

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### How about establishing a **Society for Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology?**

It is still a mystery to me that there is no Society for Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology established at this moment. The "Movement" of Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology was started in 1973 when Dr. Carl-Goran Heden organized the first International Symposium of Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology in Stockholm. The history of the development of the field was the subject of the first article of this Journal (Fung, D.Y.C. 1992. Vol, 1, Issue 1, Page 1.)

In 1993 the seventh International Congress on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology and Immunology will be held in London under the chairship of Dr. S.W.B. Newsom who also chaired the second symposium back in 1976! Both Dr. Goldschmidt, the Associate Editor of this Journal, and I are invited speakers in the event. Several members of the editorial board of this Journal, such as Dr. A.N. Sharpe, will also attend.

This symposium series is steered by a committee of distinguished scientists from several countries and is called the International Organizing Committee. There is also a National Organizing Committee consisting of scientists of the host country who handle the local arrangements. This format seems to work well and has been successful since 1973. The proceedings of these symposia have been published in book forms.

At Kansas State University a "wet" workshop on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology was started by the Editor in 1981. In July 1993 we will conduct our 13th Workshop. Details of the Workshop are listed in the Editor's Corner of Vol. 1, Issue 3 of this Journal. The 1992 cumulative directory of this long and successful Workshop has listings of about 700 scientists from 40 states and 30 countries. Other useful information is also printed in the directory. Those interested in obtaining a copy of this valuable document can contact the Editor directly. The past participants of this Workshop series also gather in national and international meetings such as the Annual Meetings of American Society for Microbiology and the Institute of Food Technologists. We call these "Rapid Reunions." All subscribers of this Journal are welcome to join the "Rapid Reunions" and meet some truly great people.

In fact, this active group of present and past participants of the Kansas State University Workshop is *de facto* members of the undeclared "Society for Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology."

Do we need a formal Society? I do not think it is necessary at this moment. Maybe a few more years down the road.

Have a happy Spring season.

DANIEL Y.C. FUNG