

# Space Science Research Conference

*Caltech and JPL exchange ideas  
in a new field of research*

*by Henry L. Richter, Jr.*

As a sign of the times, a new weekly seminar has been added to the list of regular academic activities. The establishment of the Space Science Research Conference is a direct result of the interest on the part of both faculty and students in this new and expensive research activity. It is also an indication of the ever-closer association between the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Institute. As far as we know, this is the first organized seminar of its type at any American academic institution.

Until the influence of the IGY programs, and with the exception of some upper atmosphere rocket research work, the bulk of American rocketry has been shielded from the public view by military secrecy. Even the contacts between the Caltech campus and JPL have been restricted in recent years by the military nature of much of the work at the Lab. But since JPL's participation in the launching and instrumenting of the Explorer satellites — and particularly since JPL was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration — the work at the Lab has been approaching that of scientific and supporting research.

It seems logical that, along with the Laboratory's proven ability as a maker of rocket and satellite vehicles, many of the fundamental experiments in space research should be carried out by JPL personnel working in conjunction with scientists and engineers on the Caltech campus. A space science division has recently been formed at JPL, to work with interested persons on campus and elsewhere in the carrying out of space, planetary and lunar exploration.

It seemed that one method of strengthening the contact between those at JPL and the campus would be the establishment of a regular weekly research conference in which both groups could participate and exchange ideas. A committee was appointed to plan and oversee the Space Science Research Conference, consisting of Albert R. Hibbs (Chairman) and Henry L. Richter, Jr., from JPL; and R. B. Leighton and Harrison S. Brown, representing the campus.

A series of lectures has been scheduled for the

first ten meetings; these are aimed toward two goals. One is the dissemination and discussion of the results obtained from scientific experiments carried aboard spacecraft. The second is to expose people who have been sheltered from the limitations and constraints imposed on spaceborne instruments to the factors that must be considered when planning, designing or constructing instruments for space research; or when interpreting scientific data received from instruments carried in such vehicles. Every effort is going to be made to avoid describing our glorious plans for the future.

The first seminar consisted of a discussion of the purposes of the Space Science Research Conference, and a summary of the scientific spacecraft launched to date, along with the instruments known to be aboard each. Subsequent and future seminars for the first quarter include:

October 13	Rolf Dyce Stanford University	Radiation Around the Earth
October 20	Eberhardt Rehtin JPL	Space Communications
October 27	Harrison S. Brown Caltech	Meteorites and Their Properties (I)
November 3	Harrison S. Brown	Meteorites and Their Properties (II)
November 10	L. G. Jacchia Smithsonian Astro- physical Observatory	Solar Radiation and the Atmospheric Drag of Artificial Satellites
November 17	H. C. Urey University of Califor- nia, La Jolla	Problems of Lunar Structure
November 18	H. C. Urey	Some Chemical and Physical Properties of the Meteorites
November 19	H. C. Urey	Some Observations on the Origin of the Solar System
November 24	G. Kuiper Yerkes Observatory	Moon
December 1	Open	Satellite Geodesy
December 8	R. Richardson Griffith Observatory	Mars