An International Symposium on Atherosclerosis and Reticulo-Endothelial System will be held in Como (Italy) on September 8-9-10, 1966. The Symposium is organized by the International Society of Reticulo-Endothelial System, the European Society for Biochemical Pharmacology and the Società Italiana per lo Studio dell'Arteriosclerosi.

The meeting will be subdivided in four sections: 1) Structure, composition and metabolism of the RE cells. – 2) Host defence mechanisms. – 3) Drugs and experimental conditions interfering with RES activity. – 4) Atherosclerosis and lipid storage disease.

Please contact the Scientific Secretary Prof. Rodolfo Paoletti, Institute of Pharmacology, Via Vanvitelli, n. 32, Milan, Italy, tel. 71 90 60, for informations.

Deadline for submission of papers is May 31.

A statement concerning the use of names for antibiotics (sent to editors of Journals publishing papers on Antibiotics).

The medical field has need of certain attributes in drug names which may not be met by the first name applied to a drug. Although a drug name first applied by its discoverer may meet all the requirements needed for the scientific community, it may be unsuitable for general use in pharmacy and medicine.

The rapid progress now being made in medicine applies new requirements, some of which are noted here. These include a distinctive name, readily recognized, yielding itself to quick recall and easy pronunciation. The name must not be easily confused with another drug or chemical name in oral or written communication by accidental deletion of a letter or figure or because of its close similarity in sound or spelling. There should be only one commonly used name for a drug for use in medical communication.

In the United States, non-proprietary names for use by the medical community are proposed for adoption to the U.S. Adopted Names Council, successor to the A.M.A.-USP Nomenclature Committee. Before final adoption the names may be submitted to the World Health Organization, British Pharmacopoeia Commission, French Codex Commission, the Nordic Pharmacopoeia Council, as well as to the United States Pharmacopeia, the National Formulary and the Food and Drug Administration. “Increasing emphasis is on the worldwide adoption of the same name for each therapeutic substance in view of the manifest advantages it offers to better communication and world trade.” The USAN Council has drawn up a set of guiding principles for coining U.S. Adopted Names for drugs. These are published in United States Adopted Names (1965).

In the past, sometimes a USAN name has been the same as the name originally applied to the substance; at other times, following the guiding principles a change was required in the name for a substance. When this change involves a well known substance it becomes distressing to the scientific community.
As one of the major scientific groups concerned with various aspects of antibiotics, especially with the first published accounts containing new antibiotic names, the American Society for Microbiology is attempting to minimize the number of these name changes, operating through its Committee on Nomenclature of Antibiotics. Dr. J.B. Jerome, Secretary of the USAN Council, is cooperating with this ASM Committee by submitting proposed antibiotic names to an ASM referee for comment, before adoption by the USAN Council. The president of the ASM has appointed the chairman of the Committee on Nomenclature of Antibiotics (or a designated alternate) to act as referee for the ASM.

The Committee on Nomenclature of Antibiotics believes that antibiotic name changes will be few if, in coining new names, scientists will follow the guiding principles for USAN as published. The Committee has, after study, adopted a series of recommendations which were approved by a general meeting held in Washington, D.C. on October 20th by participants in the Fifth Inter-science Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy and the IVth International Congress of Chemotherapy as follows:

The Committee affirms the fundamental right of the scientist first isolating an antibiotic to give a suitable name (non-proprietary) to the substance isolated. If that name meets the necessary criteria, the scientific community has strong interests in the continuity of that name. The name should conform with the guiding principles for coining U.S. Adopted Names for drugs*.

It is recommended that the following general guiding principles be used by scientists in devising names for new antibiotics:

Cognizance should be given to the fact that antibiotics are often chemically related members of a series or “family”. A name should be chosen which yields a root (or suffix or prefix) which can be modified to show that the variants are members of a related series.

A name should be chosen which is euphonious.

The chosen name should be based on the chemical structure of the compound if the chemical structure has been established or there is strong evidence for a structure.

When the investigator has little or no knowledge of the chemical structure of the new antibiotic the following principles should be used as a guide:

a. The genus (or family or order) epithet of the producing organism should be given first consideration as a source of the root for the new name.

i. It is recommended that the suffix “mycin” be limited for application to products derived from organisms belonging to the order Actinomycetales.

ii. If the genus, family and order epithet of the producing organism are preempted as sources of the root (or suffix or prefix) for the name, the investigator may consider the use of the species (or subspecies or variety or form) epithet of the organism.

b. Failing to find in 4a a suitable source for a name, it may be based on some property of the antibiotic which has scientific merit such as spectrum of antibiotic activity or mode of action. It is not believed that the geographic area of origin gives a meaningful name.

c. If for some reason a name cannot be given to a new antibiotic following the above principles a code designation may be given—the code to begin with a letter or letters, to assist in index alphabetization, followed by one or more digits.
It is highly desirable that about the time a compound under investigation moves into clinical evaluation, a name rather than a code designation be made available.

* United States Adopted Name (USAN); United State Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc., New York, N.Y. (April, 1965).