
In This Issue

As an organization with strong interests in communicating information about fats and oils to others, AOCS has long felt the need for a comprehensive worldwide listing of institutions and organizations interested in fats and oils. So we put former assistant news editor Kathy McDowell to work on the task of compiling such a list and, upon her departure from AOCS, assigned current assistant news editor Sara Arndt to complete the task. The results are in this issue of *JAOCs* to assist you in identifying organizations where you can find colleagues sharing your interests.

COVER PHOTO courtesy of United Nations.

Letters to the Editor

Two urge JAOCs publish abstracts

Sir:

We have just read the recommendations of the National Program Planning Committee that would discontinue publishing the AOCS meeting abstracts in *JAOCs*. This would be a serious mistake and would adversely affect the participation and attendance at our annual meetings.

Abstracts are not "throwaway" material, but are a part of the activities of the Society and should be maintained in the archives. Many participants who now include new and unpublished data in their abstracts because they are published in the *Journal* as material that can be referenced will either submit unattractive general abstracts or will not attend the meeting at all. Either way the Society loses.

All papers given at meetings are property of the Society; however, only a small fraction of them are published in our journals. The abstracts are records of the presentation of the materials therein, and establish priority, not only of the author for his ideas, but also of the Society. Titles alone cannot do that.

If you don't have top scientists presenting up-to-date data you won't have a good meeting program, and without a good program the meeting attendance will be poor. The bottom line is that a way must be found to continue the abstracts in the *Journal* as material that can be referenced or the meeting size and quality will be adversely affected.

We earnestly suggest this decision be reconsidered by the Society.

Sincerely,

Raymond Reiser

Randall Wood

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Editor's note

The decision not to publish abstracts for the national meeting was based on several factors. First, the abstracts frequently are prepared so far before the meeting that they bear little resemblance to the paper that is actually presented, or else present what the author hopes his research will show. Second, cost is a major factor. Publishing the 1980 abstracts in *JAOCs* involved a direct cost of \$8,000+, not including editing, typesetting and proofing. Third, preparing the abstracts for publication each year in the February *JAOCs* has put a major strain on the technical program chairman and his committee. An abstracts brochure will be distributed to persons attending the New Orleans meetings and will be available to persons requesting a copy by mail. *JAOCs* would be interested in hearing the reactions of other Society members.

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