

Notes and News

The Bulletin of Prosthetics Research welcomes contributions to this department. Receipt of clippings, meeting programs listing speakers and titles, or other material that calls our attention to a newsworthy event, will be appreciated.

MARIAN WEISS, M.D. 1921–1981

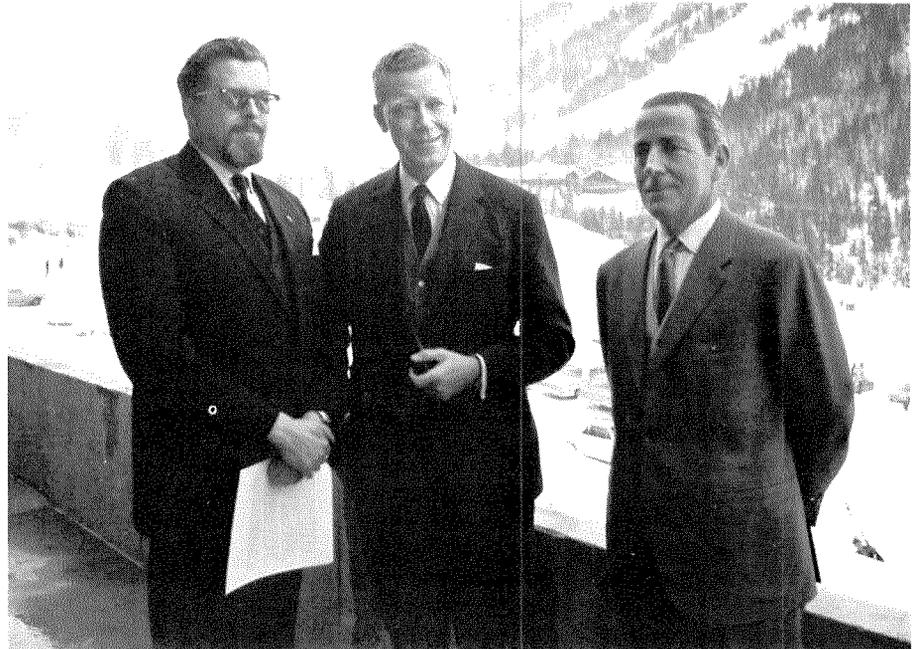
Among one's friends, there are those few individuals who have a certain sense of eternity about them. They radiate a joy of life, a contagious enthusiasm for their work, seemingly boundless energy, a spiritual uplift, inspiration to others. Marian Weiss, M.D., was this sort of person. Because he exhibited a sense of timelessness, it was with unusual sorrow and heartache that we received a telegram from Warsaw on July 20, 1981, notifying us of his unexpected death three days earlier in his beloved city.

Although Dr. Weiss traveled extensively throughout the world organizing, teaching, encouraging and challenging those of us in the field of orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation, he was best understood and appreciated in his own setting at the great Metropolitan Rehabilitation Center, Konstancin, Poland, in the outskirts of Warsaw. Over the years following World War II he built and developed Konstancin to accommodate 760 patients, many of whom are children. Sitting with him in his spacious office, where by telecommunications he could monitor at any time the activities throughout the entire institution, one could not help but be caught up in the love and enthusiasm with which he worked. He spoke with pride of his and his staff's accomplishments, nonetheless, there was always a sense of impatience, a chafing at bureaucracy, a certain humility engendered by the recognition of so much yet to be done. Marian Weiss was a visionary and a planner, but also a

realist who tempered his dreams and his plans by humanitarian pragmatism.

He enjoyed taking visitors on rounds and about the grounds of the institute accompanied by members of his staff. He particularly delighted in spending time with the patients in the gymnasium and with those participating in outdoor recreational activities when the weather permitted. His interest in physical conditioning by therapeutic and recreational exercise was in evidence everywhere. Children with cerebral palsy and scoliosis could be seen riding and training horses. Ambulatory in-patients also carried out well-disciplined routines in setting-up exercises, and by assisting in some of the housekeeping tasks on an organized basis. If the hospital stay involved any length of time, well-planned education was pursued. His patients respected and idolized him; they were comfortable in his presence since he had the happy quality of making each patient feel himself or herself the center of concern. I shall never forget making rounds one day when one of the patients, upon learning that I came from the United States, asked Dr. Weiss to translate to me a personal message to his brother who lives in Chicago. He said "You'll have no trouble finding him, Doctor, for he has the butcher shop there."

