Dallas: Biggest AOCS meeting yet

During its 75th anniversary meeting in Dallas, the American Oil Chemists' Society politely tipped its hat to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of previous years, but the primary emphasis in lecture rooms and around conference tables was on what lies ahead.

Certainly the nine cottonseed product analysts who gathered at Memphis' Jockey Club in 1909 would have been amazed at the 1984 gathering of approximately 1,600 persons from most of the United States, seven Canadian provinces, a dozen European nations, 10 Latin American countries, eight Asian nations (as well as the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong), Australia, Iran, Israel, Jamaica and South Africa.

More than 300 technical presentations were given during the week on oilseed processing, fats and oils refining, flavor chemistry, surfactants and detergents, proteins, analytical methodology, biochemistry, nutrition, food safety regulations and more.

With such a diverse membership geographically and in subject matter, it was no great surprise to hear once again discussions about changing the name of the organization. An initial report on a possible name change was received by the Governing Board, which plans further study. Any formal motion to change the name would have to be voted on by the membership.

A. Richard Baldwin was formally presented his honorary membership, a status bestowed by members' vote earlier this year. Baldwin, who retired last year as vice president for research from Cargill Inc., has been an AOCS member for four decades, serving for the past 35 years as editor of the *Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society*. He is a past president of the organization. He has supervised the expansion of the society's publications program to include *Lipids* and a monograph series and he has encouraged AOCS' leadership in organizing domestic and international educational conferences. Baldwin is the 20th person elected to honorary membership and the first since 1975 when Walt Lundberg was elected an honorary member.

The first batch of registrants' meeting evaluation questionnaires gave good ratings to the technical papers' content, to speakers, and, uncharacteristically, to visual aids. Many registrants felt the opening Inaugural/Awards breakfast was too long (2½ hours). Organizers for the 1985 annual meeting in Philadelphia are planning two briefer breakfasts, rather than one long breakfast, to accommodate AOCS business and awards presentations. Some registrants said the sound system for the entertainment at the annual banquet was too weak to project sound to the rear of the ballroom.

One reason the opening breakfast was longer than normal was the inclusion of three slide presentations. One was an AOCS retrospective on the history of fats and oils, a second was a presentation promoting the AOCS/PORIM World Conference on Processing of Palm, Palm Kernel and Coconut Oils, and the third, "The Midnight Oil," dramatized the need to keep AOCS official methodology as current as possible.

Through the AOCS Foundation, the society has launched a three-year project to encourage and seek improved methods and to speed their verification and adaption. One major U.S. grain exporter recently explained how a minor difference in a quality analysis report can mean a $400,000 difference in settlement on a shipload of soybeans. Approximately $200,000 has been pledged to the Foundation by various organizations. The Canadian Institute of Edible Oils was the first contributor to the project, pledging $18,000. Donors of $25,000 each include Archer Daniels Midland and Kraft Inc. The AOCS Northeast and North Central sections have each pledged $1,000 for the project. Representatives of other companies made oral promises to be followed by formal written pledges after the Dallas meeting.

By voice vote, AOCS members agreed to rename the society's publication of analytical methods *AOCS Official Methods and Recommended Practices*. The previous title used the words "official and tentative methods" and it was felt the new title more accurately reflects the publication's contents.

The exposition was the largest ever held at an AOCS annual meeting, with more than 75 exhibit booths. Winners in the daily drawings for door prizes were: miniature television set, C. L. Leigh, Central Soya; Nieman-Marcus gift certificates, Daniel Lampert of Shedds Food Products, Allan Mallenbaum of Antleman Tech., Pat Wright of A. G. Edwards & Sons and Thomas Beck of Arco; AOCS pen and pencil sets, Valdis Berzins of Haldor Topoe, Ken Brobst of A. E. Staley (retired), Philip Wertz of the University of Iowa; Eric Johnson of Hydrite, Lloyd Smith of the University of California at Davis and Norman Heinz of Archer Daniels Midland;

◄ During Past Presidents' dinner, A. Richard Baldwin, left, presented mementos to his colleagues including Dave Firestone, right.

▼ Former AOCS President Frank White, left, received Northeast Section Achievement Award from Northeast Section President Andy Menasium, right.

