

## current events

*This section carries events of interest to the synchrotron radiation community. Full or partial inclusion is subject to the approval of the Main Editors, to whom all correspondence should be sent.*

### Wayne Hendrickson selected as the 2001 APS Compton Award recipient

Wayne A. Hendrickson of Columbia University has been selected to receive the 2001 Advanced Photon Source Arthur H. Compton Award. In announcing their choice, the selection committee emphasized the importance of Hendrickson's contributions in the development and use of multiwavelength anomalous diffraction (MAD) methods, which have revolutionized the use of synchrotron radiation in the field of structural biology. Dr Hendrickson received this award at the opening session of the Eleventh Users Meeting for the Advanced Photon Source (9–11 October 2001) and delivered the Compton Lecture at that time.



Wayne A. Hendrickson.

### SESAME Interim Council meets in Jordan

The SESAME Interim Council (IC) met in Jordan on 27–28 August 2001. The opening address was given by His Royal Highness, HRH Prince Ghazi Bin Mohammed. Professor Herwig Schopper and Jordan's Minister of Higher Education and Research, Dr Khaled Toukan, gave an overview of the progress of the SESAME project. Delegations representing Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Jordan, Palestinian Authority, Oman and Turkey were present, as were representatives of the observer countries, Germany, Sweden (Uppsala University), USA and UK. Also in attendance were delegates from Kuwait, the EU, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and France for the first time as observers. The IC members approved the admittance of Kuwait, Pakistan, the EU and the IAEA as observers. The French Government representative confirmed that the French will join as an observer. Official communication will be sent to the chairman of the SESAME IC. The representative of the IAEA confirmed the Agency's intention to join SESAME as an observer. Professor Schopper expressed his gratitude and deep appreciation for the admittance of the new observers. Dr D. Einfeld, recently appointed technical director of SESAME, tabled the report of the technical review meeting and made a brief presentation of the design of the accelerator building which would be able to include

beamlines with an average length of 35 m. The design of the building shall be finalized before the ground breaking ceremony in December 2001.



The SESAME council, who met in Jordan on 27–28 August 2001.

### Brazil holds the 7th International Conference on Biology and Synchrotron Radiation

The 7th International Conference on Biology and Synchrotron Radiation was held from 30 July to 4 August 2001 in São Pedro, Brazil. The conference reflected the increasing focus of the meeting on the biological applications of synchrotron radiation and attracted most of the leading experts. The conference was held at the Colina Verde Farm Hotel, a very attractive hotel/convention centre in the small town of São Pedro, close to the Brazilian Synchrotron Light Laboratory (LNLS) in Campinas, and conveniently close to São Paulo and São Carlos. The participants were able to visit the LNLS, located at about 80 km from the conference site. This enabled the participants to see first-hand the Brazilian synchrotron. A glass hutch for X-ray experiments is shown below.



A glass hutch for X-ray experiments at the LNLS, Brazil.

### **DIAMOND gets its boss**

Professor Gerhard Materlik has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer for DIAMOND. He will take up this position on 15 October 2001. The appointment, which has been made jointly by the OST, the Wellcome Trust and the French Government, is for an initial period of seven years. Dr John Taylor, Director General of the UK's Research Councils said, "I am delighted to welcome Professor Gerhard Materlik as Chief Executive Officer for the DIAMOND Synchrotron Project. Professor Materlik's considerable expertise and experience in the field of synchrotron radiation will be fundamental to the success of this world-class facility." Dr Mike Dexter, Director of the Wellcome Trust, said, "Professor Materlik has an impressive track record in synchrotron and related science. We believe he has all the necessary credentials to successfully lead the project, together with the energy and enthusiasm to contribute towards creating one of the UK's most significant scientific resources of our time."



Professor Gerhard Materlik.