A word from…

Welcome to a new edition of the Society’s Newsletter! In this issue you will find all the information regarding the Society’s activities, starting with the organization of the 20th Meeting. The location has been set and we will be thrilled to welcome you in Cancun 26-29 July, 2020. Carlos Villalon is chair of our organizing committee whose members include Kathryn A. Cunningham, Noelle Anastasio, Lyn Daws, Catherine Marcinkiewcz, Anne Andrews, Lee Gilman and Kelly Berg. The committee has been very busy locking in the venue, and they have done a fantastic job choosing the Marriott Cancún Resort. This wonderful resort facing the sea will be the perfect place to host serotonin aficionados from all over the world. Check out this newsletter for more details on the accommodation and the leisure activities included in the resort. The Plenary lectures speakers have been confirmed and the line-up is truly outstanding: Lynette C. Daws from UT Health San Antonio for the Page Lecture, Kjell Fuxe from the Karolinska Institutet for the Rappor Lecture, and René Hen from Columbia University for the Vanhoutte Lecture. Also, don’t miss out on the opportunity to organize a symposium at the Meeting, for details check out the call in this newsletter. All in all this meeting promises to be another hit! In addition, find information about this year’s edition of the classic SfN mixer in Chicago welcoming all attendees, a call for a special issue on Serotonin in the journal Neuropharmacology, and much much more. We hope you enjoy it!!!

Sebastian P Fernandez
ISSR Associate Councilor - Europe
ISSR 2020
Serotonin on the Mexican Caribbean

Marriott Cancún Resort
Cancún, Mexico,
July 26-29, 2020

The Mexican Caribbean and its incredible views and landscapes is one of the most visited regions in Mexico. Located in the State of Quintana Roo, the Mexican Caribbean is comprised of Cancun, Puerto Morelos, Riviera Maya (Playa del Carmen, Puerto Aventuras, Akumal, Tulum), Grand Costa Maya (Bacalar, Chetumal, Mahahual) and the Islands of Cozumel, Holbox and Isla Mujeres. The region features a myriad of fun-filled adventures and attractions, archaeological sites, delicious dining and of course relaxation on its stunning beaches. The turquoise blue color and transparency of its waters will leave you simply dazzled!

Cancun was originally home to the Maya people. Spanish explorers arrived in the Yucatan Peninsula in the early 16th century and similar to other parts of the Caribbean, they brought disease with them that devastated the native population. Remains of the Mayan culture can be found at nearby archaeological sites of Chichen Itza, Coba and Tulum.

Cancun faded into obscurity until late in the 20th century when, after realizing the potential of the area, the Mexican government built nine hotels on the edge of the Caribbean Sea (and the rest is history). Today, Cancun is a world-renowned vacation destination with white powdery sand beaches, crystal clear turquoise waters, and most importantly, warm and friendly Mexican hospitality.

We are very pleased to host the 20th meeting of the ISSR “Serotonin on the Mexican Caribbean” in Cancun, Mexico, July 26-29, 2020 (note our “20th in 2020”). As you will see in the coming pages, we have secured an excellent meeting venue, the Marriott Cancun Resort, a complex that houses two hotels, 9 restaurants and numerous amenities and activities on site such that you may not want to leave the resort your entire time in Cancun.

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Also, we have contracted with International Incentive travel, an onsite company that will handle ground transportation and all of your questions about the area, as well as bookings for various activities, tours and excursions, restaurant reservations and evening entertainment. We have also begun to form the program; the ISSR Council has completed their selection of 2020 honorees for our named plenary lectures (see below) and submission of symposium proposals for consideration for inclusion in the program is now open. You will also find a list of deadlines below (e.g. registration, abstract submission, hotel reservations, etc), so please make notes on your calendar about these important dates. Remember to check the meeting pages on our ISSR website www.serotoninclub.org/issr2020 periodically, we will be updating the website continually as new information and details become available. Bienvenidos a Mexico Lindo! (we look forward to welcoming you to beautiful Mexico!)

Carlos M. Villalón (Chair)
Kathryn A. Cunningham
Noelle Anastasio
Lyn Daws
Catherine Marcinkiewcz
Anne Andrews
Lee Gilman
Kelly Berg

ISSR 2020
Plenary Lectures

PAGE LECTURE
Lynette C. Daws
UT Health San Antonio

RAPPORT LECTURE
Kjell Fuxe
Karolinska Institutet

VANHOUTTE LECTURE
René Hen
Columbia University
ISSR 2020: Serotonin on the Mexican Caribbean
July 26-29, 2020

Marriott Cancún Resort

Our 2020 Meeting Venue is the Marriott Cancun Resort. This hotel is part of a complex that includes two hotels: the Marriott Cancun and the JW Marriott Resort and Spa along with 9 restaurants and numerous activities available on site. We have room blocks at both hotels at the following discounted rates:

- JW Marriott: $285 USD/night
- Marriott Cancun: $185 USD/night

Reservations will be made by attendees directly with Marriott Reservations (reservations will open at the latest in mid-January, 2020). Note: rooms available at our group discount are limited and we strongly encourage you to make reservations early!