Marian Weiss revealed little of his early background and professional life, other than to state that after internment during World War II he returned to Warsaw to face the almost unbelievable physical and human devastation which that bitter struggle had visited on his homeland. He was



Dr. Marian Weiss of Warsaw, Poland, is at left in this photo taken during an "international summit meeting" on lower-extremity prosthetics at Crystal Mountain, Washington, February 6–9, 1966. With him are other active conference participants Knud Jansen (center) of Copenhagen, Denmark, and Pedro Prim of Madrid, Spain.

particularly challenged by the thousands of amputees wandering through Warsaw's rubble without even the most primitive replacement devices. Not only did they have no substitute limbs, but draining infected stumps and severe joint contractures were the rule rather than the exception. As he set about providing for their basic care and rehabilitation, the experience progressively encouraged his innovative mind. Physiological amputation, immediate prosthetic fitting, neurophysical restoration, were his concepts. All were not original—like most of us he built to some degree on the work of others—but his bold imagination, capacity to work, and ability to organize produced striking results.

At a Copenhagen conference in 1963 he startled those attending with a presentation of his amputee work. Many in the international community literally disbelieved his results or wondered if they misunderstood his words. Time has substantiated his veracity—and practice has improved his ability in English. His work has ignited and catalyzed worldwide progress in the field of amputation surgery and prosthetic rehabilitation. That progress continues to this time.

Dr. Weiss' other special professional interests were concentrated on spinal cord injuries, congenital and acquired spinal deformity, and research into electrophysiology. "Weiss springs" for the correction and stabilization of spinal deformity are used throughout the world. In the last 10 years, the surgery and rehabilitation was extended to involve cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and remaining cases with residual effects of poliomyelitis, all from a wide area of referral. The in-patient scoliosis unit at Konstancin as developed by Dr. Weiss and his staff is particularly impressive. All of the distraction equipment for operative treatment is made in Poland, modified from the Harrington techniques. There are very few institutions in which the treatment of deformity is approached in a more holistic way than at Konstancin. One aspect of this approach is contained in a letter from Dr. Weiss, in January of 1980: "I was happy enough to carry within my own institution a comprehensive center for children where I have treatment, social evaluation, professional school, and normal school. Studies on special education program, as well as on professional one are carried on. Our school of special profession education for children is mainly occupied by teenagers in wheelchairs (meningomyelocele, polio, muscular dystrophy, etc.)."

Dr. Weiss' professional work took him to many parts of the world. His influence was appreciated equally in the medically underdeveloped areas as in the most advanced centers of medical knowledge. He was fluent in six languages. When asked how he became such a linguist he said he was too busy to study languages formally but would place language tapes under his pillow at night, turn them on and "learn languages while I was sleeping." An incurable romanticist, he enjoyed music, art, and poetry.

Many of us, his international friends and colleagues, last saw him in Bologna, Italy, in the fall of 1980 at the International Symposium organized by ISPO and INTERBOR. He seemed radiantly happy and in apparent good health, despite serious injuries sustained in an automobile accident in 1977. He had in that same year undergone surgery to his mandible for treatment for a cyst and subsequent

pathological fracture. He was married in that same year and was particularly demonstrative at Bologna about his young son, Bartek, whose picture he showed to all around him and whom he obviously idolized.

A Chinese philosopher once said that the parting from a special friend is like a cup half-filled; the loss reflects the unfilled portion, the memories and the joy of association represent that part filled. A totally positive man, Dr. Marian Weiss dreamed, then accomplished. He looked up and reached for the stars—more often than not he grasped them.

Ernest M. Burgess

VA NAMES THOMAS SHIPP, PH. D. AS ONE OF NEW RESEARCH CAREER SCIENTISTS

Among 13 new Research Career Scientists named by the VA in recognition of their achievements as non-clinician doctors engaged in basic research was Thomas Shipp, Ph. D.

