

# Buchanan named Wilson Professor

Dr. John M. Buchanan, head of the division of biochemistry of the Department of Biology since 1953, has been honored as the first John and Dorothy Wilson Professor at MIT.

Dr. Buchanan is widely known for several contributions to biochemistry. These include a step-by-step analysis of how purine compounds are synthesized. Purines are building blocks used in the formation of nucleic acid

molecules — DNA and RNA — which control heredity.

The new professorship was endowed by Mr. and Mrs. John J. Wilson, who have specified that appointments to the chair may be made in any department of the Institute, at MIT's discretion. Announcement of Dr. Buchanan's appointment to the new professorship was made by Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner, Provost, and Dr. Robert A. Alberty, Dean of the School of Science.

Dr. Buchanan received the Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry from the American Chemical Society in 1951 for his work in purine biosynthesis.

In addition to his work on purines, Dr. Buchanan also is recognized for research in enzymatic synthesis, the effect of viruses on bacteria, and the metabolism of folic acids. In the latter work, Dr. Buchanan has shown that certain drugs effective in the treatment of cancer and in the suppression of antibody reactions in kidney transplants are potent inhibitors of cell enzymes concerned with nucleic acid synthesis. He and his co-workers presently are studying enzyme systems in bacteria that take part in fixation of atmospheric nitrogen.

Dr. Buchanan was graduated from DePauw University in 1938, received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Harvard University in 1943 and taught at the University of Pennsylvania from then until 1953 when he came to MIT.

Dr. Wiesner noted that under Dr. Buchanan's leadership, the "quality and quantity of biochemistry at MIT increased remarkably, and in 1966, MIT was listed among the top six universities in the United States in the distinguished category in biochemistry in a study published by the American Council on Education."

The Wilson Professorship is one of several chairs pledged through the MIT Second Century Fund, of which Mr. Wilson was president from 1960-63.

## Faculty members given Guggenheim fellowships

Five faculty members have been awarded fellowships by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation for 1967. Awards were made to a total of only 294 scholars, scientists, and artists, selected from among 2,006 applicants.

Dr. Edward Baldwin Curtis, Asst. Professor of Mathematics, received a grant for his studies in algebraic topology. Dr. Vernon M. Ingram, Professor of Biochemistry obtained recognition for experimental studies on the behavior of cells in tissue culture. Professor of Physics, Dr. Ali Javan, was rewarded for his theoretical studies in quantum electronics. Transition metal chemistry is the field in which Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Dietmar Seyferth excels. Dr. Irving E. Segal, Professor of Mathematics, was recognized for his development of the mathematical theory of the construction of quantum fields.

The Foundation was established in 1925 by the late US Senator Simon Guggenheim and Mrs. Guggenheim in memory of their son, John Simon. Since then the Foundation, now in its forty-third annual series of awards, has given 7,421 grants totalling \$30,800,000.

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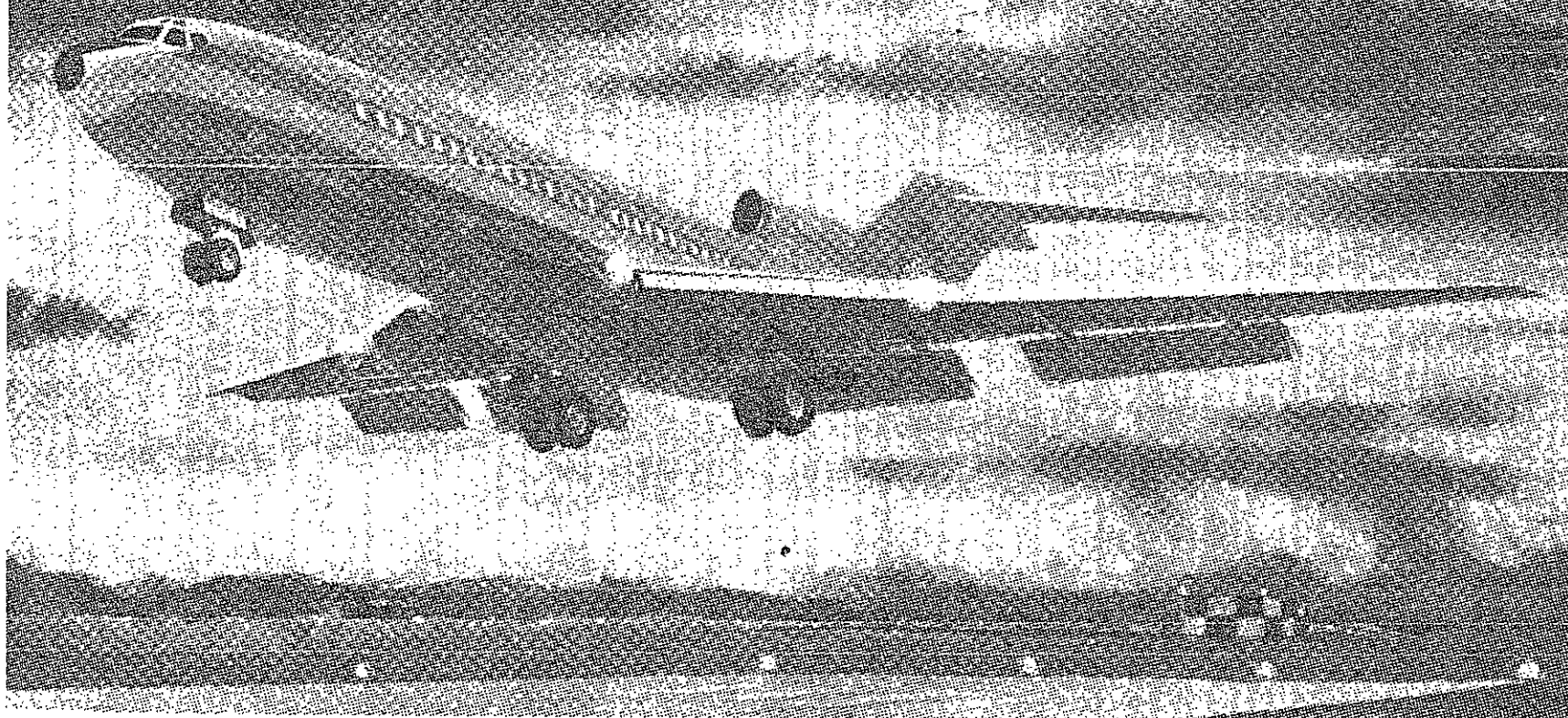
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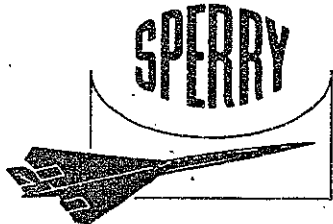
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