

Letters to the Editor



Sir:

The Universities Space Research Association (USRA), an international consortium headquartered at Rice University in Houston, has as members over 40 universities active in space research. We are administering a new program under the sponsorship of NASA which is aimed at broad participation of the academic community in space research. Our purpose is to solicit, evaluate, and assist in the development and management of space experiments for the Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF), a part of the Space Shuttle Transportation System.

LDEF satellites, which will be launched at periodic intervals beginning in late 1979, will carry a large number of experiments into orbit. Each LDEF satellite will remain in orbit for six to nine months, then will be retrieved by another Space Shuttle and returned to earth. LDEF offers long exposure to the orbital environment of micro-gravity, vacuum, radiation, and particle fluxes; together with return of materials and instruments to their owners at the end of the mission.

We are interested in inquiries and proposals for experiments both from experienced investigators and from those who have not had prior space flight research experience or opportunities. Under our program, NASA funding is not available through the Office of Aeronautical and Space Technology, which manages the LDEF program. However, integration and a "free ride" have been promised for those experiments which are approved under the USRA program (christened "LDEF/USE" for University Space Experiments) and whose development can be funded in some other way. We seek research proposals in widely diversified subject areas from both the academic community and private industry (so long as an industrial experimenter is willing to be a member of a team that includes academic people). We are interested in subjects such as, say, space lubricants, in which your readers may be particularly conversant. We offer a flexibility and opportunity for space flight that is new in the Space Program.

Persons seeking more information may write to me at the address shown below.

Dr. ROBERT S. CORRUCCINI
LDEF/USE Communications Coordinator
Universities Space Research Association
P.O. Box 3006
Boulder, CO 80303

Sir:

I feel I must call your attention to an important problem in *JAOCS*. The problem is the presentation of antimicrobial data in terms of zones of inhibition. The method gives absolutely no necessary relationship between compounds, structure, and antimicrobial activity. This problem is usually discussed in any textbook on the subject. Also, to take another example from a recent *JAOCS* issue (53:632-33 and 641-43) the inoculum size, reported in these two papers, is not given. In fact, a reader not only does not know the number of organisms that were used for a challenge but, more important, the use of paper discs saturated with the liquid test compound or worse—"solid compounds were placed in stainless steel cylinders"—gives no value to the amount of chemical used. These techniques

are so crude as not to be acceptable by anyone in the field of antimicrobial screening.

As a proud member of the Society and one who hopes our standards continue to be reviewed and upgraded, I hope my comments lead to closer editorial scrutiny of papers on antimicrobial testing.

It also would have been a good idea for the authors of the two papers to have cited pertinent references besides their own work in the field.

Jon J. Kabara, Ph.D.
Professor
Michigan State University

Send articles to:

Editor of News
American Oil Chemists' Society
508 South Sixth Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820



Call for nominations

Award of Merit

The Society's Award of Merit is to be presented to qualified Society members at the 70th Annual Spring Meeting, New York, NY, May 8-11, 1977.

The Award is given to recognize current and past achievements in serving the Society:

- Active productive service to AOCS committee work.
- Market leadership in technical, administrative or special committee or Society activities.
- Outstanding activity or service that has particularly advanced the Society's prestige, standing, or interest.
- Any distinguished service to the Society excluding elective office not herein otherwise specifically provided for.

Past winners of the Award of Merit include: W.T. Coleman and D.L. Henry, 1969; R.T. Doughtie and R.A. Burns, 1970; E. Jungermann, 1971; D.S. Bolley and T.J. Potts, 1972; A. Rose and E.R. Hahn, 1973; and R.A. Reiners and R.G. Krishnamurthy, 1974; L.S. Crauer and H.G. Salomon, 1975; M.E. Whitten and S.F. Herb, 1976.

Nominations should cite the record of the nominee which qualifies him for the Award. Two copies of the nomination should be submitted to: Arthur E. Waltking, Manager, Analytical Services, Best Foods Research Center, Box 1534, 1120 Commerce Ave., Union, New Jersey 07083, before February 15, 1977.