Fang Lizhi Heads List of Plenary Speakers Set for 1991 AAAS Annual Meeting

Chinese astrophysicist and dissident Fang Lizhi will address new developments and problems in cosmology in a plenary session of the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in February 1991.

Fang and his wife, Li Shuxian, also a physicist, were the focus of worldwide attention when they took refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing during the Chinese government crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

The annual meeting address is among Fang's first appearances before a gathering of U.S. scientists since leaving China in June of this year.

The meeting will take place at the Sheraton Washington and Omni Shoreham hotels in Washington, D.C., from 14 to 19 February 1991.

Lizhi joins several confirmed plenary speakers on the AAAS meeting’s agenda, including:

- Walter Bodmer, director of research, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London, and head of the international Human Genome Organisation;
- James Watkins, U.S. Secretary of Energy;
- John Brademas, president of New York University;
- Louis Sullivan, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services; and
- Jose Goldemberg, Secretary for Science and Technology, Brazil.

In conjunction with the meeting, Public Science Day will be held on 14 February. The city-wide event provides hands-on science and technology activities and education for thousands of area residents and students and takes place at local universities, museums, laboratories, zoos, schools, and other locations.

The 1991 annual meeting includes some 250 symposia on such subjects as:
- Global warming;
- Modeling geographic diffusion of AIDS, and AIDS in Eastern Africa;
- Earthquake prediction;
- Science in the courtroom and in espionage;
- Revolutions in developmental biology;
- The ethics of cystic fibrosis carrier screening;
- Engineering in Japan;
- Environmental threats to astronomy;
- Gene therapy;
- RU 486, and prospects for immuncontraception;
- Bovine somatotropin and the U.S. dairy industry;
- Disposal of fissile materials after nuclear arms reduction; and
- Inheritance of acquired characteristics.

Featured will be a 3-day seminar on areas of neuroscience that hold great promise for the 1990s, including olfaction and taste, the molecular basis of neurological disease, and cognitive processes.

The seminar, to be held from 16 to 18 February, requires an additional registration fee.

Short courses on the uses of computers in medical imaging and graphics, and on sophisticated uses of simple computers, also will be presented.

Several public lectures on popular aspects of science and a science film festival featuring 50 of the best recent science films also are on the meeting program.

In addition, the AAAS Science and Technology Exhibition will run from 16 to 19 February at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

Fully accessible to people with disabilities, the AAAS annual meeting will provide a resource room for disabled people throughout the 5-day event.

For more information, contact the AAAS Meetings Office, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005 or telephone 202-326-6448.

Science Journalists Selected for Awards

Winners have been selected in the 1990 competition for the AAAS-Westinghouse Science Journalism Awards.

The awards of $2500 each are presented to recognize outstanding reporting on the natural sciences and their applications, excluding health and clinical medicine.

Awards are presented in five categories: large and small newspapers, general-circulation magazines, radio, and television.

"If anyone were worried about the state of science writing in America, I'd tell them to look at the entries we got this year," said Joann Rodgers, who is the director of media relations at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.

Rodgers, a former journalist, served on the 1990 judging panel for both newspaper categories.

She noted that "this year's entries really took you into the rain forest, behind the doors at NIH, into space, and on the earthquake watch."

"Science writing at its best is simply good writing," Rodgers added. "I'd like to think that the impact of the award is demonstrated in this improvement in quality science reporting."

The awards will be presented at the National Association of Science Writers' annual banquet on 16 February 1991 during the AAAS annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

The 1990 winners and their entries are:

- For science writing in newspapers with more than 100,000 daily circulation: Charles Petit for a five-part series, "Battle to Save the Rain Forest," published in...
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