Special perks for staying at the Marriott Cancún Resort or The JW Marriott:

- 16% VAT Exemption (copies of passport, immigration card obtained upon arrival to Mexico, and completed hotel registration card required)
- No Resort fees
- All rooms have a private balcony or patio
- Group rate is extended 3 days prior and 3 days after meeting dates
- Complimentary parking
- Complimentary access to the Fitness Center

What’s special about Cancun?

- Ranked #1 destination for US citizens outside the US and one of the main destinations for citizens from North and South America, Europe and Asia.

Left: View from a JW Marriott room balcony; Right: 5-HT molecule prepared by the pastry chef at the JW Marriott. Images courtesy of K. Cunningham.

Kathryn Cunningham (LOC member)
Carlos Villalón (Chair, LOC)
Call for Symposium Proposals

Deadline: July 26, 2019

We are seeking novel and exciting proposals from investigators with a serotonin research focus. Symposia can cover any aspect of the field of serotonin including, but not limited to:

- Addiction and substance abuse
- CNS disorders
- Normal brain function
- Drug Discovery
- PNS disorders
- Cardiovascular function
- Digestive processes
- Gut microbiome
- Immune system
- Inflammation
- Pain
- Psychedelics

Individual proposals that are integrative and inclusive of multiple disciplines ranging from molecular pharmacology, neurochemistry, animal behavior to clinical studies are most desirable. Proposals that are balanced both with respect to gender and geographic location are also strongly encouraged.

Please note the following:

• Selected symposia will be allotted 75 min and should be composed of no more than 3 speakers (20 min talk / 5 min question period per speaker)

• Verification of speaker participation is required at time of proposal submission. An individual will be allowed to participate as a speaker in only one symposium

• All symposium participants will be responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses.

• Speakers should be independent /established investigators (i.e., minimum rank of Assistant Professor or equivalent). Oral session(s) dedicated to young investigators (i.e., students, post-docs) will be programmed separately.

• Symposium participants are not required to be ISSR members, however, we strongly encourage ISSR membership (i.e., dues paid for the 2019-2020 membership cycle). Reduced registration fees will only apply to symposium participants who are current ISSR members.

Please download the symposium proposal form from our website (https://www.serotoninclub.org/). Submit your completed proposal as a word doc by email to:

Dr. Kelly Berg (ISSR Secretary/Treasurer)
berg@uthscsa.edu
ISSR 2020: Serotonin on the Mexican Caribbean
July 26-29, 2020

Important Deadlines

• **Symposium Proposal Submission** (Notification of acceptance by mid-September 2019), Deadline: July 26, 2019

• **Travel Award Application** (submission opens in October, 2019), Deadline: December 1, 2019 (notification early to mid-January, 2020)

• **Meeting Registration** (opens in January, 2020)
  ▪ Early Bird: March 15, 2020 (fees increase after March 15)
  ▪ Regular: April 20, 2020 (fees increase after April 20)
  ▪ Late: July 1, 2020

Due to our contract with the meeting venue, registration fees will not be refunded after April 20, 2020

• **Abstract Submission** (opens in January, 2020).
  For short oral presentations: March 15, 2020 Notification of acceptance by mid-April; abstracts accepted for short talks will also be programmed as a poster presentation.
  For poster presentation only: April 20, 2020

• **Lodging** (reservations open in January, 2020)
  Deadline for the discounted room rates is April 20, 2019

The Marriott Resort in Cancun is a complex that includes two hotels (the Marriott Cancun and the JW Marriott Resort and Spa) along with 9 restaurants and numerous activities available on site. We have a room block with discounted rates at both the Marriott Cancun ($185 per night) and the JW Marriott ($285 per night). Note: rooms available at discount are limited and we strongly encourage you to make reservations early!

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Did you know?
Last five destinations of the Society’s meeting

Cork, Seattle, Hermanus, Montpellier, Quebec
**Discover Cancun!**

We have contracted with International Incentive Travel (IIT) to provide ground transportation from the airport to the Marriott Cancun Resort. Meeting attendees should arrange transport by booking with IIT directly before arrival, the cost is ~$30 USD per person.

