Editorial information

Deadlines

Material for December Issue:	November 1, 2003
Material for June Issue:	May 1, 2004

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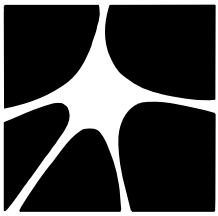
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Officer's reports

Presidents Report to the ISN Council Meeting in Paris, August 2003

BA Meeting Outcomes

At our previous council meeting we agreed that the money that was held in the Argentinian bank if released should be retained by the Argentinian Society for Neurochemistry. This money has now been released and Giannina Pasquini has informed the Treasurer. The money will be used to support travel grants to young members of the Argentinian society to travel to meetings such as the ISN meetings.

2004 Council Meeting

At our previous meeting we agreed to meet in the asian pacific region for the 2004 Council meeting. This meeting will take place in Osaka in association with the Japanese Society for Neurochemistry Meeting to be held from the 20-23 September. The exact date will be determined by the secretary. The General Business meeting of the ISN will be held during the conference at a time to be determined by the secretary.

ISN Special Neurochemistry Meetings

At the last council meeting it was agreed that Jacques Mallett would be asked to coordinate the first ISN Special Neurochemistry Meeting. It was accepted that in order to initiate the first meeting an accelerated process would need to be undertaken and that I would coordinate this. Jacques agreed to be the organizer. He also determined that the location of the meeting should be at the Palace of the Popes in Avignon in May 2004. A contract with a PCO has been signed by me for undertaking this conference. Jacques will report on this meeting in Paris. In addition some general guidelines were established for these special neurochemistry meetings at our last council meeting and these are documented in our minutes. However, we need to revisit these decisions and an item has been included in the agenda in Paris for us to debate the establishment of the 2006 meeting.

Program Committee Meeting for the 2005 Meeting

We need to have the Program Committee meeting for the 2005 Innsbruck conference during 2004. I would recommend that it be held in association with the 2004 Special Neurochemistry Conference in Avignon in May. This would have the advantage that the officers of the ESN and the ISN and the chair of the LOC would either be there, or not have too far away such that travel is expensive, thereby saving the society money. In addition the attendance of the program committee would increase the potential attendance and participation at the special neurochemistry meeting. Finally, to have the program committee at Osaka in parallel with the council meeting, as has been our history, would be too late in the year to get the full program sorted out in time for the second announcement.

Publication Committee Meeting in 2004
It is also proposed that the annual meeting with Blackwell and the officers and publication committee should also be held in conjunction with the meeting in Avignon.

Company Secretary
I would like on behalf of the ISN to extend the societies warmest thanks to Herman Bachelard for his long and distinguished role as company secretary of the ISN.

Cancellation of the ISN Meeting in Hong Kong
The officers of the society met in Los Angeles at the meeting of the ASN in the first week of May. At that time there was considerable debate about the wisdom of proceeding with the conference. A letter was prepared and sent to the council members outlining the case for cancelling the meeting (see attached). On the basis of this letter the council unanimously agreed to cancel the meeting.

While the officers were all together at the ASN meeting they had the opportunity to consider the consequences of this decision to cancel. They invited Alfreda Stadlin to attend these discussions, as she is the President of the Asian Pacific Society for Neurochemistry, our partners in the meeting, as well as being the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee. The priorities that were paramount at these discussions were how can we support the APSN and the region and how can we save the ISN from a financial disaster. Our first decision was to not transfer the meeting to another venue, especially one outside the region, as this potentially undermined both of our principals. We then sought alternatives.

One idea was to have an APSN meeting in Hong Kong at a much later date when we knew that SARS was gone. This was coupled to the idea that we may be able to use some of the funds that had to be paid to the convention centre and the PCO as a result of contracts to put toward an APSN meeting. Coupled with this was the fact that all of the satellites were being cancelled and coordinators expressed the wish to have a venue available to them at a later point in time so that they resurrect their conferences.

A second idea was that the ISN School could be transferred to be run in conjunction with the meeting in Avignon. This was because the topic areas overlapped.

A third idea was to support the APSN by rearranging our council meeting in 2006 to be in the asian pacific region again. This would rationalize the rotations and we have previously held council meetings in the same region twice in a row.

A fourth idea was to support an initiative of the Japanese Society for Neurochemistry who are attempting to open up their conference and make it more regional. They have sought funding to have Chinese and Koreans attend their meetings. We could underwrite this initiative.

Each of these and other any other ideas will be discussed at the council meeting in Paris. A principal that could underlie the funding of these ideas is that the ISN council has budgeted approximately $US500,000 for the Hong Kong meeting. Once we have paid the expenses of the meeting, such as the funds spent on the announcements, the PCO contract, the convention centre, the council meeting etc, then any money left over could go to the asian pacific region for initiatives such as those discussed above and approved by council. In this way the ISN would not be in a position of having too much money accumulated without an accompanying expenditure.

The Hong Kong Meeting and SARS

The Officers of the ISN **Monday 5th May, 2003**

As you all know the issue of the SARS virus and the meeting in Hong Kong have been exercising our minds for some time. Since I last wrote to you we have received a great many responses to the web announcement. We have also had advice from the Chair of the Program Committee, the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee and some Councillors. Since arriving in Newport Beach we have spoken with dozens of neurochemists here at the ASN meeting, including Naren, Steve and John who are all members of the ISN council. We have also spoken with each other at length over a number of meetings.

We the officers of the society have reluctantly come to the conclusion that we must recommend to Council to cancel the meeting in Hong Kong for the sake of the future of the Society.

We realize the gravity of this advice. I do not have time today to document all of our reasons. However, foremost among them are:

1. The clarity and unanimity of the members and potential participants in the Hong Kong meeting that we should not go.
2. The fact that WHO have not yet lifted the ban on travel to Hong Kong and to China and therefore the vast majority of potential participants would not have permission, or insurance coverage, to travel from their employers. Even if the ban is lifted for Hong Kong over the next month it will not be in China.
3. The continuing incidence of new cases in Hong Kong, the increasing border security and the ever-increasing restrictions on travel within China. This could potentially prevent our Chinese colleagues from attending and at the very least will stop tourism as part of the pre and post conference activities for the participants.
4. The concern for the society that we should not have an unacceptable meeting in terms of scientific quality, due to a lack of invited speakers and poster presenters.
5. The cancellation already of at least one satellite and the postponement of a number of others, further reducing the possible participants at the main meeting.
6. The likelihood of the school being cancelled due to lack of faculty willing to participate.
7. The negative psychology of being in a lecture hall wearing a face-mask, being afraid to shake hands with colleagues or being terrified if someone coughs.
8. The need for clarity now for all of us. Waiting any longer will only increase anxiety and diminish participation.

We would appreciate it if you could let us know immediately as to whether you do or do not support the cancellation of the meeting. We would hope to clarify the situation within the next 48 hours. This is so that could firm up our contingencies plans while we are still all in the one location and so that we could announce the council's decision at this meeting. Alfreda has been invited to join us on Thursday and been informed of the advice that we will be giving to Council.

Peter Dunkley-President
Arne Schousboe-Secretary
Roger Butterworth-Treasurer

Report from the ISN Secretary for the period June 2002 – June 2003

The following activities have been carried out in the office of the Secretary since the previous Council Meeting at the ASN Meeting held in June 2002 in Palm Beach, Fl.

1) **Minutes of the Council and General Business Meetings in Palm Beach.**
   The minutes of these meetings were prepared and sent to the Officers for approval. After approval by the Officers, the minutes were distributed to the Council members, the Company Secretary and the Historian. Subsequently the minutes were published in the December 2002 Newsletter.

2) **Neurochemistry News**
   Production of the December 2002 issue of Neurochemistry News was on time and included important information about the election of new Secretary and Council Members. Likewise this issue of the Newsletter contained the call for proposals for the venue of the 2007 Biennial Meeting to be held jointly with the ASN in the Americas. The June 2003 issue of the Newsletter is being prepared while this report is finalized.

3) **New Members**
   A new membership application form has been prepared (in collaboration with the Treasurer, Dr. Roger Butterworth), printed and distributed. New members have been welcomed to the Society.

4) **Membership directory**
   A new edition of the Membership Directory has been prepared. As an innovation, the 2003 edition has been prepared as a joint membership list for ISN, ASN and ESN. Prof. Bernd Hamprecht is cordially thanked for his efforts to update and coordinate these membership lists.

5) **Preparations of the Council and Business Meetings to take place in Paris, 2003**
   Preparations regarding the Council and General Business Meetings to be held in Paris, such as collection of committee reports have been taken care of. The membership has been informed by e-mail about the changes in the venue and timing of the Meetings caused by the unfortunate cancellation of the Hong Kong Meeting (see below).

Letters of invitation to Council members and the Officers plus other persons involved were sent out and if needed hotel reservations were handled. The different activities were scheduled and organized in close collaboration with the President, Dr. Peter Dunkley, and the Treasurer, Dr. Roger Butterworth.

6) **Discussions among the Officers during the ASN Meeting held in Newport Beach, CA. about the Biennial Meeting in Hong Kong.**

Due to the unfortunate situation in Hong Kong caused by the WHO warning against travel to Hong Kong and China as a result of the SARS epidemic, the Officers spent many hours in Newport Beach discussing whether or not the ISN should carry on with the preparations of the Biennial Meeting in Hong Kong organized jointly with the APSN. These discussions involved intense e-mail and telephone based consultations with Council and Dr. Alfreda Stadlin the Chairperson of the LOC and President of the APSN. The conclusion of these considerations and deliberations was to cancel the Hong Kong Meeting. As a result of this it was subsequently decided to transfer the Council Meeting and GBM to Paris during the dates August 4-6 (see above).

7) **Elections (Council – Secretary)**

The December 2002 Newsletter contained a call to nominate candidates for Council and Secretary to assume office in August 2003. At the time of the deadline 10 candidates for Council and 2 candidates for Secretary had been nominated. The nominations were scrutinized by the Nomination Committee and based on the information about the candidates received from Dr. N. Banik, the Nom. Com. Chairperson, the Secretary prepared the ballots which were mailed to the membership in April. Due to an unfortunate error in the mailing procedure a second set of ballots were mailed to the membership in May. The deadline for the return of ballots to the Company Secretary, Dr. Herman Bachelard was at the same time extended to June 20. The ballots received in the office of the Company Secretary will be counted jointly by the Company Secretary and the ISN Secretary on June 23-24 and the results of the elections will be made known to the candidates.

8) **Journal Matters**

The Officers, the Chairperson of the Publ. Com. and the Chief Editors met with representatives from Blackwell in May 2003 just after the ASN Meeteing held in Newport Beach, CA, to discuss the situation of the Journal (see report from the Publications Committee).

Arne Schousboe
ISN Secretary

Committee Reports

Conference Committee report, June 2003

Agustina Garcia

Since the last Council meeting in Palm Beach in June 2002 two deadlines for application for ISN support for conferences have been resolved.

For the April 30 and the October 31, 2002 deadlines, seven applications were examined in each occasion and all of them were considered worth supporting to some extend. The name of the successful applicants and the amount granted are summarised in the attached tables.

For the April 30, 2003 deadline, 5 applications were received and are presently under examination.

During this period, the ISN-CC also examined submissions (deadline January 31, 2003) for the Young Scientist Lectureship Awards that had been programmed for the ISN/APSN meeting in Hong Kong. Thirteen proposals were received and the ISN-CC had a difficult task selecting only two among several outstanding young scientists. After cancellation of the Hong Kong meeting, the selected scientists, Farrukh A. Chaudry and Gonzalo E. Torres, will be given the opportunity to receive the award and present their work in another ISN meeting.

The meeting reports of the conferences supported in the October 31, 2001 session (see Neurochemistry News, June 2002, p. 32) and three of the April 30, 2002 session (J. Albrecht, V. Calabrese, P. Taylor) have appeared in the Neurochemistry News of December 2002 and one more has been received (S. Dunlop).

Finally, the guidelines for application for financial support to the ISN-CC and the application form have been placed on the web page.

