



in equipment could be planned with reference to the total needs of the group.

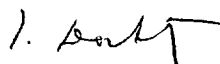
After much discussion and study I decided about a year ago to set up a new section which would group together scientists from all parts of the Institute who were working on membranes and who indicated a readiness to join forces. No coercion of any kind was applied, and indeed an appreciable number of scientists elected to stay outside this framework. In fact, it never was envisaged that the new section would represent the totality of our effort in membranes - it would be too stifling.

The new group is headed by Professor Ora Kedem, who has been active in the membrane field for many years. She has been joined by scientists and students from the departments of Polymer Research, Biophysics and Genetics. The section numbers a total of 30 persons, of whom 21 are scientists and students. As from April 1, the membrane research section has its own independent budget and manpower allocation. The new section is within the framework of the Faculty of Biophysics - Biochemistry (Dean: Prof. M. Avron). The group is still physically scattered, but with the general reshuffling of space occupancy which will result from the completion of the Perlman building later this year and the removal of several departments into it, it will become possible to collect together all the components of the membrane research section into one geographical unit.

A process similar to the one I have described above, which led to the establishment of the membrane research section, is now taking place in another field. Interest in neuroscience is increasing in various parts of the Institute and a number of small groups are being formed working on diverse aspects of neuroscience. I am encouraging the work of these new groups and am watching their progress closely. It now seems to me that in the not too distant future it might make sense to combine some of them into a new and independent unit. I shall keep you informed about progress in this new and exciting field in the Institute.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

  
I. Dostrovsky