

Introduction to the Proceedings of the Ninth Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals

CHARLES D. SCOTT

Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6226*

INTRODUCTION

The biomedical industry continues to be the major focus of much of modern bioprocessing research; however, there is increasing interest in advanced bioprocessing concepts for fuels and commodity chemicals. For example, biotechnology is beginning to have an important impact on the processing of fossil fuels, and with the recent increases in the cost of petroleum, renewable chemical feedstocks are again beginning to be seriously considered. This symposium, the ninth in a series, was established to serve as a forum for emerging bioprocessing research that could have a direct impact on the efficient and environmentally acceptable production and use of fuels and chemicals. The goal of the meeting was to bring together those involved in biotechnology research as well as possible users of the new processing concepts so that views could be exchanged in the early phases of development. As in past meetings in this series, applied research and process developments were presented on thermal/chemical conversion of biomass and bioconversion concepts. Highlights of the meeting included special sessions on "Microbial Interactions with Coal" and "Problems and Challenges in Commercializing Biotechnology." Several discussion groups were also organized.

The meeting was sponsored by the Department of Energy, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the Solar Energy Research Institute. Organization of the symposium was as follows:

*Operated by Martin Marietta Energy Systems, Inc., for the US Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC05-84OR21400.

Organizing Committee

Charles D. Scott, Chairman, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
James J. Eberhardt, US Dept. of Energy
Elias Greenbaum, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Arthur E. Humphrey, Lehigh University
Donald L. Johnson, Grain Processing Corporation
Ruxton H. Villet, US Dept. of Agriculture
Charles E. Wyman, Solar Energy Research Institute

Session Chairmen and Cochairmen

Session 1. Thermal and Chemical Processing
 Thomas A. Milne, Solar Energy Research Institute
 J. Robert Hightower, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
 Session 2. Applied Biological Research
 Bland S. Montenecourt, Lehigh University
 Karel Grohmann, Solar Energy Research Institute
 Session 3. Bioengineering Research
 Channing R. Robertson, Stanford University
 Eric H. Dunlop, Dunlop Biotechnology Associates
 Session 4. Microbial Interactions with Coal
 Fikret Kargi, Washington University
 Gerald W. Strandberg, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
 Session 5. Problems and Challenges in Commercializing Biotechnology
 Arthur E. Humphrey, Lehigh University
 Ruxton H. Villet, US Dept. of Agriculture

Discussion Leaders

"Utilization of Biomass Waste"
 Carlos Rolz, Central American Research Institute for Industry
 Barbara Goodman, Solar Energy Research Institute
 "Biomaterials"
 Robert M. Busche, Bio En-Gene-Er Associates, Inc.
 "Chemicals from Tissue Culture"
 Fikret Kargi, Washington University
 "Environmental Control Technology"
 Terrence L. Donaldson, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

The proceedings of past symposia have been well received (1-8), and we are pleased to have the proceedings of the Ninth Symposium published in this journal.

The Tenth Symposium in this series is planned for May 17-20, 1988, and we encourage comments or discussions relevant to the format or content of that meeting.

REFERENCES

1. "Proceedings of the First Symposium on Biotechnology in Energy Production and Conservation," (1978), *Biotechnol. Bioeng. Symp.* **8**.
2. "Proceedings of the Second Symposium on Biotechnology in Energy Production and Conservation," (1980), *Biotechnol. Bioeng. Symp.* **10**.
3. "Proceedings of the Third Symposium on Biotechnology in Energy Production and Conservation," (1981), *Biotechnol. Bioeng. Symp.* **11**.
4. "Proceedings of the Fourth Symposium on Biotechnology in Energy Production and Conservation," (1982), *Biotechnol. Bioeng. Symp.* **12**.
5. "Proceedings of the Fifth Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals," (1983), *Biotechnol. Bioeng. Symp.* **13**.
6. "Proceedings of the Sixth Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals," (1984), *Biotechnol. Bioeng. Symp.* **14**.
7. "Proceedings of the Seventh Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals," (1985), *Biotechnol. Bioeng. Symp.* **15**.
8. "Proceedings of the Eighth Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals," (1986), *Biotechnol. Bioeng. Symp.* **17**.