ISN Support for Conferences

Results April 30, 2002 deadline

Organizer name	Affiliation	Conference name and location	Date	Funds $US
Jan Albrecht	Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland	Glutamine, glutamate and GABA in the CNS, Wierzba , Poland	August 24-28, 2002	5,000
Ricardo Borges	Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain	12th International Symposium on Chromaffin Cell Biology, La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain	September 20-25, 2003	4,500
Vittorio Calabrese	University of Catania, Italy.	2nd International Conference on Heme Oxygenase (HO/CO) and Cellular Stress Response, Catania, Italy	June 6-9, 2002	3,100
Michael A. Cousin	University of Edinburgh, UK	Molecular Mechanisms of Exocytosis and Endocytosis, Edinburgh, UK	March 23- 25, 2003	6,200
Sarah Dunlop	The University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia	3rd Asia Pacific Symposium on Neural Regeneration, Perth, Australia	December 3- 5, 2002	6,500
Segismund Huck	University of Vienna, Austria	Synaptogenesis, Vienna, Austria	July 6-8, 2003	5,800
Palmer Taylor	California Univ. La Jolla, CA USA	ISN Symposium "Checks and Balances in Cholinergic Gene Expression" within the 33th Annual Meeting of the ASN, Palm Beach, Florida, USA	June 22 – 26, 2002	6,120

October 30, 2002 deadline

Organizer name	Affiliation	Conference name and location	Date	Funds $US
Joaquin Ariño	Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Spain	ISN Symposium "Phosphatases in Neurobiology", within the Conference on Protein Phosphatases, Barcelona, Spain	June 29-July 3, 2003	6,650
Andras Buki	Pecs University, Hungary	2nd Pannonian Symposium on CNS Injury, Pecs, Hungary	May 8-10, 2003	2,500
Glyn Dawson	University of Chicago, USA	9th International Congress on Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (Batten Disease), Chicago, Ill. USA	April 10-13, 2003	5,000
Katarzyna A. Nalecz	Nencki Inst. Exp. Biol., Warsaw, Poland	ISN Symposium "Intercellular Communication in the Brain in Health and Disease" within the ESN Conference on Advances in Molecular Mechanisms of Neurological Disorders, Warsaw, Poland	June 1-4, 2003	7,000
Klaus G. Reymann	Leibniz Inst. Neurobiol. Magdeburg, Germany	3rd International Symposium Neuro protection and Neurorepair, Magdeburg, Germany	May 7-11, 2003	7,500
Alois Saria	University of Innsbruck, Austria	5th Neurochemistry Winter Conference 2003, Sölden (Ötztal), Tirol, Austria	April 5-10, 2003	5,500
Kim B. Seroogy	University of Kentucky, USA	NEUROPEPTIDES 2003, Montauk, New York, USA	June 8-12, 2003	2,400

Report of the Committee for Aid and Education in Neurochemistry, 2002-2003

June 1, 2003
Steven E. Pfeiffer

The Committee for Aid and Education in Neurochemistry has had an active year. To date, $33,900 of CAEN funds has been dispersed to scientists from fourteen countries (Argentina, India, Brazil, Uruguay, Russia, Hungary, Canada, Croatia, Congo, Nigeria, Moracco, and Bulgaria). An additional $13,000 of support is pending for applicants from four additional countries (Mexico, Puerto Rico, Malaysia, Armenia). This support has been for small research grants for the applicant's laboratory (2), attendance at scientific meetings (6), support of neurochemistry schools , workshops and meetings (3), and travel to carry out research in another laboratory (3). Included in this total was an award of $1,500 to the Thudicum library in Canada administrated via Dr. Theodore Sourkes, and an award of $8,000 to support the SONA meeting in Nigeria administrated via Dr. Michael Egwu [an additional $3,500 was awarded to three individuals from the Congo (currently in Norway) and Morocco to attend SONA].

In addition, CAEN oversaw the awarding of $28,000 in one-time small research grants to 16 Argentinian neurochemists; the selection committee was made up of a small group of non-competing Argentinian scientists (Podesta, Paladini, Caputto, Pasquini) chaired by Dr. Eduardo Soto.

Finally, travel grants were awarded to Argentinian scientists to attend the ISN meeting in Hong Kong, of which $12,000 came from the President's fund and $1,500 from the CAEN budget. The selections were made by a small group of Argentinian scientists Profs. Paladini, Podesta, Maccioni) chaired by Drs. Giannina Pasquini and Eduardo Soto, none of whom applied for these funds. Unfortunately, these funds were not used in view of the cancellation of this meeting.

Country	Number Or People	Amount	Recipient/Purpose	Date
Argentina	1	$3,000	Pasquini; research	Oct. 2002
Argentina Research Grants; Special ISN One Time Fund	16	($28,000 total)	Bouzat, Castano, Antonelli, de Lores Arnaiz, Plazas, Guisto, Guido, De Fraga, Cobe, Nores, Daniotti, Viola, Rosenstein, Vatta, Cancela, Perillo	Nov. 2002
India	1	$800	Vivekanandhan; meeting	Nov. 2002
Brazil	1	$2,500	Guatimosim; research	Sept. 2002
Uraguay	1	$5,000	Dajas; School	Nov. 2002
Canada	1	$1,500	Sourkes; Thudicum Library	Dec. 2002
Russia	2	$600 Meeting	Kerkesho/Konenevsky	Mar., 2003
Hungary	1	$1,500	Buki, research visit	Apr. 2003
Argentina Travel ($12,000 from President)	9	($13,500)	Caputto, Barrantes, Rubinstein Setton, Ferrari, Antonelli, Hallek, Salis, Paez	Apr. 2003

*These funds were not used due to cancellation of the ISN meeting in Hong Kong.

Hungary/Croatia	2	$1,500	School	Apr. 2003
Uganda	1	$3,000	Ihunwo; Visit to Leipzig lab.	Mar. 2003
Congo	1	$1,000	Mwanza; SONA	Apr. 2003
Congo	1	$1,000	Kashala; SONA	Apr. 2003
Moracco	1	$1,500	Bouyata; SONA	Apr. 2003
Nigeria	1	$8,000	Egwu; SONA	Apr. 2003
Bulgaria	1	$3,000	Kalfin; visit to Italian lab.	June 2003

Mexico	1	Pending; $5,000	Herandez; workshop	June 2003
Malaysia	1	Pending	Kumar; visit to Polish lab.	June 2003
Armenia	1	Pending	Guevorkian; research	—
Puerto Rico	1	Pending; $5,000?	Espinosa; school	—

Publication Committee Report

John Clark

2002 was a good year for the *Journal of Neurochemistry* – standards of production and ranking were maintained and income was significantly higher. 2003, to date looks to be equally successful. Our relationship with Blackwell's (led by Amanda McLean-Inglis, and Simon Rallinson), both on a personal and corporate level is excellent and we have 2 first-rate hardworking Chief Editors and their offices. Thanks are also due from the ISN to our Deputy Chief Editors and Editorial Board without whose sterling efforts there would be no journal.

Finance
Full rate (i.e. print plus electronic) subscriptions enjoyed an attrition rate of less than 2% in 2002 [854 – 2001 : 832 – 2002] which according to the publishers is unusually low for a well-established journal such as *J Neurochem*. Despite this, total revenues were 21% up on 2001 figures due to increased income from online subscriptions and consortia licensing, and decreased costs (-11%). This resulted in an income of $929K (USD) to ISN, 39% up on the 2001 income. A similar dollar income is forecast for 2003.

Subscriptions for 2003 are given below:

Institutions	paper & online	-	$2646
	online only	-	2381
Individual	paper & online	-	670
	online only	-	603
Members	paper & online	-	200
	online only	-	12

It was agreed at the Journal Business Meeting in Newport Beach, in May 2003 that subscriptions would increase by 7% for 2004.

The availability of *J Neurochem* continues to increase annually, and at the end of 2002 was available to 2010 libraries worldwide through a combination of traditional subscriptions, site licence deals with consortia and electronic databases.

Editorial Offices

The two editorial offices continue to operate efficiently and effectively. Five new editors have been appointed to the Eastern Editorial Board to replace editors who have retired/rotated off. No changes have occurred to the Western Board. Phil Beart has retired as Reviews Editor to be succeeded by Michel Hamon and his sub-board. 2002 was the first full year operated online with 1416 full papers in toto [753 – East, 663 – West] and 103 rapids [55 – East, 45 – West] with almost 80% being submitted electronically. For 2003 (to date) papers are slightly above 2002's numbers with ~ 90% being submitted electronically. Acceptance rates for full papers in 2002 was the same in both offices ~40% and for rapids 22%. Operating online has meant a significant decrease in handling time in the East (meantime to 1st decision down from 48 to 38 days), whereas it has remained low in the West (28 days). Our aim is to have a review/mini review per issue – any suggestions from Council Members would be very welcome and should be directed to M. Hamon. The electronic submission package, Manuscript Central's Scholar One service, continues to work reasonably well with the occasional glitch – further developments are in the pipeline and version 3 will be launched later in 2003.

Citations

The journal currently enjoys an impact factor of 4.83 [2001] and ranks 27th journal of 198 in the Neurosciences category of the 2001 ISI listing and 55th of 308 in the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology category. This is broadly similar to 2000. 2002 impact factors should be available by the end of June 2003.

Supplements

These have been prepared and published for the ASN meeting in Newport Beach [May 4-8] and the ESN meeting in Warsaw [June 1-4]. Although the ISN/APSN meeting in Hong Kong has had to be cancelled [Aug 3-8] due to the SARS crisis, nevertheless, the abstracts will be published as planned in a *J Neurochem* supplement. These abstracts and future ones will also be posted online.

Initiatives

Archives – these are now online back to 1994.
Online Early – this is a Blackwell initiative, whereby articles are posted online several days before the whole issue.
Online Availability – *J Neurochem* is available on Highwire as well as Blackwell's own 'Synergy'. J Neurochem articles were accessed more than 270,000 times on the latter in 2002 as compared to just over 200,000 times on Highwire. There may be a case for dispensing with Highwire since it is expensive to ISN (£72K).

Colour Prints – One free colour print/paper was offered to authors who were Members and as a membership inducement. This went into action in late 2002 – it seems to be running smoothly and will be reviewed in late 2003.

Nomination Committee Report

Naren Banik

Nomination Procedures for the 2003 ISN elections for Secretary and five council members were organized according to the previous ISN election. Prospective officers were required to submit signatures from at least 16 proposing members, not more than one third of which could be from the same country. All candidates were found to be qualified to be on the ballot.

Two nominations for ISN Secretary and ten nominations for Council Members were received with the required number of signatures and country distribution and they were included on the ballot. Nominees were requested to complete a questionnaire (used in the previous elections) on personal and professional activities relevant to the elections. This information and the ballot for election were sent to the Secretary for distribution.

Internet Committee Report

David Shine

The major emphasis of the committee remains the development and maintenance of ISN's web site and membership email notification system. The internet provider for the web site, Interland, has been reliable in the past year. The committee assisted the Local Host and Program Chairs of the biennial meeting by providing web site support including an online abstract submission system, meeting announcements and information, and links to online registration and reservation services. The committee worked with the Publication Committee and the editors of the Journal of Neurochemistry in posting material submitted to the "Matters Arising" section of the journal. Working with the Society's Historian, a catalogue of the archival material was posted so that the membership can determine what historical material is available. A searchable database of the World Neurochemistry Membership Database was recently launched with the aid of Dr. Bernd Hamprecht. General maintenance of the web site included regular updating of the scientific meeting and positions available lists.

Several emails were broadcast to the membership in the past year.

The committee welcomes suggestions to improve ISN's presence on the internet.

Travel Award Committee Report

Vera Adam-Vizi

Applications for travel awards to attend the ISN/APSN 2003 Joint Meeting in Hong Kong were sent by e-mail to the chairperson of the committee (Vera Adam-Vizi). Application forms were available on the ISN Portal.

The application forms together with the publication lists and abstracts to be submitted were evaluated by the committee and the selection was based on criteria used earlier. Priority was given to those under the age of 38 years, in the first 4 year of their postdoctoral career and to those who had not received previous support from ISN and who did not hold permanent position. Abstracts were evaluated in relation to the program of the meeting.

203 applications were evaluated and this number was almost the same as that for the previous ISN meeting in 2001 (206).

