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New concepts and results were typical of all the presentations, both scheduled and ad hoc. Of particular interest were some speculations made about the lack of importance of water of hydration in the foramtion of lipid membranes, the use and problems of use of atomic force microscopy for the study of organic materials, and the observations of new techniques for thin film fabrication. Keywords:

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1990 Gordon Research Conference on Organic Thin Films

Final Progress Report

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The Gordon Conference on "Organic Thin Films" was held from 11 to 16 February 1990 at the Doubletree Hotel in Ventura, California. The conference had 115 participants; 10 were from foreign countries. There was a healthy mixture of scientists from universities, national laboratories, and private industry. An intense effort was made by the organizers to include minorities, women, and graduate students in the program as well as the conference as a whole. This was, on the most part successful, with several invited presentations being made by graduate students as well as distinguished women scientists.

The program for the conference brought together researchers from the diverse fields of biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering who shared a common interest in organic films. The topics discussed included:

Thin Films/Membranes for Biosensor Applications

Order/Disorder and Thin Films

Design & Synthesis of Novel Organic Thin Films

Characterization of Films

Microscopy of Submicron Structures

Applications of Thin Films in Optoelectronics

Applications in Micro & Nano Electronics

Molecular Electronics: Fact or Fiction?

Fabrication/Controlled Reactivity and Wetting on Surfaces

The first session on Monday was made intentionally heavy with 6 talks that day. In the following days the number of formal talks was decreased by one or two to provide time for discussions. Time was also allocated for "hot topics" during the course of the meeting. This strategy seemed to work. During the course of the conference many intense, sometimes heated, discussions took place discussing new results and concepts. This occurred during the time allocated to discussions during the formal sessions as well as in the afternoon and late evening or in the early morning hours.

Final Progress Report

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There was a poster session of 40 posters. Refreshments were provided during the three afternoons that the posters were up. The poster sessions were heavily attended and served to stimulate a good deal of discussion as well as new interactions between scientists of diverse backgrounds. Several comments and letters received after the conference indicate that this meeting was of a much higher caliber than usual, perhaps due to the diverse nature of the disciplines, ages, and backgrounds of the attendees. Communications from two members of the board of trustees of the Gordon Conference also indicated that this conference was well received and would make a contribution to the advance of research in the area of Organic Thin Films.