

Newsletter

A word from...

It is difficult to believe that it is already almost two years since Maarten van den Buuse took over the reins as President of the ISSR. Maarten's Presidency was the first under the "Club's" new name, "International Society for Serotonin Research" and the first working together with incoming secretary/treasurer, Kelly Berg. Maarten, together with Kelly and the efforts of one of the ISSR's greatest advocates, immediate past secretary/treasurer, Sheryl Beck, made the transition seamless and these two years a spectacular success. The ISSR is thriving! Among the many successes during Maarten's tenure as president, were the annual mixer during the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) meeting in San Diego and the outstanding meeting of the ISSR at Arabella, South Africa this past July. We must also thank the first lady, Maarten's amazing wife, Rita Cohann, for taking so many terrific photos to capture the collegiality and excitement at the 2014 ISSR meeting. We hope that those of you attending the SfN meeting in Washington, DC this November will be sure to add the ISSR mixer at Fado's Irish Pub to your itinerary. A perfect venue to thank Maarten for the wonderful job he has done leading the ISSR since January 2013. On behalf of the Society at large, "thank you" Maarten for being a true statesman for the ISSR.

Lynette C. Daws

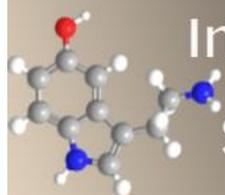
Vice President (North America)

Kevin C. F. Fone

Vice President (Europe)

Contents

- South Africa Meeting report
- ISSR 2016 Meeting in Seattle
- Call for papers
- SfN mixer 2014
- FENS Social 2014
- Call for new officers
- Membership
- Calendar



11th ISSR Meeting: A Serotonin Safari WCP2014 Satellite

From July 9-12, 2014, the 11th meeting of the International Society for Serotonin research meeting was held at Arabella Golf Estate and Spa near Cape Town, South Africa. Organisation of the meeting started in 2012 and especially because of the indefatigable efforts of Kelly Berg and Sheryl Beck and the local organizing committee chaired by Brian Harvey, it all came together splendidly. Arabella turned out to be a great venue for this meeting and the local organizing committee should be commended for proposing it. A special word of thanks should go to all our sponsors, Lundbeck, Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma, Tocris, Servier, Northwest University, and ACS Chemical Neuroscience. Without their support, the meeting would not have been possible.

As there were no parallel sessions, all presentations were done in one room which, after some initial IT issues, proved very good for the purpose. Sessions attendance overall was excellent throughout the meeting, despite the lure of golf, wineries and whale-watching. There were 94 registered attendees with 10 accompanying persons. Most of those stayed at Arabella, making it all a bit easier. The meeting's program featured many highlights and it would not do justice to the superb quality of all speakers to select anyone in particular. As we are used to at the Serotonin meetings, the program was broad and diverse and the subjects of the 15 symposia ranged from the molecular biology of receptors and the role of serotonin in immune modulation, neurodevelopment, addiction, anxiety, depression and cognition. Special presentations included the Page Lecture delivered by Prof Herbert Meltzer, the Rapport Lecture delivered by Prof Charles Marsden, and the Pioneers and Prodigies session featuring selected NIDA travel awardees. Several other young investigators were added to various symposia throughout the program and a very special thanks goes to NIDA for making it possible for this next generation of Serotonin researchers to attend the meeting. Lyn Daws, our next president, was again instrumental in securing this extremely welcome funding. These young investigators were also part of the very well-attended poster session.

For many of us, this was the first (and perhaps the only) visit to South Africa so it comes as no surprise that even before the meeting started there were many stories of forthcoming or just-completed safaris elsewhere in the country or continent. Stories included encounters with wild and wonderful creatures, accommodation with outside showers, fantastic food, and amazing vistas. At the meeting, social functions included a Welcome Dinner with

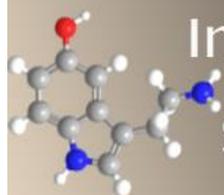
a marimba band, a Cheese and Wine Tasting event (with more wine than cheese) and a gala dinner at the end of the meeting. A very good time was had by all, as photos of the meeting and these events show. The Soccer World Cup which was on, provided further food for discussions, albeit of the non-scientific kind, and the South African wine certainly facilitated these discussions. See the society's website for a link to downloadable photos, including of all NIDA travel awardees.



