

## HEALTH & NUTRITION

blood vessels following angioplasty, is inconclusive, according to G.A. FitzGerald of Vanderbilt University. Two of three studies addressing this question have indicated a beneficial effect of fish oil feeding, but one study showed no beneficial effect. All three studies had insufficient subjects for statistical validation. FitzGerald also reported that high doses of fish oil (50 ml/day for four weeks) can reduce blood pressure in men with hypertension. However, smaller more palatable levels of fish oil (10 ml/day for four weeks) had no effect on blood pressure.

A. Leaf of Harvard Medical School concluded the session by posing several questions warranting further study. Among them were the following:

- Considering that clinical trials have shown short-term benefits from using large amounts of omega-3 fatty acids, would smaller amounts given over a longer period of time show similar benefits?

- Would dietary  $\alpha$ -linolenic acid provide adequate levels of EPA and DHA for optimum health?

- What effects, if any, do EPA and DHA have on cell membranes?

### Conclusions and future considerations

The following are points of agreement or suggestions for future work expressed by participants:

- There appears to be almost universal agreement that intake of dietary saturated fatty acids should be reduced.

- Current evidence does not clearly favor monounsaturates over polyunsaturates (or vice versa) as substitutes for saturates in mixed diets consumed in the

U.S. Although high levels of dietary polyunsaturates have been found to reduce HDL levels, this has not been observed at moderate realistic levels of polyunsaturates (around 10% of total calories).

- Some participants felt that AHA recommendations on polyunsaturates should recognize different effects of omega-6 and omega-3 polyunsaturates. However, there was no agreement on what the desirable balance between omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids should be.

- *Trans* fatty acids at current levels in the U.S. diet do not pose any harm to humans consuming a balanced diet containing adequate essential fatty acids.

- Attention needs to be given to effects of dietary fatty acids on clotting as well as on blood lipoprotein levels. The validity of the methodology for measuring platelet aggregation was questioned by some participants.

- Diets high in stearic acid appear to be effective in lowering blood cholesterol in humans. On the other hand, stearic acid may promote increased clotting tendency. Additional work will be necessary to resolve whether these seemingly incompatible health-related effects of dietary stearic acid can be reconciled.

- It may be important to establish whether any relationships exist between clotting factors and blood lipoprotein levels.

The proceedings of the meeting are expected to be published as a supplement to *Arteriosclerosis*.

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## SURFACTANTS & DETERGENTS NEWS

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### Unilever buys English, German cosmetic firms

Unilever has completed a \$120 million purchase of Rimmel International Ltd. of London and Chicogo GmbH of West Germany, two cosmetics-producing subsidiaries of Schering-Plough Corp.

Unilever United States Inc. has announced it will buy Minnetonka Corp. for \$22.86 a share, then dismantle the company, retaining only Minnetonka's Calvin Klein cosmetic business. Minnetonka has agreed to sell its medical division and its fragrance marketing group to Tsumura & Co. of Tokyo; proceeds from that sale will go to Unilever, reducing its cost to acquire the Calvin Klein operation.

Unilever United States Inc. also announced it will buy the toiletries, cosmetics and fragrance businesses of Faberge and Elizabeth Arden for \$1.55 billion. The transaction, subject to a number of technical conditions, was expected to be completed by mid-August. Earlier this year, Unilever terminated negotiations for the businesses because of "technical and structural differences." Unilever officials an-

nounced in July that those differences had been resolved. Faberge and Elizabeth Arden, owned by the Riklis Family Corp., have their headquarters in New York.

### Coatings growth

The industrial coatings market in Western Europe is projected to grow 2% a year, according to a CHE-MARK study entitled "The European Coatings Industry, 4th Edition."

The study says that conventional low solids, solvent-borne coatings are declining in favor of a myriad of "compliant technologies," those that readily conform to V.O.C. standards without expensive solvent reclamation. Meanwhile, the use of technologies such as radiation-curing or emulsions and latexes, however, is growing by 10% or more a year.