▲ Morris Kates, right, was recipient of 1984 Supelco AOCS Research Award presented by Nicholas Pelick, left, president of Supelco.

▲ Dallas Fairmont's ballroom was full for plenary breakfast on meeting's first day.

▼ The first awards for outstanding papers on proteins and coproducts were presented in Dallas to W.D. Deeslie, second from left, and C.N. Pace, third from left. Others are, from left, Edward Campbell of Archer Daniels Midland, sponsors of the awards; Frank Sosulki, publications chairman for the Protein and Coproducts Section; and E.W. Lusas, outgoing president of the section. Deeslie's co-author M. Cheryan could not attend the meeting.

AOCS pens, Clemence Dartney of Nabisco, Robert Johnson of Armour Dial, Linda Mills of Ethyl Corporation and Sally Hayes of Fuller Brush; AOCS knives, W. J. Johnson of Archer Daniels Midland and George Grochowski of Grinsted; and AOCS cigaret lighters, John Nadenicek of Nu-Chek Prep, S. Neidleman of Cetus Corp., Ernst Goebel of Quimica Sumex, Jim Ritchie of Canada Packers and Howard Hickman of Sherex.

AOCS' membership campaign to enroll 750 new members between the 1983 meeting in Chicago and the 1984 meeting in Dallas may have reached its goal. Going into the Dallas meeting, the campaign was approximately 100 to 150 applicants short of the goal. Membership applications submitted during the Dallas meeting were still being processed at press time. The AOCS President's Club and Honor Roll recognizes members who recruit new applicants. At a reception in Dallas for the successful recruiters, drawings were held for door prizes. C. Louis Kingsbaker won a trip to the 1986 annual meeting in Honolulu and Mary Anne Sullivan won a free hotel room for the 1985 annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Nicholas Pelick of Supelco Inc. formally took office as AOCS President, succeeding Thomas Smouse of Ralston-Purina. Other officers elected this spring also were installed.

The AOCS Placement Center had approximately three dozen job listings and about the same number of formally registered job applicants. In a change from past years, the center was closed during the time technical sessions were conducted, but open during the lunch hour. Activity seemed about the same as in previous years. The results will be evaluated in determining future operations of the Placement Center.

What would AOCS' founders have thought of the 1984 meeting? Felix Paquin, AOCS' first president, was owner-operator of an analytical laboratory in Galveston, 300 miles south of Dallas, when AOCS was founded in 1909. Perhaps he would have recognized some lifestyles at Big D, the reconstructed 1880s Texas town where the

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▲ Among the Smalley Check Sample Program winners in Dallas were, from left, Frank Tenent, Barrow-Agee Labs, Memphis; Shams Mustafa, Caleb Brett Labs, Jefferson, Louisiana; Ed Hahn, Hahn Laboratories, Columbia, South Carolina; Ronnie Fox (Doughtie Award winner), Fox Testing Labs, Lubbock, Texas; Mike Valletta (Smalley Award winner), SGS Control Services, Carteret, New Jersey; L.G. Premi, Anderson Clayton Foods, Richardson, Texas; Leon Hunter, Pope Testing Labs, Dallas, Texas; and Boyce Butler, SGS Control Services, Kenner, Louisiana.

▼ Ralph A. Potts Fellowship recipient Thomas Ryan, center, is congratulated by Linc Metcalfe, left, and Richard Reck, both from Akzo Chemie America, sponsors for the award.

▼Award of Merit recipients were Frank Luddy, left, and Jim Ridlehuber, right, with awards presented by R.G. Krishnamurthy, center, chairman of the selection committee.

◄ Malcolm MacLellan from Malaysia, left, and Nasser Ahmed of Canada study program during plenary session.

◄ AOCS Honored Students at the Dallas meeting were, from left, Kothapalli Rami, University of Western Ontario; Lynette F. Walsh, Iowa State University; Donald T. Dudley, University of Iowa; and Ramiro O. Ratres, Iowa State University.

mixer reception for the Dallas meeting was held. It was in the 1880s that recent MIT graduate David Wesson was introduced to cottonseed oil at a laboratory in Chicago.

