



# Serotonin Club Newsletter



What a pleasure it is to be able to report that the Club has just had another highly successful meeting. For that we must thank Manfred Göthert and our local hosts Daniel Moura and Jorge Gonçalves who had worked so tirelessly to make it a great meeting. It is hard to determine what makes a scientific meeting run particularly well. Obviously high quality science, obviously good facilities and obviously an enjoyable social programme. However, there is something else which lifts a first class meeting into a memorable one and that is, I think, the ‘fellowship’ of the attendees. Sometimes the people attending just seem to bond well and enjoy each others company – and this is what happened in Porto.

For those of you unlucky enough to have not been able to attend, you can at least get a flavour of the science by reading *Fundamental & Clinical Pharmacology* **18**; Suppl 1 (2004) which contains the abstracts of all the presentations.

The meeting started with welcome words from the President, Daniel Hoyer, Manfred Göthert, the Chairman of the organizing committee and local host Daniel Moura.

We were then privileged to listen to Professor Maurice Rapport who, with Arda Green and Irvine Page had been working on the serum vasoconstrictor substance (serotonin) in the mid 1940's. It was Rapport who first unequivocally identified this compound as 5-hydroxytryptamine (*J Biol Chem* **180**: 961-969, 1949). Prof Rapport gave an elegant talk on the history of 5-HT and delighted many of us in informal talks later with his memories of this historic time. Too often do scientists not examine the history of our work and I would encourage everyone to read Prof Rapport's review in *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* **40**, 260-273, 1997.



**Prof. Maurice Rapport giving his lecture**

At the opening ceremony Daniel Hoyer and I also had the pleasure of conferring honorary membership on Ewan Mylecharane (p2-3).

The final part of the opening ceremony was devoted to the presentation of the Page Lecture by Professor Dave Nichols of Perdue University,

Indiana. Almost all of us working in serotonin research have been influenced by Dave's ground breaking research. He has worked at the interface between medicinal chemistry and pharmacology, synthesizing and testing novel 5-HT ligands for the receptor subtypes and examining their functional effects. Much of his work has been on psychoactive compounds which are key to our understanding of psychiatric disease. Even those who do not think they know him have probably used his compounds (for example: DOI). Everyone therefore was honoured and pleased to listen to this great scientist give a review of his life in serotonin science. (What is amazing to me is the realization that he could have given an equally outstanding talk on his research on dopamine pharmacology and his research in this area).



**The Page Lecture being given by Dave Nichols**

The main meeting consisted of ten symposia (two other symposia sponsored by the Club had taken place at the preceding EPHAR congress) and over 100 posters together with discussion of these presentations. Socially, there was a welcome reception, a boat trip on the Douro River through the heart of historic Porto and dinner at a portwine lodge and farewell get together. Overall, a great meeting!



**One of our tour boats on the Douro**

## New Honorary members

In May this year Pramod Saxena was honoured by the University of Rotterdam on the occasion of his retirement. Pramod has amassed many honours during his distinguished career as a cardiovascular pharmacologist and has been a loyal member of the Serotonin Club, organising meetings (including being the host for the 1998 Rotterdam meeting of the Club) and was president of the Club in 1990. At his festschrift Daniel Hoyer was on hand to present Pramod with honorary membership of the Serotonin Club as a mark of our respect for his contributions to both serotonin research and the Club.

In July at the Porto meeting we were equally pleased to confer honorary membership on Ewan Mylecharane. Ewan has been a major player in ensuring the success of the Club. He was an organiser of the first meeting of the Club on Heron Island, Australia in 1987 and was Secretary/Treasurer during the first nine years of its existence. He also played a role in organising early meetings such as that held in Basle and is an author of the *Pharmacol Rev* paper on 5-HT receptor subtypes. Finally Ewan became president in 1998. Our current strength of membership and finance is in no small part due to his tireless efforts. It was a pleasure to be involved in awarding him honorary membership

and also be present to see the look of total surprise and pleasure on his face when it was announced. For the first time we were able to see Ewan lost for words!



