

## Association Awards Presented at Annual Meeting in Chicago

**A**AS prizes for scientific research, fostering scientific freedom and responsibility, science journalism, and service to scientific community were distributed at the 1987 Annual Meeting of the Association in Chicago last month. The Philip Hauge Abelson Prize, the Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award, and the Behavioral Science Research Prize were presented immediately preceding the president's Public Lecture, Tuesday, 17 February. The AAAS-Westinghouse Science Journalism Awards were given during the National Association of Science Writers' annual banquet at the Meeting, Monday, 16 February.

**AAAS-Philip Hauge Abelson Prize:** James A. Shannon, former director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), received the second annual AAAS-Philip Hauge Abelson Prize for his "distinguished career of scientific achievement and notable service to the scientific community."

As the director of NIH from 1955 to 1968, Shannon helped build that organization into one of the strongest medical research organizations in the world. In that capacity, he was a major force in the development of national policy and the mobilization of national resources for the support of biomedical research and research training. In addition, Shannon has made significant and enduring contributions

to renal physiology, pharmacology, and malariaology.

Before assuming the position of director of NIH, Shannon was affiliated with the New York University Research Service of Goldwater Memorial Hospital, E. R. Squibb & Son, and the National Heart Institute (now the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute).

After retiring from NIH in 1968, Shannon served as scholar in residence at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) until 1970; professor of biomedical sciences, now professor emeritus, at Rockefeller University; and, from 1976 to 1980, scholar in residence at the National Library of Medicine.

He received his B.A. degree from the College of the Holy Cross and his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the New York University College of Medicine.

Shannon is the recipient of 29 honorary degrees and has received some 20 awards or medals, including a Presidential Medal of Merit; Public Health Medal of the NAS; Rockefeller Public Service Award; Public Health Service Distinguished Service Medal; Presidential Distinguished Federal Civilian Service Award; Trustees Award, National Kidney Foundation; the Gold Heart Award, American Heart Association; the National Achievement Award of Blue Cross and Blue Shield; and the Trustees Medal of Massachusetts General Hospital. In

1983, the central administration building at NIH was named in his honor.

The AAAS-Philip Hauge Abelson Prize was established in 1985 to honor a public servant in recognition of sustained exceptional contributions to advancing science, or a scientist whose career has been distinguished both for scientific achievement and for other notable services to the scientific community. The Prize includes a citation and \$2500 award.

**AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award:** Francisco J. Ayala, Norman D. Newell, and Stanley L. Weinberg each received the 1987 Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award.

The three are being honored for the important role each has played in the promotion of the scientific theory of evolution. "Francisco Ayala, a geneticist, and Norman Newell, a paleontologist, have been articulate spokespersons among academic scientists on behalf of evolutionary theory," noted the Award judging panel. "Through their research, writing, and service on important committees, they have warned the scientific community and the general public of the very real threat by creationists to academic freedom and science education. At the local level, the persistent and effective effort of Stanley Weinberg and the network of Committees of Correspondence that he organized have been instrumental in countering the attempts by creationists to influence textbook decisions and school board policies on the teaching of evolution."

Ayala was honored "for speaking out forcefully on the scientific basis for the theory of evolution, while seeking a foundation of scientific knowledge and logic that demonstrates a common ground for evolutionary theory and ethical values."

Ayala, a professor of genetics at the University of California, Davis, has been among those biologists who have documented evolution at the level of the gene. As a distinguished ge-

neticist, he has used his participation on the NAS Committee on Science and Creationism and his role as past president of the Society for the Study of Evolution to promote rational deliberation on and public understanding of evolutionary theory.

His efforts have been important in countering the challenge of the creationists who seek to discredit evolution and impugn the integrity of science. By demonstrating that the theory of evolution and the teaching of values are reconcilable, he has been especially articulate in responding to the charges made by creationists that proponents of evolution seek to undermine religious values.

Born in Spain, Ayala has resided in the United States since 1961, becoming a citizen in 1971. He is the author of several books and more than 300 articles on population, evolution, and genetics.

Newell was given the Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award "for his early and persistent campaign to alert scientists to the importance of public understanding of the theory of evolution and to the threats creationism poses to academic freedom and scientific education."

Newell challenged opponents of evolutionary theory long before such a cause was deemed important by most students of evolution. During the 1960s and 1970s, he was often a lone voice, concerned both by the inroads being made by creationists into school boards and textbook contents as well as by the seeming failure of fellow scientists to recognize and take action against the dangers of creationism.

His contributions, through writings for both scientists and the lay public and his work on the NAS Committee on Science and Creationism, in rebutting attacks against the teaching of evolutionary concepts and theory, have played a key role in exposing the antiscience intent of creationism.

Newell has made pioneering studies on the distribution, evo-

lution, and mode of life of many groups of organisms through time. He received his doctorate in geology from Yale University in 1933 and has served as past president of the Society for the Study of Evolution, the Paleontological Society, and the Society of Systematic Zoology. He is curator emeritus, Department of Invertebrates, at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, where he is active in its worldwide lecture program on natural history for lay people.

Weinberg received the Award "for his leadership in mobilizing local opposition among scientists and teachers to challenges the creationist movement poses to the integrity of science and the teaching of evolution."

By the late 1970s, the proponents of creationism had mounted a campaign at the local level to counter the teaching of evolution in public schools. A model bill requiring that "scientific creationism" be given equal attention in the classroom with evolutionary theory was introduced in legislatures across the country. Weinberg, a retired high school biology teacher and author of a popular biology textbook, understood the need for a grass-roots network of knowledgeable people able to respond rapidly in each state or locality to such initiatives. He organized and served as national coordinator of the Committees of Correspondence, which 6 years later remain true to their original concept: local, autonomous groups able to respond quickly

to threats from creationists to the integrity of science and science education.

