

1,300 attend St. Louis meeting

Approximately 1,300 persons attended the AOCS 69th Annual Meeting in the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis during May, and many said it was one of the best meetings they had attended.

The attendance was the largest ever for a single AOCS meeting. Among the attendees were 16 of AOCS' past presidents, who were joined for their traditional dinner by outgoing President T.H. Applewhite and incoming President David Firestone. R.R. (Bob) King, president of AOCS in 1945, was the senior past president attending.

A symposium on high density lipoproteins held crowds of between 200 and 300 persons throughout Monday afternoon and all day Tuesday. Many attending were physicians who could receive continuing medical education credit from the American Medical Association for attending the symposium.

Approximately 900 persons attended the annual banquet Wednesday evening, with Tex Beneke's music keeping the dance floor crowded most of the evening. Entertainment was by Dink Freeman, a raconteur of dialect humor.

The Award in Lipid Chemistry for 1978 was presented during the banquet evening to Dr. Ralph Holman, director of the Hormel Institute and a past president of AOCS, by Dr. Subramania Ramachandran, group vice president for Applied Science Labs, and AOCS President T.H. Applewhite.

A gala reception at the Museum of Westward Expansion beneath St. Louis' famed Gateway Arch was among the highlights of the meeting. Singleton Palmer's jazz combo provided music that reached throughout the modern museum. One complaint: the traction cars climbing to the top of the arch were not operating, but to ferry all of the nearly 1,000 persons attending up and down would have required more than five hours.

Close to 300 technical papers were presented, and approximately 50 AOCS committee meetings were held during the week-long meeting.

Dr. Clifford Hardin, vice chairman of the board of Ralston Purina Company, and Dr. Theodore Cooper, dean of the medical college for Cornell University, were speakers during the plenary session on Monday.

"Over-Regulation: A Development No One Really Wants and No One Has Been Able to Stop," was Dr. Hardin's theme as he discussed the impact of increasing government regulation on the nation.

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"It has been a process in which most individual actions that have been taken would be regarded as good, or at least not bad, when viewed alone; but when they are all put together it is something else," Dr. Hardin said.

He urges adoption of legislation introduced by Sen. Charles Percy and Sen. Robert Byrd which would be, in effect, a "sunset law" for regulatory agencies requiring periodic revision and updating by regulatory agencies with a proviso that if revision were not accomplished within a specific time, the agency's regulatory powers would automatically end.

Dr. Cooper, speaking on "The Shape of American Medicine" noted that headlines in recent times would indicate the medical profession is in trouble, but that public opinion polls indicate the vast majority of U.S. residents are well satisfied with the medical care they receive.

For the future, he urged efforts to establish coordinated national policies on health, careful planning of how health care is to be financed, more diversity in health care systems, more research, and the need for "a greater awareness of the health implication of other social, cultural, and economic activities."

Dr. Holman gave his Award in Lipid Chemistry talk at Plenary Session II, held on Tuesday. Dr. Arthur Rose, president of Applied Science, introduced Dr. Holman at this session.

In his talk "What Is Essential About Fatty Acids?," Dr. Holman traced the development of his initial interest in essential fatty acids through his continuing research of today. Latest studies indicate EFA deficiency in victims of such maladies as cystic fibrosis and chronic malnutrition. Dr. Holman's address will be published in *JAOCs* at a later date. In his talk, Dr. Holman expressed gratitude to his parents, wife, early instructors, and his colleagues through the years for their guidance and support.

The spouses' program drew 150 registrants who took a bus tour to St. Charles, original capital of Missouri, and the West Port Shopping Plaza. The program also included a history of St. Louis music as well as a lively slide presentation about the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.

Twenty-eight firms had display booths filling the exhibit area. Exhibitors seemed pleased with attendance during the week.



Conferring before the opening plenary session in St. Louis are, from left, AOCS President Thomas Applewhite; Dr. Clifford Hardin, vice chairman of the board of Ralston Purina Co.; Dr. Theodore Cooper, medical school dean at Cornell University; and Dr. Robert Burton, general chairman for the 1978 AOCS Annual Meeting.