

NOTES AND NEWS

REHABILITATION ENGINEERING CONFERENCE—POZNAN, POLAND

JULY 2-6, 1979

Under joint sponsorship of the Ministry of Health of Poland and the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, an international meeting was held in Poznan, Poland, July 2-6, 1979.

The purpose of the conference was to develop a plan to effect a needed coordination of international research, evaluation, and information efforts in rehabilitation engineering.

Participants (Fig. 1) in the conference came from governments and rehabilitation engineering centers throughout the world. Represented were Poland, The German Federal Republic, Scotland, Sweden, Norway, England, France, Australia, Japan, Canada, Italy, Egypt, Yugoslavia, Belgium, and the United States. Participants in the conference were selected on the basis of their involvement at policy levels in governments or in international organizations. Both the President of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) and the Chairman of the International Commission on Technical Aids (ICTA) were present. Moreover, a Board member from the International Prosthetics and Orthotics Association (INTERBOR) also participated.

Although the main thrust was to develop plans for international cooperation and coordination of effort, the conference also offered a forum for some rehabilitation engineering projects currently underway, particularly those in Poland, to be described and discussed. It provided the very valuable opportunity to hear from Professor Marian Weiss of Warsaw and from the conference host, Professor A. Senger (who is also the Director of the Institute of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation in Poznan).

The conference focused its attention on a proposal prepared by ISPO to establish an international evaluation capability within a secretariat to be funded by a number of governments. A draft proposal was circulated, and then small workshops were assembled to discuss the scope and substance of the draft proposal. After discussion in the workshops and in full conference, it was agreed that ISPO and ICTA would offer a refined proposal limited in the near future to the gathering of information on ongoing rehabilitation engineering evaluation



FIGURE 1.—At the international conference in Poznan, Poland, in July, some of the attendees were the following: (front row) Anthony Staros, VA-New York and ISPO; Birger Roos, Swedish Institute for the Handicapped, Stockholm; Marian Weiss, Konstancin, Warsaw, Poland; Paul Dollfus, Mulhouse, France and ICTA; George Murdoch, Dundee, Scotland and ISPO; Z. Nadolski, Rehabilitation Engineering Center, Poznan; A. Senger, Institute of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation, Poznan, Poland.

projects and their results and the dissemination of this information to subscribing governments and others. ISPO was to take the initiative in developing the proposal, to seek the concurrence of ICTA and others such as INTERBOR, and to submit it to all governments which might have the need, interest, and capability.

ANTHONY STAROS
DIRECTOR, VA PROSTHETICS CENTER

NEW EDITOR OF AAOP APPOINTED

H. Richard Lehneis, Ph. D., C.P.O., of New York University, has been named the Chairman of Publications for the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists and is now the editor of the AAOP Newsletter, "Prosthetics and Orthotics Clinic," which serves as a forum for the discussion of issues in orthotics and prosthetics through articles, letters, and readership polls. For a sample copy of the newsletter,

please contact H.R. Lehneis, Ph. D., C.P.O., Director, Orthotics & Prosthetics, Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, 400 East 34 Street, N.Y.C. 10016; or Brian Mastro, Managing Editor, American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists, 1440 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF REHABILITATION

The Annual Review of Rehabilitation will for the first time provide a yearly synthesis of cumulative knowledge in the rehabilitation field, and will provide an accessible and permanent record of this knowledge. Guided by an advisory board of outstanding leaders in rehabilitation research and practice, the editors are assembling in Volume I nine full reviews and four "mini-reviews" on topics of wide interest to rehabilitation administrators, practitioners, and educators. The Annual Review is an activity of Information Services, Inc., and is being published under the personal guidance of Dr. Ursula Springer, President of Springer Publishing Company. Editors of the Review include Drs. Elizabeth Pan, Thomas Backer and Carolyn Vash.

MARGUERITE T. HAYS RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

On May 6, 1979 at the Bloomington campus commencement ceremonies, Dr. Marguerite T. Hays, ACMD for Research and Development received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Indiana University. Others included among the seven persons selected to receive May honorary degrees were the Director of the National Science Foundation, Richard C. Atkinson, and the President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Richard L. Leshner.

Dr. Hays, whose father, the late Dr. Stith Thompson, was Professor of English and Folklore at Indiana University, was cited as one of the principal medical administrators in the federal government. She was recognized for developing a computerized system for linking the large number of nationally distributed investigations to maintain high research standards, to provide for efficient management, and to improve exchange of information. Also recognized was her research in the fields of nuclear medicine and endocrinology. The university credited Dr. Hays's knowledge and experience as reflected in her participation on many committees which function as regulatory or advisory bodies.

In this citation, the success of the VA medical research program was recognized.

