



Serotonin Club Newsletter



Acapulco Meeting

There is little doubt that everyone who attended the 5th IUPHAR Satellite meeting of the Serotonin Club in Acapulco recently will remember it with great pleasure for many years to come.

The meeting was held in a wonderful hotel overlooking the beautiful bay at Acapulco and combined very high quality science with a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The organisation was faultless and I, all the other Councillors, and everyone else who attended owe a large debit of gratitude to Carlos Villalón who was the chief organiser of this meeting.

The meeting started with the Page Lecture by Pramod Saxena who spoke to a packed session about his 40 years of serotonin research reviewing both his scientific career and personal links in serotonin research. This fascinating lecture was illustrated by an interesting mix of scientific data and personal slides – although thankfully he had mislaid the copy which showed Pramod and me dressed in

traditional Dutch clothing, an outfit he persuaded me into in order to greet delegates to the boat trip at the Rotterdam meeting in 1998.

The two days of scientific lectures covered receptor pharmacology and functional aspects of serotonin in both the brain and periphery and these symposia were accompanied by a variety of high quality posters. All this science was supported by a pleasant social programme of a boat trip and meal (the Club has yet to run a satellite meeting which does not have a boat trip) and, on the following night, an open air party with disco. Overall, therefore, another meeting which sets a very high benchmark for any future meeting to aspire to.



Where next?

So, speaking of the next meeting, I am pleased to report that at the Councillors meeting in Acapulco it was unanimously agreed that we should accept the very kind offer of Professor Manfred Göthert to organise the next Serotonin Club sponsored meeting. This will be held in **Porto, Portugal** in **July 2004** and will follow the meeting of the European Pharmacological Societies (EPHAR) that takes place between July 4th –7th,

2004. We expect our meeting to follow EPHAR so that USA delegates can celebrate the 4th July with their families before making the trip.

Even this far ahead it is worth members starting to think about, what they would like to hear about or plan sessions they wish to organise themselves. You can always drop a line to me or Professor Göthert about your ideas.

Elections

At the end of the year we will need new Councillors to replace those retiring or 'moving' to new positions. No changes are needed in the North American region at this time. However, the following positions are up for election: President, Vice President (Europe), three Councillors (Europe) and one Councillor (Rest of the World).

Following a meeting of Council the following proposals are made:

President: *Daniel Hoyer* (Proposer Richard Green; 2nd David Nelson)

Vice-President (Europe): *Charles Marsden* (Proposer Daniel Hoyer; 2nd Richard Green)

Rest of the World: (re-election 2nd term) *Carlos Villalón*. (Proposer Ewan Mylecharane; 2nd David Jackson).

In addition, *David Nelson* becomes Immediate Past President.

With regard to Councillors for Europe, Francis Chaouloff and Derek Middlemiss are retiring and Charles Marsden has been proposed to become VP (Europe). Three nominations have been made for their replacement.

F. Artigas [Spain] (Proposer Daniel Hoyer, 2nd JM Palacios)

Kevin Fone [UK] (Proposer Charles Marsden, 2nd Richard Green)

Umberto Spampinato [France] (Proposer Francis Chaouloff, 2nd Nick Barnes)

All the persons nominated have agreed to stand. If any other persons wish to stand for any of the positions named above they should send their name, together with the names of both a proposer and seconder (who have already agreed to support the application) and a brief biography (½ page maximum) to Richard Green (address at bottom of Newsletter) before September 30th 2002. In the absence of other candidates the above named candidates will be confirmed in their new positions at the end of this year. The new Council will be detailed in full in the Winter Newsletter.

Retiring Officers

As we approach the later part of year and the election of new officers of the Club I am also aware that such elections mean that some Councillors will be "leaving", having completed their term of office.

Most notable in this group is *Ewan Mylecharane*. Notable not only because next year will be the first since the Club was founded that he has not been on Council but also because the work he has put into the running of the Club is unique. Ewan was General Secretary/Treasurer from the time the Club was founded in 1986 until 1996 steering it through those early formative and difficult years. He was also organiser of the first IUPHAR Satellite Meeting of the Club in 1986 at Heron Island and much involved in other subsequent international meetings of the Club. Following retirement as Secretary/Treasurer he immediately became a Rest of the World Councillor in 1987/98; President: 1999/2000 and Immediate Past President for the last two years. Even now he will not leave active involvement with the Club since he continues with his membership of the Nomenclature Committee. I have found both his knowledge of the running of the Club and his

enthusiasm invaluable when I have come up against various problems.

David Nelson leaves the role of President to become Immediate Past President on Council, so he is not exactly leaving. However, it is worth pointing out at this point as he steps down to a less demanding role, that his efforts on behalf of the Club have been substantial; as VP (North America) in particular he had the job of organising the dinner meetings associated with the Society for Neuroscience meetings. Those of you that just pay and turn up are perhaps unaware of the major effort that has to go into the organisation of this event.

