

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN MICROBIOLOGISTS

ANNUAL REPORT

March 16, 1972

The Committee is pleased with the action by the ASM Council last year in approving the recommendation that the ASM support the proposed Equal Rights Amendment, and the resolution that the Society support the guidelines for employers, as submitted by the Committee and slightly modified by the Council. The guidelines were sent to all members of the Society in the annual mailing. They will also be sent to heads of university departments of microbiology and related sciences, and to selected research and industrial institutions.

A second article on the results of the 1970 membership survey questionnaire was published in the August 1971 ASM News. A report on pertinent aspects of the 1971 membership questionnaire is planned for a 1972 issue of the News. A questionnaire that is more subjective than the membership surveys was distributed at the 1971 Annual Meeting. About 900 members completed and returned their questionnaires. The data are being analyzed and will form the basis of a separate article.

The Committee is sponsoring a seminar entitled "A Current Problem in Microbiology: Women" at the 1972 Annual Meeting.

Letters were sent to presidents of the local branches urging nomination of more women to branch office, and to Division Chairmen urging that more women be nominated for divisional office and appointed to convene sessions at the Annual Meetings. The latter request has resulted in the appointment of women to convene 32 of the approximately 200 sessions at the Philadelphia meeting. No Division has less than three women conveners. Thirteen sessions in the Virology Division are being convened by women.

The Committee is working with the Placement Committee to develop ways to help institutions increase the number of qualified women microbiologists employed.

Mary Louise Robbins, Chairman