Dr. Shipp works in basic and applied research in physiologic and acoustic phonetics. He uses sophisticated computerized instrumentation to describe the process of producing speech sounds. Among applications for this information is help for individuals learning to talk after having had laryngectomies. Dr. Shipp is a member of the Editorial Board of the Bulletin of Prosthetics Research.

DENNIS WYANT RECEIVES AMVETS AWARD

Those honored by the American Veterans of World War II and Korea (AMVETS) in 1981 included Dennis Wyant, former Deputy Secretary of Labor, who received the Rehabilitation Award. Prior to his appointment to the Department of Labor Mr. Wyant was Special Assistant to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs. He is currently Program Analyst, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, VA Central Office. Mr. Wyant is a blinded veteran of the Vietnam Era.

A MANUAL FOR BELOW-KNEE AMPUTEES

A concise illustrated manual, intended to assist individual below-knee (or Syme) amputees, has been prepared and privately published by Alvin L. Muilenburg, a prosthetist, and A. Bennett Wilson, Jr., an engineer. Both authors have had extensive experience in prosthetics research.

According to the foreword, the objective is to make information readily accessible to "below-knee" amputees, including persons who have had Syme's amputation. The amputation, immediate post-operative period, bandaging, types of preparatory and definitive prostheses, fabrication, training, care of the stump, and maintenance of the prostheses are among the topics presented.

The booklet is available from the authors, P.O. Box 8313, Houston, Texas 77044, at \$1.00 per copy, with discounts for quantities of 100 or more.

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR BIOELECTRICAL REPAIR AND GROWTH SOCIETY

As a result of the growing interest in the electrical mediation of osteogenesis, chondrogenesis, peripheral nerve repair, regeneration, and other soft tissue effects at the cellular level as well as the clinical level, a new international society, the Bioelectrical Repair and Growth Society, has recently been formed. It provides a forum for clinicians, biological scientists, physical scientists, and engineers who have an interest in the field, through annual meetings and publications. The society has an international membership and broad statutory representation of the disciplines involved.

Its first annual, international scientific meeting was held November 9–11, 1981, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The second annual meeting will be held September 20–22, 1982, in Oxford, England. The third meeting will be held in the United States, and the fourth in Japan.

For further information regarding membership and annual meetings, or for obtaining copies of the transactions of the first annual meeting, (or of abstracts for the 1982 program) contact:

Nancy A. Thiede, Executive Secretary
Bioelectrical Repair and Growth Society
425 Medical Education Building
36th and Hamilton Walk
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

VA PERSONNEL HONORED

Inder Perakash, M.D., Chief of the Spinal Cord Injury Service, VA Medical Center, Palo Alto, California, was named to the Chair of Spinal Cord Injury Medicine at Stanford University, Stanford, Palo Alto, California, a post established by the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

The Blinded Veterans Association awarded Certificates of Appreciation to the following VA personnel:

Herbert Rainwater, Director, VA Regional Office, San Diego, California;

Fausto Padilla, Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinator, VA Outpatient Clinic, El Paso, Texas;

James Cochran, VIST Coordinator, VA Medical and Regional Office Center, Wichita, Kansas;

Edward Lay, VIST Coordinator, VA Medical Center, Indianapolis, Indiana; and

Walter Needham, Ph. D., Clinical Psychologist, VA Medical Center, West Haven, Connecticut.

The College Federal Council of Southern California presented a plaque to Jim Sheridan (Chief, Corrective Therapy) and Herbert Kent, M.D. (Chief, Rehabilitation Medicine Service) VA Medical Center, Long Beach, California, for furthering cooperation between the Center and California State University, Long Beach, in developing a course for teaching driver training instructors from VA Centers nationwide.

PRESSURE SORE PAMPHLET AVAILABLE

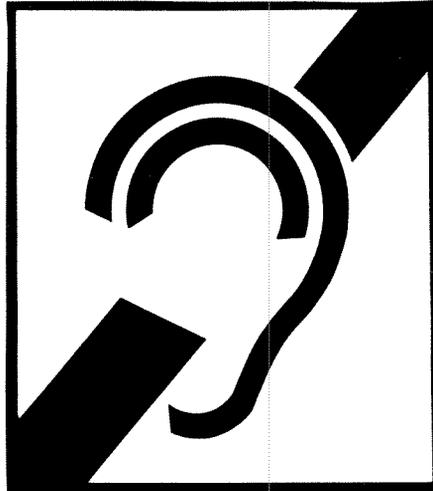
Intended for people affected by partial or total loss of sensation or movement, and their families, an 11-page illustrated pamphlet titled "How to Prevent or Treat a Pressure Sore" is available from:

Rehabilitation Engineering Center
Children's Hospital at Stanford
530 Willow Road, Palo Alto, California 94304

Single copies are free of charge. A cost sheet on prices for large orders is available. Tel. 415-327-4800.

