



Serotonin Club Newsletter



**Porto, Portugal
(17-19 July 2004)**

***Serotonin in the CNS and
Periphery: Basic Concepts
and Clinical Implications***

Every indication so far is that this is going to be a very successful meeting. Registration numbers in this early period have already passed the total number of people who attended Acapulco (and that was an excellent meeting!). We can hopefully expect many more registrations in the coming months. If you have not yet registered do so now and help our planning. There is still plenty of time to book your place and attend. Full details of programme and booking for our meeting and EPHAR are at: <http://www.pharmakologie.uni-bonn.de/Ephar2004-5HT/>

Since the meeting is an official satellite meeting of the 4th Congress of EPHAR (Federation of the European Pharmacological Societies) you can also register and book accommodation via their web site:

www.ephar2004.org

Travel awards

The Club has awarded grants to assist young scientists to attend the Porto meeting. We congratulate the following: **Australia:** Nathalie Tochon-Danguy, **Chile:** Pablo Moya, **France:** Sylvia Navailles, **Mexico:** Araceli Sánchez-López, Luis Valdivia, **Norway:** Trond Brattelid, **Spain:** Isabel M^a Escobedo Romero, **UK:** Massimiliano Bianchi, Laura Boothman, Yvonne Dempsie, Terri Dover, Alice Dutton, Kathryn Jennings, Ian Kendall, Madeleine King, **USA:** Baldwin Way.

Elections 2004

This year we will be holding elections for some of the Council posts in the Club. Councillors discuss this matter in detail before the election and usually prepare a "slate" of persons who they feel will provide a balance in terms of persons who are both active in the Club and who also reflect our diverse interests. The following list therefore results from these discussions. However, any member who wishes to be considered as a Councillor is, of course, welcome to stand for election. *If anyone wishes to be considered for any the positions noted below, please contact me before April 1st 2004 with your name and the names of a proposer and seconder.* An election will then be held. I would like to complete this process before the Porto meeting so I can arrange for a smooth transfer of duties, particularly those of Secretary/Treasurer which is the most onerous of the posts (believe me!).

All positions and proposed candidates are detailed below (some councillors are only half way through their term of office and therefore not all positions are being contested). Please note that some persons are eligible for re-election under our rules and this is duly noted. *Names of proposer and seconder shown in italics.*

President:

Mark Geyer (UCSD, USA) [*Daniel Hoyer, Richard Green*]

Immediate Past President:

Daniel Hoyer

Vice President:

USA: Terri Branchek (Synaptic, Paramus NJ) [*Mark Geyer, Sheryl Beck*]

Secretary/Treasurer: Sheryl Beck (Joseph Stokes Jr. Research Inst, Philadelphia) [*Richard Green, Daniel Hoyer on behalf of Council*].

Councillors:

Europe: Stephan Hjorth (AstraZeneca, Mölndal, Sweden) who is eligible for a further term [*Charles Marsden, Richard Green*].

USA: Irwin Lucki (Univ Pennsylvania) [*Mark Geyer, Terri Branchek*], Julie Hensler (Univ Texas) [*Luke Van de Kar, Sheryl Beck*], Laurence Tecott (Univ California San Francisco) [*Terri Branchek, Sheryl Beck*], Stephanie Watts (Michigan State Univ) who was co-opted onto Council in 2003 [*Mark Geyer, Sheryl Beck*].

Rest of the World: Mitsuhiro Yoshioka (Hokkaido Univ, Japan) [*Carlos Villalón, David Jackson*], Enrique Hong (Mexico) [*Carlos Villalón, Alfredo Meneses*]

IUPHAR News

8th World Congress on Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics
CPT 2004
August 1-6, 2004 - Brisbane,
Australia

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

For further information:

http://www.cpt2004.com/news/CPT2004_SPRING_3/index.htm

New Members

Welcome to the following new members of the Club who have joined since our last Newsletter:

Australia: Helen Irving, Iain McGregor, Nathalie Tochon-Danguy, **Chile:** Pablo Moya, **France:** Sylvia Navailles, **New Zealand:** Ole Naesh, **Spain:** Isabel M^a Escobedo Romero, José Fuentes, **UK:** Massimiliano Bianchi, Yvonne Dempsey, Terri Dover, Alice Dutton, Kathryn Jennings, Ian Kendall, Madeleine King, Astrid Linthorst, Wesley Miner, **USA:** Anne Milasincic Andrews, Mark Austin, Steven Bender, Jane Cavanaugh, Alejandra Gallardo-Godoy, Thomas McLean, Marta Piñeiro- Núñez.

The serotonin system and spiritual experiences

All Serotonin Club members doubtless feel their research has deep significance and can be uplifting! Evidence now exists that you are right. I am reproducing part of a paper from *Am. J. Psychiat.* **160:**1965-1969 (2003). Results: The authors found that PET binding potential correlated inversely with scores for self-transcendence, a personality trait covering religious behavior and attitudes. No correlations were found for any of the other six Temperament and Character Inventory measures. Conclusions: **This finding indicated that the serotonin system may serve as a biological basis for spiritual experiences.** The authors speculated that the variability in 5-HT_{1A} receptor density may explain why people vary in spiritual zeal.

A. Richard Green (Secretary/Treasurer)
AstraZeneca R&D Charnwood,
Loughborough, LE11 5RH, England
richard.green@astrazeneca.com

Tel +44-1509-644755, Fax: +44-1509-645542