But when those cotton product analysts first organized in 1909, it is certain that their thoughts were not on history. They were concerned with the need for standard, validated methodology for use throughout the United States. Now there's a need for internationally recognized standard methodology. They were concerned with improving the skills and proficiency of their colleagues, a concern shared by their counterparts 75 years later.

The oil chemists of 1909 in Memphis and those of 1984 in Dallas both met to consider the problems and opportunities of today and tomorrow, not to dwell on history.

TABLE I

Origin of Technical Papers at Dallas Meeting

A. Invited	60%
Volunteered	40%
B. U.S.	77%
Other nations (21)	23%
C. Industry	35%
Academic	45%
Government	20%

TABLE II

Session Format Distribution

Type	Number	Percentage
Technical session	26	60
Symposium	14	33
Round table	2	5
Poster session	1	2
Total	43	100

Methods

(The following is the text of AOCS President Nicholas Pelick's remarks during the Inaugural breakfast session in Dallas. His talk was accompanied by a showing of a slide show, "The Midnight Oil," that explains why AOCS needs to expedite evaluation of new methodology and outlines a program to accomplish that task.)

I am grateful and honored to be your president.

The primary purpose of the AOCS is to provide a suitable forum in which our diversified membership can exchange scientific data and new ideas through meetings, educational functions and publications. Many successful conferences and special projects in the last six years have given us financial strength despite an unsteady economy. As a result, the AOCS has grown in national and international stature and is, I believe, the authoritative, worldwide spokesman for fats and oils.

But this day and age calls for steady improvement in every area of life if we are to remain strong in the future. We must maintain quality technical programs, short courses, conferences and meetings, and do it at the lowest possible cost. All members and elected officers must work closely with the Executive Director to ensure continued success, and to keep costs and services to the membership under control.

The excellent work coming out of our technical committees must not be wasted. We have many dedicated professionals who have volunteered their time, but who will need support from the younger professionals. Volunteerism is one of mankind's more noble attributes. Volunteers get far more than they give.

Two of the most important projects, I believe, are the Uniform Methods Committee and the AOCS Foundation. The AOCS Book of Methods has been the ultimate authority for nearly 75 years behind trading in fats and oils. The "book" has been maintained by voluntary efforts of the Uniform Methods Committee, but this committee is no longer adequate to keep the methods updated. We have recognized that our older traditional ways of method development have not kept pace with the very rapid growth of newer and better analytical methods. The Foundation and the Uniform Methods Committee have jointly devised a plan to speed this up and allow quicker adoption of faster, more accurate and less expensive analytical methods.

Please note the booklet at your table—*The Solution of Choice*—a three-year, $375,000 project to get the book of methods modernized to meet today's challenges. Please take it with you, read it and give us your support, if you can.

Included in the booklet is a pledge card. I'm pleased to report to you that to date we have received support from:

1. The Institute of Edible Oil in Canada for $18,000 over three years.
2. Kraft—$25,000 pledge over three years—$8,333 a year.
3. ADM—$25,000 over three years, with the stipulation that the project goes.
4. AOCS Governing Board has already hired the Director of Methods Development and provided up to $50,000 to get the project off the ground.
5. Northeast, North Central, and Northern California Sections of AOCS have pledged monies to this effort.
6. We have received endorsements of support from the American Soybean Association and Food Protein R&D Center of Texas A&M University.

Most importantly, those industries that use the "book," and whose business it is to trade in fats and oils, should overwhelmingly support this project. Having "official methods" is vital to all segments of the fats and oils business—all the way from those in research to those with commercial interests. The "book" is the bible for trading, and a modern, updated methods book will serve industries' needs worldwide by getting solutions to problems more rapidly and more economically. What we are essentially trying to do is, once and for all, make the "book" the standard for the industry.

We need industrial financial support.

We also could use volunteer support for our committees.

It is my intention to work with the Foundation and the Uniform Methods Committee to implement this plan. With proven support, immediate updating of the Book of Methods should begin.

In the exhibit hall, the AOCS Foundation will have a booth in which one of our Board members, or Bob Clark, our methods director, will be available for discussions or to provide answers to any questions on this matter.