Retiring from the job of Councillor is *Derek Middlemiss*, a position he always took seriously, providing useful input into the running of the Club and its meetings. Finally, *Francis Chaouloff* has decided to resign since his work is now taking him into neuropharmacological areas that are far removed from 5-HT. He helped me in organising the MDMA symposium in Acapulco and I thank him for his active support of the Club.

Thank you again to them all from me, the Council and all members!

New Members

We welcome new members who joined at the Acapulco meeting from **Canada:** Fara Chiarenza, **Denmark:** Tine Stensbol, **France:** Serge Adnot, Carine Becamel, Luc Maroteaux, Canan Nebigil, Mark Millan, Louis Segu, **Germany:** Stephan Schwarzacher, **Indonesia:** Gunadi Budipranoto, **Italy:** Cristina Cusin, **Japan:** Miyuki Ino, **Mexico:** Jose Angel Marquez Conde, Araceli Sanchez, **Netherlands:** Thomas Cremers, **Norway:** Kjetil Andressen, **Spain:** MA Elena Calama Marcos, Maria Elena Castro, Monica Garcia Domingo, Guadalupe Mengod, **Switzerland:** Hans Jurgen Pfannkuhe, **UK:** James Davidson, Paul Grasby, Gareth Hicks, Warren Hirst, Daniel Johnson, Antony Knight, Jenny Longmore, Hugh Marston, Steven Vickers

and **USA:** Juan Ballesteros, Teresa Bennett, John Byrne, Elena Fiorica Howells, Robert Gannon, Mathew Gerdin, Jonathan Gross, Alan Johnson, Mark Molliver, Shaun Morrison, Alan Mueller, Nabih Ramadan, George Ricaurte, Richard Rothman, Neil Rowland, Keith Watling, Kenneth Weir, Bryan Yamamoto. Also please welcome members who have joined since our last Newsletter: **France:** Catherine Grillon, **UK:** Georgina de Foubert.

The Club Website

Remember to check on the website for Club matters! The address is:

<http://serotoninclub.org>

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

Future meetings of interest to members

Please note the meeting details given on the last page. This meeting is not associated with the Club, but could well be of interest to many of our members.

If you are organising a meeting that you think may be of interest to members, or hear of a meeting you think may be of interest, please let me know and I will try and include it in a future Newsletter.

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INSTITUT PASTEUR

EURΩCONFERENCES

DEPRESSION:

EMERGING RESEARCH AND TREATMENT APPROACHES

January 16-17, 2003
Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

Scientific Committee: Mike Briley and Julio Licinio

Scientific Director: Jean-Marc Cavallion

In cooperation with B. Boris Vargaftig

THURSDAY JANUARY 16, 2003

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

• **Myrna M. Weissman** (USA): Cross national epidemiology of mood disorders: an update. • **David Baldwin** (UK): Social and economic costs of depression.

TREATMENT

David J. Nutt (UK): The evolution of antidepressant mechanisms. • **Stuart Montgomery** (UK): Unmet needs in the treatment of depression. • **William Potter** (USA): Signal detection in trials of antidepressants. • **David Hackett** (F): Monoamine theory and the evolution of antidepressant therapy. • **Yves Lecrubier** (F): The partial response of depressed patients to antidepressants, the role of residual symptomatology for long term outcome. • **Carina Stenfors** (S): The search of a rapid onset of action through 5-HT presynaptic receptors. • **John P. Feighner** (USA): Clinical and preclinical overview of Nemifitide (INN 00835), a novel pentapeptide antidepressant.

FRIDAY JANUARY 17, 2003

ANIMAL MODELS

Jean-Luc Moreau (CH): Simulating depression in animals: stress-induced-anhedonia as a case study.

BIOLOGICAL FINDINGS

Pierre Sokoloff (F): Roles of BDNF and dopamine D3 receptors in antidepressant response. • **Mickael Trimble** (UK): Brain stimulation and the treatment of depression. • **Charles B. Nemeroff** (USA): Early life trauma and the pathophysiology of depression: preclinical and clinical studies. • **Helen S. Mayberg** (CDN): In search of depression circuits: novel approaches using functional neuroimaging.

GENETICS AND GENOMICS

Klaus-Peter Lesch (D): The genetics of depression in the postgenomic world. • **Philippe Courtet** (F): Molecular dissection of the serotonergic pathway in suicidal behaviour. • **Julio Licinio** (USA): The pharmacogenomics of antidepressant treatment response. • **Jim Hagan** (UK): New drug targets in depression: genetic and genomic approaches.

Posters and exhibitors are welcome - English will be used by the speakers

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