INTERNATIONAL DEAFNESS SYMBOL ADOPTED

The World Federation of the Deaf officially endorsed a graphic design to symbolize deafness at its meeting in Paris, France, in 1980. The symbol in its official form is printed in blue and white. It was conceived by the American Task Force, International Symbol for Deafness, and revised by Jack Weiss Associates of New York.



Some examples of how the symbol may be used are: as a card used in wallet next to driver's license . . . as a symbol shown prior to a telecast captioned or interpreted for the deaf . . . or in TV and movie listings to indicate that a program is captioned or interpreted for the hearing-impaired . . . as a symbol showing a centralized emergency TTY number in telephone directories . . . or on poster cards in airports and libraries designating TTY accessibility. The symbol can be used on road signs near deaf schools or where deaf children play . . . plastic symbol cards to be given to the hotel management so that in the event of fire or other emergency, the deaf person could then be specially notified by the hotel management. A small symbol lapel pin, the size of the NAD lapel pin emblem, was expected to be available.

1981 MIGEL MEDAL WINNERS

Eleanor E. Faye, M.D., George O. Hellinger, O.D., and Martha B. Clifford were the 1981 winners of the American Foundation for the Blind Migel Medal. The awards were made at ceremonies held in New York City on October 22. The date also marked the Foundation's 60th anniversary.

IMMIGRATION SERVICE OFFICIAL HONORED FOR WORK WITH DISABLED

James R. Duell of the Immigration and Naturalization Service received last year the John E. Fogarty Public Personnel Award from the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Mr. Duell's efforts resulted in the hiring of more than three times the projected number of disabled people listed under the Immigration central office's selective placement program goals.

Mr. Duell, 34, is a graduate of Mississippi State University.

AAWB AWARDS TO BLASCH, WELSH, AND BLASCH

The American Association of Workers for the Blind included, among its 1981 awards for distinguished service, the Shotwell Award to Donald Blasch, and the Bledsoe Award to the book, *Foundations of Orientation and Mobility*, which was edited by Richard Welsh and Bruce Blasch.

The book, copyright 1980 by the American Foundation for the Blind, packs into fewer than 700 pages what has been described as the first comprehensive textbook for students of this broad and complex field.

Dr. Welsh is Superintendent, Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore, and Dr. Bruce Blasch (nephew of Don Blasch) heads a program to train Mobility Specialists (for all handicaps) at the University of Wisconsin, at Madison. Don Blasch is Professor and Director of the Rehabilitation Program in the Center for Orientation and Mobility of the Blind at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

DREXEL QUARTERLY Vol. 16, No. 2 DISCUSSES INFORMATION FOR DISABLED

The April 1980 issue of *Drexel Library Quarterly* (Vol. 16, No. 2) focuses on information centers and the information needs of the disabled.

Titled "Information Services to Disabled Individuals," the issue contains a number of articles by distinguished professionals in the fields of information science and of rehabilitation. The articles address the problems and concerns of improving and furthering the services of information centers on behalf of the disabled—an estimated 30 million adults plus eight million children, in the total population of the United States. International information agencies based in the United States are also discussed, as well as information services to the disabled in several foreign countries.

Guest editors are Judith J. Senkevitch (former director) and Joan R. Appel (information specialist) of the National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC). Copies of the issue may be ordered from *Drexel Library Quarterly*, School of Library and Information Science, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104. The price is \$6.00 per copy, postage included.

Copies may also be ordered from NARIC, 4407 Eighth Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017, also at \$6 per copy.

Calendar of Events

OFC '82 (Optical Fiber Communication) Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona, April 13–15, 1982. (For information: Optical Society of America, 1816 Jefferson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.)

