IUPAC meeting report

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Commission on Fats, Oil and Derivatives met in Vienna, Austria, Sept. 2-4, 1986, with representatives from 21 countries attending. Reports were given by the various working groups and plans were made for collaborative studies during 1986-87. These studies include:

- color in lecithins.
- total fatty acid analysis, including n-3 and n-6. A separate ad hoc committee is to determine what gas chromatography (GC) column(s) should be used.
- tocopherol esters by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). Suggestions are needed for the method and a source of margarine with tocopherol acetate added for use as a control. Dennis Pocklington, Laboratory of the Government Chemist, London, is the coordinator.
- triglycerides by HPLC, based on the determination of equivalent carbon number (ECN).
- polymerized triglycerides.

In addition, an ad hoc committee will investigate methods for the determination of phospholipids by HPLC.

The IUPAC Commission is trying to formalize guidelines for adopting methods from other organizations. Proposed for adoption were two Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) methods—antioxidants by HPLC and *trans* unsaturation in margarine. It was proposed that no method be adopted unless it also has been studied collaboratively within the commission.

No proposals for new studies were received.

Osten Levin's term as chairman of the commission will expire after next year. Joyce Beare-Rogers was proposed to succeed him as chairman at that time.

Future meetings include the Working Groups only, July 7-9, 1987, in Münster, West Germany; IUPAC Commission on Fats and Oils, Aug. 24—25, 1987, Boston, Massachusetts; and IUPAC General Assembly, Aug. 21-29, 1987, also in Boston.

Anyone with information to offer or with questions can contact Dennis Pocklington, Laboratory of the Government Chemist, Cornwall House, Waterloo Road, London, 8E1 8XY, United Kingdom.

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Book reviews

Phospholipids in Nervous Tissues, edited by J. Eichberg (John Wiley & Sons Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York, NY 10158, 1985, 286 pp., $79.50).

This book contains nine chapters. These include Recent Developments in Techniques for Phospholipid Analyses, by F.B. Jungalwala; Enzymic Pathways of Phospholipid Metabolism in the Nervous System, by R.M.C. Dawson; Phospholipid Composition and Metabolism in the Developing and Aging Nervous System, by G.Y. San and L.F. Foudin; Transport, Exchange and Transfer of Phospholipids in the Nervous System, by R.W. Ledeen; Metabolism and Functions of Fatty Acids in Brain, by L.A. Horrocks; Phospholipids in Cultured Cells of Neural Origin, by E. Yavin; The Biochemical Basis and Functional Significance of Enhanced Phosphatidale and Phosphoinositide Turnover, by S.K. Fisher and B.W. Agranoff; Phospholipids in Disorders of the Nervous System, by J. Callahan; and Animal Models of Neurological Disorders: Insight Through Studies of Phospholipid Metabolism, by R.M. Gould.

This is a rather ambitious book that starts with HPLC and mass spectrometry and proceeds through to animal models for Wallerian degeneration, demyelination, hypomyelination and experimental diabetic neuropathy. The authors are experts in their fields and coverage appears accurate, comprehensive and timely. This book can be heartily recommended to professional neurochemists and advanced graduate level students with interests in lipids and the nervous system.

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Fat Science 1983: Proceedings of the 16th ISF Congress, Budapest, Hungary, Oct. 4-5, 1983, two volumes, edited by J. Holló (Elsevier Publishing Co., PO Box 1663, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, 1985, 1117 pp., $238). These two volumes represent the papers presented at the 16th ISF Congress held in Budapest in 1983; 102 papers are included. The majority of these represent research carried out by non-American scientists, thus affording an opportunity to gain insight into the more international aspects of lipid research.

The papers are divided into the following general topical areas: chemistry and analysis; raw materials and oilseed proteins; nutrition, biological effects, metabolism; processing; shortenings, margarines and edible fats; soaps, detergents, cosmetics and other products; autoxidation; rapeseed oil and protein and the effect of heating on fats. In addition, two special symposia—the role of HDL in the pathogenesis of arteriosclerosis, and control of hyperlipoproteinemia, prevention, diet and drug therapy—are presented.

These are well-composed books.