

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.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.