intended to replace current technical committees or technical sessions at national meetings but rather to provide an informal forum for an exchange of ideas.

Three technical interest committees met for the first time at the 1987 annual meeting in New Orleans. The topics were hydrogenation, flavor and chromatography. Other potential topics mentioned by the Technical Activities Coordinating Committee for future meetings are safety, environment, protein, biochemistry, nutrition and biotechnology. The meetings would be held during the lunch hour, with box lunches available for participants.

It is time to begin organizing these discussion groups for the national meeting in Phoenix. Anyone wishing to organize a group or having an idea for a timely topic is asked to contact either the AOCS technical director or Ted Matson.

**Items of technical interest**

A considerable number of ideas and suggestions regarding methodology and items of technical interest are provided by members, technical committee members, associations and laboratories. The following items are offered for general interest and comment:

- James Daun, a member of the Seed and Meal Analysis Committee, plans to recommend that AOCS adopt the revised BSI/ISO method for the analysis of oil in rapeseed.
- Leatherhead Food RA suggests that revisions be made to the current oil in sunflowerseed method as noted in the June 1987 issue of *JAOCS*, p. 865.
- For phosphorus in oils, it has been suggested that oils should be filtered prior to analysis. Total phosphorus would require that phosphorus be determined separately in oil and sediment, and by adding the two results. Method C 1-47 (sampling) should require the filtration of all samples prior to analysis.
- John Heilman, chairman of the Technical Activities Coordinating Committee, has requested that AOCS adopt the NSPA Green Color Method as an official AOCS method.
- In a case in which identical methods exist within two standard methods-writing organizations, it has been suggested that each organization include the method number of the other organization on the standard methods (i.e., to have a dual-numbering system).

**Acknowledgments**

The Uniform Methods Committee and the AOCS technical director would like to acknowledge the support of Supelco Inc., with special thanks to Lloyd Witting, Gary Walker and his coworkers—Mark Robillard, Jack Crisman and Floyd Dorrity—for the time spent in reviewing AOCS methods. Witting identified approximately 30 official methods using hazardous materials. The hazardous items were replaced with safe, equivalent substitutes in the **1987 Additions and Revisions**. Gary Walker and his coworkers reviewed all AOCS gas chromatography methods and recommended updates for these methods. These recommendations are under review for incorporation into the **1988 Additions and Revisions**.

Dave Berner
AOCS Technical Director

## Publications

# Book reviews

**Fat Production and Consumption Technologies and Nutritional Implications (NATO ASI Series A: Life Sciences, Vol. 131)**, edited by C. Galli and E. Fedeli (Plenum Press, 233 Spring St., New York, NY 10013, hardcover, 336 pp., 1987, $62.50, Proceedings of a NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Advanced Technologies and their Nutritional Implications in the Production of Edible Fats, held March 17-21, 1986, in Selvino, Italy).

With a very objective preface by the editors and an equally fine summation of recommendations from the Advanced NATO Workshop by Hugh Sinclair, this volume covers the general nutritional effects of fatty acids in the cardiovascular system and thrombosis with selected fatty acids. In the review of the different classes of fatty acids and the oils containing these acids, each contributing author spells out what is known and not known. It is very encouraging that there appears to be a consensus among the contributing scientists that more definitive terminology should be used rather than the general saturated, monounsaturate and polyunsaturate classifications.

Subgroups of omega-6 and omega-3 are well-described and the rationale for such subgroup discussed. In a similar manner, the saturates subgroups of short, medium and long chain were classified and the differences in their metabolic patterns noted.

The balance of the volume concentrates on fats and oils technology and the processing details involved. Although the processes are known to oil chemists, the presentation demonstrates that modifications of fats and oils are feasible and desired not only for functionality but also for satisfying nutritional acceptability, especially the required essential fatty acid requirements. The approaches suggested are both chemical and genetic modifications. The presentations are realistic and objective based on global needs and requirements.

This volume is a valuable addition to the oil chemists' library. The title is a bit misleading because fat production and consumption are presented in terms of their nutritional implications. The data, including the bibliographies and range of the technologies covered,

make the volume a current update of the fatty acid chemistry in nutrition and health. The volume provides responsible coverage of the scientific data by responsible scientists.

