



RRF to ABRF to

...

Ronald L. Niece

Research Resources & Technologies



Remember 1982

- Reagan was President of US
- Brezhnev died
- Cats opened on Broadway
- Cardinals defeated the Brewers
- DJIA was hovering around 1000



Remember 1982

- Automated Edman 15 years old
- Automated DNA synthesis new
- No automated DNA sequencing
- NIH SIG was just started
- Life sciences core facilities rare



Prelude

- Review how we got here
- Important contributions
- Activities
- Accomplishments
- Consider where do we want to go



Reasons Resource Facilities Are Used

- ✚ Resources not available internally
- ✚ Gain access to world-class capabilities
- ✚ Free internal resources for other purposes
- ✚ Reduce and control operating costs
- ✚ Share risks



Origins

- **Symposium of American Protein Chemists -1985**
- **RRF Satellite Meeting at MPSA - 1986**
- **RRF Satellite Meeting at Protein Society - 1987**
- **ABRF Satellite Symposium - 1988**



Activities

- **20 Research Groups and Committees**
- **Research grants (NSF, DOE)**
- **Newsletter now journal JBT**
- **Electronic discussion group and WWW presence**



Activities

- **Education**
 - **Symposia, Tutorials & Workshops**
 - **ABRF**
 - **Protein Society, European Protein Society**
 - **ASBMB, IUBMB**
 - **American Peptide Symposium**
 - **ASMS, ASCB**
 - **Hilton Head/GSAC, DNA2000**
 - **International MicroArray Meeting**



Results

- **Surveys**
- **“Unknown” test materials**
- **Methods papers**
- **NIST standard materials**
- **PTH chromatograms**
- **Delta mass**



Organization

- **Membership nearing 1000**
- **Independent meetings successful, more planned**
- **Financially sound with excellent prospects for future**



1988-92

- **Incorporation of ABRF**
- **Election of Executive Committee**
- **Corporate Sponsors program**
- **Dues inaugurated**
- **Membership increased to >200**
- **Newsletter started**



1993-97

- **ABRF Award**
- **Electronic Bulletin Board and WWW presence initiated**
- **Journal of Biomolecular Techniques organized**
- **Individual membership, not labs**
- **Independent Meeting**



1998-2002

- **JBT becomes full journal**
- **Expanded web presence**
- **Science Policy initiative**
- **New technologies included in Research Group functions**
- **Membership approaching 1000**



Technologies

- **Amino acids**
- **Structure analysis, protein, DNA, carbohydrate**
- **Synthesis, peptides and nucleic acids**
- **MS and molecular interactions**
- **Fragment analysis and gene array**



Committees

- **Corporate Relations**
- **Education**
- **Finance**
- **Meetings**
- **Nominations**
- **Publications**
- **Survey**



Competitive Advantages of Using Resource Facility

- ✚ Expertise
- ✚ Experience in defined area
- ✚ Infrastructure in place
- ✚ Done it before



ABRF

The “go to” People

- Can any of us claim to have never used a technique or idea we heard at an ABRF meeting, saw on the bulletin board or read in the Newsletter or JBT?**