

First 4 years of Scandinavia's LIPIDFORUM marked by rapid development¹

The Scandinavian Forum for Lipid Research and Technology (LIPIDFORUM) is an organization of Scandinavian scientists and technologists interested in lipids. Its aim is to promote the distribution of information on research and developments in technology.

Scandinavian collaboration in the field of lipid research and technology began in the early 1950's by a decision of a collaborative committee of Scandinavian boards of research. This collaboration was originally limited to the organization of symposia on lipid oxidation (rancidity), arranged at various intervals in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland (Table I). However during the years these symposia have changed in character and are no longer limited to fat oxidation, but comprise practically all aspects of lipid research and technology. Another change has occurred, in the organization of this collaboration. The Scandinavian countries have established an organization for Scandinavian collaboration in all areas of research, referred to as Nordforsk; the responsibility for the arrangement of the Scandinavian symposia on lipids has been assumed by this new organization.

It is the policy of Nordforsk to initiate and to support Scandinavian collaboration until it has become economically self-supporting. Consequently Nordforsk, at the end of the 1960's announced the intention to complete its engagement in this Scandinavian collaboration in the field of lipids. An arrangement was then reached among Scandinavian lipid chemists and technologists to start an independent organization for continued collaboration in this field in Scandinavia. Thus LIPIDFORUM was established in 1969.

Since its inception, LIPIDFORUM has been in a state of rapid development and stabilization, and has gained about 350 members in the five Scandinavian countries. Its main

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TABLE I
LIPIDFORUM Symposia

Date	Location
1952	Halmstad, Sweden
1957	Helsingör, Denmark
1961	Sandefjord, Norway
1965	Åbo, Finland
1969	Tyringe, Sweden
1971	Grenå, Denmark
1973	Røros, Norway
Next symposium	
1975	Helsingfors, Finland

activities are: arrangement of the symposia already mentioned; arrangement of seminars and courses; publication of "News from LIPIDFORUM"; and publication of the survey "What Is Done Where in Scandinavian Lipid Research and Technology" for the promotion of contact among members as well as between members and nonmembers in Scandinavia and abroad.

The LIPIDFORUM symposia take place biannually and usually draw 150-200 participants. The programs consist of invited plenary lectures and about 30 contributed papers. As a rule the full text of these lectures and papers (in one of the Scandinavian languages) is published, with English summaries included. (The 450-page publication from the symposium at Grenå, Denmark, June 22-25, 1971, is still available by request to the secretariat. Price: 30 Dan. Crs. = 5 US\$.) In the future, LIPIDFORUM intends to publish reports in English.

Editing of lectures and papers presented at the most recent symposium, June 1973 at Røros, Norway, is now in progress. The following plenary lectures were given: R. Ohlson, Karlshamn, Sweden—World Fat Production and the Utilization of Fat Raw Material; K. Berg, Oslo—The Metabolism of Lipoproteins; Ö. Levin, Stockholm—Pathogenic and Biochemical Effects of Rapeseed Oil with High Content of Erucic Acid; A. Tananger, Fredrikstad, Norway—Norwegian Research on Marine Oils; H. Dam a. E. Søndergaard, Copenhagen—Vitamin E and Unsaturated Fatty Acids. Several papers were devoted to the content and effects of long chain fatty acids in marine and vegetable oils. The program of the Røros symposium is available in English from the secretariat.

A tradition has been developed to devote LIPIDFORUM symposium time to group discussions of current problems. At the Røros meeting the following items were discussed: vitamin E—demand and supply; lipids vs. refined carbohydrates in nutrition; product declaration of fat products; and the environment and the fat industry.

In addition to symposia seminars and courses are arranged, presently twice a year, alternating between subjects of technological, analytical and physiological-nutritional interest. Those organized during the previous year were devoted to colloidal-chemical aspects (30 participants) and the metabolism of lipoproteins (ca. 80 participants).

"News from LIPIDFORUM" is published twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. The text, about 15-20 pages, is in one of the Scandinavian languages. It is hoped that in the future part of the "News" will be published in English for distribution to foreign colleagues, as there seems to be a great demand for such contact.

The brochure "What Is Done Where in Scandinavian Lipid Research and Technology" was published for the first time last year in connection with the ISF Congress in Göteborg. It is available by request to the secretariat (86 p.; free of cost). The brochure is intended to be a source of internal information for LIPIDFORUM members, as well as a representation of the organization and its members to foreign colleagues. Information in the pamphlet is grouped into "research not of the physiological-medical type,"

(Continued on page 380A)

TABLE II
Distribution of Research Interests and Contributions

Category	Denmark	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Sweden	Total
Lipid research not of physiological-medical type	8	4	1	5	17	35
Lipid research of physiological-medical type	6	1	1	2	8	18
Lipid technology (industrial production)	9	8	—	6	20	43
Total	23	13	2	13	45	96

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(Continued from page 378A)

"research of the physiological-medical type" and "Technology," including industrial application. Table II shows the distribution of the 96 contributions to these groups and the participating countries, and also gives a certain idea of the distribution of lipid interests in the Scandinavian countries. These contributions of information are, however, not sufficient to be really representative. A collection of statistics, called "Facts in Figures," for the five Scandinavian countries is added to the brochure as a supplement, and includes data on oilseed cultivation, animal production, industrial production, import and export, consumption, etc.

At this time, lipid research of LIPIDFORUM is the lipid research done by its respective members, as reflected in "What Is Done Where in Scandinavian Lipid Research and Technology" or in the programs of the symposia. Plans are in progress to coordinate lipid research on problems of Scandinavian interest on a Scandinavian basis, and perhaps also to arrange common Scandinavian research projects.

The organization and administration of LIPIDFORUM is very unsophisticated, consisting mainly of a secretariat, a board and a biennial meeting of members during the symposia. At present the secretariat is located at the Swedish Institute for Food Preservation Research, SIK, in Göteborg, and is headed by Reinhard Marcuse as secretary general. The board consists of at least two representatives for each participating country, representing industry and a university or similar research institution. As in ISF, one of the representatives from the country organizing the next symposium acts as chairman.

Having begun its activities with the support of Nordforsk and having developed through the courtesy of SIK, LIPIDFORUM is now becoming financially independent through active and supporting membership fees. ■

Fontana elected to hospital board

Alexander V. Fontana, president and chairman of the board of Consumers Flavoring Extract Co., Inc., Brooklyn, has been elected to the Board of Regents of The Long Island College Hospital, 340 Henry Street, Brooklyn.

An organic chemist, Fontana is a member of the AOCS, the Flavor Extract Manufacturers' Association and the Society of Flavor Chemists. ■