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**Topics in Lipid Research: From Structural Elucidation to Biological Function**, edited by R.A. Klein and B. Schmitz (Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, Picadilly, London, W1V OBN, England, 1987, 336 pp., £37.50 or US $65).

This modest volume of somewhat smaller than usual physical dimensions contains the contributions of participants at a Royal Society of Chemistry meeting held in Cambridge in April 1986 concerning the inter-relationships between structure and function of lipid molecules in ordered macromolecular systems.

It consists of six sections covering those areas that in the eyes of the organizers represent the most successful merger of physical and chemical work at the molecular level, with biochemical and physiological investigation at the supramolecular level. All are written by experienced and knowledgeable workers for their respective areas.

The first section deals with the chemistry and biological function of platelet activating factor in the form of six short papers. The second section focuses on the structure, synthesis, analysis and some functions of eicosanoids in six other short contributions. The third section is concerned with the chemistry, analysis and possible metabolic role of glycolipids, as summarized in seven papers of variable length. The fourth section is an edited report of an apparently heated roundtable discussion on membrane probes and anesthetics. Membrane structure and function are discussed in the fifth section in nine papers ranging in subject matter from the synthesis and properties of membrane mimetic surfaces to measurements of the physical properties of membranes, and the influence of lipid composition on transport phenomena. The volume concludes with a section on environmental adaptation, consisting of five papers ranging in subjects from evolutionary aspects of membrane lipids to lipid adaptation in hybernators and under hydrostatic pressure.

The various papers differ greatly in quality, although each one has a point. Most of the subjects have been reviewed individually elsewhere in much greater detail, but comparable up-to-date compilations of the variety of topics represented here have not appeared. In this way, the editors have succeeded in providing a synopsis of current thinking in selected areas of lipid research of interest to all lipidologists. To the readers of *JAOCS*, the specialized methods of chemical syntheses of glycerolipids and the accounts of their physical properties would offer the greatest value.

The most serious shortcoming of the book is the lack of a subject index. In several places, a greater emphasis on the composition of natural lipids, the role of minor components and the need for detailed knowledge of the structure of all molecular species present would have improved the discussion at the meeting and the book. Nevertheless, the volume is interesting reading and can be recommended to both specialists and novices in lipid research.

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**Writing for Decision Makers: Memos and Reports with a Competitive Edge, 2nd Edition**, by Marya W. Holcombe and Judith K. Stein (Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 115 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003, 1987, 219 pp., paperbound, $19.95).

Have you always wanted an effective system for preparing and setting down logical, persuasive arguments geared to a specific audience? The authors present such a system. The system is the same whether you are going to write or speak, whether the news is good or bad, or whether you are recommending change or telling someone how to do something. The approach presented is different from traditional writing techniques. The techniques are laid out in a step-wise manner and are easy to follow.

Lessons are provided, since practice is needed for proficiency. The book is divided into 10 chapters and three case-study exercise appendices. There is an excellent section on writing electronically. I tried the techniques myself and found them very useful. The book is recommended highly to everyone who wishes to improve the impact of their verbal or written communications.

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**Handbook on Rice Bran: Processing and Utilization of Products**, compiled by B.B. Sheth and B.V. Mehta (The Solvent Extractors' Association, 142 Jolly Maker Chamber #2, 14th Floor, 225 Nariman Pt., Bombay-400021, India, 1987, 855 pp., 100 Indian rupees plus 20 rupees for handling).

The scarcity of the edible oil supply in India has resulted in India spending huge amounts of foreign exchange. This has prompted the possibility of using minor seeds and rice bran oil to meet domestic needs.

India is the largest producer of edible rice bran oil in the world, according to a report by the president of the Solvent Extractors' Association of India. The production of edible-grade oil rose from 33,000 MT in 1986 to 95,000 MT in 1987. Even so, the production of edible-grade is less than half that of the nonedible-grade oil. The capability of huge production of edible-grade rice bran oil in India and scattered technical information have resulted in the publication of this handbook.

The book is a collection of numerous articles contributed by individuals interested in the field, symposium papers, personal com-

munications and articles collected from government reports. The book is divided into 12 sections, and each section is devoted to a special topic such as paddy processing, extraction principles and bran oil recovery, oil composition, milling methods, utilization of husk as fuel, refining, storage and handling, nutritive value, market development and statistical data. The book is packed with tables, graphs, charts, figures and illustrations to provide all of the information one needs to know about rice bran and its processing and usage.

