division 110 E. Hanover Avenue Cedar Knolls, N.J. 07927	AOAC C. L. Ogg, Chairman Eastern Marketing and Nutrition Res. Div., ARS, USDA 600 East Mermaid Lane Philadelphia, Pa. 19118
E. L. Sexton CPC International Inc. P.O. Box 1534 1120 Commerce Ave. Union, N.J. 07083	L. G. Ensminger Association of Official An- alytical Chemists Box 540, Benjamin Franklin Station Washington, D.C. 20044
AOCS R. T. O'Connor, Chairman So. Marketing and Nutri- tion Res. Div., ARS, USDA P.O. Box 19687 New Orleans, La. 70119	David Firestone Division of Food Chemistry & Technology Food and Drug Administra- tion Washington, D.C. 20204
E. Handschumaker Analytical Research Spencer Kellogg Division of Textron, Inc. P.O. Box 210 Buffalo, N.Y. 14225	ASTM R. L. Terrill, Chairman Spencer Kellogg Division of Textron, Inc. P.O. Box 807 Buffalo, N.Y. 14240
E. M. Sallee The Procter & Gamble Co. Ivorydale Technical Center Cincinnati, Ohio 45217	Edwin Gallagher National Lead Company 2607 East Cumberland Street Philadelphia, Pa. 19125
Committee Chairman R. T. O'Connor	R. J. Sobatzki 631 Custis Road Glenside, Pa. 19038

Purpose of the Committee

Within most chemical societies today, there will be found small groups, task forces, sub-committees, etc., devoting considerable effort to investigation and testing, usually with collaborative effort among several laboratories, preferred techniques within their small area of interest with the objective of recommending to their particular society a specific technique which has been shown by repetitive analyses within a single laboratory to have satisfactory reproducibility, and, by more or less simultaneous analyses in many different laboratories, to have sufficient precision, that it can be recommended as an official or standard method for the society. Thus, for example, we might find a group working on the selection of the most satisfactory technique for the determination of nitrogen solubility index, or for the determination of specific constituents by means of gas liquid chromatography, or to devise some technique based on NMR spectroscopy in several different societies. As the individuals composing these small groups are specialists, it is not uncommon to find the same individual working on such groups simultaneously within two or more Societies. This fact points the need for an Intersociety Relations Committee, first to eliminate duplication, secondly to assure that such selection of specialized techniques is being made by as many specialists qualified to make such a selection

¹ Any Technical Committee Officer of AOCS can obtain further information or specific details regarding the operation of the Intersociety Relations Committee directly from AOCS Contact Delegate, D. L. Henry, Law and Company, Box 1558, Atlanta, Ga. 30301.

as can conveniently be brought together, and thirdly to unify standard and official methods of analyses among different societies.

Early Activities of the Committee

Five meetings have been held, all at ASTM Headquarters in Philadelphia, Pa.: November 16, 1965; November 23, 1966; February 16, 1968; November 15, 1968; November 24, 1969. The first meeting was devoted to acquainting the nine delegates (AACC had not joined the Committee at this time) with the purpose and objectives of the Committee.

L. C. Gilbert, an ASTM Staff Officer, had been assigned as recording secretary and had done a major task in setting the tone of this initial meeting. He had each Society Delegate Chairman review the scope of his Society, illustrating the common interest among the three Societies. He then had each Delegate Chairman review the procedure for initiating and developing analytical procedures within working committees, and the course they should follow to become an official or standard method of his specific Society. These reviews illustrated the common ground whereby considerable cooperative effort could be used to obtain standard or official methods, with a decrease in effort by the group within any specific Society.

Mainly this first meeting recognized the need for limitation of individuals to play a role in coordination among the three societies. It appears to have been recognized, even at this very initial meeting, that individuals designated as technical committee chairman or subcommittee chairman within AOCS, as Referees or Associate Referees by AOAC, or as "C" "D" and "E" Committee Chairmen or Subcommittee Chairmen by ASTM, would amount to hundreds of individuals and that attempted coordination among such vast numbers of individuals was doomed to failure. From the minutes of this first meeting we quote, "The official contact then informs the working group chairman". . . (Later amended to specifically the permanent recording secretary, an ASTM staff officer). "It was tentatively agreed that the official contact in each organization would be as follows: AOCS, Chairman of the Uniform Methods Committee (The Chairman of the Uniform Methods Committee has just recently been officially appointed to this office). AOAC, C. O. Willits (Dr. Willits was chairman of the AOAC delegation, but the selection of the "official contact" later referred to as Society representative was subsequently changed to L. G. Ensminger, an AOAC delegate). ASTM, Staff Man (The ASTM "official contact" or representative was later more specifically designated as the ASTM staff officer assigned as recording secretary to the Intersociety Committee).

