
Local Sections

Hans Kaunitz receives Bailey Award

The 1981 Alton E. Bailey Award for outstanding research and exceptional service in the field of lipids and associated products was presented to Dr. Hans E. Kaunitz, distinguished clinical professor in pathology at Columbia University, on March 11, 1981, during a meeting of the North Central Section of the American Oil Chemists' Society.

Approximately 50 persons attending the dinner heard Dr. Kaunitz outline the reasons he rejects the lipid theory of arteriosclerosis and present what he termed "A Tentative Molecular-Biological Hypothesis for Arteriosclerosis."

Dr. Kaunitz said he believes arteriosclerosis is a normal part of aging, not an intrusive disease, related to molecular-biological changes.

"Autoimmune processes and the effects of extrachromosomal organisms of the genome (viruses, plasmids, viroids) are clinically of interest," Dr. Kaunitz said in a summary of his talk. "Arteriosclerotic lesions are probably influenced by autoimmune processes; the variability and specificity of the nonchromosomal organism may explain the location of the lesions; the end of the incubation period of the organisms may be responsible for the programmed appearance of clinical symptoms.

"The lipid changes are probably part of the adaptive mechanisms counteracting the rapid destruction of the vessels following the DNA alterations."

The Bailey medal is named for AOCS pioneer Alton E. Bailey who was a dedicated researcher as well as a prolific writer. The award was presented by North Central Section President George Bregar. Chairman of the award selection committee was Frank Kincaid.

Peter Noznick introduced Dr. Kaunitz, tracing his career from medical school in Austria to his current work as a researcher and practicing physician and citing as well his gift for languages, and appreciation of opera. Dr. Noznick described Dr. Kaunitz as a "true cultural renaissance man."

Among attendees at the dinner was 1980 Bailey medalist Frank Norris.

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Dr. Hans Kaunitz, second from left, holds the A.E. Bailey Award plaque he received at the North Central Section's annual Bailey Award dinner during March. Others are (from left) Mrs. Kaunitz; North Central Section President George Bregar, Bailey Award Committee Chairman Frank Kincaid, and Peter Noznick, who introduced Kaunitz at the meeting.

Are you what you eat?

"Fatty Acid Metabolism—Are You What You Eat?" was the topic for Robert C. Benedict of the Food Safety Laboratory at the Eastern Regional Research Center during the February dinner meeting of the Northeast Section in Bristol, Pennsylvania.

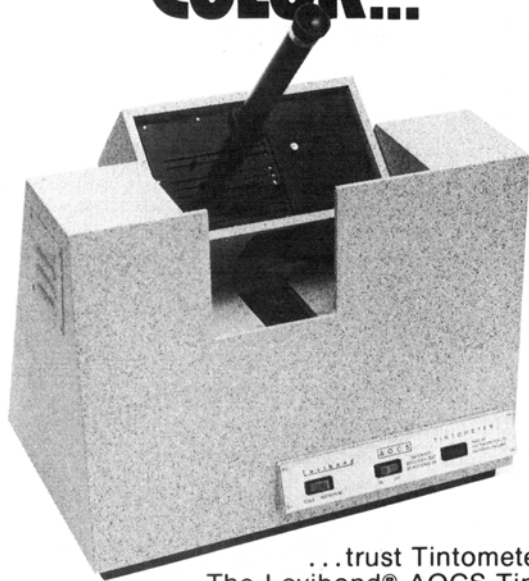
Dr. Benedict reviewed the metabolic pathways of ingested food fats and expanded on some of the more recent dietary findings on saturated and unsaturated fats, the role of prostaglandins, fats and lipoproteins and the possible links of fat intake and certain diseases.

Both the National Research Council and the National Academy of Science have published reports that show a significant relationship between dietary practices and five major causes of death, atherosclerosis, cancer, diabetes, hypertension and obesity, Dr. Benedict said.

Both organizations report that there appears to be positive correlations between a high caloric, high fat, low fiber diet and colon cancer, he said. One theory is that various metabolites produced by intestinal bacteria may be mutagenic and may be modified by the diet.

In discussing pathways, Dr. Benedict said that the familiar β -oxidation of fats in the liver may be assisted by

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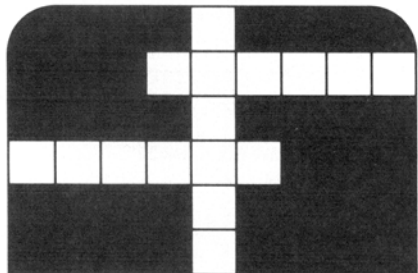


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peroxisomes. The peroxisomes, which have come into research prominence in the past five years, are thought to act on the longer chain fatty acids, he said. Dr. Benedict also briefly discussed metabolic pathways of saturated and unsaturated fatty acids, prostaglandins, the role of lipids in lipoproteins, and the importance of the antioxidant system in the body.

In answering "Are you what you eat," Dr. Benedict listed five considerations: (1) it depends on the type of fat ingested and the levels of saturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids; (2) the ratio of fat to other food components in the diet; (3) what those other components are—alcohol, simple and complex carbohydrates, proteins and sulfur compounds, for example; (4) the efficiency of metabolism, hormonal state, brown fat levels, degree of utilization of fat, type of life activity, and catabolism and anabolism.

Among those attending the meeting were AOCS President Frank Naughton, former president Frank White, and Herbert L. Rothbart, recently appointed director for the USDA Eastern Regional Research Center in Philadelphia. Frank Luddy was local chairman for the meeting. □



Herbert L. Rothbart, left, new director of the USDA's Eastern Regional Research Center in Philadelphia, was introduced at the February Northeast Section meeting by Frank Luddy, center. To Luddy's left is Robert C. Benedict who spoke at the meeting on "Fatty Acid Metabolism—Are You What You Eat?"

NORCAL elects Jerry Love

Jerry Love of CPC North America's Best Foods Division in San Francisco will be chairperson for the AOCS' Northern California section during 1981.

Other recently elected officers include chairperson-elect, Robert Faulkner of LSI Bulk Terminals' California Omega Foods in Emeryville, California; secretary, Lee Tsai of the USDA's Western Regional Research Center in Albany, California; treasurer, Betty Miller of Curtis & Tomkins Ltd. in San Francisco; program chairman, Arnold Johnson of Sullivan Systems in Tiburon, California; arrangements, Yukio Takahashi of Ghiradelli Chocolate Co. in San Leandro, California. Immediate past chairperson is Penny Wells of Cutter Laboratories in Berkeley, California.

The first meeting of 1981 was held in conjunction with the Western Industry Food Conference, held March 31 and April 1 at the University of California-Davis. □