

lished in the *Journal of Hygiene* (93:445, 1985), reveal a substantial fall in tetracycline resistance in particular over those ten years. Only 17.9 percent of strains collected from chickens in 1982 were insensitive, as compared with 31.2 percent of strains isolated in 1972. There was a similar, though less pronounced trend in the case of furazolidone. "Although there may be other reasons for this reduc-

tion," Williams Smith and Level conclude, "decreased exposure to these antibiotics as a direct result of the banning of their use as feed additives is a likely one."

Resistance to sulphonamides has declined too, although these drugs were not prohibited in 1969 because the Swann committee believed that they might be needed as feed additives to control coccidiosis infections

in chickens. In this case, therefore, the reason for the fall in resistance seems to have been the introduction in recent years of anti-coccidial preparations containing substances other than sulphonamides. Again, the replacement of antimicrobials valuable for treating human patients has reduced the dangers associated with the passage of drug-insensitive bacteria to man. —Bernard Dixon

REGULATION

U.K. FORMS NEW BIOTECH TRADE ASSOCIATION

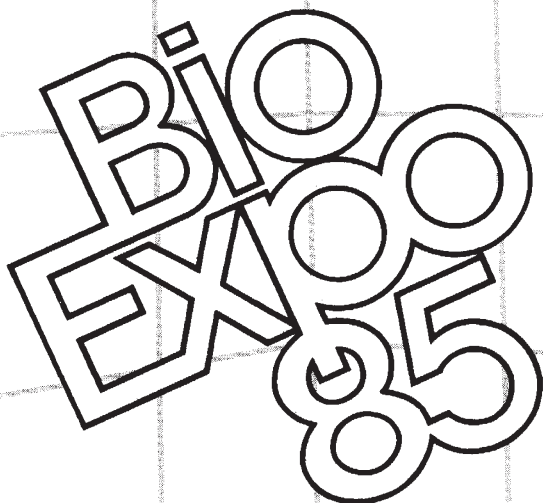
LONDON—An Association for the Advancement of British Biotechnology (AABB) has been established.

The 20 founding corporate members include large companies like Imperial Chemical Industries (London), together with much smaller firms. They will join with individual members and affiliated members such as universities and learned societies to represent U.K. biotechnology—particularly vis-a-vis government and regulatory authorities—in a more powerful way than has been possible in the past. Formed this spring as a company limited by guarantee, the AABB will have a permanent secre-

tariat in London and will replace the previously *ad hoc* Industrial Biotechnology Liaison Group.

"We have rejected the traditional British solution to the differences between people in the professions and those in industry, which is to form separate trade associations and institutions, in favor of an all-embracing organization," says Brian Kirsop of the Food Research Institute (Norwich, U.K.). "The AABB will encompass both innovative scientists in the academic world and industrialists responsible for taking innovations and developing them into useful products and processes."

Although the AABB's prime purpose will be to represent its members in discussion with legislators and regulators in the U.K., European Economic Community, and elsewhere, it will also take a keen interest in biotech education and training needs. At an exploratory meeting last November, some participants expressed concern that the new body might duplicate the work of existing organizations such as the Society of Chemical Industry. But the consensus was that a new, broader, and stronger AABB was required for development of U.K. biotechnology in the decade ahead. —Bernard Dixon



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