JOHN D. MALAMAZIAN RECEIVES AWARDS

John D. Malamazian, Chief, Central Rehabilitation Center for Visually Impaired and Blinded Veterans, Hines VA Medical Center, recently received awards from the Blinded Veterans Association and from the American Association of Workers for the Blind.

The Board of Directors of BVA, at a meeting March 2-3, 1979, adopted unanimously a motion to present a BVA Certificate of Appreciation to him. At its First Annual Awards Dinner, March 23, 1979, the Illinois Regional Group of BVA also recognized his 30 years of dedicated and outstanding service to the VA blind rehabilitation program. Both tributes cited his many accomplishments.

The AAWB Mobility Interest Group presented its Lawrence E. Blaha Award to Mr. Malamazian on July 17, 1979, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, during the AAWB biennial convention. The award, a plaque, was presented "For outstanding services to the field of orientation and mobility for the blind." In addition, Mr. Malamazian was entrusted with preservation of the gold-headed cane of Sir Francis Campbell, a blind Englishman who made important contributions to rehabilitation of the blind late in the last century. Some notes about Sir Francis' ideas were published in AAWB's *Blindness* 1971 by Warren Bledsoe, formerly active in blind rehabilitation in the Veterans Administration and later in the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Mr. Bledsoe acquired the cane and presented it to AAWB to be kept by each successive winner of the Blaha Award until the next convention, then to be passed on to the subsequent awardee.

The Blaha Award commemorates a pioneer in organized orientation and mobility for the blind. The first award was made to Mr. Blaha posthumously and was accepted by his widow. Subsequent winners have been Dr. Richard Hoover, Johns Hopkins University, developer of the long cane technique; George W. Debetaz, for many years at Seeing Eye Incorporated; Donald Blasch and Stanley Suterko, both professors in the O&M program at Western Michigan University, and Russell Williams, former Chief, Blind Rehabilitation, VA Central Office. Interestingly, all except Mr. Debetaz have been closely associated with the Hines program for substantial periods.

JOHN F. LONTZ, Ph.D. RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE

John F. Lontz, Ph.D., of VAMC, Wilmington, Delaware, received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Holy Family College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 13, 1979.

Dr. Lontz's outstanding work in maxillofacial restorative materials

and techniques is well known to the readers of the Bulletin of Prosthetics Research.

VA's 1st TEAGUE AWARD PRESENTED

The VA's first Olin E. Teague Award was presented recently to Dr. Myron G. Eisenberg, a VA psychologist and a pioneer in the field of sex education and counseling programs for spinal-cord-injury patients.

Former Congressman Olin E. (Tiger) Teague, for whom the award is named, made the presentation with VA Administrator Max Cleland. The award was created last year by Mr. Cleland as the VA's highest award for the rehabilitation of war-disabled veterans.

JAMES J. KAUZLARICH, Ph.D., ELECTED FELLOW OF ASME

Dr. Kauzlarich, professor of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., has been honored with election to the grade of Fellow of the ASME.

From 1963-1975, as professor and chairman of the Mechanical Engineering Department, Dr. Kauzlarich developed an extensive research program. In 1970 he was appointed a visiting researcher at Cambridge University in England. He was granted a patent for work completed there.

Since 1975 he has researched the use of the gas centrifuge in isotope separation for the Department of Energy, and designed rehabilitative devices under a DHEW contract.

Dr. Kauzlarich conducts interdisciplinary academic research and engineering work, ranging from the biomedical field to tribology. He is considered an expert on elastohydrodynamics.

RICHARD KINNEY, Ph.D. 1924-1979

Richard Kinney, President of The Hadley School for the Blind, Winnetka, Ill., and pioneer in service to blind individuals, died February 19, 1979 of a heart attack. He was an internationally recognized educator, lecturer, and author of texts, short stories, and poetry.

Dr. Kinney was associated with The Hadley School, established in 1920, for twenty-five years. He taught literature, salesmanship, and verse writing before becoming president in 1975.

Only the third deaf-blind person to graduate from an American university, he received a bachelor's degree summa cum laude from Mt.

Union College in Alliance, Ohio, and honorary doctorates from Mt. Union and from Loyola College in Chicago.

Dr. Kinney was honored many times during his 55 years, receiving among other awards the Helen Keller gold medal for literary excellence, the Man of the Year Award from the National Home Study Council, and, in 1978, the Francis Joseph Campbell Award from the American Library Association.

The Hadley School for the Blind was used for many years by the VA to evaluate and develop training methods for reading machines for the blind.

**HENRY O. KENDALL 1919-1979
DIES AT PERRY POINT, MD., VAMC**

Henry and Florence Kendall, both physical therapists, are well known for their book "Muscles—Testing and Functions," published in 1949 and currently being revised for its third English edition and being published in its fourth and fifth foreign language editions.