I take great pride in being a member of the American Oil Chemists' Society. I will strive to coordinate efforts with elected officers and to respond to the needs of the membership. I will continue to serve you in a professional manner and to support the programs that have made our Society strong.

Thank you for this honor.

Past presidents attend

Twenty past presidents of the American Oil Chemists' Society attended the 75th anniversary meeting in Dallas, recalling past meetings, present activities and enjoying the nostalgia of such occasions.

Robert R. King, senior past president of AOCS, was honorary chairman for the meeting, but ill health kept him from attending. King did talk by telephone with his colleagues, however, and lent his thick scrapbook of AOCS history to the society for copying. King, who lives in Richardson, Texas, served as president of AOCS in 1945.

Reid Milner, who was president of AOCS in 1947, was the senior past president attending the Dallas meeting and presided at the annual past presidents' dinner.

Other past presidents in Dallas were: V. C. Mehlenbacher (1949), C. E. Morris (1954), H. C. Black (1957), N. D.

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Embree (1959), A. R. Baldwin (1961), W. O. Lundberg (1963), R. C. Stillman (1964), Raymond Reiser (1967), G. C. Cavanagh (1969), R. T. Holman (1974), W. E. Link (1975), F. B. White (1976), T. H. Applewhite (1977), David Firestone (1978), N.O.V. Sonntag (1979), F. C. Naughton (1980), E. G. Perkins (1981), K. T. Zilch (1982), and, the most recent addition to the group, T. H. Smouse (1983).

Unable to attend were J. C. Cowan (1968), S. S. Chang (1970), R. R. Allen (1971) and F. A. Norris (1973). Chang and Allen were in Mainland China and Taiwan, respectively, at the time of the meeting.

20th Honorary Member

AOCS President Thomas Smouse formally presented A. R. Baldwin with his honorary membership certificate during the Dallas meeting. Smouse read the following remarks:

> The AOCS has had 74 presidents, it has grown to over 4,000 members, it has the Supelco AOCS Research Award, the Soaps and Detergent Award, the Protein and Co-Products Award, etc., etc. On rare occasions, it has a membership class that cannot be bought, cannot be bargained for, but must be earned and given after the awardee has been proven acceptable, over 50 active members have signed a petition for it, the petition has passed with approval of the Governing Board, and finally, a 2/3 vote in favor by letter ballot to the AOCS active members. In the last 75 years, this distinction has only been given to 19 of our members, 3 of whom are still living and who are Harry Roschen (1952), Virgil Mehlenbacher (1964) and Walt Lundberg (1975).
>
> At this time, it is my honor to present the 20th Honorary Member of our society. He obtained his B.S. degree from Stetson in 1940 and his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1943. In 1944, he joined the AOCS and quickly became active in committee work. In 1961 he was elected the second youngest president of the AOCS at the age of 43. He recently retired from Cargill, Inc. as their vice president of Research and Development. During his career he has been active in the Agricultural Research Institute of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Cereal Chemists, the American Chemical Society, the Institute of Food Technology, the National Flaxseed Processors Association, National Soybean Processors Association, the Soybean Council of America and last and most important —the American Oil Chemists' Society. His service to the Society has been extensive. He has been active in almost all our committees, is responsible for initiating the idea of World Conferences, but most important he has been the Editor of *JAOCS* since 1949.
>
> At this time, I ask Dr. A. R. Baldwin to come forward and accept the Honorary Membership Status of the AOCS.

AOCS Awards

Dr. Morris Kates, professor of biochemistry at the University of Ottawa, received the **Supelco AOCS Research Award** recognizing his contributions to lipid research during the past quarter century.

Dr. Kates' acceptance lecture, "Adventures in Membrane-land," is being prepared for publication later this year in *JAOCS*. Dr. Kates was a student under Dr. Erich Baer, the first recipient of the AOCS Award in Lipid Chemistry, as the award previously was known. To follow the academic geneology lines a bit further, AOCS vice president Joyce Beare-Rogers was a student of Dr. Kates.