The original deadline for submitting the applications was January 31, 2003, which was extended until February 28. Since applicants had to be notified before the deadline for abstract submission (March 15), first the committee members seemed to have only five days for the evaluation. Later the abstract submission deadline was also extended until the end of March so the committee had another week for the evaluation. 11 members of the committee sent their scores.

It would be useful in the future if the deadline for application for travel awards could be at least three weeks earlier than the deadline for abstract submittion to the meeting. This would give sufficient time for the committee to evaluate the applications and to notify the applicants about the decision in time.

100 applicants (49.2%) received supports from the total budget of 150.000 USD, with a balanced geographical distribution (American Continent 27; Europe 21; Australia, New Zeeland 9; Africa 4; Asia, Pacific Region 39).

Standard amounts (in USD) were given to applicants from different geographical regions based on the random sampling of the costs indicated in the applications (American Continent, Europe 1600; Australia, New Zeeland, India 1100; Japan 900; all the other 700 USD). In addition, the registration fees of successful applicants were also covered from the total budget. After the notification all the successful applicants referred back, thanked and accepted the awards.

Thanks are expressed to the members of the Travel Award Committee who worked very conscientiously, rapidly and reliably during the evaluation process.

It is very unfortunate that due to the unavoidable cancellation of the meeting in Hong Kong all our efforts were eventually in vain.

Historian's report

Herman Bachelard

The ISN Archives were initiated by Jordi Folch-Pi in1977 and previous Historians were Abel Lajtha (1980 – 1983), Henry McIlwain (1983 – 1991), Gerald Curzon (1992 – 1999).

They are stored in files in heat- and acid-proof boxes in a separate small room in the School of Mathematics (adjoining Physics) at the University of Nottingham. Cataloguing of materials from ex-Officers is now complete and the Historian would welcome new material of interest from current ISN Officers.

It should be noted that due to our Registration as a Company in the UK, the official Minute Books of Business and Council Meetings must be held by the Company Secretary, rather than in the Archives. Therefore these will be transferred to John Clark in London when he becomes Company Secretary this summer.

David Shine has now placed the Archives catalogue on our ISN Portal, and items of interest can be accessed on request from the current Historian (Herman Bachelard, Phone: 44-115-951-4752;
Fax: 44-115-951-5166; email: herman.bachelard@nottingham.ac.uk).
Replies to requests would be expected to be by Fax as most of the materials are in non-electronic form.

Could I make a further plea for the inclusion of Historical Symposia or Workshops in some of our future meetings? These were discontinued after the Boston meeting in 1997 – the reason being that ISN meetings since then have been held jointly with our sister Societies (ASN, ESN and APSN) and the prevailing view was that there was insufficient space in the programmes.
However the points made by Gerald Curzon following the decision not to include an historical session in the Berlin meeting are worth re-iterating:

a) "The more knowledge accumulates, the more history there is to discuss – as the production of knowledge accelerates, its disappearance from our consciousness also accelerates if history is neglected. In the absence of historical perspective, work done even as recently as 20 years ago is forgotten"
b) "In the past the historical sessions have generated attendances at least as large as many scientific ones".

My own feeling is that an historical session can put an interesting or controversial development in our science into perspective while it is still active in our collective memory?
It seems a real pity that these sessions appear to have fallen off the agenda!

The Science Museum in London has an extensive section devoted to Biochemistry, which includes a substantial amount of material of interest to neurochemists.
For example, about 20 or so of Thudichum's chemicals, Rapport's three original

crystallised serotonin samples (published with structural analysis in 1948/9), and McIlwain's original prototype chopper made from war surplus materials. I am in contact with personnel in the Museum with the aim of obtaining a catalogue of their materials of interest to ISN members.
Thudichum's original purified lipids (choline platinochloride, lecithin cadmium chloride, phrenosine and kerasine) are currently held in a cupboard in the Dean's office at Guy's Hospital in London and I am trying to arrange for them to be stored in the Science museum.

Company Secretary's Report

Herman Bachelard

1. My routine duties have been payment of Company fees through our accountant at Deloitte & Touche and to ensure the preparation and forwarding of the Auditors' Reports to our Treasurer.

2. Liaising between our accountant and Treasurer in payment of bills.

3. Liaising between ISN Officers and our solicitors on amendments to the Constitution and to the Guidelines.

4. I have been Company Secretary since 1995 and am handing over to John Clark soon – it has been a really pleasant task.

Reports from CC Sponsored Meetings

Third Asia Pacific Symposium on Neural Regeneration

3rd-5th December 2002
Sheraton, Perth, Western Australia

Sarah Dunlop
School of Animal Biology, The University of Western Australia, Crawley WA 6009

The Third Asia Pacific Symposium on Neural Regeneration continued the tradition of fostering neuroscience in the Asia Pacific region, the first being held in Hong Kong in 1998 and the second in Xi'an, China in 2000. The Asia Pacific Symposium alternates on a biennial basis with the International Symposium on Neural Regeneration that was initiated in 1985 and is held at the Asilomar Conference Centre, Pacific Grove, California.

The Problem – Brain and Spinal Cord Injury

Traumatic damage to the human brain and spinal cord is currently irreversible because these tissues lack an inherent capacity for repair. For example, injury to the spinal cord at the level of the neck results in quadriplegic paralysis and an inability to maintain even basic body functions such as breathing, regulation of body temperature, bladder and bowel control and sexual function. Furthermore, patients often suffer chronic pain. In Australia alone there are over 300 cases of spinal cord injury annually, that is one person almost every day is condemned to severe and permanent disability. Globally, spinal cord injury strikes 20 people in every million. By 2005 there will be close to 1 million new sufferers, bringing the world total to over 2 million. Health care costs in Australia for spinal cord injury currently exceed $1 billion annually. In addition, there are incalculable hidden costs, including loss of income and reduced contribution to society as well as extreme psychological and emotional stress, not only for the victims but also for their families who are often primary carers.

Solving the Problem – Biomedical Research on Neural Regeneration

Leading neuroscientists from the Asia-Pacific region, Northern America and Europe discussed the latest advances in neural regeneration. There were 18 International and 7 Australian invited speakers. Professor Fred Gage, Salk Institute, gave the Plenary Lecture. All free communications were as posters. There were 218 registrants. Topics covered included Stem Cells, Cell Replacement & Tissue Engineering, Axon Guidance Mechanisms, Spinal Cord Injury & Repair, Pathfinding & Target Recognition and Growth Inhibitory Factors. In addition, the Symposium was preceded by a half-day of Public Lectures designed to update the public on the latest developments in research and their translation into clinical trials and practice (Attendees: approximately 200 with 70% being general public). Furthermore, the

Symposium was followed by a Spinal Cord Discussion Workshop that examined animal models, candidate therapies, outcomes and human clinical trials (Registrants: 26)

Stem Cells (Fred Gage, The Salk Institute, USA, Derek van der Kooy, Ontario, CANADA, Perry Bartlett, Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, AUSTRALIA, John McDonald, Washington University, St Louis, USA).

Most neurons in the adult brain are terminally differentiated and until recently it was considered that they are not replaced if they die as a result of neurotrauma or neurodegenerative disease. There is now increasing evidence that some regions of the adult brain, such as the olfactory bulb and hippocampus, produce stem cells throughout adult life. Furthermore, such cells have now been shown to differentiate into mature neurons and become functionally integrated into the adult brain. It has now been shown that such cells can be harvested, genetically modified and then returned to the brain where they differentiate into glia or neurons depending on the local environment. One class of stem cell that is FGF-dependent, has been shown to persist in the adult brain throughout life and is also dependent on Notch signalling for its maintenance. When isolated from different brain regions, such stem cells have been shown to be regionally specific based on the expression of homeobox genes. Nevertheless, these cells are not irreversibly committed since after exposure to other neuraxis environments, a neural stem cell can change it region-specific homeobox gene expression pattern. An exception is retinal neural stem cells which appear to be committed to producing progeny with only with retinal cell fates. The subventricular zone has been the focus of harvesting a class of stem cells whose neuronal fate is regulated by a negative regulator of JAK/STAT signalling, namely Suppressor of Cytokine Signalling- 2 (SOCS-2). SOCS2 is up-regulated via the GF-130/LIRF complex with high levels promoting neuronal differentiation. The STAT signalling is initiated via the Growth Hormone Receptor, a signal that normally inhibits neuronal differentiation. Thus, the differentiation of stem cells along the neuronal line appears to occur via cross-talk between separate signalling pathways. In practical terms, work has also focussed on using stem cells to promote re-myelination of the damaged spinal cord in rats. This has important clinical potential since demyelination incapacitates axons that remain intact below the level of injury. In parallel, it is now realised that conditions necessary for optimal spontaneous regeneration are not present after injury. Efforts are thus being directed towards transplanting stem cells at the same time as optimizing patterns of neural activity to promote appropriate and maximal return of function.

Cell Replacement & Tissue Engineering (Jeff Macklis, Harvard Medical School, USA, Kwok-Fai So, University of Hong Kong, HONG KONG, CHINA, Alan Harvey, WAIMR, University of Western Australia, AUSTRALIA)

Although neurogenesis is minimal in the adult cortex, considerable work is revealing the potential for harnessing various cell populations after damage to the brain. A model has been developed in which induced apoptosis leads to nearby interneurons up-regulating genes that allow them to undergo appropriately directed migration,

differentiation, synaptic integration and reformation of appropriate long-distance cortico-spinal connections. Such connections have now been shown to persist for greater than 65 weeks opening up the possibility of long term remodelling after neural damage using endogenous cells without the need for transplantation. Retinal ganglion cell death after axotomy has been shown to be delayed by a few days, a delay that is brought about by the P13K/Akt pathway which inhibits the activation of caspase-9 and -3. The finding opens the opportunity for further delaying cell death to provide a longer window in which to induce retinal ganglion cell axon regeneration. Advances are being made into promoting retinal ganglion cell axon regeneration using viral vector-mediated gene therapy.

Axon Guidance Mechanisms (Paul Letourneau, University of Minnesota, USA, Kate Kalil, University of Wisconsin, USA, Tim O'Connor, University of British Columbia, CANADA, Tim Gomez, University of Wisconsin, USA).

In vitro studies have made enormous progress towards understanding the signalling mechanisms whereby axonal growth cones are guided towards their appropriate targets. A number of signals induce growth cone collapse including Semaphorin-3A and the ephrins, ligands to the Eph tyrosine kinase receptors. Both types of molecule have been shown to be up-regulated after injury to adult tissue. A number of neurotrophins including NGF and BDNF can rescue growth cones from collapsing in environments rich in Semaphorin-3A and ephrins raising the possibility of neurotrophin application to promote regeneration. The inhibitory influence of semaphorins has been shown to affect different types of neuron differentially with some collapsing immediately and others continuing to extend over semaphorin expressing cells before halting. One characteristic of growth cone guidance is a pausing behaviour which is followed by axonal branching at the location where the growth cones paused. Pausing and branching was found to be associated with calcium transients whereas neurons that were rapidly advancing lacked such transients suggesting that calcium signalling can regulate axon progression and cytoskeletal rearrangement. Growth cones of commissural interneurons are one example axons initially being attracted to a signal, namely netrin in the floor plate, and then loosing their sensitivity to allow growth beyond the midline and away from the floor plate. Axons approach the midline in highly serpentine fashions but cross the floor plate in strict straight fascicles before resuming a more meandering course on the opposite side of the spinal cord. The differing trajectories appear to be associated with sensitisation and desensitisation towards the same guidance cue.

Spinal Cord Injury & Repair (Larry Benowitz, Harvard, USA, Giles Plant, WAIMR, University of Western Australia, AUSTRALIA, Martin Oudega, Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami, USA, Robin Franklin, University of Cambridge, UK, John Steeves, ICORD, Vancouver, CANADA, Mary Galea, University of Melbourne, AUSTRALIA).