At the second meeting a considerable number of proposals as to how contacts can be made between technical or working committee chairmen and subcommittee chairmen were discussed. As the many proposals were unveiled it became increasingly apparent that unless the number of individuals actively concerned and responsible for establishing such contact was drastically curtailed, no orderly scheme for establishing contact could ever be perfected. Each delegation was urged to compile a list of the present activities of each of the technical or working committees within his society for comparison of present efforts. Attention was given at this meeting to preliminary inquiries from other Societies for membership on the Intersociety Relations Committee. Interest in having membership on the committee had been received from the Institute of Food Technology and from the American Association of Cereal Chemists.

The third meeting was not held until the Spring of 1968, again at ASTM Headquarters, on February 16, 1968. Announcement was made that Leroy Gilbert was retiring from ASTM and that M. D. Huber had been appointed as the new recording secretary. The AACC was voted into membership of the Committee and the name of the Committee was changed to "Intersociety Relations Committee—AACC, AOAC, AOCS, ASTM." It was agreed that no other societies would be solicited for membership on the Committee, but if they did apply or request mem-

bership, consideration of the application would be given at the meeting following receipt of the application.

The minutes of this third meeting read, "Ways and means of acquainting interested people with the liaison between the organization in this Committee were discussed." The multitude of proposals were tending to make any formalized, routine and readily available method for such contact very confusing merely by the large numbers of individuals involved, and appeared to be getting away from the proposal of the initial meeting of the Committee. C. O. Willits, Chairman of the AOAC delegation, was elected chairman of the Intersociety Relations Committee to replace Bob Terrill, Chairman of the ASTM Delegation, who had completed his two-year term in this capacity.

Contact Plan of the Committee

For its fourth meeting the Committee returned to the practice of holding Fall meetings and this fourth meeting was held at ASTM Headquarters on November 15, 1968.

At this meeting the Committee got back to the problem of how its basic objective could be attained. Quotations from the minutes of this meeting are important as they set what should be the future *modus operandi* of the Committee.

"It was agreed that the prime objective of this meeting should be perfecting a better system for clearance of information between the four societies on: (a) what methods are under development, and (b) mutual adoption of methods written by one of the societies, where practicable."

"It was agreed that when a committee in one society is working on a method a check should be made on possible interest in the other three societies." (Some discussion was had as to when and how such a check should be made. A proposal was offered that it should be in the form of an annual or semiannual report, presumably by each society. Dr. Willits suggested notification of the projects one at a time, as started, a proposal which was seconded and adopted.)

"It was agreed that one man from each of the four societies should be notified, as follows (from letter from Recording Secretary, February 17, 1969): W. C. Schaefer, AACC; L. C. Ensminger, AOAC; R. T. O'Connor, AOCS (representative subsequently changed to D. L. Henry, Law and Company, Box 1558, Atlanta, Ga. 30301); M. D. Huber, ASTM (representative subsequently changed to R. M. Sherwood).

Consideration was given to establishment of a policy whereby each of the societies could rewrite and re-evaluate methods developed by the other societies. It would be mandatory to obtain permission to reprint methods and courteous to ask permission to rewrite. Uniformity of methods common to two or more societies, where practicable, was agreed to be desirable. The manner of giving credit for a method developed by another society was discussed. Where substantial copying is done, appropriate clearance should be obtained from the originating society. Contacts for this purpose should be initiated with the four individuals named in the above paragraph.

The contact plan as outlined will proceed as follows. When the chairman of a technical or working committee plans to inaugurate a detailed investigation involving collaborative testing to devise or select an analytical procedure to be recommended to his society as an official or standard method, he will notify the Intersociety Relations Committee representative (or contact man) of his society. If the investigation is to be conducted under the direction of a Subcommittee Chairman or a Task Group Chairman selected for this specific purpose, he shall report through the chairman of his committee, who will notify the society's representative. The society's representative will inform the permanent recording secretary (now R. M. Sherwood, ASTM) who in turn will notify the representatives of the other three societies. These three representatives are obligated to reply to this request. They should make the necessary survey throughout their society and subsequently notify the permanent recording secretary that either they have ascertained that no interest in the proposed method has been found within their society or that a specific

• Intersociety Relations Committee . .

committee is interested in the investigation proposed, and that contacts should be made with . . . giving the name and address of the contact (technical or working committee chairman) directly interested in joining in the proposed investigation. The representative of the Society initiating this action refers these comments to the Committee Chairman who initiated the request, and thus contact between or among committee chairmen is established—or it has been established that if a specific committee of the initiating Society does proceed it is not duplicating effort being pursued in one of the other member-societies.