In spite of its merits, the book has some shortcomings. The information provided is poorly organized, and the sequential arrangement of each section does not coincide with the sequential steps of rice bran oil production, processing and usage. In addition, Sections 1 and 12, which contain statistical charts, graphs and illustrations, do not have accompanying text. These two sections could be pooled together and condensed. Some of the charts and illustrations in the book are difficult to read, although no typographical errors are observed.

The value of this handbook is seriously limited due to its lack of an index, which makes it difficult to find information when using the handbook as a source of reference. The editors themselves have indicated that they were unable to edit various aspects of the book due to time limitations and thus there may be repetition in the material as well as variations in the views and data presented. Finally, the binding of the book is very poor; therefore, it may have a very short shelf life. The statistical data will be most beneficial to Indian solvent extractors, whereas the scientific information may interest processors in general.

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**Soybean Utilization**, by Harry E. Snyder and T.W. Kwan (Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 115 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003, 1987, 346 pp., $49.95).

The authors of this book state two reasons for publishing. The first is they both conduct research and teach a course on soybean utilization for which there is not a suitable textbook. The second is to incorporate numerous scientific disciplines into the framework of their application to a single commodity.

This book is recommended highly for those getting started and becoming familiar with soybean utilization. Due to its breadth of content, it also would be helpful as a general reference to those experienced in one or more specialized phases of soybean processing and utilization.

In some parts of the book, the reader will find a refreshing treatment of some of the things not known, as well as a candid look at the vagaries of treating with nonstandardized analytical methods.

The only chapter that may need more careful reworking in subsequent editions is Chapter 10. Soybean oil food products are a difficult area to cover briefly and thoroughly. For those with a casual interest in the subject, the information may be sufficient, but for a more indepth study, other sources should be sought.

In summary, this book is recommended highly as a textbook for those teaching soybean utilization and is a valuable reference for those conducting research in soybean processing and utilization. In addition, it also would be of value to those with a more casual interest. It is rare when a book appears that would be of interest to such a broad audience.

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**Supplements to the 2nd Edition of Rodd's Chemistry of Carbon Compounds, Vol. IV, Heterocyclic Compounds**, edited by M.F. Ansell Elsevier Science Publishing Co. Inc., PO Box 1663, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, 1987, 282 pp., 250 Dutch guilders).

This volume is the latest in a series of supplements to the second edition of **Rodd's Chemistry of Carbon Compounds**. Volume IV, Part H of the series appeared in 1978. This volume surveys the literature in the field from that date.

The subjects covered are "Alkaloids of the Morphine-Hasubanonine Group," by K.W. Bentley, "Fused Heterocyclic Systems Having a Nitrogen Atom Common to Two or More Rings," by D. Leaver, "Compounds Containing Two Fused Five- and Six-Membered Heterocyclic Rings Each with One Hetero-Atom," by D.T. Hurst, "Compounds Containing a Six-Membered Ring Having Two Hetero-Atoms from Group VIB of the Periodic Table: Dioxanes, Oxathianes and Dithianes," by M. Sainsbury, and "Compounds Containing a Six-Membered Ring with Two Hetero-Atoms from Groups V and VI, Respectively, of the Periodic Table: Oxazines, Thiazines and their Analogues," also by M. Sainsbury.

This volume, produced by direct reproduction of each contributor's manuscript, is very readable and the structural formulas are clear. The book includes an extensive index.

While **Rodd's Chemistry of Carbon Compounds** is a very valuable reference source, it is likely that only a few readers of the *JAOCS* will find the information in this volume of interest to them.

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## Other publications

The Asian and Pacific Coconut Community's **Coconut Statistical Yearbook 1986** now is available for US $50 for European and U.S. orders, $40 for Asian and Pacific region orders. The 300-page publication includes 250 tables and 60 charts and graphs. To order, contact The Asian & Pacific Coconut Community, 3rd Floor, Wisma Bakrie Bldg., Jl. Rasuna Said, Jakarta, Indonesia. The information is summarized in **Coconut Industry—1986**, a 32-page booklet available for US $4.