A number of aspects of rewiring central nerve tracts were explored. Inosine, a naturally occurring metabolite of adensosine, was found to induce appropriate axon

regeneration after cortico-spinal tract lesions that was paralleled by improved behaviour requiring cortical control including tactile placing, retrieval of food pellets and forepaw inhibition during swimming. Olfactory ensheathing glia, derived from olfactory bulb, have also been genetically modified to produce neurotrophins. Transplantion of such cells after rubrospinal tract lesions decreased the lesion size, increased the number of regenerating axons and improved behavioural outcome. In a separate study, Schwann cells, derived from the peripheral nervous system, were also shown to promote sparing of the lesion site and increase the degree of axonal regeneration. Once axons have regenerated, re-myelination is an essential pre-requisite for return of function. Endogenous oligodendrocyte precursors, immature cells with the potential to form myelin, have been shown to be recruited following injury with the potential to remyelinate regenerate axons. Myelin is also an inhibitor of regeneration and a model has been developed whereby myelin is removed after spinal cord injury using an immunological approach, namely injecting serum complement proteins along with a complement-fixing myelin specific antibody such as galactocerebroside. Regeneration was shown to be improved compared to controls using both anatomical and behavioural correlates. The importance of studying primate models was highlighted since corticospinal projections transmit a complex output from a variety of cortical regions which control fine motor movement of the hands and are thus very different from rodents.

Pathfinding & Target Recognition (Brian Key, University of Queensland, AUSTRALIA
Fujio Murakami, Osaka University, JAPAN, Lyn Beazley, WAIMR. University of Western Australia, AUSTRALIA, Greg Lemke, Salk Institute, USA).

Restoration of function will in part involve re-invoking guidance factors expressed during development. Early axon scaffolds provide a model in which to examine the first-formed pathways in the brain. Ectopic expression of wild-type and dominant negative variants of guidance molecules such as DCC, ROBO and neuropilin-1 revealed a variety of path-finding errors in the embryonic Xenopus brain. Commissural formation both within the spinal cord and the caudal hind brain appears to involve an initial attraction of axons towards the midline followed by their growth away from it with the necessary changes in responsiveness to guidance cues. Topographic maps are a fundamental organising principal within the central nervous system. Within the visual system, EphA receptors and their ligands, the ephrin-As, have been shown to be crucial for establishing such maps during development and also to restore them in species such as fish in which optic nerve regeneration is successful. By contrast, expression appears to be abnormal is species such as lizard in which topographic map restoration is defective and animals are blind via the experimental eye. Nevertheless, an appropriate sequence of events can be triggered by training on a visual task with the result that vision in restored. Functional knock-in mice have been used to show that topographic mapping between retinal ganglion cell axons and the visual brain centres is dependent on the level of EphA receptors that are expressed by retinal ganglion cells relative to its neighbours rather than on absolute values.

Growth Inhibitory Factors (James Fawcett, Univeristy of Cambridge, UK, Hajime Fujisawa, Nagoya University, JAPAN, Joost Verhaagen, Netherlands Inst. for Brain Research, THE NETHERLANDS, Marie Filbin, Hunter College, New York, USA).

Over the last few decades, it has been increasingly recognised that injury to the brain and spinal cord results in the up-regulation of an array of growth inhibitory factors; attempts have thus been made to dis-inhibit the inhibitors with the aim of promoting axon regeneration. One of the main inhibitory class of molecules are the chondroitin sulphate proteoglycans. Inhibition of these molecules using enzymatic digestion has promoted axon regeneration and improved behavioural outcomes in rodent models. The location of such molecules has been shown to be within the perineuronal net which normally surrounds cell bodies and dendrites and prevents ongoing plasticity; transient removal of the perineuronal net has been shown to enhance plasticity. Some inhibitory molecules, such as the semaphorins and their receptors the neuropilins are, however, important for the directional guidance of axons since their disruption during development leads to abnormal trajectories. Nevertheless, all known secreted semaphorins (class 3) are found within scar tissue after injury to the CNS and are often associated with meningeal cells offering the potential to overcome the effects of scarring. Detailed examination of myelin has shown that there are 3 main inhibitory components, MAG, Nogo and OMgp and that all signal via the Nogo receptor. Furthermore, the peptides to the inhibitory domain on MAG block the overall inhibitory effect of myelin. These findings have led to an additional approach to inhibiting the inhibitors, namely to change the sensitivity of axons to myelin by changing their intrinsic growth state. Elevation of cAMP enhanced regeneration within the spinal cord as well as reducing glial scarring.

Summary of ISN Student Travel Awards

A total Award of USD$6,500 was granted. Awards ranged from 36-39% of economy airfares. Student travel comprised 85% (AUD$9,617) of the award from ISN. The remaining 15% ($1,357) was used towards the cost of venue hire.

Name	Institution	Country	Degree	Award (AUD$)
Jacques Penderis	University of Cambridge	UK	PhD 2000	$720
Luisa Filipponi	Swinburne University of Technology	Melbourne, Australia	PhD 2002	$214
Xingyun Song	Flinders University of South Australia	Adelaide, Australia	PhD 2000	$155
Victoria MacDermid	ICORD, University of British Columbia	Canada	PhD 2002	$850
Loren Oschipok	ICORD, University of British Columbia	Canada	PhD 1998	$860
Lowell McPhail	ICORD, University of British Columbia	Canada	PhD 1998	$875
Leanne Lewis	ICORD, University of British Columbia	Canada	PhD 2001	$900
Juliet Taylor	Monash Institute of Reproduction & Develop't	Melbourne, Australia	PhD 2000	$214
Emma Woodhall	University of Tasmania	Tasmania, Australia	PhD 2000	$236
Adele Vincent	University of Tasmania	Tasmania, Australia	PhD 2001	$236
Rogan Tinsley	Flinders Uni'/Flinders Medical Research Institute	Adelaide, Australia	PhD 1999	$155
Roger Chung	University of Tasmania	Tasmania, Australia	PhD 2000	$236
Ruslan Masgutov	Kazan State Medical University	Kazan, Russia	PhD 2002	$1295
Alison Canty	University of Melbourne	Melbourne, Australia	PhD 2000	$214
Miriam Chipperfield	University of Queensland	Brisbane, Australia	PhD 1999	$287
Trilochan Srivastava	All India Institute of Medical Science	India	MD 1999	$972
Ka-Wai Siu	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Hong Kong	PhD 2000	$648
Yi Xu	Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine	Japan	PhD 2001	$550

5th Neurochemistry Winter Conference April 5-10, 2003

Sölden, Austria

Alois Saria, Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Innsbruck Medical School, Innsbruck, Austria

This year's conference focused on the biochemistry of monoamines with special reference to drugs of abuse. Five keynote lectures and 8 symposia outlined the most exciting recent developments in the field and presented their results to approx. 100 participants, including a number of young scientists, from 15 countries worldwide. *Kurt Hauser (USA)* presented stem cells as potential targets of disease and substance abuse and specifically outlined interactions between HIV-proteins and endogenous opioids. *Rene Hen (USA)* described hippocampal neurogenesis as basis of some behavioural effects of antidepressive drugs, whereas *Klaus-Peter Lesch (Germany)* highlighted serotonergic genes and behaviour in the evolutionary perspective. *Miklos Toth (USA)* presented the molecular pathways which underlie anxiety and anxiety-related bahavior in mice and, finally, *Florian Holsboer (Germany)* reported on most recent results obtained with pharmacogenomic approaches to unravel the molecular basis of the action of antidepressive drugs.

These keynote topics were supplemented by symposia on following topics:

Sex differences in addiction with emphasis on nicotine *(organised by Sakire Pogun, Turkey, Minda Lynch, USA and Steven W. Gust, USA)*. In this session, gender differences in nicotine reinforcement, the role of dopamine in sex differences for nicotine sensitization, and effects of gender and estrogen on the acquisition, escalation, relapse and treatment phases of drug abuse were highlighted by three speakers.

A symposium on the role of monoamines in motor control was organised by *Klaus Ballanyi (Canada)* and covered single-unit studies in behaving animals, investigation of monoaminergic control of synaptic integration in motoneuron dendrites, a genomic approach in spinal cord injury and monoaminergic control of breathing.

Fred Nyberg (Sweden) organized a symposium on biogenesis and regulation of neuropeptides with specific emphasis on dynorphin neurotoxicity mediated through NMDA receptors, on the regulation of dynorphin by the ubiquitin proteosome system and the implications for Alzheimer's disease, on regulation of dynorphin-kappa opioid receptor signalling by DREAM and on the functional importance of neuropeptide conversion to bioactive fragments.

A session on serotonin receptors, gene expression and psychiatric disorders was organised by *Szoltan Sarnyai (USA)* and contained reports on 5-HT-1A knockout mice, the relation between 5-HT-1A receptors, the neurobiology of depression and genomic analysis of prefrontal cortex in aging and depression.

George Richerson (USA) chaired a session on serotonin and postnatal development with special emphasis on problems related to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, development of cortical neurons and anxiety-related behaviour.

Stephan Schwarzacher (Germany) organised a session in the role of 5-HT receptors during ontogenesis with reports on 5-HT-2B receptors as morphogen, expression profiles of serotonin receptors during ontogenesis of the CNS, new signalling pathways mediated by 5-HT receptors and on the localization of 5-HT-4 receptor mRNA in neuronal subpopulations of rat brain.

Symposia on mouse models of human neurodegenerative diseases and therapeutic treatments (organized by *Rusiko Bourtchouladze, USA)* and on brain repair and plasticity (organized by *Eva Sykova, Czech Republic)* completed the program.

This conference has been the 5th one on an annual basis in a superb winter resort of the Austrian Alps. The comfortable venue and the relaxed atmosphere ensured a maximum of interference between the distinguished scientists and the other participants, even outside the scientific sessions. The next year's 6th Neurochemistry Winter Conference will again take place at Central Hotel Soelden, Austria. One of the major topics will be Neuronal Plasticity During Development and Adulthood, a number of excellent scientists have already committed their participation. Information is available on the Web at http://www.sambax.com/nwc2004

Amount allocated to young scientists

	Amount of subsidy
Anna Dabrowska (Poland)	280,-
Michaela Gasser (Austria)	630,-
Marcin Jurga (Poland)	280,-
Jana Novakova (Czech Republic)	280,-
Peter Salchner (Austria)	280,-
Gudrun Wakonigg (Austria)	630,-
Total	**2380,-**

The support of these scientists by ISN was also mentioned in the programme. The remaining amount of money from the grant was used for supporting, in part, the costs for the organisation and the accommodation of keynote speakers, as outlined in the application.

The Molecular Mechanisms of Exocytosis and Endocytosis

Michael A. Cousin, University of Edinburgh, UK

Over eighty leading junior and senior academics from labs in the UK, Europe, and the USA gathered in Edinburgh (March 23rd – 25th, 2003) to present recent and unpublished data regarding the molecular mechanism of exocytosis and endocytosis. This was the fourth such meeting organised by the Membrane Biology Group (University of Edinburgh, UK) and, true to form, this biennial event produced a lively and highly interactive meeting that reflected the multi-disciplinarity of the field. With the exception of the two plenary speakers, Nils Brose (Germany) and Tim Ryan (USA), all of the 16 invited speakers were junior academics (senior postdoctoral fellows or recently appointed lab heads). This reflected the primary aim of the meeting, which was to stimulate new interactions and collaborations between the "next generation" of group leaders.

Several emerging technical concepts were highlighted throughout the meeting, the most striking being the integration of several disciplines to address common problems in the field. In keeping with the molecular focus, genetic approaches used in the investigation of exocytosis again were at the forefront of the workshop. However this year participants added an additional layer of complexity, with the, "rescue" of lost phenotype of knockout mice by the mutant versions of the gene product in question. This was described elegantly by Nils Brose (Germany) in his studies on the presynapic active zone protein munc-13. Prof. Brose demonstrated that munc-13 was essential for synaptic vesicle priming and also for the facilitation of glutamate release in hippocampal neurones induced by application of phorbol esters. The phenotypes of knockout mice lacking genes for SNAP-25 or synaptotagmin were described by Jacob Soerensen (Germany). These studies indicated that in SNAP-25 knockout mice, rescue of neurotransmitter release by overexpession of SNAP-25 was mediated by an effect on the readily releasable pool of vesicles, most likely at a priming step. The role of synaptotagmin I in fast, synchronised transmitter release was also highlighted in mice carrying a point mutation (R233Q) that decreased affinity for Ca2+-dependent phospholipid binding. These mice demonstrated secretion where the apparent affinity of the Ca2+ sensor was increased two fold, indicating the possible importance of synaptotagmin I as the Ca2+ sensor in exocytosis.