Our next meeting will be in Seattle in 2016. Details of dates and venue will become available soon, as will be a call for symposium proposals. Without a doubt, this will be another excellent meeting of our society and we thank John Neumaier for taking up the challenge of matching or surpassing the gastronomic delights of the 2012 Montpellier meeting and the spectacular scenery and wildlife of South Africa in 2014. A post-meeting survey recently organized by Kelly Berg showed overwhelming member support for the general outline of this year's meeting. It is anticipated that the local organizing committee of the next meeting will take your responses on board and continue to refine the program. All of us can help by promoting the Serotonin meeting to others in the field and beyond, with the aim of boosting attendance and membership. I hope to see you and many new faces in Seattle in 2016.

Maarten van den Buuse

*President, International Society for Serotonin Research,
2013-2014*



Stellar presentations by NIDA Travel Awardees at ISSR's "Serotonin Safari"

Thanks to R13 funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), twelve young scientists were able to attend and participate in the 2014 ISSR meeting at Arabella, Hermanus, South Africa. The awardees were selected from a fiercely competitive pool of applicants by the Officers of the ISSR. Suffice to say, this was a very difficult task for our Officers.



Back: Vera Niederkofler, Amanda Maple, Fiona Zeeb, Catherine Marcinkiewicz, Derya Sargin, Kate Nautiyal, Ornella Manfra, Matt Brodsky, Nathan Mitchell, Zoe Donaldson.
Front: Pablo Moya, Collin Challis.

Awardees comprised graduate students - Matt Brodsky (University of Washington), Collin Challis (University of Pennsylvania), Ornella Manfra (University of Oslo) and Nathan Mitchell (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio); post-doctoral fellows - Zoe Donaldson, (Columbia University), Amanda Maple (University of Arizona), Catherine Marcinkiewicz (University of North Carolina), Kate Nautiyal (Columbia University), Vera Niederkofler (Harvard Medical School), Derya Sargin (University of Toronto) and Fiona Zeeb (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto), as well as early stage investigator, Pablo Moya (Universidad de Valparaíso).

All awardees gave oral presentations, either as a speaker in one of the programmed symposia, or in a special "Pioneers and Prodigies" session, chaired by this year's Page and Rapport Plenary Lecturers, Herb Meltzer and Charles Marsden, respectively. The awardees also presented their work at the poster session. The quality of presentations given by these energetic young scientists was outstanding! Awardees were able to meet and network with many "icons" of serotonin history on many

occasions throughout the meeting, including a special breakfast for Awardees, coffee and lunch breaks, as well as an evening wine-tasting event and the opening and closing receptions. Awardees were recognized at the closing gala dinner where they were presented certificates of award by ISSR President, Maarten van den Buuse and Vice-President, North America, Lyn Daws. These fine young scientists paint a bright picture for the future of serotonin research.

Lyn Daws

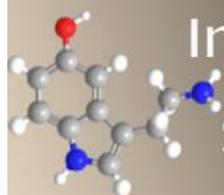
Vice President (North America)

Congratulations Poster Award Winners!

In addition to NIDA Travel Awards, there were two "Best Poster" presentation awards. "Best Poster by a Student" was awarded to Andrea Ulsund, University of Oslo. "Best Poster by a Senior Investigator" (postdoctoral fellow) was awarded to Dr. Rheaclare Fraser, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Andrea (top) and Rheaclare (bottom) are pictured below receiving their awards from Prof. Maarten van den Buuse (ISSR President) and Prof. Brian Harvey (Chair, Local Organizing Committee).