The award consists of a plaque, a $3,000 honorarium from Supelco Inc., and additional funds to help pay travel expenses. Kates is the first North American to receive the award since 1980, when J. F. Mead was selected. Recipients since then have been Laurens van Deenen of the Netherlands, R.M.C. Dawson of the United Kingdom and David van Dorp of The Netherlands.

The AOCS **Award of Merit** was presented to Frank Luddy and Jim Ridlehuber. Luddy, retired from the USDA Eastern Regional Research Center in Philadelphia, has been a member of the AOCS since 1944, served as AOCS national secretary in 1978 and in 1979, has been a member-at-large of the Governing Board and has been active in the society's North East section. Ridlehuber, an

AOCS member since 1951, has long been active in the Smalley Check Sample Program, serving as chairman of the worldwide program for more than a half dozen years.

Four coauthors shared the **Soap and Detergent Association Award** for the best paper to be published in *JAOCS'* surfactant and detergent section during 1984. The four winners were E. J. Franses, L. E. Scriven, W. G. Miller and H. T. Davis, all with the University of Minnesota at the time they wrote a two-part paper on "Interpreting the Appearance of Dispersed Systems." Both parts were published in the May 1983 issue of *JAOCS*. Franses has since joined the chemical engineering faculty at Purdue University.

A new award was initiated at the Dallas meeting. The **Archer-Daniels-Midland Awards** will be presented annually to the author of the best paper in protein and coproducts engineering and technology as well as the author of the best papers in proteins and coproducts chemistry and nutrition. Initial recipients of the award for engineering and technology were M. Cheryan and W. D. Deeslie of the University of Illinois for the paper "Soy Protein Hydrolysis in Membrane Reactors" that appears in the June 1983 *JAOCS*. Initial recipient of the award for chemistry and nutrition was C. N. Pace of Texas A&M University for the paper "Protein Conformations and Their Stability," which appeared in the May 1983 *JAOCS*.

Four students were honored as **AOCS Honored Students.** Each received a certificate and funds to help pay the cost of attending the meeting, where each presented a technical paper. The 1984 Honored Students were Ramiro O. Batres, Iowa State University; David T. Dudley, University of Iowa; Kathapalli Ravi, University of Western Ontario; and Lynette F. Walsh, Iowa State University.

Thomas C. Ryan of Michigan State University was recipient of the **Ralph H. Potts Memorial Fellowship**, a $1,000 grant from a fund established by Armak Chemicals to honor the late Ralph Potts, a pioneer in fatty acid processing.

Former AOCS President Frank White received the **North East Section's Achievement Award** during the Dallas meeting. White recently moved to Arkansas after retiring from Foster Wheeler. The North East chapter award usually is presented at a section dinner meeting, but for this year the section held a special meeting in the Fairmont.

Top analysts in the 1983-84 Smalley Check Sample Program also were recognized during the Dallas meeting. Names of analytical chemists receiving first place and honorable mention certificates were published in the June *JAOCS*.

Sessa elected

AOCS' only specialty section, Protein and Coproducts, held its third annual lucheon during the society's annual meeting to review its activities and introduce new officers.

David Sessa of the USDA Northern Regional Research Center in Peoria, Illinois, is new chairman of the section, succeeding E. W. Lusas of Texas A&M University. Lusas was one of the founders of the section and had served as chairman during its organizational years. Other new officers include A. H. Chen, vice chairman, of Anderson Clayton; Nancy DiMarco, secretary and treasurer, of Texas Woman's University; and directors, Roy Carr of Canbra Foods, J. D. Jones of Agriculture Canada and George Liepa, Texas Woman's University.

The section signed up 101 new members during the past year, raising total membership close to the 200 level. There were approximately 70 papers at the Dallas meeting relating to protein, section members were told at the luncheon, with six technical sessions tentatively scheduled for the 1985 annual meeting and seven sessions contemplated for the 1986 annual meeting.

Lusas, in stepping down as section chairman, said the section had "grown beyond my wildest expectation. The section works because the members work, appoint yourself as a committee of one to get something done, then recruit a few friends to help you. The climate is favorable to accomplishing a great deal."

