Infectious Diseases Society of America

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The Infectious Diseases Society held its organizational meeting on October 26, 1963, at the Airlie House in Warrenton, Virginia. For several years prior to this, there had been increasing interest in the formation of such a society. A community of investigators interested in laboratory and clinical aspects of infectious diseases was becoming increasingly defined in many major academic centers. Certain of these investigators were meeting each year at Atlantic City at an informal dinner club, and a similar group had begun to meet for dinner and discussion at the time of the annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. Finally a decision was made to explore various ways in which an organization could be formed that would articulate the broad interests of those working in infectious diseases. An Organization Committee was formed and was charged with the responsibility of calling the first meeting, arranging for scientific program, and nominating the first slate of officers. A number of pharmaceutical firms provided financial assistance.

The organization clearly has met an important need. Its growth, its relationship to national and international activities in infectious disease, its unusual and broad scientific programs, and its relationship to the Interscience Conference have given the Society a unique and useful place in the academic and scientific community. Its decision to constitute itself as a meeting place for scientists from all of the Americas has also given it a potentially important role in unifying scientific activity in many neighboring countries.