In addition to investigations on the role of genetic deletions, various speakers described the role of post-translational modifications of proteins on vesicle trafficking. Victor Korolchuk (UK) described studies where phosphorylation of specific endocytosis proteins by kinases purified form clathrin-coated vesicles had contrasting effects on their function. For example, phosphorylation of the μ2 subunit of the clathrin adapter protein AP-2 by cyclin G-associated kinase enhanced its interaction with membrane cargo such as membrane receptors. Also phosphorylation of AP-2 and clathrin light chain negatively regulated the assembly of

clathrin coats. Gareth Evans (UK) described studies on the functional impact of cysteine string protein (csp) phosphorylation by protein kinase A (PKA). This phosphorylation inhibited csp binding to both synaptotagmin and syntaxin and also slowed release kinetics when compared to a non-phosphorylatable form of csp in large secretory cells. Lena Eliasson (Sweden) demonstrated evidence for a non-PKA-dependent pathway for cAMP in secretory granule priming via the GTP ex cAMP-GEFII in pancreatic ß cells. Simona Polo (Italy) presented data that showed that the mono-ubiquitination of the endocytosis proteins epsin and esp15 allowed interactions with proteins containing unbiquitin interacting motifs (UIMs). Interestingly the mono-ubiquitination of various tyrosine kinase receptors was also required for their internalisation

The role of lipid signalling in vesicle dynamics was again prevalent in the meeting. Sabine Hilfiker (UK) demonstrated that the functional interaction between neuronal calcium sensor-1 and phosphatidylinositol (PI) 4-kinase stimulated secretion in neuroendocrine cells. In addition Ian Mills (UK) showed evidence that the endocytosis protein epsin could deform membranes during the initial steps of membrane invagination. Also the related protein epsinR was shown to regulate budding from intracellular compartments via interactions with the adapter protein AP-1 and PI(4)P.

The basic mechanism of vesicle and granule fusion was again vigorously discussed, with various models proposed. Lucia Tabares (Spain) used a patch capacitance technique in mast and chromaffin cells to demonstrate three different modes of fusion: full fusion, fast "kiss-and-run" and slow "kiss-and-run". The regulation of these three modes by calcium was presented with fast kiss-and-run being the predominant mechanism at high calcium concentrations and full fusion predominant at low. Takashi Tsuboi (UK) also presented evidence for kiss-and-run in pancreatic ß cells using flourescent markers of either granule contents or membrane components. Again three different models were proposed: "full kiss-and-run", "mixed kiss-and-run" and "transient kiss-and-run". Interestingly the amount of full kiss-and-run events increased with stimulus strength or application of glucose. Jurgen Klingauf (Germany) addressed the question of kiss-and-run and clathrin-mediated endocytosis in central neurons using fluorescent imaging of the styryl dyes FM1-43 / FM2-10 or GFP-tagged clathrin light chain. The experiments showed that clathrin assembly and disassembly is highly dynamic and may be regulated by stimulus intensity or duration.

Finally, work using fluorescent imaging of vesicle and granule traffic was again highly prevalent. The range of techniques described was very diverse including, total internal reflection microscopy, multi-photon confocal microscopy, epifluorescence imaging and fluorescence correlation microscopy. Tim Ryan (USA) presented data using fluorescent trackers of recycling vesicle membrane in combination with overexpression of fluorescent proteins to examine the kinetics of synaptic vesicle endocytosis. Using VAMP-pHfuorin he demonstrated that endocytosis was the rate limiting step in the synaptic vesicle life cycle. Ulrich Wiegand (UK) examined the

preferential release of chromaffin granules using the cargo protein atrial naturetic factor (ANF) fused to a version of EGFP whose fluorescence changed from time of synthesis within the cell. This allowed the direct comparison of the age of granules that fused with the plasma membrane. The primary finding was that newly synthesised granules were preferentially released on chromaffin cell stimulation. Thorsten Lang (Germany) presented a new in vitro imaging system using "unroofed" PC12 cells that allowed the direct visualisation of docked vesicles at the plasma membrane. This model system revealed that the SNARE proteins reside on cholesterol-dependent microdomains that are different from membrane rafts.

The meeting closed with everyone vowing to return to Edinburgh in 2005 to hopefully present work from collaborations sparked by this year's meeting! The major strength of this workshop is that it provides a showcase to highlight the achievements of junior scientists and without the generous support of the International Society for Neurochemistry this would not have been possible. A list of junior scientists supported by travel grants from the Society are listed below.

Student Bursaries
Travel Grants to Junior Academics

Karen Mead
James Hewison
Robert Wykes
James Drummond
Renata Hordejuk
Sabine Hilfiker
Takashi Tsuboi
Victor Korolchuk
Lucia Tabares
Gareth Evans
Ruud Toonen
Jacob Sorensen
Simona Polo
Vahri Beaumont

Third Magdeburg International Symposium 'Neuroprotection and Neurorepair'

Klaus G. Reymann, Leibniz Inst. for Neurobiol., Magdeburg, Germany

With the generous support of the ISN the 3rd Magdeburg Symposium on Neuroprotection and Neurorepair was organized from May 7-10, 2003. The venue like the previous meetings took place in the Hansa Hotel and was attended by 240 scientists covering a broad range of expertise in this area of research. A total of 55 lectures and 108 posters were presented in a stimulating atmosphere and many participants suggested to organize the subsequent meeting in May 2005, which is one year earlier than previously planned. Meeting abstracts were published in a recent issue of Restorative Neurology and Neuroscience (Vol. 20, No.6; 2002).

Although the focus of the meeting was on stem cells and their therapeutical prospects for neurorepair following stroke several other highlights attracted the attention of the participants. These included promising strategies to restore cerebral blood flow after the insult with recombinant tissue plasminogen-activator (M.Bähr) and especially the unforeseen potent effect of erythropoetin (H. Ehrenreich) as a neurovascular protectant. The neuroprotective effect of erythropoetin was also shown to be mediated with neuronal erythropoetin receptors (K. Maiese) and its mechanism of action seems to be associated by an inactivation of caspases (1, 3 and 9), a reduced activation of microglia and a corresponding reduction in the formation of TNF-(and interleukin-6 (P. Ghezzi/A. Cerami). This, however, was also shown not to have necessarily positive consequences for the outcome after lesions since activation of the immune system can also promote under certain circumstances neuronal survival (M. Kreutz, M. Schwartz). Several speakers pointed to the importance of secondary noxious events that exacerbate the outcome of brain lesions induced by for instance ischemia. Such noxious events include the formation of reactive oxygen speicies (W. Kunz, G. Wolf) and the elevation of proinflammatory cytokines (N. Rothwell). Blocking of CD95-ligands was also reported to hold some promise to attenuate neurological deficits after lesions of the spinal tract (A. Martin-Villalba). Important aspects of cellular dysfunction after injury include the regulation of intracellular Ca2+-concentrations (G. Reiser) especially with respect to calcium stores in the ER (W. Paschen) and mitochondria (D. Nicholls). Of vital importance in this regard are also membraneous Ca2+-transporters (P. Nicotera) and the question how regulation of the tumor suppressor p53 (C. Culmsee) and the PARP-activity induced ATP-loss (G. Pellegrini-Giampietro) are involved in apoptotic cell death.

Very interesting novel findings were also reported on endogenous factors that limit the capacity of the mammalian brain for neuronal regeneration. It was demonstrated that the formation of a collagen scar is one important factor contributing to this limitation (H.W. Müller). Moreover, the recently cloned NOGO, which derives from oligodendrocytes and the NOGO receptor on axonal growth cones are major impediments for neuronal outgrowth (C. Bandtlow, C. Wiessner).

Regarding the major topic of the meeting a variety of exciting novel developments

emerged. It was convincingly shown that damage of brain tissue provides by not well characterized mechanisms a signal for the proliferation and differentiation of endogenous stem cells and progenitors (M. Nakafuku, O. Lindvall, E. Snyder, K. Reymann). A major limitation, however, is the fact that most of these rapidly degenerate and that only 5% of this newborn neurons will substitute the neuronal loss (R. Cassidy). This outcome, however, could be significantly improved by the concomitant application of growth factors known to be important during neurogenesis like EGF and FGF2 (M. Nakafuku). Another problem was envisaged by the challenge that transplanting embryonal stem cells does not necessarily lead to an integration of these cells in a neuronal network. Although encouraging results were reported from experiments showing that newly differentiated neurons will overtake functions in the bulbus olfactorious (S. Magavi) it was also pointed out that transplantation of undifferentiated stem cells can lead to the formation of teratoma (O. Brüstle, K. Hossmann). Interestingly, implanted bone marrow cells seem to have the capacity to develop into neurons but also endothelial cells (U. Dirnagl). An important migratory route seems to be the corpus callosum, which is used by implanted cells to migrate from the undamaged to the damaged cortical hemisphere (M. Hoehn). Further efforts were focused on the characterization of endogenous stem and progenitor cells. Here it was demonstrated that a subpopulation of astrocytes exists that expresses neuronal marker proteins (C. Steinhäuser). It is, however, unclear whether these 'astrons' can also differentiate into neurons. Noteworthy, surviving postmitotic mature neurons seem to dedifferentiate in lesioned areas and exhibit a profile typical of mitotic cells (P. Wester). Also of potential therapeutic use might be the observation that Pax-6 expression is restricted to radial glia cells that have the capacity to differentiate into neurons, whereas those not expressing this prominent developmental gene transform into astrocytes (M. Hack/M. Götz). The conference was terminated with a round-table discussion highlighting the state-of-the-art on the use of stem cells for therapeutic purposes. It became clear that although stem cell technology seems to have enormous potential a clinical use of stem cells is still a long way down the road.

ISN Grant (copies of the amount allocated attached)

ISN Young Lecturer Award 1.120,-
Dr. Cassidy, Robert
Karolinksa Institute
Berzelius väg 25
17177 Stockholm, Sweden

Registration fee paid for PhD students / Young postdocs:

Safiulina, Viktoria 100,-
Institute of Higher Nervous Activity and Neurophysiology,
Russian Academy of Sciences
Butlerova street 5a
117865 Moscow, Russia

Dvorgak, Anton 100,-
Student of Russian State Medical University
Institute of Higher Nervous Activity and
Neurophysiology, Russian Academy of Sciences
Butlerova 5a
117865 Moscow, Russia

Dr. Ramos, Alberto Javier 100,-
IBCyN-Facultad de Medicina-Universidad
de Buenos Aires
Gral. Enrique Martinez 770
1426 Ciudad de Buenos Aires., Argentina

Tonya Bliss 100,-
Dept. of Neurosurgery
Stanford University
CA 94305, USA

Xiaomei, Yao 100,-
Tianjin Medical University
No 35, 16-103. Lvwei Road, HeBei District
300142 Tiajin, P.R. China

Taoufik, Era 100,-
Hellenic Pasteur Institute
127 Vas. Sofias Avenue
11521 Athens, Greece

Dr. Dihné, Marcel 200,-

Centre for Molecular Neurobiology Falkenried 94 D-20251 Hamburg	
Dr. García Rodríguez, Julio Cesar National Center for Animal Breeding Cenpalab, Carretera Cacagual, Km 3 Apartado 3 Havana, Cuba	200,-
Dr. Hassan, Hadir Leibniz-Institut für Neurobiologie Magdeburg Brenneckestraße 6 D-39118 Magdeburg, Germany	200,-
Sum :	**1.200,00**
Poster walls	**2.760,-**
Microphones:	**1.260,-**
Bank transfer costs:	**46,0**
Sum:	**6.386**

(7.486,- USD; June 2, 2003)

Propossals for location of the 21th ISN Biennial Meeting in 2007

to be organized jointly with the ASN

At the deadline for submission of proposals for hosting the ISN/ASN Meeting in 2007 the following places had submitted detailed invitation to the ISN:

Cancun, Mexico
Montreal, Canada

These proposals will be carefully evaluated and presentations by the respective organizing committees will be given at the ISN Council and General Business Meetings in Paris August 4-6, 2003 (see Agenda for the General Business Meeting).