Cancun is the perfect location to mix work and play! We also contracted with International Incentive Travel (IIT) to provide to our group tourism information and reservation assistance for various day excursions (preferably booked either before or after our meeting...) as well as evening entertainment. Full or half day trips can be booked in advance as well as on site during our meeting.

IIT will maintain a hospitality desk in the JW Marriott exclusively for our group’s convenience for booking excursions, restaurant reservations etc. Some activities available to be booked via IIT are shown below (please see the ISSR website for a full brochure of all available activities with pricing). You will be able to book activities up to three days before and three days after our meeting dates.

**Leisure in Cancun**

- Snorkeling
- XOXIMILCO
- Sailing
- CHICHEN ITZA
- Deep sea Fishing
- Golf
Please join us in the HiPoint lounge of the Highline Bar for great food, beer, wine and collegial “mixing”. We welcome ISSR members and non-members alike - So bring a few of your friends and colleagues! The cost is $15 per person (payable at the door) and includes hearty appetizers with two drink tickets. Space is limited, please register to reserve your spot by sending an email to Dr. John Neumaier (neumaier@uw.edu). Questions? Please don’t hesitate to contact John.

When: Monday, October 21, 2019
Where: Highline Bar and Lounge, 169 W Kinzie Street
Time: 6:00 - 8:00PM

We thank ACS Chemical Neuroscience and San Diego Instruments for making this event possible by their generous sponsorship.
Special Serotonin Issue in Neuropharmacology

“Advances in Serotonin Research: Crossing scales and boundaries”

With Professors Philippe De Deurwaerdere and Giuseppe Di Giovanni as Guest Editors. The Special Issue will include authoritative state of the art review articles on:

1/ CNS 5-HT receptors: location, signalling and function - Trevor Sharp and Nicholas Barnes

2/ Targeting the 5-HT system: potential side effects - Daniel Hoyer

3/ 5-HT2 Receptors in epilepsy - Giuseppe Di Giovanni

4/ Constitutive activity of 5-HT receptors - Philippe De Deurwaerdere

5/ Bifunctional agents for improved control of Alzheimer’s’ disease: focus on multi-target 5-HT6 receptor antagonists - Mark J. Millan

6/ Glial 5-HT1A-5-HT2A isoreceptor complexes in a genetic rat model of depression - Kjell Fuxe

7/ The involvement of the Dorsal Raphe Nucleus/Serotonin in the Neurodegenerative Diseases - Harry W.M. Steinbusch

8/ Yin and yang of serotonin in pain control mechanisms - Michel Hamon

9/ Multiscale computational modelling of drug effects on serotonergic system - Da-Hui Wang and Kongfatt Wong-Lin

10/ 5-HT6 interactome: from neurodevelopment to modulation of cognition - Joël L. Bockaërt

11/ Astrocyte-neuron interactions in neurotransmitter function and control 5-HT activity and major depression pathogenesis/treatment - Francesc Artigas

12/ Cadherin-13 impacts development and plasticity of the serotonin system - Klaus Peter Lesch

To submit a paper to this Special Issue, please go to http://ees.elsevier.com/np and click on “Submit new manuscript”. It is important that authors select "VSI: Serotonin Research" as the article type. The deadline for submissions is June 30th, 2019.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Professor Di Giovanni, giuseppe.digiovanni@um.edu.mt
ISSR Membership info

Anyone with an interest in any aspect of serotonin research is welcome to become a member.

Benefits of ISSR Membership:

- Networking opportunities to form collaborations with other serotonin researchers
- Opportunity for professional development and leadership in the Society
- Opportunity to submit proposals and chair a symposium at our international biennial meetings
- Discounted registration fees to attend our international biennial meetings
- Information/invitations to ISSR sponsored events (e.g., FENS, SFN socials)
- Delivery of our Society newsletters directly to your email “in-box”

Dues rates (2019-2020 cycle)

Regular Member (e.g., faculty or equivalent): $100 USD
Trainee (Students/Post-docs): $60 USD
Retired Member: $60 USD

Note: we require email confirmation of student or post-doc status from the mentor

Payment instructions

Payment by credit card can be made at our ISSR website (http://serotoninclub.org/). In some cases, we are able to accept bank wire transfers, please arrange payments with Dr. Kelly Berg (berg@uthscsa.edu).
Alternatively, you may send a check payable to the “International Society for Serotonin Research” to Kelly at the address below.

Kelly A. Berg, Ph.D.
Department of Pharmacology-mc 7764
UT Health San Antonio
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, TX 78229-3900
Email: berg@uthscsa.edu

Membership dues are the only source of revenue for the ISSR and provide the support needed to maintain viability of our Society.

Thank you for your support!!!!