ABOUT OUR NEW EDITOR

Dear Members,

Please allow me to present the successor of our friend and colleague Paul Hanika, who we all held in such high esteem.

Our new editor, Dr. Stephen Sokoloff, 43, can point to both scientific and journalistic accomplishments. He is an American from Detroit, Michigan who couldn't resist the charm of the old world. Interrupting his sientific studies with frequent travels and foreign-language courses, he finally earned his doctorate in genetics from the Max Planck Institut für Biologie in Tübingen, W. Germany, under the supervision of Prof. W. Beermann. His work has been published in "Chromosoma" and other journals.

After a post-doctorate in gene technology, he turned to a career in teaching and popular scientific writing. His articles appear in many different magazines and newspapers, some of them international. He writes a weekly environmental page for a local newspaper and prepares educational radio series for the Austrian Federal Radio Network (ORF). His university courses in my department — he teaches the evolution and manipulation of biological information — always attract a large number of students.

I am very pleased that we have found in Dr. Sokoloff a colleague with both journalistic and scientific experience. I would like to ask you to help him in his work by submitting contributions to the Newsletter.

Franz Pichler
Prof. for Systems Theory
IFSR Board Member

THE NEW IFSR-NEWSLETTER IS FULL OF SURPRISES!

WE WELCOME CONTROVERSY!

Science is — even for scientists — a very limited kind of human activity. We all know that many valuable thoughts, ideas, opinions elude objective verification. This newsletter — which will be localized somewhere near the interface between research and gossip, is intended not to compete with but to complement the professional journals.

This publication can only succeed if you are willing to cooperate. We will be accepting the following kinds of material:

1. Articles of editorial opinion concerning the systems sciences. Some possible topics: desirable research aims and objectives, funding, education (see the contribution by Franz Pichler in this issue), current status of these disciplines.
2. Articles providing a semipopular overview of a particular field of systems research. They should be readily comprehensible to all information scientists.
3. News items — new developments, research projects now being initiated, ideas and speculations.

4. New books, important articles and publications.
5. Forthcoming scientific meetings.
6. Professional opportunities (jobs).

RULES FOR CONTRIBUTERS

You can submit articles or notices in any of the following languages: English, German, Spanish, French, Italian or Russian, Reports in languages other than English will be translated. Faulty English will be rewritten. Please include at least an English translation of all technical terms.

Maximal length: six double-spaced manuscript pages.

FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not been getting the Newsletters regularly but would like to, please request it from your local organization.