

Preface

In 1956 The International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) decided to set up a Biochemistry Section Committee, which would be a Co-ordinating Committee between IUBS and the International Union of Biochemistry (IUB) and, through a Co-ordinating Committee of IUB and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), would also have contact with IUPAC. It was considered that the Committee would be specifically concerned with *chemical biology* within the framework of the Unions federated to the Councils of Scientific Unions (ICSU). The members of the Biochemistry Section Committee are at present: R. Brunel (Toulouse) and O. Lindberg (Stockholm) (appointed by IUBS), M. Florkin (Liège) and T. W. Goodwin (Aberystwyth) (appointed by IUB), and P. Boyer (Minneapolis) and F. Lynen (Munich) (co-opted members). Florkin and Goodwin were elected Chairman and Secretary respectively.

The first Committee meeting was held in 1958 during the 4th International Congress of Biochemistry in Vienna. It had been visualized throughout the discussions that an important function of the Committee would be to make suggestions for various International Symposia to both IUBS and IUB. It was agreed that subjects would be appropriate only if both biochemistry and the biological sciences were combining to produce a rapidly expanding sphere of knowledge. A number of possibilities were considered at Vienna and it was eventually decided that "Biological Structure and Function" was most appropriate at this time. This idea was accepted by the two International Unions and plans began to be formulated. It was readily agreed that the most suitable centre in Europe for such a symposium was the Wenner-Gren Institute, with its well-established, international reputation in this field and, furthermore, the project had the blessing and support of Dr. Axel Wenner-Gren himself, who honoured the Symposium by agreeing to act as Patron of Honour and by attending the Inaugural Session to deliver the opening address.

The IUB and IUBS have supported this Symposium financially but the realization of the Symposium would not have been possible without the generous aid of the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and of the various bodies in different countries which support the attendance of scientists at important international meetings. It was extremely satisfying to the

organizers to know that these official bodies considered this First IUB/IUBS Joint Symposium worthy of support, and mention should be made of the National Science Foundation which supported so many of our U.S. participants; furthermore, in this connection the work done on our behalf by Dr. Elmer Stotz, the treasurer of IUB, should not be forgotten.

The organizers hope that this Symposium will be the forerunner of a long line of similar international symposia based on fruitful co-operation between biochemists and biologists from all nations.

The organizers are most grateful to the Institute of Physics, University of Stockholm, for their generosity in putting their attractive new lecture theatre at the disposal of the Symposium.

In preparing the proceedings for the press the organizers have been greatly helped by Miss J. T. Peel, who transcribed the recorded discussions, and by Mr. D. J. Howells, who prepared the subject index.

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T. W. GOODWIN
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