The report consists of three bound volumes. Vol. 1 is a review of the European Economic Community, including plans for a unified community by 1992, as it relates to the coatings industry. Vol. 2 is a review of 25 end-use markets for coatings in Europe. Vol. 3

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**SURFACTANTS & DETERGENTS NEWS**


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describes the trends in technologies and 13 resins. For more information, contact CHEMARK's U.S. headquarters at 9916 Carver Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242, telephone 513-891-9502, or its Frankfurt, West Germany office, Beethovenstrasse 7b, 6000 Frankfurt/M.1, West Germany, telephone 069/75-10-80.

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## P&G plans to close Chicago soap factory

Procter & Gamble Co. intends to close a Chicago soap and glycerin facility sometime this next year, the company announced in July.

The 59-year-old plant produces Lava, Camay and Safeguard bar products and liquid hand soap, plus glycerin. The facility employs about 275 persons. P&G said it would be more profitable to move the production to other U.S. facilities, according to a report in the *Wall Street Journal*.

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## Henkel seeks buyers for Emery dye unit

Henkel Corp.'s Emery Group has announced intentions to sell its Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, facility and related businesses with the exception of aroma chemicals. Company officials said the facility and its dye intermediate business do not fit in with company objectives.

Findtech of Fairfield, New Jersey, a specialist in mergers and acquisitions and a subsidiary of Kline & Co., has been retained by Henkel to assist in selling the facility.

Henkel of West Germany and a company in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, have agreed to set up a joint venture, Palma Bratislava, in Czechoslovakia to produce detergents and cosmetics using Henkel technology. Henkel will own 51% of the venture.

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## News briefs

**Sherex Chemical Co. Inc.** has postponed plans to build a 60,000-metric-ton-per-year natural alcohol plant in the U.S. Sherex said a change in the market made fatty alcohol production less attractive.

**J. Thomas Robinson** has been elected president of **Nyacol Products Inc.**, a subsidiary of **PQ Corp.**

**Chem Systems Inc.**'s Process Evaluation and Research Planning Program has published a study on specialty isocyanates, used in applications requiring good stability to light, primarily in coatings. Information: **Charles N. Winnick**, Chem Systems Inc., 303 S. Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591 (telephone 914-631-2828; telex 221844; fax 914-631-8851).

**Union Carbide Corp.** has reorganized its silicone fluids, silicone surfactants and silanes businesses into a worldwide unit called **OrganoSilicon Products, Systems & Services Group**.

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** has banned the use of methyl chloride in hair sprays and other cosmetic products because the agency said it poses an unacceptable risk of cancer. Research indicated that hair-care specialists and users of hair sprays containing the chemical face a one-in-1,000 to one-in-10,000 risk of cancer in their lifetimes, the agency said.

**John W. Collins**, president and chief operating officer of **The Clorox Co.**, will retire Dec. 31, 1989; he has been with Clorox since 1976, becoming president in 1986.

Cosmetics makers **Revlon Inc.** and **Avon Products Inc.** have announced they have ended animal testing with their products. **Amway Corp.** and **Mary Kay Cosmetics Inc.** have declared a temporary halt to animal testing.

The **Philippine Board of Investments** has granted manufacturing incentives to the **United Coconut Chemicals Corp. (UNICHEM)** for company plans to expand production of coco fatty alcohol to 30,000 metric tons a year. UNICHEM is 80% owned by the Coconut Industry Investment Fund and 20% by **Lurgi GmbH** of West Germany.

**Hercules Inc.** announced July 14, 1989, that it had completed acquisition of **Henkel KGaA's** share of **The Aqualon Group**, a joint venture of the two firms established in 1987. Aqualon produces cellulose and guar-based water-soluble polymers.

**Akzo Chemicals** has completed expansion of its perester plant in Pasadena, Texas. Current capacity is proprietary information, the company said.



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