Methodology

Methods development update

The Uniform Methods Committee (UMC) held its second meeting of the year on Nov. 25, 1985, in Chicago, Illinois. The purpose of this meeting was to review the status of methods under revision, consider action on proposed methods and discuss other pertinent business.

Highlights of technical committee activities which have been completed are: the flash point method for quaternary ammonium chlorides has been revised, requiring the use of a closed cup tester; four aflatoxin methods have been rewritten into AOCS format; Evaluation of Test Methods (collaborative study protocols, a new addition to Section M) and a revised version of the Writing and Approval of Methods (Part IV of M2-65) were submitted to the UMC for approval; a TLC/colorimetric method for phospholipids (IUPAC method) and antioxidants by HPLC (AOAC method) also were submitted to the UMC for approval as a recommended practice.

Proposed Action on Other Methods

Proposed action on new methods was as follows:

- A rapid nephelometric procedure for phospholipids in oils, developed by Roger Sinram, A.E. Staley, will be submitted to the UMC for approval as a Recommended Practice.
- Ray Coleman (UCI) will be chairman of a committee to evaluate methods for the bleachability of oils and the evaluation of bleaching clays. Interested collaborators and committee members should contact either Ray Coleman or the AOCS technical director as soon as possible. A committee meeting is planned for Hawaii.
- There is a recognized need to find an alternative to the AOM for predicting the oxidative stability of oils. A committee chairman, committee members, collaborators and methods are needed. Please contact the AOCS technical director.
- Near IR methods need to be established, with a priority on protein determination. Interested participants should contact the AOCS technical director.
- A committee and methodology need to be selected to develop a quality control procedure for hexane used in oilseed extraction. Anyone interested should contact the AOCS technical director.

The next meeting of the UMC will be held during the AOCS national meeting in Hawaii.

Dave Berner
AOCS Technical Director

Publications

Book Reviews

Neurobiology: Molecular Biological Approaches to Understanding Neuronal Function and Development, edited by Paul O'Lague (Alan R. Liss Inc., 41 E. 11th St., New York, NY 10003, 1985, 192 pp., $68).

This volume is the proceedings of a UCLA Symposium on Molecular and Cellular Biology held in April 1984. The papers are representative of the many topics discussed at the meeting and several of them have been published previously in the *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry*. The volume is divided into four sections. The first consists of four papers on cell adhesion and intercellular and cell-virus interactions. The next four chapters deal with cytoskeletal architecture. The third section has articles on neuropeptides and growth factors. These chapters give insight into the use of modern biological techniques, such as synthetic oligonucleotide probes and DNA sequencing in brain chemistry. The final section deals with intracellular messengers and ion channels. The author, editor and publisher are to be congratulated for getting this volume into print in such a reasonable time after the meeting. The volume is useful to those interested in new approaches to the study of the nervous system.

Patricia V. Johnston

Review of Biological Research in Aging, Volume 2, edited by Morton Rothstein (Alan R. Liss Inc., 41 E. 11th St., New York, NY 10003, 1985, 561 pp., $96).

This second volume of a continuing series reviewing biological research in aging covers the literature through the first few months of 1984. The volume is divided into eight sections, the longest of which is the first, dealing with theories, evolution and genetics of aging. The first chapter is a review of recent biological research on theories of aging. The next four chapters describe aging in protozoa, fungi, the hermaphrodite, *Caenorhabditis elegans* and insects. Chapters follow on the evolution of aging and genetic aspects of aging in the mouse and the human. The final chapter is a review of genetic diversification and the clonality of senescence. Section II contains two articles on the immunology of aging. The first deals with B-lymphocyte function in aging and the second with age-related changes in cell-mediated immunity. The neurobiology of aging is covered in Section III, which has a chapter on the neurochemistry of aging (1982–1984), morphological aspects of central nervous system aging and model systems in electrophysiological aging research. Age-related changes in hormone secretion and action, reproductive aging in the female, and receptors and