Serotonin in Seattle July 2016

Seattle, Washington, USA has been chosen to host the next ISSR meeting during July, 2016. Plan to join us for three days of sun and serotonin! We promise an exciting program of special lectures, symposia, and posters, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the Pacific Northwest. Seattle is situated on Puget Sound and July is the best time of the year, with warm and dry weather and lots to see and do; the mountains and water fun are nearby; rain forests, volcanoes, and Vancouver are just a little farther, and the wine country in Eastern Washington or northern Oregon are within a half-day's drive, so it will be a great opportunity to bring your family and extend your visit.



The organizing committee will be chaired by John Neumaier (University of Washington) and includes Cynthia Bethea (Oregon Health and Sciences University), Charles Chavkin (University of Washington), Kathryn Cunningham (University of Texas, Medical Branch at Galveston), Julie Hensler (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio), Catharine Winstanley (University of British Columbia), Florian Zepf (University of Western Australia), and Larry Zweifel (University of Washington). We will make additional announcements as the venue is chosen and the program begins to take shape.

John Neumaier

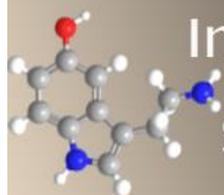
Chair Local organizing Committee

Call for Papers for a Special Issue on Serotonin Research

Drs. Anne Andrews and Lynette Daws are planning a special issue arising from the 2014 International Society for Serotonin Research Meeting -- A Serotonin Safari -- to be published in ACS Chemical Neuroscience (<http://pubs.acs.org/journal/acncdm>). Drs. Andrews and Daws, who will serve as the editors for this special issue, would like to personally invite you to contribute to this edition. This issue, scheduled for publication in March 2015, will receive high visibility via several ACS planned initiatives. There are no page, color, or publication charges to publish in ACS Chemical Neuroscience. We are looking for high quality submissions for peer-review in short Letter, full-length Article, Review, or Viewpoint formats. The submission **deadline is December 15th**; we welcome your submissions in advance of the deadline at: <https://acs.manuscriptcentral.com/acs>

The special issue arising from the 2012 meeting in Montpellier, France, celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the ISSR (Serotonin Club) was a blockbuster (see <http://pubs.acs.org/toc/acncdm/4/1>). This issue included 25 timely and informative papers associated with the previous meeting including Viewpoint pieces from original Serotonin Club members such as yourself, Paul Vanhoutte and Richard Green. Thanks again for your excellent contribution towards this issue. The special issue, and in particular, the Viewpoint format is an excellent opportunity for ISSR members to chart the future of serotonin research.

For further information or pre-submission inquiries regarding ideas for article content please contact Dr. Andrews (aandrews@mednet.ucla.edu) or Dr. Daws (daws@uthscsa.edu).



4th Annual ISSR Mixer Annual Society for Neuroscience meeting

Mark your calendars! You Do Not Want To Miss

Monday, November 17, 2014, 6-8PM
FADÓ IRISH PUB AND RESTAURANT
808 7th Street NW, Washington DC
(one block from the convention center)



Ay.... 'tis the luck of the Irish- yet AGAIN! Please join us for great food, bountiful beverage and plenty of blarney (ummm – we mean banter) in the relaxing ambiance of this traditional Irish Pub. The cost is \$25 per person and will include an appetizer buffet, two drink tickets and of course a delightful stand-up routine (likely about “serotonin”) by a surprise guest.

Payment can be made by credit card at our Society website (www.serotoninclub.org) or by check payable to “The International Society for Serotonin Research” and mailed to Dr. Kelly Berg, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Dept Pharmacology, 7703 Floyd Curl Dr., San Antonio, TX 78229.

Questions? Please contact Kelly at berg@uthscsa.edu.

FENS 2014 Social Gathering

On Sunday July 6th 2014, the ISSR organized a Social Gathering for serotonin aficionados attending the last FENS Forum in Milan (5-9 July, 2014). Italian summer can get you thirsty and hungry but Milano Café's buffet + drink deal helped palliating both. The event followed the symposia “Decoding serotonergic systems and their impact on cortical circuit formation” which included stimulating talks by Patricia Gaspar (Fer a Moulin Insitute, Paris), Susan Dymecki (Harvard Medical School, Boston), Alexandre Dayer (University of Geneva, Geneva) and Alexandre Bonin (Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute, Los Angeles). The 40 delegates present were not disappointed (we hope) to find a relaxing atmosphere and the opportunity to meet new colleagues, and catch up with old ones.