## Publications

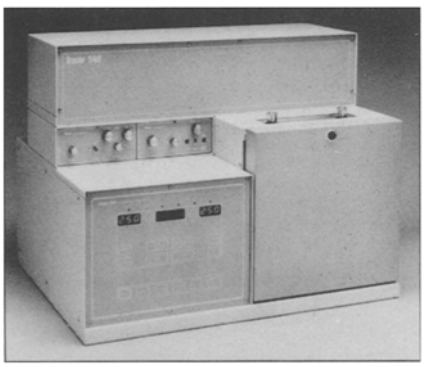
The Interprofessional Society of Oilseeds and Protein Seeds (SIDO) has published a report on protein and oilseeds in the European Economic Community (EEC). The report examines the situation for soybeans, rapeseed and sunflowerseed in the world, the EEC and France. Contact SIDO, 174 avenue Victor Hugo, 75116 Paris, France.

Euvepro, the European federation for vegetable protein for human consumption, has published proceedings of its symposium, "How to get food innovation to the final consumer." The publication includes papers on the promotion of products based on vegetable protein, the commercial development of this range of food ingredients, and the acceptance of vegetable protein by consumers. Contact Euvepro, Leuvensestraat 29, 1800 Vilvoorde, Belgium.

## New Products

### MANUAL PUMP

Thompson-Chemtrex Inc. introduces its MP series manual pneumatic pump designed to handle most acids, caustics and solvents from a variety of containers. The pump is available in a choice of polypropylene or Teflon tubing and can be hand- or foot-operated for flows up to 5 gpm. It features one-piece spout construction and a 60-inch tube with an outside diameter of 1/2 inch. Contact: Thompson-Chemtrex Inc., 921 Greengarden Rd., Erie, PA 16501-1591.



### MICROPROCESSOR

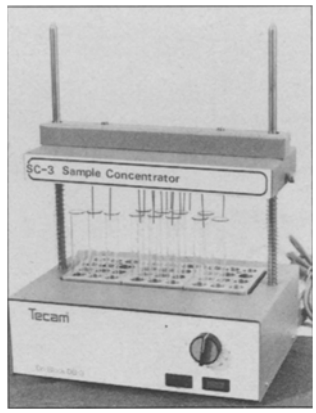
Tracor Instrument's Model 540 GC microprocessor is a single or dual detector instrument featuring a LED display format to aid in programming and allow convenient monitoring of system parameters. Also included is five-level temperature programming, 10 method storage, protected memory and extensive self-diagnostics. Contact: Tracor Instruments Austin Inc., 6500 Tracor Lane, Austin, TX 78725-2100.

### ABSORPTION SPECTROMETER

Perkin-Elmer's Model 5100 PC is a fully automated atomic absorption spectrometer designed to perform multi-element flame AA and Zeeman-corrected graphite furnace analyses on the same instrument. The 5100 PC is controlled from a graphic software interface running on an industry-standard IBM PC or compatible computer. Contact: Perkin-Elmer Corp., 761 Main Ave., Norwalk, CT 06859-0012.

### CPC METHODOLOGIES

Sanki Laboratories has developed methodologies based on its centrifugal partition chromatography (CPC) systems for separating, isolating and purifying substances of pharmaceutical value from natural products. CPC uses liquid-liquid partition, countercurrent distribution to fractionate complex mixtures of chemical substances. Denaturation, isomerization and decomposition of valuable sample components, often encountered with conventional packed chromatographic columns, are virtually nonexistent under the mild operating environment used with CPC, according to Sanki. Contact: Sanki Laboratories Inc., Information Division, 106 Folcroft E. Business Park, Sharon Hill, PA 19079.




### SAMPLE CONCENTRATOR

Techne Inc. offers a high-temperature sample concentrator, Model SC-3H, operating to 180 C and concentrating a large number of samples in minutes, according to the company. The unit can be used to prepare samples for analytical techniques, including drug screening, hormone assay, chromatographic analysis and scintillation counting. Contact: Techne Inc., 3700 Brunswick Pike, Princeton, NJ 08540.

### OXYGEN ANALYZER

Teledyne's microprocessor-based Model 3300 portable oxygen monitor features push-button calibration, self-diagnostics and a memory-retaining alarm and calibration settings even after the unit is turned off. The company claims the unit also can provide 90% full-scale response in less than 6 seconds with ±1% accuracy. Contact: Teledyne Analytical Instruments, PO Box 1580, City of Industry, CA 91749-1580.