Joint Meeting of the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) and the Asian Pacific Society for Neurochemistry (APSN)

August 3-8, 2003

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Wanchai, Hong Kong

Dear Members of the ISN,

The council of the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) have been acutely aware of the issue of the SARS virus and its impact on the proposed meeting in Hong Kong in August. The officers met in Newport Beach at the meeting of the American Society for Neurochemistry (May 3-7) and recommended to council that the joint ISN/APSN meeting in Hong Kong be canceled. The council have now unanimously accepted that recommendation.

We will be in touch with all registrants, speakers and other participants in due course. In the meantime please continue to watch the web-site for further updates.

Please direct all email inquiries to Roger Butterworth, ISN Treasurer, at isn.butterworth@sympatico.ca

Yours sincerely,

Peter R. Dunkley
President of the International Society for Neurochemistry

General Business Meeting of ISN 2003

Hotel Claude Bernard, 43 rue des Ecoles, Paris, France

Tuesday, August 5, 2003, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Preliminary Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Treasurer's Report 2002
3. Secretary's Report 2002
4. Report of the activities of ISN Committees
5. Matters arising from the First Council Meeting
6. Results of elections of new Secretary and Councillors
7. Status after the cancellation of the ISN/APSN Meeting in Hong Kong 2003
8. Status of the ISN/ESN joint Meeting, Innsbruck 2003
9. Presentation of proposals for the ISN/ASN joint Meeting in 2007
   Cancun, Mexico
   Montreal, Canada
10. Membership dues
11. Any other business

6TH BIENNIAL ADVANCED SCHOOL OF NEUROCHEMISTRY OF THE ISN

JULY 30 – AUGUST 3, 2003

Responses to Trauma in the CNS: Genes to Ethics

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

As a consequence of the cancellation of the ISN/APSN joint Meeting in Hong Kong the Advanced School of Neurochemistry has been cancelled.

It should be noted that it has been decided to hold the School in conjunction with the ISN Focused Meeting, Avignon May 14-16, 2004 (Please see separate announcement).

May 14 – May 16, 2004

First Special ISN Neurochemistry Conference
Changes in neuronal gene expression and CNS drug responses

Palais des Papes, Avignon, France

The International Society of Neurochemistry has decided to begin a series of Special Neurochemistry Conferences the first of which will take place May 14 to 16, 2004 in the beautiful city of Avignon, France.

Located in the heart of Provence only 100 km north of Marseille, in the 14th century Avignon became the capital of Christendom when the popes moved there from Rome. Their legacy has made Avignon one of the most interesting and beautiful of Europe's medieval cities. Today this walled city of some 100,000 residents reaches its peak celebration time during the famous summer Festival d'Avignon, a 3-week stint of music, art, and theater when bacchanalia reigns in the streets. But it has also become well known as a cultural center with experimental theaters, painting galleries, and art cinemas having brought diversity to the inner city.

The conference will take place in the International Congress Centre which has the rare privilege of being housed in two wings of the magnificent Palace des Papes which is situated in the heart of the city. Accommodations will be situated within walking distance, and numerous restaurants are at hand. May is an ideal time to be in the south of France.

The topic of next year's conference will focus on "Changes in neuronal gene expression and CNS drug responses" with new technologies being highlighted, together with clinical implications. Each of the three days will be devoted to a specific theme ("Transcriptomics and Proteomics", "Ex vivo and in vivo studies" and "Bioinformatics and Biomathematics") with several lectures in the morning and afternoon as well as poster sessions.

Scientific Program Committee:
Seth Grant, U.K.
David Lockhart, USA,
Jacques Mallet, France, Chair
Karoly Mirnics, USA
Hermona Soreq, Israel

A website will be available in June.

Enquiries
PCO Colloquium
Mr. Philippe Bregaint
12, rue de la Croix-Faubin
75011 Paris, France
Tel 33 1 4464 1515
Fax 33 1 4464 1516
ISN2004@colloquium.fr

6TH BIENNIAL ADVANCED SCHOOL OF NEUROCHEMISTRY OF THE ISN
MAY 10 – 13, 2003

Responses to Trauma in the CNS: Genes to Ethics

Palais des Papes, Avignon, France

6TH BIENNIAL ADVANCED SCHOOL OF NEUROCHEMISTRY OF THE ISN
MAY 10 – 13, 2004

Responses to Trauma in the CNS: Genes to Ethics

Palais des Papes, Avignon, France

The International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) is sponsoring an educational program focused on the application of molecular and cellular techniques to understanding the signaling cascades that determine outcomes after chronic or acute trauma to the nervous system. Young investigators are invited to apply for the The Sixth Advanced School of Neurochemistry to be held at the Palais des Papes in Avignon, France, immediately prior to the '2004 focused ISN Meeting on **Changes in neuronal gene expression and CNS drug responses**, to be held at the same venue May 14-16, 2004. We expect that the tradition of international camaraderie and joyful learning in a relaxed environment surrounded by a spectacular setting of the ISN School will make this a memorable event for all involved. At the '01 "School" in Argentina there were faculty and young scientists from 30 countries.

Through a series of lectures and informal discussions with an expert faculty the course will acquaint participants with our present understanding as to the role of inflammatory and cell death promoting signal cascades in the nervous system in various experimental paradigms, with an emphasis on basic and clinical applications. Participants will also have the opportunity to present and discuss with faculty their work in poster form. All faculty and young scientists will share meals and accommodations during the 4-5 days of the "School". Postgraduates (up to 5 years after Ph.D. or equivalent) and graduate students are encouraged to apply for fellowships, which will include registration, room and board and travel assistance. All attendees will be issued complimentary registration at the ISN Focused Meeting that follows. To apply kindly submit a curriculum vitae (two page maximum), a letter of intent stating why you wish to attend, list of publications (if appropriate) and two letters of recommendation from faculty at an academic institution or research institute, or biotechnology company. Only electronic submissions will be considered. In order to maintain an atmosphere of informal exchanges the number of participants will be restricted.

Applications must be received via email by September 15, 2003 to be considered. Because of the obvious risk involved in receiving attachments from unknown sources, kindly paste the information to the email submission. All materials are to be sent to:

Professor Regino Perez-Polo, Ph.D.
301 University Blvd., UTMB
Galveston, Texas, 77555-0652, USA
Tel: 01-409-772-3667; Fax: 01-409-772-8028
Email: Regino.Perez-Polo@UTMB.EDU

Preliminary Program & Plan

ISN Advanced Neurochemistry School
Responses to Trauma in the CNS
Palais des Papes, Avignon, France

Committee:

Eckart Gundelfinger (Germany) – Synaptic Plasticity
Polycarp Nwoha (Nigeria)
Regino Perez-Polo, (USA) Chair – Genomics
Peter Roberts (UK)
Alfreda Stadlin (Hong Kong) – Addiction Responses
Jean DeVellis (USA) – Neuron-glial Interactions

Faculty

Ping Wu* (USA) – Stem Cell Transplants
Hermona Soreq* (Israel) – Antisense Strategies
Steffen Rossner* (Germany) – Transgenic Models
David Shine* (USA) – Viral Transfections
John Steeves* (Canada)
Ronald Carson* (USA) – Bioethics
Jackie Bresnahan (USA) – Inflammation in Trauma
Freda Miller (Canada) – Signaling Cascades
Moses Chao (USA) – Signaling Cascades
Luis Parada (USA) – Transgenic Models
Alain Privat (France) – Gene Therapy
Perry Bartlett (Australia) – Stem Cells
Hideyuki Okano (Japan)

20th Biennial ISN Meeting

August 21-26, 2005 Innsbruck, Austria

ISN

Destination

The 20th Biennial Meeting of the ISN will be held in conjunction with the ESN in Innsbruck, Austria. Innsbruck is a charming city, located at the very heart of Europe. At the time of this meeting, it offers a wide variety of cultural, sports and recreational activities. Pre- and post-conference-tours may include visits to renowned cultural sights in Austria, Germany and Italy, such as Vienna, Venice or Neuschwanstein Castle.

Local Organising Committee

As an old university town Innsbruck has a long-standing tradition in hosting international conferences. The Local Organising Committee represents the large neuroscience community of the Universities of Innsbruck and Vienna:

C.	Bandtlow	Innsbruck
R.	Fischer-Colbrie	Innsbruck
W.W.	Fleischhacker	Innsbruck
B.	Grubeck-Lobenstein	Innsbruck
L.	Klimaschewski	Innsbruck
A.	Laslop	Innsbruck
W.	Poewe	Innsbruck
A.	Saria	Chairman, Innsbruck
W.	Sieghart	Vienna
E.	Singer	Vienna
N.	Singewald	Innsbruck
G.	Sperk	Innsbruck
H.	Winkler	Innsbruck
G.	Zernig	Innsbruck

Venue

Congress Innsbruck
Rennweg 3
A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria
www.congress-innsbruck.at
Congress Innsbruck, „Best congress centre 2001" – AIPC Apex Award Winner, is located next to the Old Town with its numerous restaurants, cafés and bars.

Registration Fees
To enable as many scientists as possible to attend the meeting, the LOC will keep the registration fees at a low level, i.e. at approximately 200.- for members. Furthermore, there will be substantial reductions for students.

Accommodation
Innsbruck offers a range of accommodation which is well balanced both in terms of price and quality, from 5-star hotels to cosy guest houses. Prices are between 44.- to 140.- for the single room including breakfast, service and all taxes. Most hotels are within easy walking distance to the conference centre, situated right at the centre of Innsbruck. In August, Innsbruck also offers rooms in student dormitories at bargain prices.

Enquiries:
PCO Tyrol Congress
Mrs Ina Kaehler
Rennweg 3
A-6020 Innsbruck
Tel.: +43/512/575600
Fax: +43/512/575607
e-mail: isn2005@congress-innsbruck.at

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING FOR BRAIN ENERGY METABOLISM

21-24 May 2004
Hotel Capsis, Heraklion, Crete, Greece

Executive Committee:
Andreas Plaitakis (Greece)
Albert C.H. Yu (China)
Roger Butterworth (Canada)
Ralf Dringen (Germany)
Mary McKenna (USA)
Arne Schousboe (Denmark)
Ursula Sonnewald (Norway)

Program Committee:
Juan P. Bolanos (Spain)
Sebastian Cerdan (Spain)
Rolf Gruetter (USA)
Susan M. Hutson (USA)
Peter Morris (UK)
Michael D. Norenberg (USA)
Luc Pellerin (France)
Stephen R. Robinson (USA)

Coordinating Secretary: Richard Collins (China)

Preliminary Program

21 May 2004 (1/2 day)

Opening ceremony & Keynote speech

22 May 2004

Session 1: Measuring brain bioenergetics
(Chair: Ursula Sonnewald)
Peter Morris, Nottingham, UK
Rolf Gruetter, Minneapolis, USA
Albert Gjedde, Aarhus, Denmark

Session 2: Neurodegeneration and nitrosative stress
(Chair: John Clark, Roger F. Butterworth)
Juan P. Bolaños, Salamanca, Spain
Guy C. Brown, Cambridge, UK
Agustina Garcia, Barcelona, Spain
Roger F. Butterworth, Montreal, Canada

Session 3: Functional implications of mitochondrial heterogeneity
(Chair: TBA)
Garry K. Brown, Oxford, UK
Nicholas J. Hoogenraad, Bundoora, Australia
Helle Waagepetersen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Michele Merle, Bordeaux, France
Gary Fiskum, Baltimore, USA

Session 4: The mitochondrial permeability transition
(Chair: Michael D. Norenberg)
John J. Lemasters, Chapel Hill, USA
Michael D. Norenberg, Miami, USA
Tadeusz Wieloch, Lund, Sweden
Patrick Sullivan, Lexington, USA

23 May 2004

Session 5: Monocarboxylate transporters in brain: what, where and why?
(Chair: Leif Hertz)
Mary C. McKenna, Baltimore, USA
Luc Pellerin, Lausanne, Switzerland
Lester R. Drewes, Duluth, USA
Ian A. Simpson, Hershey, USA

[N.B. Subject to speaker availability]
Session 6: The role of glutamine and amino acid transport in inhibition and excitation
(Chair: Arne Schousboe, Jon Storm-Mathisen)
Jon Storm-Mathisen, Oslo, Norway
Douglas L. Rothman, New Haven, USA
Andreas Plaitakis, Heraklion, Greece
Susan M. Hutson, Winston-Salem, USA

Session 7: Metabolism of microglia and oligodendrocytes
(Chair: Ralf Dringen)
Gerald Münch, Leipzig, Germany
Gary E. Gibson, White Plains, USA
Ralf Dringen, Tübingen, Germany
José M. Medina, Salamanca, Spain

24 May 2004 (1/2 day)

Session 8: Iron metabolism of the brain in health and disease
(Chair: James Connor)
James Connor, Pennsylvania, USA
Moussa B.H. Youdim, Haifa, Israel
Barry Halliwell, Singapore
Stephen R. Robinson, Melbourne, Australia

Session 9: Strategies and targets for neuroprotection
(Chair: Simon J.R. Heales)
Simon J. R. Heales, London, UK
Chris E. Cooper, Reading, UK
Douglas L Feinstein, Chicago, USA
Feng-Yan Sun, Shanghai, China

Closing ceremony

Also featuring
Poster sessions
Short presentation sessions

See the meeting website for details on registration, accommodation, abstract and poster submission.

www.brainenergy2004.org

THE ISN COMMITTEE FOR AID AND EDUCATION IN NEUROCHEMISTRY

The Committee for Aid for Neurochemistry (CAEN) of the International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN) has been formed with the aim of supporting neurochemical research in economically deprived countries. CAEN provides small travel and research grants as well as grants to support educational workshops. Moreover, applications for obtaining free subscriptions to the Journal of Neurochemistry will be considered.

