**CALENDER**

**AOCS Annual Meetings & Expos**
1996: April 28–May 1, Convention Center and RCA Dome, Indianapolis, Indiana.

**World Conference**

**Plan now to attend AOCS’ annual meetings.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Indianapolis, Indiana</td>
<td>April 28–May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Seattle, Washington</td>
<td>May 11–15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Chicago, Illinois</td>
<td>May 10–14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conferences**

**PUFA in Infant Nutrition**, Nov. 7–9, 1996, Barcelona, Spain.

*For information concerning AOCS Annual Meetings & Expos, educational courses or international conferences, contact: Education Department, AOCS, P.O. Box 3489, Champaign, IL 61826-3489 (fax: 217-356-8091), or the information source cited with the listing. AOCS course topics, locations and dates may be changed after the deadline for this issue of INFORM.*

**1996**

**February**

5th International Congress on Trace Elements in Medicine and Biology—Therapeutic Uses of Trace Elements, Feb. 6–7, 1996, Méricel, France. Information: A. Alcaraz, Laboratoire de Biochimie, CHRUG, B.P. 217, F-38043 Grenoble Cedex 9, France.


**March**


April
Third European Symposium on Industrial Crops and Products, April 22–24, 1996, Reims, France. Information: Dr. Ir. A.H. Eenink, Agrotechnological Research Institute, P.O. Box 17, 6700 AA Wageningen, The Netherlands (fax: 31-8370-12260) or Gil Spear, Elsevier Science Ltd., The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB, United Kingdom (fax: 44-1865-843958).


May
Practical Short Course in Membrane Separations in Food Processing, May 5–9, 1996, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. Information: S. Koseoglu, Food Protein R&D Center, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2476 (phone: 409-845-1741; fax: 409-845-2744).


June
4th World Surfactants Congress, June 3–7, 1996, Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones, Barcelona, Spain. Information: Comité Español de la Detergencia (CED), Jorge Girón 18–26, 08034 Barcelona, Spain (fax: 34-3-280-5300 or 34-3-204-5904).


Agricult '96, June 11–14, 1996, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Information: ABIC '96, c/o The Signature Group, 608 Duchess St., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0R1, Canada (phone: 306-934-1772; fax: 306-664-6615).


July

August

September


October

November
1997


1999


LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Does the Seven Countries Study demonstrate general cross-cultural differences?

To the editor:
Dr. Verschuren and colleagues (1) conclude that “across cultures, cholesterol is linearly related to CHD mortality, and the relative increase in CHD mortality rates with given cholesterol increase is the same.” Data from the 25-year follow-up of the Seven Countries Study would warrant that conclusion only if the cohorts were representative of “cultures” by being attemptedly random and unselected. They are not. The principal investigator states: “—the lowest and highest incidence rates of CHD were reported, then and now, from Japan and Finland—Spain was eliminated because of lack of funds and interested personnel; anyway it seemed unlikely that work in Spain would produce anything much different from what would be found by the same kind in Italy. (But three cohorts were set up in Italy! OHH.) South Africa was eliminated because of the great travel expense and the fact that no one seemed to be interested in imitating the ways of the Bantu. A seventh country, The Netherlands, was later included because—official statistics of The Netherlands in mid-1950s were interesting.” (2)

Much larger and random MONICA-data (3) yield no relation across cultures. Inspection of diagrams shows that one could easily handpick seven, or more, other cohorts “demonstrating” equally well negative co-linearity between serum cholesterol concentration and CHD mortality. Hence, the “Seven Countries” are unrepresentative for cross-cultural analysis even if there had been an original intention not to preselect.

Olov H. Holmqvist
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S-244 24 Kavlinge, Sweden

References