

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BIOMECHANICS

N E W S L E T T E R

No. 2

December 1976

Foreword

The purpose of this Newsletter - the second of what is hoped will become a regular series of such Newsletters - is to acquaint researchers in biomechanics with recent developments concerning the formation of an American Society of Biomechanics

Following an initial meeting held in conjunction with the Vth International Congress of Biomechanics in Jyväskylä, Finland, an Organizing Committee was constituted for the purpose of forming an American Society of Biomechanics. This Committee, consisting of representatives from five different areas of biomechanics activity and a secretary, met for the first time on January 15, 1976.

At this meeting it was decided that the first task of the Organizing Committee was to establish whether there was a widely-felt need for a society of the form envisaged. To this end, notices were sent to some 35 professional journals and those interested in the formation of a society were invited to write for further information. The response to these notices - a response reported in detail elsewhere in this Newsletter - left little doubt that there existed a need for a society of the type proposed. At the second Organizing Committee meeting on May 26, 1976 it was decided to proceed with the formation of a society - a society whose stated objective is "to bring together biomechanics researchers from diverse fields of application for the purpose of exchanging information of common interest". Biomechanics is here defined as "the study of the structure and function of biological systems by means of the methods of mechanics".

Since making the decision to proceed, the Organizing Committee's efforts have been devoted to preparing for the first annual meeting of the Society, and to the development of a draft constitution to be put before the membership at that meeting. Two meetings have been held for these purposes and, although there is still much to be done, excellent progress has been made in both cases. The date, venue, and general nature of the program for the first annual meeting have been agreed to, and the draft constitution is rapidly approaching the point where it will be ready for submission to the membership. Details concerning the annual meeting are given below. The draft constitution will be sent out with Newsletter #4 next August.

The success of a society depends largely on the number of people actively involved in the affairs of that society and on the nature of their involvement. Readers of this Newsletter who:

- (1) answer the call for research papers when it is made in the Spring,
- (2) attend the annual meeting next October, and
- (3) urge their colleagues in biomechanics to become similarly involved,

will do much to ensure the success of the American Society of Biomechanics.

### Questionnaire Response

In response to the journal announcements described above, the Organizing Committee received 141 inquiries. Everyone indicating an interest in the formation of the Society was sent a copy of the questionnaire appended to this Newsletter. 117 of them returned the questionnaire. Of these, 109 indicated they intended to become members, and 95 that they would attend the annual meeting and submit and present papers. With the six members of the Organizing Committee counted in, we have a minimum of 115 people who currently plan to be active in the Society. There were no strong preferences expressed for the meeting location or time of year. 85 potential members reported their primary disciplines as follows: medicine 21; engineering 25; biological sciences 9; and others 30. The broad range of disciplines that the Organizing Committee hoped would be attracted to the Society seems to have materialized. Copies of the questionnaire are enclosed. Please pass them on to your friends and colleagues who also might be interested in participating in Society activities.

### Inaugural Meeting

Plans for the first annual meeting of the Society are now well formulated. The meeting will be on the campus of the University of Iowa on October 18 and 19, 1977. To keep the costs of attendance of the meeting low, it will be held at the Iowa Memorial Union. The Union has hotel rooms available at a single rate of approximately \$13. The expected registration fee for the meeting will be \$25, which includes 2 lunches, 3 coffee breaks and a booklet of preprinted abstracts of the submitted papers.

There will be a social hour on Monday night, October 17. Tuesday morning, after a few introductory remarks, there will be two sessions. Each will start with a keynote talk, to be followed by presentation of two papers related to the keynote topic. After lunch on Tuesday, a similar session will be followed by the Business Meeting. Tuesday night's activities include a social hour and dinner. On Wednesday morning there will be two general paper sessions, followed by lunch.

The three keynote speakers have already generously agreed to participate. One is a biologist interested in the mechanics of reptile motion, one an engineer interested in orthopaedic problems, and the third a researcher in the biomechanics of sports activities. All three speakers have outstanding reputations for their research contributions.

#### Informal Call for Papers

The formal call for submission of papers for the inaugural meeting will be made in the next Newsletter, which should be published in February. Please plan to respond to it. Two-hundred (200) word single-spaced abstracts will be requested, with titles and author's address, but without illustrations or tables. These should be typed in a form suitable for photocopying and distribution at the meeting. The tentative deadline for submission is June 1, 1977. Selection of papers for presentation will be made by an interdisciplinary committee without regard to authorship. Those abstracts that are relevant to one of the three keynote talks will be considered for presentation as part of that keynoted session. All other papers will be considered for presentation at the general sessions. Abstracts of the three keynote talks will be included with the formal Call for Papers. Abstracts should be mailed to Gary Soderberg, Physical Therapy, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

#### Business Affairs

As mentioned above, the Organizing Committee has been drafting a constitution for the Society. The final draft will be mailed to prospective members in August. One of the features of the constitution is to place the affairs of the Society in the hands of an Executive Committee formulated so that at least three different disciplines are represented. This is in keeping with the major purpose of the Society - to encourage interdisciplinary cooperation among all biomechanics researchers.

At the business meeting in October the constitution will be placed on the floor for discussion and ratification, and the first slate of Society officers will be voted upon.

The Organizing Committee also confirmed their goal of keeping the Society a low-cost, self-sustaining society. No external funds to maintain the Society will be sought at this time.

#### Comments

The Organizing Committee members are anxious to hear any comments relevant to their past actions and future plans for the Society. Please send comments to the secretary, Gary Soderberg, whose address is given above, or to any one of the other Organizing Committee members: Richard A. Brand, Don B. Chaffin, F. Gaynor Evans, James G. Hay (Chairman) or Albert B. Schultz

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BIOMECHANICS

Information Sheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

(AC)

BRIEF TITLE OR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

HIGHEST DEGREE HELD: \_\_\_\_\_ Year obtained: \_\_\_\_\_ Discipline: \_\_\_\_\_

AREA OF INTEREST (Check all that apply; circle primary interest)

Medicine

- \_\_\_\_\_ Orthopedics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Medicine
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Engineering

- \_\_\_\_\_ Civil
- \_\_\_\_\_ Industrial
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mechanical
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Biological Sciences

- \_\_\_\_\_ Physiology
- \_\_\_\_\_ Zoology
- \_\_\_\_\_ Comparative Anatomy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Human Anatomy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Botany
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Other

- \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Education and/or Sport
- \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Therapy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ergonomics

MEETING PREFERENCES (Circle primary)

Location:      Northeast      Northcentral      Southeast      No preference  
                          Southwest      Northwest      Southcentral      Specific suggestions:

Frequency:    Annual      Semiannual      Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Month of Year:    Jan.      Feb.      March      April      May      June      July      Aug.  
                          Sept.      Oct.      Nov.      Dec.      No preference

INTEREST LEVEL IN ASB (check all that apply)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ Annual meeting attendance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submit and present papers

Names and addresses of others who would be interested in ASB: (list on reserve side)

RETURN TO: Gary L. Soderberg, Physical Therapy, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242

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