

Date: Fri, 12 Sep 1997 17:31:24 -0500
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To: Board of Directors, IMACS September 15, 1997
From: John R. Rice
Subject: New President of IMACS

Most of you know of Vichnevetsky's desire to step down as President of IMACS. In his long (25 years?) tenure as President, he has transformed IMACS into a major, broadly based international organization. We all owe him a great debt for his accomplishments and now we should respect his desires. As far as I know, there is no automatic mechanism for selecting the next President of IMACS. The Board of Directors must identify qualified, acceptable candidates and then vote one of them in.

The qualifications we should look for are, I believe, (a) strong scientific accomplishments, (b) good organizational skills, (c) familiarity with IMACS, and (d) ambition to further develop IMACS. I hope we can find candidates who view IMACS as an opportunity to build on Vichnevetsky's accomplishments and to further transform IMACS as we move into the next millennium. The new President could lead IMACS in adapting to the changing international scene in research and, especially, the growing importance of interdisciplinary science and engineering which IMACS represents so well.

I propose that each of us try to identify candidates and nominate them to Vichnevetsky. He can then ascertain their willingness to be President and arrange for a mail vote by the Board of Directors.

Finally, let me say that I believe this is a very serious situation for IMACS. We have become so dependent on Vichnevetsky's good judgment and hard work that IMACS could collapse if he were to retire without a successor. I hope that each of you can help IMACS in the search for a suitable successor.