Mr. Kendall was blinded by shrapnel in World War II and received a Silver Star. He was trained as a physical therapist at the Evergreen School, Baltimore, Md. which the Red Cross operated to train blinded veterans. He joined the staff of the Children's Hospital School in Baltimore, and it was there that he developed his well-known theories in polio rehabilitation, muscle control, body mechanics, and correct posture. The physical therapy department at the Children's Hospital is now named for him.

Mr. Kendall was a charter member of the Blind Veterans National Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans.

FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 1980-81 MINIGRANT AWARDS

The Foundation for Exceptional Children is accepting applications for its Minigrant Award Program for 1980-81. A minimum of 3 awards will be made for short term projects (up to 9 months) which will start between June 1 and Sept. 30, 1980.

A maximum of \$500 each will be given for persons engaged in direct service to handicapped youth to foster implementation of creative vocational education and other education-related programs for handicapped youth.

For applications send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Foundation for Exceptional Children, 1920 Association Drive, Reston, Va. 22091. Apply before March 1, 1980.

**SECOND ANNUAL INTERAGENCY CONFERENCE
ON REHABILITATION ENGINEERING**

The 2nd Annual Interagency Conference on Rehabilitation Engineering was held at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, August 26–31, 1979. The conference, co-sponsored by the Veterans Administration and the National Institute of Handicapped Research of DHEW, had “Living Independently” as its theme. A large number of federal agencies, their grantees or contractors, and private organizations participated. A total of 800 individuals registered, including many professionals from foreign nations. Participants included government officials, research workers in a wide variety of fields, clinicians, and disabled persons. The schedule involved plenary sessions, instructional courses, technical workshops, sessions reporting on research and development, and exhibits displaying the results of government-stimulated development from more than 65 laboratories, agencies, or private manufacturers.

On Monday morning, the opening ceremony in the exhibit hall included addresses by Max Cleland, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, and William Spencer, M.D., Acting Director, National Institute of Handicapped Research. In the afternoon, a keynote address was delivered by Deborah Kaplan of the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia and American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD).

Throughout the week the plenary sessions covered a variety of topics related to the conference theme. These included Home and Public Buildings, Educational and Vocational Systems, Mobility Needs of the Disabled, and Public Transportation.

The instructional courses were scheduled for the mornings of Tuesday through Friday to avoid conflict with the exhibit hours. The 11 courses were in such areas as aids to independent living, management of the more severely disabled upper-limb amputee, reading systems for the blind, communication systems, gait analysis techniques, wheelchair prescription and maintenance, mobility systems for the blind, functional and therapeutic electrical stimulation, recreation aids for amputees, and assistive driving aids for the disabled. Also included in this year's program was a Student Design Competition involving presentation of papers or exhibit displays. Winners were selected by a review committee, and awards were presented at a banquet held on Thursday evening.

Tape recordings were made of all sessions. Tape cassettes of either the whole series or individual sessions may be purchased through Video Supply Company, P.O. Box 13684, Atlanta, Georgia 30324.

REHABILITATION SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

During the Interagency Conference in Atlanta, a small group of persons who have been managing rehabilitation engineering programs for several years offered a plan for the establishment of the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America. A draft constitution and by-laws had been written; prior to the conference it had been decided by these organizers that August 1979 was the time to initiate the Society.

On the evening of Wednesday, August 29th, nearly 200 people attended a meeting in Atlanta to found the Society. An appeal was addressed to all attendees about the need for a membership that included both the professionals from many disciplines and those disabled who are being served—the mandate that at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the board of directors of the new society must be constituted of disabled persons was recognized as clearly unique.

There was some discussion about the need for another “engineering” society. After discussion it became clear that rehabilitation engineering included elements of engineering, medicine, and other fields. Nearly all the participants saw the need for the establishment of an interdisciplinary society dedicated solely to rehabilitation engineering. (In contrast, rehabilitation engineering is merely a peripheral concern and occupies only small portions of the activities of societies already involved in biomedical engineering or the various medical, paramedical, and engineering specialties.)

The objectives of the new society, as outlined, are the oversight of the annual rehabilitation engineering conference, the development of media for the dissemination of information, and the providing of advice to Government and others on rehabilitation engineering technology.

James Reswick, Sc. D., Director, Rehabilitation Engineering Center, Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, Downey, California, was elected the first (and founding) president, and Jan Little of Medical Equipment distributors, Inc., 1701 S. First Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60153, was elected the founding secretary-treasurer. Currently the Society is using Ms. Little's address. For information about the Society, write:

Jan Little, Secretary-Treasurer
Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America
1701 S. First Ave.
Maywood, Illinois 60153
Tel. (312) 681-2828