The state-based Committees of Correspondence have played an important role in textbook adoption decisions in New York City, California, and Texas and have been influential in countering efforts to introduce creationist bills in several states. They have also made contributions to the litigation of creation/evolution disputes in the courts.

As a result of these early efforts, a national coordinating body of the 30 plus Committees of Correspondence—the National Center for Science Education—was established in 1982, with Weinberg serving as its first president and as a member of its board of directors.

The AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award was established in 1981 to honor scientists and engineers whose actions have exemplified principles of scientific freedom and responsibility. Honorees receive a \$1000 award and a plaque of recognition.

**AAAS Prize for Behavioral Science Research:** Robert Altemeyer won the AAAS Prize for Behavioral Science Research for his paper which advances a theory describing why persons who are highly submissive to established authority and highly conventional also tend to be authoritarian aggressive.

Altemeyer, of the University of Manitoba, Canada, defines authoritarian aggression as a general combativeness, directed

against specific people, which is perceived to be sanctioned by the established order. In his paper, "Authoritarian Aggression," Altemeyer identifies self-righteousness and a fear of a dangerous world as two reasons for right-wing authoritarian aggression. After examining some two dozen studies, involving over 7500 different subjects, Altemeyer concludes that the most important thing we can do to stem authoritarians' aggression is to reduce their sanctimoniousness and help them to see that the world is not really as perilous a place as they believe it to be.

Altemeyer received his B.S. degree in psychology from Yale University in 1962 and his Ph.D. from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1966. He has been an associate professor of psychology at the University of Manitoba since 1971. He previously taught at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. He is the author of *Right-Wing Authoritarianism and Understanding Right-Wing Authoritarianism*.

The \$1000 AAAS Prize for Behavioral Science Research, formerly the AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize, is awarded annually for a meritorious essay that furthers the understanding of psychological-social-cultural behavior of human beings. It is intended to encourage social inquiry in the development and application of the kind of methodology that has proved so fruitful in the natural sciences.

*AAAS-Westinghouse Science*

**Journalism Awards:** Winners of the 1986 AAAS-Westinghouse Science Journalism Awards included representatives from newspapers, magazines, radio, and television. Seven awards of \$1000 each were given in recognition of outstanding reporting on the natural sciences and their engineering and technological applications, excluding medicine.

The 1986 winners and their entries were:

■ For science reporting in newspapers with over 100,000 daily circulation (two winners)—Philip M. Boffey, David E. Sanger, and William J. Broad, for three articles, "NASA had warning of a disaster risk posed by booster," "Rocket engineer describes arguing against launching," and "NASA had solution to key flaw in rocket when shuttle exploded," published 9 February, 19 February, and 22 September 1986 in *The New York Times*.

Keay Davidson for three articles, "How did all life begin?," "Mapping the worlds beyond our own," and "Sailing 25 trillion miles to the stars," published 6 August, 21 August, and 16 October 1986 in the *San Francisco Examiner*.

■ For science writing in newspapers with under 100,000 circulation—Freda Yarbrough for "Uranus: Strange beast of a planet," published 9 March 1986 in the *Baton Rouge Louisiana Morning Advocate*.

■ For science writing in general circulation magazines—Ar-

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thur Fisher for an article, "New ferment in the mirror world of antimatter/antigravity," published July 1986, in *Popular Science*.

■ For science reporting on radio—Daniel Zwerdling and Howard Berkes for their two-part report, "The decision to launch challenger," which aired on National Public Radio 20 February 1986.

■ For science reporting on television (two winners)—Paul S. Apsell and Jon Palfreman for "The Case of the Frozen Addict," a NOVA program which aired 18 February 1986 on the Public Broadcasting Service.

Don Herbert for "How About . . .," a series of 80-second science features which are syndicated and broadcast on local stations across the country.

An honorable mention in the television category went to Lynn Sherr and Sharon Young

for "The Hole in the Sky," which aired 30 October 1986 on ABC News 20/20.

The AAAS-Westinghouse Science Journalist Awards are supported by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation and administered by the AAAS.

JOAN WRATHER  
*Office of Communications*

### **1987 Pacific Division Conference on R&D in Federal Budget to Be Held 16 April**

The Second Annual Pacific Division Conference on R&D in the Federal Budget will be held in Palo Alto, California, on 16 April 1987.

The Conference, patterned after the AAAS R&D Colloquium

(the 12 annual Colloquium will take place in Washington, D.C., 9 and 10 April), will explore likely impacts of the 1988 federal budget on research and development. Speakers will discuss how the federal budget might affect research and development at major federal agencies, universities, industries, and other institutions where R&D is performed.

Registrants will receive copies of "AAAS Report XII: Research and Development FY 1988," "Proceedings of the 1987 R&D Colloquium," and "Congressional Action of R&D in the FY 1988 Budget."

For further information and program details contact Alan E. Leviton, AAAS Pacific Division, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118 (telephone 415-752-1554) or Albert H. Teich, Office of Public Sector

Programs at the AAAS address (telephone 202-326-6600).

### **New Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology Announced**

The first AAAS-Westinghouse Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology will be presented at the 1988 AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston. The award for working scientists and engineers who make outstanding contributions to the "popularization of science," carries a \$2500 prize.

Nominations are welcome. For information contact Patricia S. Curlin, Committee on Public Understanding of Science and Technology, at the AAAS address or call 202-326-6600.

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