ANNOUNCEMENT

Each year the Society for Experimental Biology runs an International Symposium. This year the subject is "THE MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS". It is being organised by DR. J. F. V. VINCENT of Reading and PROFESSOR J. D. CURREY of York.

Venue: Leeds University Dates: 4-6 September 1979

Programme:

Tuesday 4th September

Professor R. M. McN. Alexander: Welcome and introduction to the symposium
Professor J. E. Gordon: Biomechanics - the last stronghold of vitalism
Professor E. H. Andrews: Fracture
Professor B. Harris: Theory of composite materials
Professor J. D. Currey: Mechanical properties of mollusc shells
Professor N. E. Waters: The physical and mechanical properties of the human tooth
Professor J. L. Katz: The structure and biomechanics of bone

Wednesday 5th September

Dr. G. Jeronimidis: Wood - one of nature's challenging composites
Dr. D. B. Sellen: Mechanical properties of plant cell walls
Dr. J. F. V. Vincent: What's the point of sclerotisation?
Dr. R. D. B. Fraser: Molecular structure and mechanical properties of keratins
Mr. M. Denny: Silks - their properties and functions
Dr. L. Mullins: Theories of rubber-like elasticity and the behaviour of filled rubbers
Dr. K. L. Dorrington: The theory of viscoelasticity in biomaterials

Thursday 6th September

Dr. J. M. Gosline: The elastic properties of rubber-like proteins and highly extensible tissues
Professor R. H. Pain: The viscoelasticity of mucus - a molecular model
Professor S. A. V. Swanson: Articular cartilage
Professor E. Baer: Relationships between structural hierarchies and mechanical properties of tendon collagen
Professor S. A. Wainwright: Adaptive materials
Professor W. D. Biggs (chair): (discussion) - Evolution and design - Where do we go from here?
As organisers we have aimed to have enough theory given, for instance in the lectures by Professors Andrews and Harris, to put the biologists on the right path, while allowing plenty of discussion of real biological materials. We have also tried to span the range of biological materials and properties, from brittle mollusc shells to slime and mucus. We have tried to guide the speakers to give reviews rather than "up-to-the minute reports from my lab." The talks will be published in a symposium volume. There will be a poster session and entries are invited for this. This promises to be an unusual symposium which we think will interest many non-biologists. Certainly we hope that we shall have a number of polymer scientists, materials scientists, medical workers and engineers in the audience.

Booking forms will be available from

Society for Experimental Biology,
Harvest House,
62 London Road,
READING,
RG1 5AS, U.K.

If you are interested in taking part in the poster session, contact me,

Dr. J. F. V. Vincent, at

Biomechanics Group,
Department of Zoology,
Whiteknights,
READING,
RG6 2AJ, U.K.

I shall also be glad to answer any other general queries you may have:

telephone 0734-85123, ext. 7609.

J. F. V. Vincent,
Joint Convenor with J. D. Currey.