

M.S. SWAMINATHAN

B-4/142 SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE
NEW DELHI-110 029
Telephone : 679069

9th April, 1988

Dear Dr Rubinstein,

I thank you very much for your letter of March 10, 1988. I am glad that you have been asked by Dr Garfield to take on the role of editor of THE SCIENTIST. Please accept my congratulations and very best wishes. Also kindly get my current address noted in your records. I left IRRI in February 1988 and I am now staying in New Delhi.

I enclose my views on the questions raised in your survey.

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Swaminathan

(M S SWAMINATHAN)

Dr Ellis Rubinstein
THE SCIENTIST
Editorial Office
1101 Fifteen Street NW
Washington DC 20005-5002
USA

HOT TOPICS SURVEY

Please fill out and return to:

Ellis Rubinstein
THE SCIENTIST
3501 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

I. SCIENCE POLICY: We all know that the physics community is divided over the advisability of the superconducting super-collider project and that many prominent biologists are worried that the human genome project might be turned into another Apollo Project, robbing funding from smaller but needed projects. What other, less-widely-known topics of this type get scientists debating with one another?

II. RESEARCH MANAGEMENT: Corporations and top industrial management all over the U.S. are gradually--often painfully--learning that humane management techniques can drastically improve employee motivation and therefore productivity. In fact, there are a raft of business publications that offer such lessons by depicting case studies in good management practices and bad management practices. But in science, no such publication exists unless it be THE SCIENTIST. We would like to perform such a service for the scientific community and need your ideas on what laboratories would yield the best case studies for how to manage researchers humanely and how NOT to manage researchers. Please give us some examples...in TOTAL CONFIDENCE, of course.

III. CAREER MODELS FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS: Where does a promising young scientist turn to learn about how his distinguished elders pursued fulfilling careers? Every other profession we can think of boasts publications that profile successful--and sometimes failed--practitioners whose very stories provide lessons for the rest of us. But where would a young scientist get such profiles? Not in NATURE, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, and only very rarely in SCIENCE. Please help THE SCIENTIST fill this important gap by nominating colleagues whose career paths would prove particularly instructive to a young scientist. Some examples: scientists who became fabulously successful--or just happy--entrepreneurs, scientists who took key government jobs or who turned against their government's policies, scientists who left labs for top management positions or who deserted high-paid corporate posts for academia.

IV. PROVOCATIVE SCIENTISTS: One of THE SCIENTIST's strongest points is that it offers ample space in each issue for provocative pronouncements from leading--and lesser known--scientists. Please help us continue this popular tradition. We're hoping you'll nominate colleagues you've heard voice provocative--not always popular, but always informative--views on science policy or professional issues in science.

V. YOUR CALL: Perhaps you have hot topics to propose that don't fit in one of the previous categories. As long as they'd provide the grist for compelling articles, we'd be only too eager to see them. Please include them here.