

## COMMENTS ON THE CONFERENCE

The sixth Particle Accelerator Conference was held in the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D. C. on March 12-14, 1975. Following a tour to Chicago and San Francisco in 1971 and 1973, the PAC returned to its origin on the tenth anniversary of the first PAC.

The PAC was attended by 578 registrants, somewhat fewer than at recent conferences. This presumably reflects the uneasy economic condition in the scientific community and society at large. The conference maintained its strong international flavor, with 19% non-U.S. participation.

The format of the conference was similar to that of the previous one, with a major exception. Three parallel sessions were held during each morning and afternoon except for the opening and closing plenary sessions. In addition, an evening round-table discussion was held on Medical Uses of Accelerators. This session was well attended, and seemed to have drawn in members of the local Washington medical community. An innovation was employed in three of the parallel sessions. Rather than following the format of 20-minute invited speakers and 10-minute oral contributed speakers, these sessions used no formal oral presentation. Authors displayed their material at poster boards for a period of 3 hours where the conference participants could observe the material and query the authors. We judge this experiment to be a success in that more authors were given an opportunity to present their work. Further, the interaction and the flow of information between participants were heightened by these sessions. We suspect that future conferences will employ this type of session.

The "papers in progress" indicators introduced so successfully in the 1973 conference at San Francisco were employed at this conference as well. We are indebted to Alan Wilmunder and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center for the provision and operation of these devices.

Altogether, there were 15 sessions, 27 invited papers, 72 oral contributed papers, 77 contributed poster papers, and a panel discussion. Another 95 papers were accepted for publication in the proceedings.

The Program Committee attempted to aim at a slightly different flavor than that of recent conferences. Thus, there were fewer status reports on major operating facilities, except for the most recently commissioned ones, but there was a session devoted to serious operating problems. Low energy and medium energy accelerators were treated extensively. This was appropriate in view of major technical advances in their construction and the number of new such accelerators commissioned in the recent past. New uses of accelerators received greater emphasis, particularly with respect to needs in the Energy Program. New proposals in High Energy Physics were treated collectively in terms of the needs of the overall High Energy Physics Program.

The conference banquet was held in the Regency Ballroom of the Shoreham Hotel on the evening of March 13, 1975. Three-hundred and sixty persons attended this social event. In addition to good company and good food, they were treated to an address by Dr. John Teem, Acting Assistant Administrator for Solar, Geothermal, and Advanced Energy Systems of the Energy Research and Development Administration. This address was entitled "Basic Research under the Energy Research and Development Administration." It gave a glimpse as to how the future of the accelerator field may evolve under the Energy Research and Development Administration.

No conference such as the PAC can be successful without dedicated efforts on the part of many people. The conference was planned by the Organizing Committee, chaired by James Leiss. The program was prepared by the Program Committee, which I was privileged to chair. I would like to thank Mrs. Carolyn Vanecek for her patience and wit, while ably coping with all problems related to the program. Local arrangements were made by local NBS staff under the skilled direction of Elmer Eisenhower. He was assisted by Helen Griener, Vera Varone, and Robert Placious who is also serving as Proceedings Editor. It is to him we owe thanks for this volume. Many knotty problems of foreign visitors were solved with the assistance of Bill Herrmannsfeldt of ERDA and his office staff. I would like to offer my gratitude, and I am sure that of all the PAC participants, to these people who helped so much.

The next Particle Accelerator Conference is scheduled to be held at the Pick Congress Hotel in Chicago in March 1977.

F. E. Mills  
Chairman of the Program Committee