Inquiries and requests for application should be directed to:

Steven E. Pfeiffer, USA (Chairperson)
Dept. Microbiology, L2032
University Connecticut Medical School
263 Farmington Avenue
Farmington CT 06030-3205
USA
Phone: +1-860-679-3395
Fax: +1-860-679-1239
E-mail: pfeiffer@neuron.uchc.edu

International Society for Neurochemistry

PROGRAM FOR CONFERENCES.

As in previous years, the International Society for Neurochemsitry (ISN) supports and announces programs intended to promote conferences in the science of neurochemistry throughout the world in accordance with the Society's Articles of Association.

ISN is prepared to support conference organizers up to US$ 15,000, provided that conferences are related to neurochemistry subjects. The financial support is meant to be used for Young Neurochemists Conference Fellowships and for the Organizers. Grants will be given on the competitive basis, favouring program with international speakers and audiences. Additionally, the ISN Council decided at its Meeting in Buenos Aires 2001 that it may also be possible to sponsor activities related to the scientific program of meetings of other societies, again provided that the topics are related to neurochemistry. Applications will be examined twice a year (30 April and 31 October)

Please note that applications must be submitted at least 4 months prior to the meeting to be sponsored and that the meeting, if sponsored, should be held no later than 1 year after the application has been handled.

Inquiries and requests for application forms should be directed to:

Prof. Agustina Garcia,
Chairman of ISN Conferences
University Autonoma de Barcelona
Instituto de Biologia Fundamental
V. Villar Palasi
Bellaterra
08193 Barcelona
SPAIN
Phone +34 3 581 2802
Fax +34 3 581 2011
E-mail ibftina@blues.uab.es

APPLICATION DEADLINES

APRIL 30 and OCTOBER 31,

for 2003 and the following years, unless otherwise stated.

New Members

Angulo, Jesus
Anthony, Daniel
Arias, Clorinda
Baulac, Stéphanie
Belelli, Delia
Bilousova, Tina V.
Bragin, Denis
Callaway, Jennifer Kay
Casaccia-Bonnefil, Patrizia
Chan, Tom
Chung, Roger
Contreras, Miguel
Danielyan, Lusine
El Ayadi, Amina
Frappé, Isabelle
Fujiyoshi, Yoshinuri
Goffinet, Andre
Gorman, Adrienne
Grammas, Paula
Haghparast, Abbas
Han, Shan-Kuo
Heera, Pawan Kumar
Henry, Pierre-Gilles
Ingram, Donald K.
Jiménez, Connie Ramona
Jutapakdeegul, Nuanchan
Ke, Zun-Ji
Kudo, Yoshihisa
Ma, Sherie Lynn
Matsuoka, Yasuji
McBean, Gethin J.
Mellon, Synthia
Migues, Paola Virginia
Nave, Klaus-Armin
Nielsen, Soeren
Nunez, Marco T.
Picciotto, Marina
Rahman, Syed Ziaur
Saragovi, Horacio Uri
Serban, Valeria
Schnaar, Ronald
Shi, Qingli
Silva, Alcino J.
Singh, Jaspreet
Stam, Florien Jansje
Takebayashi, Hirohide
Ullian, Erik
Van Leuven, Fred
Vivas-Mejia, Pablo Elias
Wang, Qun
Wang, Zhan-You
Waagepetersen, Helle S.
Yang, Dun-Sheng
Yi, John Jae-Hyuk
Zhao, Yongmei
Zhou, Lijun
Zhou, Yu
Ziff, Edward B.

Change of address

Please fax, mail or send to:

Dr. Roger Butterworth
Treasurer of ISN
Neuroscience Research Unit
CRC AV/Hopital Saint-Luc
1058 rue St. Denis
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Web-addresses

Journal of Neurochemistry: www.blacksci.co.uk/jnc

ISN Portal: www.neurochem.org
(this page gives access to ASN, APSN and ESN)


ESN
EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR
NEUROCHEMISTRY

European Society for Neurochemistry

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Application for (check one)
[ ] Ordinary Membership
[ ] Corresponding Membership (outside Europe)
[ ] Affiliate Membership (young researchers ?)

Name _____

Last First Middle _____

Current Position _____ Degree(s) _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

_____

Country _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail: _____

All applicants must enclose a current Curriculum Vitae and a list of recent publications.

I share the aims of the European Society for Neurochemistry.

Signed _____ Date _____

This application must be signed by one Ordinary Member of the Society.
(I do not remeber what we decided)

Supporting Sponsor Signature _____

Name (typed or printed) _____

ESN Conference on: „Advances in Molecular Mechanisms of Neurological Disorders“ June 1-4, 2003 Warsaw, Poland

The 14th European Society for Neurochemistry Meeting took place on June 1-4 in Warsaw (Poland). Since in 1999 the ESN council decided that the future meetings of the Society should be focused on certain topics, especially on the medical aspects of basic research, the first meeting of this kind took place in 2001 in Perugia and was focused on Alzheimer's disease. As the meeting organised in Perugia, the one in Warsaw was also called „Advances in Molecular Mechanisms of Neurological Disorders“, this time, however, it was focused on the problems of Parkinson's disease and pain.

There were 180 fully registered participants and some PhD students from the campus were allowed to register for one day at a reduced rate in order to participate in the sessions of their particular scientific interest.

The active participants, i.e. the lecturers, sessions' organisers and those who presented the posters came from the following countries:

No	COUNTRY	LECTURERS and SESSIONS' ORGANISERS	POSTERS
1	BELARUS	–	1
2	CZECH REPUBLIC	1	3
3	DENMARK	1	2
4	ESTONIA	–	1
5	FRANCE	4	–
6	GERMANY	7	4
7	HUNGARY	1	3
8	ISRAEL	2	–
9	ITALY	6	7
10	JAPAN	1	–
11	POLAND	2	36
12	PORTUGAL	1	–
13	RUSSIA	–	3
14	SLOVAK REPUBLIK	–	4
15	SOUTH KOREA	–	1
16	SPAIN	2	1
17	SWEDEN	1	2
18	UK	9	1
19	USA	10	8

The plenary sessions were sponsored by ISN (Symposium 1), UNESCO (Opening session and Symposium 2), EMBO (the EMBO lecture), whilst Symposium 3 was supported by Grünenthal and IBRO. Many workshop organisers managed to get an additional support from various firms.

The conference started with the welcome addresses by the main organiser, **Katarzyna Nalecz** and the ESN president - **Ferdinand Hucho** (Berlin, Germany). It was followed by a Stan Tucek commemorative lecture, in which **Herman Bachelard** (Nottingham, UK) not only presented life and the scientific achievements of our late Colleague, but also presented the photographs, anecdotes and interesting events, in which Stan was involved.

The topic of Parkinson's disease started from the opening lecture by **Peter Jenner** (London, UK). His lecture, based on the degeneration of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra pars compacta, accumulation of a wide range of poorly degraded proteins and the formation of protenaceous inclusions (Levy bodies), was focused on impaired proteolysis and ubiquitin-proteasome system in patients with Parkinson's disease. He demonstrated that, in comparison to age-matched controls, α-subunits (but not β-subunits) of 26/20 proteasome are lost and the proteasome activators PA700 and PA28 are low in patients with Parkinson's disease. These data presented an interesting evidence suggesting that the formation of Levy bodies may be linked to impaired proteasomal function in centrosomes, leading to aggresome formation. The problems of dopaminergic transmission were further presented during Symposium 1, in a fascinating presentation by **Marc Caron** (Durham, USA), who showed the results of behavioural and biochemical studies on the dopamine transporter knock-out mice, correlating the elevated extracellular dopamine with severe motor symptoms (ataxia and dyskinesia) as well as with the concomitant striatal neuronal degeneration. The problem of dopamine neurotransmission came back in the closing lecture sponsored by EMBO. The EMBO member - **Emiliana Borrelli** (Strasbourg, France) presented results of her studies with genetically engineered mice on alternatively spliced dopamine receptors (D2L and D2S). She showed functional differences between mice lacking D2 or D2L-selectively, postulating that regulation of splicing can be a key step in the control of D2-mediated functions. New techniques in Parkinson's disease were presented during workshop W1B, organised by **Carlos Duarte** (Coimbra, Portugal) and covered the problems of proteome analysis, focused in particular on comparison of proteins from normal and diseased tissue (**Joachim Klose**, Berlin, Germany), the possibility of studying the alterations in gene expression using cDNA expression array membranes as well as the influence of drugs on gene expression (**Orly Weinreb**, Haifa, Israel) and the possibility of gene therapy with use of lentiviral vectors coding for neurotrophic factors (**William Pralong**, Lausanne, Switzerland).

Symposium 1, sponsored by ISN, was concentrated on transport and intercellular communication in the brain. Apart from the role of dopamine transporter presented in the described above lecture of Marc Caron the other talks focused on communication and spatial distribution of metabolic processes between various cell

types. **Jean-Marie Petit** (Geneve, Switzerland), who replaced Pierre Magistretti reported the effect of neurotransmitters on the glycogen synthesis in glial cells, in particular induction of expression of Protein Targeting to Glycogen, a phenomenon observed as well in sleep deprivation. **Joan Abbott** (London, UK) gave an overview of the current knowledge on the regulation of the blood-brain barrier tightness, presenting the candidate molecules responsible for such a regulation. Part of her talk was also concentrated on glial-endothelial communication and its disturbances in pathology. A different approach to the problem of communication between various cell types in the brain was demonstrated during the lecture of **Eva Syková** (Prague, Czech Republic) who presented differences in extracellular space during development, aging and in pathological states, what results in changes in diffusion parameters of neuroactive substances.