CLEO '82 (Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics), Phoenix, Arizona, April 14–16, 1982. (For information: Optical Society of America, 1816 Jefferson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.)

IRMA—4th World Congress of the International Rehabilitation Medicine Association on theme: "New Findings that Influence Disease and Rehabilitation," San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 18–24, 1982. (For information: Dr. Herman J. Flax, IRMA IV, P.O. Box 11696, Caparra Heights Station, Puerto Rico 00922.)

BMES—Biomedical Engineering Society, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 21–23, 1982. (For information: Dr. Yoram Rudy, Dept. of Biomedical Engng., Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.)

Society for Biomaterials, 8th Annual Meeting and 14th International Biomaterials Symposium, Orlando, Florida, April 24–27, 1982. (For information: Dr. Myron Spector, Biological and Physical Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, S.C. 29425.)

International Conference on Disability and Communications, Washington, D.C., April 25–30, 1982. (For information: The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Suite 600, 1111 20th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.)

ASA—Acoustical Society of America, 103rd Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, April 27–30, 1982. (For information: Howard Schechter, IIT Research Institute, 10 West 35th St., Chicago, Illinois 60616.)

International Conference on "Communications and Disability: A Global Perspective," April 27–30, 1982. (For information: President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Washington, D.C. 20210.)

IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing, Palais des Congres, Paris, France, May 3–5, 1982. (For information: C. Gueguen, Chairman, E.N.S.T., 46 Rue Barrault, F 75013, Paris, France.)

2nd European Meeting of Cardio-Respiratory Kinesitherapy, Charleroi, Belgium, May 6–8, 1982. (For information: Secretariat des Deuxiemes Journees Europeennes de Kinesitherapie Cardio-Respiratoire, Centre Sportif, social et culturel pour Handicapes rue de l'Ancre, la, B - 6000 Charleroi, Belgium.)

International Federation for Automatic Control, Symposium on Control Aspects of Prosthetics and Orthotics. Held jointly with **7th Midwest Biomedical Engineering Conference** (with participation of IEEE Control Engineering Society and IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society) Columbus, Ohio, May 7–9, 1982. (For information: Prof. Herman Weed, Biomedical Engineering Center, Ohio State University, 2015 Ned Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210.)

Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers, 35th Annual Conference, Rochester, N.Y., May 9–14, 1982. (For information: SPSE, 7003 Kilworth Lane, Springfield, VA 22151.)

Below-Knee and Through-Knee Amputations and Prosthetics, Advanced Course, Copenhagen, Denmark, May 10–13, 1982. (For information: International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISOP), Borgervaenget 5, DK 2100 Copenhagen O, Denmark.)

OSA—Spring Conference on Applied Optics, Rochester, N.Y., May 17–21, 1982. (For information: Optical Society of America, 1816 Jefferson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.)

World Confederation for Physical Therapy, 9th International Congress, Stockholm, Sweden, May 23–28, 1982. (For information: LSR Apelbergsgatan 50, Stockholm 111 37, Sweden, or WCPT, 16/19 Eastcastle St., London W1, United Kingdom.)

International Congress of Audiology, Helsinki, Finland, end of May or early June, 1982. (For information: Dept. of Audiology, Helsinki University, Central Hospital, Helsinki, Finland.)

26th Annual National Rehabilitation Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, June 1982. (For information: Mr. Jack Tomich, Chmn-9581 Scotstoun Dr., Huntington Beach, California 92646.)

ASME—American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Summer Annual Meeting, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Dearborn, Michigan, June 6–10, 1982. (For information: ASME, 345 East 47th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.)

First Southern Biomedical Engineering Conference, Louisiana State University Medical Center, Shreveport, Louisiana, June 7–8, 1982. (For information: Dr. S. Saha, Conf. Chairman, First Southern Biomedical Engineering Conf., Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery, Louisiana State University Medical Center, P.O. Box 33932, Shreveport, Louisiana 71130. Tel. 318-674-6187.)

Canadian Physiotherapy Association Annual Congress, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, June 9–12, 1982. (For information: Ms. N. Christie, CPA, 25 Imperial St., Toronto, Ont., Canada M5P 1B9.)