Entertainment was provided by the organizers in the form of a trivia game. This is, to our knowledge, the first ever

Serotonin Quiz carried out in a bar! The teams that entered the competition left the niceties aside, and held a ruthless competition to win one of the prizes. Serotonin know-it-alls did not perform up to the expectations, especially when it came to drawing the chemical structure of our beloved neurotransmitter. At the end, two teams came on top and took home godly bottles of sizzling Prosecco.

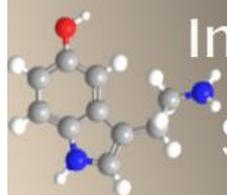
Overall, the experience was gratifying for us to organize, and enjoyable for those attending. This was the first ISSR gathering paired to the FENS meeting and we hope to see many more in the years to come. We encourage our colleagues that wish to develop this social into a biennial tradition to contact the ISSR officers. Next FENS Forum will be held in Copenhagen July 2-6, so plenty of time to come up with ideas. Till then!

Sebastian P Fernandez
ISSR Associate Councilor

Mariano Soiza-Reilly
ISSR member

Francesca Calabrese
ISSR member





Call for Nominations: Councilor- North America and Councilor- Europe

Councilor positions are open for North America (1 opening) and for Europe (2 positions open). Councilors (4 year terms) are elected by the membership of the region they will represent. Typically, Councilors are mid-career or senior investigators. If nominating someone, please provide confirmation that the member is willing to serve. Self-nominations are very welcome. The nominee must be a member (i.e., current in dues) of the Society.

General duties of a Councilor include:

1. Business is largely conducted via email, so a major responsibility is to correspond by email concerning Society business issues, including selection of symposia for the international meetings (this task will begin Spring 2015 for ISSR 2016), selection of travel awardees, planning of yearly events (e.g., Annual SfN mixer, British Pharmacological Society symposia, FENS mixer) and discussions regarding membership development.
2. Participate in membership recruitment
3. Volunteer to Chair or participate in committees formed to oversee various functions of the Society, e.g., raising money/ obtaining sponsorship for the biannual international meetings, planning of receptions, increasing registration/attendance at events, increasing the visibility of the Society.
4. Help plan/solicit ideas for symposia for the international meetings.
5. Provide information for the bi-annual newsletters regarding meetings, upcoming and past events, and general information of interest to the Society.

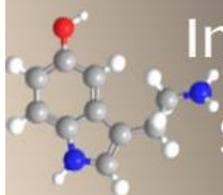
Please send nominations to Dr. Kelly Berg (berg@uthscsa.edu). **Deadline for nominations is December 1, 2014.**

Mark Millan is awarded the 2014 Ariëns Prize

ISSR Councilor Dr Mark Millan from the Institut de Recherches Servier (France) has been awarded the prestigious Ariëns Prize. The prize is given by the Dutch Pharmacological Society in memory of Professor Everhardus Jacobus Ariëns, known for his contributions in the field of ligand-receptor theory and stereochemistry. Previous winners include Marc Caron (1988), Salvador Moncada (1991), Terry Kenakin (2011) and Brian Kobilka (2010) winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2012. Dr Millan will be giving the Ariëns Lecture in Holland on October 6, 2014.



Congratulations Mark!!!



ISSR Member Survey Results

Thank you members for responding to our recent survey. Here are some highlights of what you told us:

Your responses concerning meeting location and best time of year:

- The clear preference for the **time of year** to hold meetings is the month of **July** followed by the months of June, August and September.
- A majority of our members responded that they would be more likely to attend an ISSR conference **linked** with a meeting of a larger Society; the Societies selected most often to link with were SfN (USA), FENS, and ECNP.
- The **major reasons** given for not attending the 2014 meeting were "Travel costs too high", "Distance too far to travel", and "Limited grant funds".