Slide donors

The following organizations provided some of the slides used in the fats and oils historical slide show presented during the AOCS' 75th anniversary:

American Soybean Association, St. Louis, Missouri
Best Foods Division of CPC International, Union, New Jersey
Central Soya Co. Inc., Fort Wayne, Indiana
Crown Iron Works, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Darling & Co., Chicago, Illinois
Emery Industry, Cincinnati, Ohio
EMI Corporation, Des Plaines, Illinois
French Oil Mill Machinery Corporation, Piqua, Ohio
General Foods, Tarrytown, New York
Hershey Foods Corporation, Hershey, Pennsylvania
Jojoba Commodities Group, North Hollywood, California
Kraft Inc., Glenview, Illinois
Lab Line Instruments Inc., Melrose Park, Illinois
Lever Brothers Co., New York City, New York
Mazer Chemicals Inc., Gurnee, Illinois
Miles Grocery Products Division, Chicago, Illinois
National Cottonseed Products Association, Memphis, Tennessee
National Peanut Council, Washington, D.C.
Northview Laboratories Inc., Northbrook, Illinois
Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Prater Industries Inc., Chicago, Illinois
Ralston Purina, St. Louis, Missouri
Simon-Rosedowns, Hull, England
A. E. Staley Manufacturing Co., Decatur, Illinois
Supelco Inc., Bellefonte, Pennsylvania
Unilever PLC, England
United Coconut Association of the Philippines, Manila, The Philippines
UOP Inc., Des Plaines, Illinois
USDA Northern Regional Research Center, Peoria, Illinois
U.S. Filter Fluid Systems, Chicago, Illinois
Wurster & Sanger Inc., Chicago, Illinois

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Dallas Local Committee 1984

Paul Gibson
Exhibits & Hotel

Robert Edmondson
Entertainment

Don Banks
Finance

R.D. O'Brien
Plant Tours

Jesse Covey
General Chairman

Anthony Chen
Program

John Bumbalough
Registration

Charles Williams
Publicity

Robert R. King
Honorary Chairman, 75th anniversary annual meeting
Past President (1945) of the American Oil Chemists' Society

Report urges soy research

The Soybean Research Advisory Institute, a temporary committee created by Congress in 1981, has submitted its report, U.S. Soybean Production and Utilization Research, outlining priority needs for research in all phases of soybean production, processing and use.

One high-priority proposal in the 68-page report is to determine the pathways of lipid and protein synthesis in soybean seed. "Soybeans contain about 40% protein and 20% oil on a dry weight basis, the levels of which are negatively correlated so that an increase in one generally brings about a decrease in the other," the report says. "The biological basis of this correlation is not understood, but it is known that oil and protein have common precursors during synthesis." Altering the fatty acid-triglyceride profile of oil could affect the economic value of soybeans.

Increased industrial use of soybean oil may require different fatty acid profiles for soybean oil, 95% of which now goes into edible use within the United States. For industrial uses of soybean oil, the report recommends high priority be given to finding or developing new derivatives of soybean oil that could be used in soaps, detergent, paints and varnishes. High priority also should be given to identifying new opportunities for replacing petroleum products and devising appropriate technologies for producing useful

products from soybean oil, the report said.

Also in the industrial applications area, the report said soybean oil should be studied as an ingredient in crop-oil concentrates and as a pesticide carrier, as well as for possible use as an effective grain-dust suppressant.

In the realm of biotechnology, the report recommended high priority be given to "elucidate the molecular composition and structure of soybean oil and determine their relationship to desirable and undesirable characteristics and to chemical reactivity." Also listed as a high-priority research approach was a recommendation to develop biotechnological methods to convert soybean oil to new and improved products. It also was suggested biotechnology could provide alternative methods for processing soybeans and soybean oil.

Several edible oil research recommendations were also listed. These included determining how various factors in soy oil composition affect oil stability, what are human dietary requirements for important constituents of soy oil and how the body uses them and ways to use more soy oil effectively in U.S. food distribution programs.

In processing and by-product use, the committee urged new technologies for desolventizing-toasting that use less energy and optimize nutrient quality, continued work on practical physical refining process for soybean oil, development of new economical and environmentally acceptable processing systems, development of new uses for by-products such as lecithin, spent earth, free fatty acids and deodorizer distillates, and an effort to find a means by which soapstock, spent earth and other by-products that deteriorate rapidly could be stabilized for economical use at a later time.