**Ewan Mylecharane having recovered his composure**

## Serotonin Club Dinner 2004

At the annual Society for  
Neuroscience meeting  
October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> San Diego,  
California, USA

The Serotonin Club is an international organization dedicated to sharing information on research concerning this formidable neurotransmission system. Well established functions of the Serotonergic System include the three S's: Sleep, sex and satiety. Our dinner event will focus on satiety. Members as well as non-members interested in learning more about this exciting field are welcome to attend. This is a purely social event with no speeches. So relax,

eat, drink and enjoy meeting new and old colleagues!!

This year the dinner will be held on the Berkeley ferryboat on the bay in downtown San Diego. It will be Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

\*\*\*A note for those of you who might not feel seaworthy, the Berkeley is a permanently docked ship. It will not leave the dock while we are aboard.

For tickets, send check by October 1st to:  
(\$60.00 US payable to Serotonin Club)  
Dr Theresa Brancheck  
215 College Road  
Paramus, NJ 07652, USA  
fax: 201.261.0623  
email: [tbr@lundbeck.com](mailto:tbr@lundbeck.com)

Information on the Berkeley Ferryboat.

The National Historic Landmark, 1898 *Berkeley* ferryboat, is centrally located in the downtown area on San Diego Bay. She is unique with two large open-air decks, offering a choice of downtown skyline or sunset views of the harbour. The ferry boasts an ornate party deck, large dance floor, beautiful hand-carved wood seating, and Victorian (opalescent) stained glass windows, which are backlit and glistening after dark. You can visit the web site below to take a virtual tour of the ship.



*The Steamship Berkeley*

— VIRTUAL TOUR

[http://www.sdmaritime.org/berktour/Berkeley\\_VT.asp](http://www.sdmaritime.org/berktour/Berkeley_VT.asp)

## Future meetings of the Serotonin Club

**A**t Porto Councillors were able to meet to discuss future activities of the Club. It is hoped to run a Satellite meeting to the IUPHAR congress in 2006 in Japan. There may also be a meeting in North America in 2007. In 2008 we hope to again have a satellite meeting to EPHAR. The EPHAR meeting will be in Manchester, England and the Serotonin Club meeting would therefore be held at some attractive venue in the UK.

## Other meetings of interest

### *Six Decades of GABA*

This conference will take place on October 21-22, 2004 at the Loews Coronado Bay Resort, Coronado, San Diego. Further information can be found at:

[www.gaba-conference.elsevier.com](http://www.gaba-conference.elsevier.com)

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### *The Cytoskeleton and Synaptic Function*

The 14<sup>th</sup> *Neuropharmacology* Conference will be held on October 20-22, 2004 at Hilton San Diego Resort, San Diego, CA, USA. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.neuropharmacology-conference.elsevier.com/>

**Secretariat:** Phillipa Fletcher, Neuropharmacology Conference Secretariat, Bregor, Winter Lane, West Hanney, Nr Wantage, Oxon OX12 0LF, UK  
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## New Members

Welcome to the following new members of the Club who have joined since our last Newsletter: **Canada:** Zhong-wei Zhang; **France:** Francine Côté, Cécile Fligny, Guilain Vodjdani; **UK:** Venkatesha Murthy; **USA:** Alexandre Bonnin; Huazhang Shen, Robert Whittington.

## Subscriptions

Members whose subscription became due during 2004 have been notified. Please send your payment now as this will greatly assist with the transfer of Secretary/Treasurer's office at the end of this year. Members whose subscriptions are two or more years overdue will be terminated!!

## Address change?

If you have changed your address send it to us now while you are thinking about it – send to: [rosemary.allen@astrazeneca.com](mailto:rosemary.allen@astrazeneca.com)

**All communications with members are now carried out via the internet so if we do not have your current e-mail address you risk losing all contact with the Club**

## The next Newsletter

The next newsletter (the 31<sup>st</sup> I will have composed, so 2 less than Ewan!) will be my final words to you before handing the duties of Secretary/Treasurer into the capable hands of Sheryl Beck. Full details of contact points for members will be shown in that communication.

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