The following features of the contact plan should be noted and emphasized:

1. The Technical Committee Chairman initiating a request for possible cooperation and collaboration need not (and in fact should not) go outside his own society until contact has been established between or among the key contact men.

2. When a key contact man requests the recording secretary to contact the key contact men in the other societies, they in turn will find the appropriate technical committee chairman within their own society. They will ascertain whether the appropriate technical committee within their own society is interested in cooperation and/or collaboration, and when this is established will report back to the recording secretary either that there is no interest within their society in the specific proposed project or that there is interest and contact should be made with the technical committee chairman in the specific committee involved. An essential feature of the contact plan is that the key men have to make contact within their own societies and to report the specific contact or the fact that there is no interest in the particular project within their society.

3. In initiating the original request, the technical committee chairman must, of course, give enough details of his proposed project so that correct contact can be made

and chairmen in other societies can understand what is being proposed.

4. Once the contacts have been made within the society and referred back to the recording secretary, he will forward this information to the original key contact man, who will turn it over to the original technical committee chairman within the society. From this point on contact and cooperation will be between or among the technical committee chairmen concerned.

Requests for cooperation and/or collaboration are, of course, optional. The chairman of a committee in one of the four societies will initiate requests for such cooperation presumably only if and when he deems such cooperation of potential benefit to the activities and aims of his committee. Obviously, also, responses to invitations to cooperate and/or collaborate will be accepted by specific chairmen in the other three societies if and only if they are interested in establishing such cooperation. It is not intended that there is to be a police-like demand for cooperation on the part of every chairman engaged in every collaborative effort as an activity of his Technical Committee. It should be emphasized that the principal objective of the Intersociety Relations Committee is to minimize duplication of effort in analytical method development work. When it can create a group of individuals with the greatest expertise in a particular area to work together to devise a standard or official method of analysis, the Intersociety Relations Committee can be of considerable assistance. The proposed plan can, hopefully, be an effective procedure to establish the required cooperation.

R. T. O'CONNOR²

Southern Regional Research Laboratory
So. Marketing and Nutrition Res. Div. ARS, USDA
New Orleans, La. 70119

² Chairman of the Intersociety Relations Committee

Call for Nominations for Eighth AOCS \$2,500 Award in Lipid Chemistry

Sponsored by Applied Science Laboratories

In April 1964 the Governing Board of the American Oil Chemists' Society established an Award in Lipid Chemistry under the sponsorship of the Applied Science Laboratories Inc., State College, Pennsylvania. Previous awards were presented as follows: Erich Baer, August 1964; Ernest Klenk, October 1965; H.E. Carter, October 1966; Sune Bergstrom, October 1967; Daniel Swern, October 1968; H.J. Dutton, October 1969 and E.P. Kennedy, September 1970.

The award consists of \$2,500 accompanied by an appropriate certificate. It is now planned that the eighth award will be presented at the AOCS Fall Meeting in Atlantic City, Oct. 2-6, 1971.

Canvassing Committee Appointees

Policies and procedures governing the selection of award winners have been set forth by the AOCS Governing Board. An Award Nomination Canvassing Committee has been appointed. Its membership is R.J. Sims, Chairman; W.P. Gibble, L.H. Widermann, D.L. Berner and T.J. Weiss. The function of this committee is to solicit nominations for the eighth award. Selection of the award winner will be made by the Award Committee whose membership will remain anonymous.

Rules

The rules prescribe that nominees shall have been responsible for the accomplishment of original research

in lipid chemistry and must have presented the results thereof through publication of technical papers of high quality. Preference will be given to individuals who are actively associated with research in lipid chemistry and who have made fundamental discoveries that affect a large segment of the lipid field. For award purposes, the term "lipid chemistry" is considered to embrace all aspects of the chemistry and biochemistry of fatty acids, of naturally occurring and synthetic compounds and derivatives of fatty acids, and of compounds that are related to fatty acids metabolically, or occur naturally in close association with fatty acids or derivatives thereof. The award will be made without regard for national origin, race, color, creed or sex.

Letters of nomination together with supporting documents must be submitted in octuplicate to R.J. Sims, General Foods Corp., Technical Center, White Plains, N.Y., before the deadline date of April 15, 1971. The supporting documents shall consist of professional biographical data, including a summary of the nominee's research accomplishments, a list of his publications, the degrees he holds, together with the names of the granting institutions, and the positions held during his professional career. There is no requirement that either the nominator or the nominee be a member of the American Oil Chemists' Society.

Remember the DEADLINE, April 15, 1971