Your responses on Program Content:

A majority of you responded that you strongly favor (% that selected "very important" or "important"):

- Including oral sessions comprised of talks selected from submitted abstracts (87%)
- A separate session for travel awardee talks (72%)
- Adding more plenary lectures (57%)
- An evening poster session/competition along with food/drink (73%)
- Display posters for the entire meeting duration (74%)
- An evening networking social (75%)

You did not favor either scheduling concurrent sessions or increasing the number of conference days to allow for programming of more sessions.

Your Officers, Councillors and Organizing Committee Members are already hard at work planning ISSR 2016 - the responses and suggestions you have provided will be extremely useful as we continue to strive to improve the ISSR conference experience for everyone.

Kelly A. Berg
ISSR Secretary/Treasurer

CALENDAR

18-22 October, 2014

27th European College of Neuropsychopharmacology Congress

15-19 November, 2014

Society for Neuroscience Meeting 2014

17 November, 2014

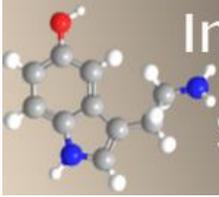
ISSR 2014 SFN Mixer

7-11 December, 2014

53rd Annual Meeting, American College of Neuropsychopharmacology

16-18 December, 2014

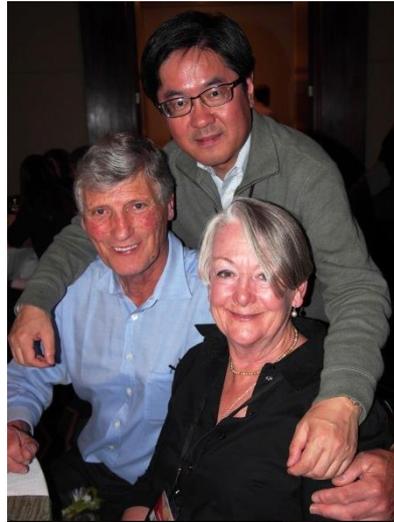
British Pharmacological Society Meeting



ISSR in South Africa Meeting!

More photos:

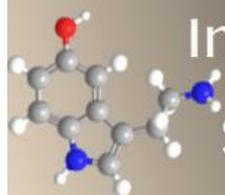
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xz3hpsrzu27a4no/AAD3AUshp3bgWjfnOrM5k1ma>





ISSR in Milan for the FENS Social Gathering!





JOIN US

Anyone with an interest in serotonin research may become a member of the International Society for Serotonin Research (ISSR)

To become a member, the annual dues are as follows:

- Regular Members: \$50 USD per year
- Graduate students/Post-doctoral Fellows: \$30 USD per year
- Retired Members: \$30 USD per year

To pay by credit card, please follow instructions on the membership page of our Society website, www.serotoninclub.org. Alternatively, payment can be made by sending a check endorsed to the "International Society for Serotonin Research" to the Secretary/Treasurer (Dr. Kelly Berg) at the address below. Please note that we require email confirmation of Student/Post-doc status from the mentor.

Membership renewals are (and renewal reminders will be sent) on a yearly basis beginning January 1, 2014.

Kelly A. Berg, Ph.D.
Department of Pharmacology-mailstop 7764
University of Texas Health Science Center
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, TX 78229-3900
EMAIL berg@uthscsa.edu

Address change? All communications with members are carried out via the internet so if we do not have your current e-mail address you risk losing all contact with the Society.

If you have changed your address send it now while you are thinking about it. Kelly Berg (Secretary/Treasurer)
BERG@uthscsa.edu

Find Us



http://www.linkedin.com/groups/International-Society-Serotonin-Research-Serotonin-4541265?trk=my_groups-b-grp-v



Remember, we now have a Facebook page as well. Make sure you visit the site at www.facebook.com/pages/SerotoninClub/170600399644105 and "like" the Club to join.

Newsletter All Society members can send their contributions to the Newsletter, including article highlights, meetings/workshops details, job ads and any other relevant information. Send your contribution the editor (sebastian.fernandez@inserm.fr).