

NEWS EVENTS &

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ABRF Annual Meetings

ABRF 2001, held February 24–27, 2001, in San Diego, California, was a very successful meeting. Paul Tempst (Memorial Sloan Kettering) and David Schwartz (University of Wisconsin-Madison) brought more than 82 speakers to our meeting. For the first time in the history of the ABRF, meeting attendance exceeded 1100 including more than 750 scientific registrants. Plenary speakers included Ronald Evans from the Salk Institute, Roger Bent from the Molecular Sciences Institute, Andrew Marks from Columbia University, Robert Lehrer from UCLA, Roger Kornberg from Stanford, and Alan Wollfe from Sangamo Biosciences. The ABRF Award, sponsored by Agilent Technologies, was given to Csaba Horvath of Yale University for his fundamental contributions to the development of high performance liquid chromatography. There were more than 100 poster presentations covering a range of topics. You may refer to the December 2000 issue of *JBT* for the abstracts from the meeting. Before the main meeting there was a well-attended satellite meeting on microarrays organized by John Quakenbush and his colleagues. This topic reflects the continued diversification of the ABRF as we embrace emerging technologies that fit into the shared resource environment.

ABRF 2002 will be held in Austin, Texas, March 9–12. The title of the meeting is “Biomolecular Technologies: Tools for Discovery in Proteomics and Genomics.” Greg Grant (Washington University) and Elizabeth Fowler (Millennium Pharmaceuticals), two past presidents of the ABRF, are organizing the meeting. Greg and Beth have promised to provide a scientific agenda that brings us “back to basics” while looking to the future of resource technologies in the

post-genome era. Please feel free to contact either organizer if you have ideas or suggestions for the meeting.

JBT in Transition

JBT is undergoing a number of significant changes. After 4 years as Editor-in-Chief of *JBT*, Clayton Naeve has resigned his position in order to focus attention on his increased responsibilities at the Hartwell Center for Bioinformatics and Biotechnology (<http://www.hartwellcenter.org/>) at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The Executive Board sincerely thanks Clayton for his efforts and his dedication to the ABRF. We wish him success in the evolution of the Hartwell Center resource facility at St. Jude.

We are pleased to write that the Executive Board of the ABRF has named the next Editor of *JBT*. After a national search conducted by Ralph Bradshaw, a select committee of ABRF members have worked with the Executive Board to select our next editor. Dr. Gregg B. Fields from the Department of Chemistry at Florida Atlantic University has accepted the position as the next Editor-in-Chief replacing Clayton Naeve. The publications committee will be meeting with Gregg soon to begin the transition process. We hope you will join the ABRF Executive Board in congratulating Gregg on his next position. You may learn more about Gregg at his web site: <http://www.science.fau.edu/chemistry/fields.html>.

In addition to the new editor, *JBT* has changed publishers. Until June 2001, *JBT* has been published by Copperplate Press under the capable direction of Ms. Molly Connors. Molly, sole owner of Copperplate Press, Inc., has taken a new job with another publisher so she can no longer publish *JBT*. In her place, we have made an agreement with Berliner Inc., of New York City, to continue publication. Ms. Nancy Berliner, President of Berliner Inc., has already begun the transition process.

As Gregg assumes control of *JBT* and begins to develop his plans, we are sure he will be calling on

many of us to help him revitalize and build our journal into the scientific resource that we know it should be. We are sure there will be changes in the journal as Gregg begins his work. One of our major goals in the immediate term will be to publish *JBT* electronically. We will continue to work toward that goal as quickly as possible to increase the exposure of the journal. Most importantly, Gregg will depend on all of us to stimulate the submission of high-quality content for publication in the journal. We urge each of you to send in at least one paper from your own work as soon as possible and to encourage your colleagues to do the same.

ABRF Web Site

As announced in the December issue of *JBT*, Executive Board member Ted Thannhauser and the web site committee have worked hard over the last year to write a request for proposals to redesign the ABRF web site. We have evaluated several proposals and have now selected the best proposal that meets our needs. We are pleased to announce that we have signed a contract with World Design Group Inc. of Ithaca, New York, to redesign, implement, and host the ABRF web site. The new site should be ready for release by mid-October 2001. It will include a number of significant engineering improvements and design features. The membership management system will include online directories for members and laboratories. Membership signup and renewal processing will be automated on the site. The plan includes a News/Announcements editorial system, modules for committee and research group data management and presentation, a new and improved Delta Mass Reference database, and a hyperlink management system. We are sure that this new site will provide new and improved access to ABRF information and services.

In addition to updating and redesigning the web site, the World Design Group will also upgrade the ABRF bulletin board list server to a new platform with enhanced functionality. They will become the new host for the list server and will introduce new features that will permit better control of our important discussion forum. Along with hosting the list server itself, World Design Group will provide a site-integrated discussion list archive and display system for the ABRF discussion board. An improved, searchable archive database for past discussions will be integrated into the new web site. These changes should provide significant, needed improvements to the important service that was developed and maintained by Ruth Angeletti and her colleagues at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The ABRF owes a debt of gratitude to Ruth and her institution for providing this free service to the ABRF for so many years.

As participants in the ABRF bulletin board know, we have had some recent difficulties with policies and methods for handling supplemental files attached to messages posted to the bulletin board. In addition to the unintended propagation of computer viruses and worms, some users are not able to easily deal with large attachments when they access the bulletin board over slower modem connections. The planned new system should provide improved protection against undesirable files and possibly better ways to handle attached files that may be useful to participants of the list server. We are working to provide ways to maximize the utility and security of the server without decreasing functionality. One feature of the list will be an automatic subscription feature that will allow users to get onto and off of the list easily, without intervention of a person as is required by the current system. We hope to make the transition to the new system by the end of the summer.