The report gives considerable space to the use of soy protein as a human food. Research projects include studies to determine attitudes of consumers toward soy protein and the reasons for such attitudes, then deciding how misconceptions might be corrected and a more favorable image for soy protein established. The report says the flavor of soy protein products is one obstacle to their wide use and urges research to "determine the basic biochemical, physicochemical and physiological mechanism involved" and then develop new technologies to control flavor in soy protein products. In the nutritional area, the report calls for high priority to develop an understanding of the composition of nonprotein and protein constituents in soy protein products, the dietary contribution of those constituents, and their nutritional interaction at the cellular level and in human feeding studies. Work also should be done on trace element requirements and soy protein, and on minor components (other than trace elements) and their nutritional significance.

In a section on animal feeds, the report says, "Improved sampling methods, certification programs and changes in international contracts are facilitating foreign sales of soybean meal. Still needed are improvement of conventional methods and accurate automated methods for monitoring the quality of soybeans and soybean products in all stages of processing and marketing."

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Membrane conference

"Frontiers of Membrane Research in Agriculture" was the topic for a May 20-24, 1984, symposium at the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

In a session on membrane structure and function, D. James Morré from Purdue University discussed membrane biogenesis, including the control of traffic and membrane specificity. P. J. Quinn from the University of London discussed the physico-chemical properties of membrane lipids and their relevance to plant growth and protection, discussing how those factors may affect organisms' adaptation to survival under extreme environmental conditions.

Benjamin Matthews of the USDA-ARS staff in Beltsville described how liposomes are becoming increasingly popular for work in biotechnology. Matthews said liposomes "can be designed for specific functions by tailoring their size, composition and conformation. Agricultural scientists are using liposomes to deliver DNA and chromosomes to plant protoplasts and to modify plant and animal cell membranes. In the near future the agricultural community may routinely use liposomes in immunoassays to diagnose disease, identify pathogens and to deliver drugs resulting in higher yielding plants and better animal health care."

Speakers and topics in the membrane function in nutrition and health session were Donald J. Zilversmit, Cornell, "Membrane phospholipids: Dynamic equilibrium"; Joseph Larner, University of Virginia, "Membrane peptide mediators of insulin action"; and Dwight R. Robinson, Harvard Medical School, "Polyunsaturated fatty acids and inflammation." Abstracts for these papers were not available at press time, the week before the conference was held.

Iftikhar Ahmad

News Briefs

George M. Carman, associate professor of food science at Rutgers, has begun a three-year research project on "Phospholipid Metabolism and Membrane Function" supported by a $300,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health. . . . The first C. Olin Ball Fellowship Award, named for the former chairman of Rutgers Food Science Department, who also served as president of the Institute of Food Technologists, has been awarded to **Susan Green,** a senior in food science at Rutgers. . . . **Iftikhar Ahmad** has been appointed regional representative for the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia for the palm oil technical advisory center in Karachi, Pakistan. . . . **Larry R. Taggart** has been named president of Bunge Edible Oil Corporation, succeeding **J. R. Phillips** who has become senior vice president of the parent firm, Bunge Corporation, with **J. W. Mickle** promoted to general manager of the northeastern region and a vice president of the oil corporation, and **H. F. Solomon** named general manager for the southeastern region.

Chinese peanut butter plant

The first peanut butter plant in mainland China is to be designed and installed by Neumunz Inc., the New Jersey process engineering firm. The contract, which was signed by the company president during a recent visit to China, was the result of six months of negotiations between Neumunz and the Shanghai Foreign Trade Corporation.

People

Link promoted

Former AOCS President William E. Link has been promoted to vice president, research and development, for Sherex Chemical in Dublin, Ohio. Link previously was director of research and development. He was one of two new vice presidents named at the firm's annual board meeting, the other being G. T. Wyatt, vice president, finance and treasurer. The president of Sherex, Charles Aldag, is an AOCS member, as is J. S. Sigan, vice president, technology. Link was general chairman for the World Conference on Oleochemicals held during September 1983 in Montreux, Switzerland.