PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

BIOTECH SOCIETY

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—A small group meeting in the shadow of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology meeting here formally created an American Society for Biotechnology.

After some discussion and amendment, the group adopted a skeleton charter drafted by another group, which met during February's Miami Bio/Technology Winter Symposium.

According to its statement of purpose, the new ASB is to foster interdisciplinary communication and cooperation with existing professional and scientific societies. Its ultimate goal is to promote the sciences that underlie the biotechnologies.

Towards this end, the new group's aims include:

- Arranging scientific conferences;
- Publishing;
- Suggesting research priorities conducive to the advancement of biotechnology and the general welfare;
- Providing forums in which biotechnologists can meet with government regulators and policy-makers;
- Promoting biotechnological education and establishing biotech curricula;
- Providing credible information for public education;
- Promoting regional, national, and international cooperation; and
- Establishing professional standards where appropriate.

ASB membership is to be open to "all professionally qualified" and interested persons.

The society does not, as yet, have any full officers. Instead, a temporary steering committee will handle the group's early formation, until it can be replaced by full officers elected by the membership at its first meeting.

The steering committee includes J. Lawrence Fox, (Abbott Laboratories, Abbott Park, IL), the interim chairman; Pamela J. Bridgen (Clement Associates, Fairfax, VA); Ronald E. Cape (Cetus, Emeryville, CA); L. Curtis Hannah (University of Florida Biotechnology Center, Gainesville, FL); Douglas McCormick (*Bio/Technology*); Thomas W. O'Brien (University of Florida Health Science Center, Gainesville, FL); Michael C. Powanda (Letterman Army Institute of Research, Presidio, CA); and William Whelan (University of Miami Medical School, Miami, FL).

For information on membership in the American Society for Biotechnology, write to Douglas McCormick, *Bio/Technology*, 65 Bleeker Street, New York, NY 10012.

COMMENTARY

COME BLOW YOUR [OWN] HORN

Some time or other, every commercial enterprise winds up doing things it wants to crow about. This rooster-like impulse generally produces a flurry of press releases that all too often wither under the stony gaze of newspaper and magazine editors. Only a small fraction ever see print.

As I. F. Stone once said, freedom of the press belongs only to those who own one. It is therefore convenient to have an abundance of paper and rivers of ink at one's own disposal when the gallinaceous mood strikes. Here then, are two things that *Bio/Technology* has done and would like to boast about:

Biotech USA

In May, *Bio/Technology* and Conference Management Corporation (CMC, Norwalk, CT) agreed to join forces to produce Biotech USA. At five years of age, Biotech USA is the largest and oldest regular biotechnology conference and exhibition in the United States.

Bio/Technology is committed to high-quality scientific communication, in print or in person. We and CMC hope to establish Biotech USA as a forum for forward-looking technical discussion at a level to match the conference's acknowledged leadership in biotech business and finance.

Bio/Technology's editors will contribute to a three-day program of applied science and production technology, emphasizing established and innovative tools along with such topics as transgenic animals (as research tools, production vehicles, and salable products), carbohydrate engineering, and the biotechnology of human blood—from its soluble elements to fully functional artificial blood supplements to the public-health problems that attend transfusion.

We trust, too, that promotion in *Bio/Technology* and our sister publications will help produce a "critical mass" of scientific conference-goers. It is the dream of exposition producers to put on the industry event. We at *Bio/Technology* hope that Biotech USA can reaffirm its position as the international focus of the diverse but perversely related industries that depend on innovative life-science research.

CMC, we should note, is also new to Biotech USA. It acquired the conference from Online International, a London-based conference producer, in mid-1987. CMC does have extensive conference-management experience, however: it has produced more than 250 business and professional conferences and expositions, and now manages more than 40 such events each year—including the Nursing Management Congress, the U.S. Psychiatric Congress, and an Emergency Medical Services Exposition.

***Bio/Technology* in Japanese**

At the end of April, Kyoikusha (Tokyo)—an educational publisher whose journals include *Newton*, the most popular science magazine in Japan—announced that it will publish a Japanese-language edition of *Bio/Technology*.

The new publication, *Bio/Technology Nihon go ban*, will translate all of *Bio/Technology's* news, features, and reviews, along with abstracts of research papers. It will be distributed monthly—within two weeks of U.S. publication—along with the full English version of the journal.

Itaru Watanabe, professor emeritus at Keio University, will supervise the Japanese translation, with the aid of four other prominent academics: Teruhiko Beppu, Fumimaro Takaku, Masao Karube (all of Tokyo University), and Hiroshi Harada of Tsukuba University.

In making the announcement, Kyoikusha's president, Keisuke Takamori, noted that *Bio/Technology* is only the second publication, after *Newsweek*, to be published in Japanese at the same time as it is published in English. The move should bring *Bio/Technology's* circulation in Japan to about 2,000 copies a month, making the journal an important voice in what may be the world's most concentrated biotechnology community. Very gratifying.

—Douglas McCormick

For more information on Biotech USA, contact Lynn Perry, CMC, 200 Connecticut Ave, Norwalk, CT 06854. Telephone (203) 852-0500.

For more information on *Bio/Technology Nihon go ban* contact Kyoikusha Ltd., Hourai Building, 20 Nishishinjuku 1-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan. Telephone (03) 342-1044.