8th International Congress of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany, June 13–18, 1982. (For information: World Federation of Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Dept., Tauranga Hospital, Tauranga, New Zealand.)

APTA—58th Annual Conference of the American Physical Therapy Association, Anaheim, Calif., June 19–24, 1982. (For information: APTA, 1156 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.)

American Society for Engineering Education, Mechanical Engineering Division Annual Conference, Texas A&M Univ., College Station, Texas, June 20–24, 1982. (For information: Dr. George T. Craig, TIME '82, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, San Diego State University, San Diego, Calif. 92182.)

AGBAD—International Convention of Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, Toronto, Canada, June 22–27, 1982. (For information: Sue Romano, AGBAD, 3417 Volta Pl., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.)

BEMS—Bioelectromagnetics Society, 4th Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California, June 28–July 2, 1982. (For information: BEMS, 1 Bank Street, Suite 307, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878.)

Mechanics in Medicine and Biology, 3rd International Conference, Compiègne, France, July 10–13, 1982. (For information: Prof. M. Jaffrin, Université de Compiègne, Génie Biologique, BP 233, 60206 Compiègne Cedex, France.)

International Conference on Biomedical Polymers, Durham, United Kingdom, July 12–14, 1982. (For information: Mr. Keith Copeland, Biological Engineering Society c/o Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN, UK.)

Acoustical Imaging '82, London, UK, July 19–22, 1982. (For information: Acoustical Imaging '82, IEE, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL, UK.)

Electronic Image Processing, International Conference, York, UK, July 26–28, 1982. (For information: Conference Dept., IEE, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL, UK.)

9th Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Conference and Exhibition, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B., August 15–18, 1982. (For information: Conference Secretariat, Bio-Engineering Institute, University of New Brunswick, P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5A3, Canada. Tel. 506-453-4966.)

RESNA—Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America, 5th Annual Conference on Rehabilitation Engineering, Houston, Texas, August 22–26, 1982. (For information: P. J. Horner, 4405 East-West Highway, Suite 210, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.)

International Ergonomics Association, 8th Congress, Tokyo, Japan, August 23–27, 1982. (For information: Dr. Masamitsu Oshima, The Medical Information System Development Center, Akasaka Park Bldg. 3-4 Akasaka, 2 Chome, Minato-Kw, Tokyo, Japan.)

13th International Conference on Medical and Biological Engineering and the 6th International Conference on Medical Physics, Hamburg, W. Germany, Sept. 5–11, 1982. (For information: Hamburg Messe und Congress GmbH, Postfach 30 23 60, D-2000 Hamburg 36, Federal Republic of Germany.)

IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, 4th Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sept. 20–21, 1982. (For information: Dr. Alfred R. Potvin, IEEE/EMBS Conference, P.O. Box 19138, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas 76019.)

Bioelectrical Repair and Growth Society, 2nd Annual Meeting, Oxford, England, Sept. 20–22, 1982. (For information: N. Thiede, Executive Sec., Bioelectrical Repair and Growth Society, 425 Medical Education Bldg., 36th and Hamilton Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104.)

Engineering in Medicine and Biology, 35th Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sept. 22–24, 1982. (For information: Alliance for Engng. in Medicine and Biology, 4405 East-West Highway, Suite 311, Washington, D.C. 20014.)

AOPA—American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association, National Assembly, Houston, Texas, Oct. 17–24, 1982. (For information: AOPA, 717 Pendleton St., Alexandria, VA 22314.)

ASME—American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Winter Annual Meeting, Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Hotel Adams, Phoenix, Arizona, November 14–19, 1982. (For information: ASME, 345 East 47th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.)

1983

International Confederation for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, 8th International Conference, Montreal, Canada, June 26–July 1, 1983. (For information: Dr. Jean Paul Bosse, 3875 St. Urbain, Suite 602, Montreal H2W 1V1, Canada.)

AAAS—American Association for the Advancement of Science, Detroit, Michigan, Jan. 3–8, 1983. (For information: AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.)

3rd Mediterranean Conference on Medicine and Biological Engineering, Opatija, Yugoslavia, Sept. 1983. (For information: Dr. Stanko Tonkovic, Elektrotehnicki Fakultet Sveucilista U Zagrebu, 41000 Zagreb, Unska ul. 17, Yugoslavia.)