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Dates to Remember

Aug. 15: Deadline for submitting suggestions for invited speakers to focused-session organizers.

Dec. 3: Deadline for all March Meeting abstracts (contributed and invited) due at APS. Sending an extra copy to your focused session organizers is highly recommended.

Feb. 15: Deadline for DMP Fellowship Nominations due at APS Headquarters.

Mar. APS March Meeting, Los Angeles, CA to 20:

Methods to Access the DMP Call for Abstracts

1. Check your personal paper version of the DMP Summer 1997 Newsletter.
2. Check your personal email version of the Summer Newsletter.
3. Check the Oct. or Nov. 1997 issue of the APS

DMP Leadership Visits Washington

The leadership of the APS Division of Materials Physics, the APS Division of Condensed Matter Physics, and the Materials Research Society met in Washington on June 9-10, 1997, to visit a cross section of Congressional and agency leaders who play key roles in federal support for science. The three societies, representing nearly 20,000 materials researchers, joined together to express strong support for all of science, to offer their assistance in making the case for science, and to stress the importance of interdisciplinary research in all fields, especially materials research. Visits were made to members and staff in both houses of Congress, to representatives of science-related Congressional committees, and to the Office of Management and Budget, the Defense Research and Engineering directorate, and the National Science Foundation.

Participants in the marathon tour included DMP Chair Jim Roberto, DCMP Chair Jim Langer, and MRS President Elect Bob Nemanich. They were accompanied by Ron Kelley and Michael Lubell, MRS and APS Public Affairs, respectively. In total, more than a dozen offices from Capitol Hill to the Pentagon were visited over a two-day period. Discussions were held with Neal Lane (Director of the National Science Foundation), George Singley (Acting Director of Defense Research and Engineering), Michele Donovan (Office of Management and Budget), Congressman Walter Capps (House Science Committee), Congressman David Price (House Appropriations Committee), and key staffers for other science leaders in the House and Senate and for the House Science and Appropriations Committees.

There is strong support for science in the agencies and in Congress. This is tempered by the reality of the balanced budget agreement which places significant restrictions on the discretionary budget including support for science. Many of those visited expressed appreciation for the joint letter of support for science which has now been signed by the presidents of over 47 societies. There is an effort, led by Senator Phil

Meeting News.

4. Check the [DMP homepage](#)

General Sessions:

- 16(a)** Hydrogen in Metals
- 16(b)** Radiation Effects
- 16(c)** Defect Structure
- 16(d)** Diffusion in Solids
- 16(e)** Amorphous Materials
- 16(f)** Low-Dielectric Materials
- 16(g)** Materials Research at High Pressure
- 16(h)** Other

Gramm, to increase basic science budgets by 7% in FY 1998 as recommended in the joint letter. Recent articles in the New York Times (5/13/97) and U.S. News and World Report (5/19/97) argue the case for publicly-funded science as a vital national investment.

Overall, the participants found the Washington visit to be useful and timely. A return visit is already being planned for next year, and contacts are being maintained to follow-up on ways in which DMP, DCMP and MRS can help. Translating these positive steps into action is a significant challenge which will require an unprecedented effort by all scientists to work together, making the case for science to their Congressional representatives and to other key policymakers throughout the administration and Congress.