

PRO NATURA INTEGRA

Editor's note. Under the title of 'Pro Natura Integra', papers on fundamental research in the field of bio-protection will appear. Over-population, under-nutrition and changes in environment have led to ecological disturbances in the balance of Nature which threaten the existence of mankind. Man is faced with uncertainty through the changes in his environment. This most critical crisis can only be over-come by a society which has the will to carry out a bio-phylaxis which is scientifically founded, ecologico-economically co-ordinated and biopolitically responsible. H.M.

USA

Environmental Mutagen Society

The purpose of the Society is to encourage interest in and study of mutagens in the human environment, particularly as these may be of concern to public health. The immediate functions of this Society will include: Formation of a register of chemicals tested for mutagenicity in different systems. Publication of a monograph on methods of testing for chemical mutagens. Publication of a Newsletter. Improvement of methods for evaluating the public health significance of environmental mutagens. Provision of information and assistance to Government, industry, and other interested persons.

President: Alexander Hollaender; President-elect: Matthew Meselson; Secretary: S. S. Epstein, Children's Cancer Research Foundation, Inc., 35 Binney Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA.

Schweiz

Stiftung zur Förderung der Ernährungsforschung in der Schweiz

Die Stiftung als gemeinsame Gründung der Firmen Nestlé, Roche und Wander fördert die Grundlagenforschung im Gebiete der Ernährungswissenschaften, unterstützt eine gezielte Nachwuchsförderung durch Forschungsbeiträge und gewährt Stipendien an Ärzte und Wissenschaftler. Im Stiftungsrat sind vertreten: Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Ernährungsforschung, Vereinigung für Ernährung, Eidgenössische Ernährungskommission und die Donatorenfirmen.

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International Cell Research Organization (ICRO)

1. *Training Courses.* One of the main activities of ICRO is the organization of training courses on topics of high novelty and on modern techniques in cellular and molecular biology: Principles and techniques of tissue and organ culture; Genetics and Physiology of Bacterial viruses; Energy transducing systems on the sub-cellular level; Methods in mammalian cytogenetics; Membrane Biophysics; DNA-RNA Hybridization; Biogenesis of Mitochondria; Embryology and Epigenetics; Interaction between Animal Viruses and host cells, application of computers to experimental work in biology and chemistry; Methods in molecular biology, etc. The courses generally last 3-5 weeks, and include 16-20 young participants (sometimes more). The ICRO courses are fully inter-

national, both the teaching staff and the participants coming from the largest possible number of countries.

2. *The Problem of Developing Countries.* Most of the past ICRO courses have been organized in European countries - east and west - but the demand from developing countries is increasing steadily. ICRO activities in developing countries may tend to give preference to topics of potential economic usefulness, such as applied microbiology, microbial protein production, fermentation industries, soil microbiology, plant genetics, etc.

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