The symposium on intercellular communication was followed by two workshops. During the workshop W1A on „Drug delivery through the blood-brain barrier", organised by **Roméo Cecchelli** (Lens, France), **Pascal George** (Sanofi-Synthelabo, France) presented the approach of optimisation of drugs expected to target CNS and to cross the blood-brain barrier, whilst **Kevin Read** (GlaxoSmithKline, Italy) showed a combination of models aimed to verify the drugs permeation. **Laurence Fenart** (Lens, France) presented distribution of multidrug resistance-associated proteins in various brain cells, with a special emphasis on the presence of these proteins and P-glycoprotein in the endothelial cells, discussing the role of efflux transporters in the blood-brain barrier. The workshop W2A on „Neurone/astrocyte interaction", organised by **Juan Bolaños** (Salamanca, Spain) was concentrated either on the transport of energy substrates from astrocytes to neurons, focused on the transport of lactate and the family of monocarboxylate transporters (**Luc Pellerin**, Lausanne, Switzerland) or the export of glutathione from astrocytes and the mechanisms of glutathione precursors accumulation in neurons (**Ralf Dringen**, Tübingen, Germany). The role of glutathione in regulating the neuronal mitochondrial damage by generation of nitric oxide, presented by **Simon Heales** (London, UK) during this workshop and the following Symposium 2, as well as the lecture of **Juan Bolaños** on the potential role of peroxynitrite as a neuron/astrocyte intercellular signalling molecule were also connected with the topic of „Oxidative stress" presented during Symposium 2. This session, sponsored by UNESCO and organised by **Vera Adam-Vizi** (Budapest, Hungary) presented experimental evidence on interaction between oxidative stress and neural mitochondria. **Ian Reynolds** (Pittsburgh, USA) showed the increase of ROS upon influx of calcium to mitochondria, impairment of complex I and the effect of several neurotoxins (glutamate, zinc, peroxide) on mitochondrial movement and morphology. **Simon Heales** (London, UK) showed how the co-culture of neurons with nitric oxide generating astrocytes leads to neuronal mitochondrial damage and **Vera Adam-Vizi** (Budapest, Hungary) demonstrated that out of the complexes of respiratory chain, the inhibition of complex I to small degree is sufficient to increase production of ROS and to inhibition of several mitochondrial enzymes important for the process of energy production. **Ephraim Yavin** (Rehovot, Israel) concentrated his lecture on the antioxidant defence mechanisms, especially on the possibility of docosahexaenoic acid serving as an antioxidant in the prenatal brain.

The second main theme of the meeting was pain. It started from a workshop W3B, organized by R**yszard Przewlocki** (Cracow, Poland) and **Walter Zieglgänsberger** (Munich, Germany). All four contributions focused on mechanisms and modulations of chronic pain, as well as proposed novel concept of pain control, that may open novel therapeutic approaches. **Christoph Stein** (Berlin, Germany) showed the data confirming that pain inhibition can be induced by immune-derived opioids interacting with opioid receptors (up-regulated in inflammation) on peripheral sensory nerves. Opioid peptides, synthesized in circulating immune cells and secreted in response to releasing stimuli, activate peripheral opioids receptors and produce analgesia by inhibiting the excitability of sensory nerves and/or release of excitatory neuropepides. These effects occur in the periphery and are devoid of central side-effects such as respiratory depression, sedation, dysphoria or dependence what opens potential new therapeutic approaches. **Walter Zieglgänsberger** (Munich, Germany) presented that endogenous cannabinoid system can play a central role in the extinction of aversive memories. Chronic pain syndromes are characterized by altered neuronal excitability in the pain neuromatrix, what requires alterations in gene expression. In the absence of reinforcement, the resulting behavioral response will gradually diminish to be finally extinct. Because cellular mechanisms of extinction are largely unknown, he proposed that endocannabinoids facilitate extinction of aversive memories via their selective inhibitory effects on GABAergic networks in the amygdala. **Shahnaz Christi Azad** (Munich, Germany) presented new data relating to the endogenous cannabinoid system in the amygdala, a brain structure involved in the extinction of aversive memories. Among other brain regions, cannabinoid receptor -CB1, is highly expressed in the amygdala, which is important for the control of emotional behaviour including anxiety and pain perception. She also showed that endogenous and exogenous applied cannabinoids play a major role in the modulation of both, synaptic transmission and plasticity in this brain region. Presented behavioral and electrophysiological results indicate that the endogenous cannabinoid system may be a novel target in the treatment of chronic pain. **Ryszard Przewlocki** (Crakow, Poland) reported on the contribution of central and peripheral mu-opioid receptors to the antinociception in rats with a nerve ligation-induced neuropathy. He demonstrated that mu-opioid peptide ligands (DAMGO and endomorphins) are more effective than opioid alkaloids in relieving of neuropathic pain (despite reduction of the mu-opioid antinociceptive potency), due to the fact that nerve injury reduced expression of mu-opioid receptors in the spinal ganglia. He also presented spinal effects of melanocortin receptor ligands on nociceptive transmission and their modulation by mu-opioid receptor agonist and antagonist in neuropathic rats, observations which may be of importance to the understanding of the opioid and melanocortin action in neuropathic pain, as well as to the development of better and more effective treatment of neuropathic pain.

The topic of molecular aspects of pain was continued during Symposium 3, supported by Grünethal and IBRO and co-organised by **Ferdinand Hucho** (Berlin, Germany) and **Barbara Przewlocka** (Crakow, Poland). **Vincenzo Di Marzo** (Pozzuoli, Italy) reported on cannabinoid-vanilloid receptor interactions in pain signaling and

modulation of agonists of cannabinoid CB1 receptors and/or vanilloid VR1 receptors of pain perception. Both CB1 and VR1 receptors, which are co-expressed in several spinal and DRG neurons, are targets for analgesic drug development. He described a functional relationships between CB1 and VR1 in sensory neurons and demonstrated 'hybrid' CB1/VR1 agonists as potent analgesics. He emphasized that CB1 and VR1 receptors, although sharing endogenous agonists (anandamide, NADA), may be regarded as metabotropic and ionotropic receptors for the same family of mediators, with opposing roles in pain perception. **Antonio Ferrer-Montiel** (Alicante, Spain) presented data on identification of molecular components of the vanilloid receptor I TRPV1 ion channel complex, the study aimed at defining therapeutic targets for better analgesic drugs. **Sven-Eric Jordt** (San Francisco, USA) showed the data on avian capsaicin receptor ortholog, cVR1 (68% identity to rat VR1). He demonstrated the results of genetic and chemical modification studies, which suggest that capsaicin or the endogenous ligand, anandamide, bind to the cVR1 receptor from the intracellular side of the plasma membrane, interacting with residues near the third putative transmembrane region. **Ruth Jostock** (Aachen, Germany) showed the molecular characterization of VR1 and its involvement in nociceptive behavior involving inflammatory and neuropathic pain pathways. VR1 antagonist capsazepine reduced formalin nociceptive behavior and CFA-induced mechanical hyperalgesia, and was antiallodynic and antihyperalgesic in animal models of neuropathic pain. VR1 antisense oligonucleotides inhibited VR1 expression in vitro and reduced tactile allodynia in vivo.
The pain theme was further continued during two lectures of the prize winners of ESN Young Investigator Award. **Mario van der Stelt** (Pozzuoli, Italy) reported his results on protection by endocannabinoid anandamine against excitotoxicity induced by ouabain. **Sven-Eric Jordt** (San Francisco, USA) presented potentiation of vaniloid receptors by protons, showing molecular evidence and an involvement of glutamate residues in this process. The third prize-winner - **Michal Hetman** (Louisville, USA) focused his presentation on the mechanism of apoptosis triggered in cultured cortical neurons by cisplatin, in particular on ERK1/2 activation in response to sensitization of NMDA receptors.

There were also the other topics presented and discussed during other workshops;

Workshop W2B, organised by **Stefano Sensi** (Irvine, USA) was focused on zinc, as a novel mediator of neuronal plasticity and injury. **Gorm Danscher** (Aarhus, Denmark) presented characterisation of zinc enriched neurons discussing the role of zinc-containing synaptic vesicles. **John Weiss** (Irvine, USA) described the possible ways of zinc entry to neurons, discussing the role of NMDA channels, voltage sensitive Ca2+ channels and Ca-A/K channels.
Stefano Sensi (Irvine, USA) reported the results on zinc influence on disruption of mitochondrial function and on regulation of distinct injurious pathways leading to neurotoxic effects.

The workshop W3A was devoted to lipid mediators in brain function and dysfunction. The organiser of this session, **Gianfrancesco Goracci** (Perugia, Italy) presented the

synthesis and the role of platelet-activating factor, which is overproduced under pathological conditions, leading to brain damage. **Keizo Waku** (Kanagawa, Japan) reported on 2-arachidonoylglycerol as an endogenous ligand of cannabinoid receptor CB1. **Laura Riboni** (Milan, Italy) focused her presentation on ceramide and sphingosine-1-phosphate and the regulation of sphingolipid metabolism by various stimuli. **Joanna Strosznajder** (Warsaw, Poland) showed that amyloid beta 1-42 decrease activity of phosphatidylinositol 4-kinase and phosphatidylinositol-3-kinase activity through arachidonic acid and free radicals, thus influencing synthesis of polyphosphoinositides and signalling processes.

Potential therapeutic use of stem cells was presented and discussed during the workshop W4A, organised by **Krystyna Domańska-Janik** (Warsaw, Poland) and **Michal Stachowiak** (Buffalo, USA). **Tanja Zigova** (Tampa, USA) presented the results on umbilical cord blood cells, expressing neural characteristics and used for transplantation in model spinal cord injuries. **Daniele Bottai** (Milan, Italy) demonstrated the data on neural stem cells as multipotential precursors, showing evidence of lack of tumorigenic potential of these cells. **Michal Stachowiak** (Buffalo, USA) talked about activation pathways inducing differentiation of fetal brain- or cord blood-derived cells, whilst **Jia-Yi Li** (Lund, Sweden) focused on the possible future of embryonic stem cells and bone marrow stem cells as possible future donors for transplantation in Parkinson's disease.

The medical aspects of neurochemistry were also presented during the workshop W4B on diabetic neuropathy, the session organised by **Luciano Scionti** (Perugia, Italy). **David Tomlinson** (Manchester, UK) presented evidence of impaired gene expression in the nerve conduction defects in diabetes, a theme continued in the presentation of **Philip Low** (Rochester, USA), who showed the apoptosis processes, starting from oxidative stress and targeting mitochondria, leading to sensory neuropathy in experimental diabetes. **Norman Cameron** (Aberdeen, UK) focused on vascular changes in experimental diabetic neuropathy, whilst **Mary Cotter** (Aberdeen, UK) continued this subject describing the drug combinations as the possible treatment of diabetic neuropathy. Treatment with antioxidants was further presented by **Dan Ziegler** (Düsseldorf, Germany).

All the lectures were followed by vivid and interesting discussion. It has to be admitted, that although the scientific programme was very much packed and some of the young participants found that their presence at the posters (twice 1.5 h) was too short for discussing their results, the social events (get-together, an excursion to Pultusk and banquet) gave additional opportunities for informal interactions and discussions.

American Society for Neurochemistry

Newsletter

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Summer 2003

www.ASNeurochem.org

Message from the President

I am honored by having been elected President of the ASN for the next two years.
Like many of you, I grew up scientifically in the American Society for Neurochemistry and have attended almost all of the Annual Meetings. During these meetings, I have been carefully observing the Society and thinking about how we can continue to build on the success of the ASN as well as how we can improve the ASN. My mandate as President of the Society, comes from the recent ASN survey, which I was appointed to carry out. That survey was a good indication of what is working well in the Society as well as things that need improvement.
These are issues that I would like to address during my term as President. First, we need to know who we are as a Society. Currently there is no data available on how long people have been members of the Society, and the distribution of the Society membership with respect to academic rank. I believe this data is critical for us to know who constitutes the membership and it is my objective to obtain this information.
The Annual Meeting is a major function of the Society. We need to continue the excellence of the scientific programs and the emphasis on developing the younger members of our Society. It is important for the membership to participate in the site selection for meetings, and it is equally important that we choose a consistent time of the year that the meeting will be held. I intend to take steps in these directions during the tenure of my Presidency. It also is important that our annual meetings be planned further ahead. In this respect, I anticipate naming a program chair for the 2005 meeting soon. I will ask the membership for input regarding site selection for the 2005 meeting. My goal is to have the program for the 2005 meeting set prior to the meeting in 2004. The survey also underscored the need to try to keep the price of the annual meeting reasonable, and to vary the meeting site from different regions of the country, much as has been done recently for the ISN meetings. We need better publicity for our Society and for the Annual Meeting.
The financial basis of the Society needs continued strengthening. The NIH grant mechanism for supporting the annual meetings has been very valuable and will be continued, as well as the emphasis on participants in the annual meeting raising money for their own symposia. Finally, it is important that we continue to get input from the membership as to how the Society is functioning and to what degree the annual meeting of the Society is meeting the needs of the membership. At any given annual meeting, only about half of the participants are ASN members. We need to find out why only half of the members are attending our annual meeting.
We also will continue our exit surveys from the annual meetings. These surveys will provide guidance and improvement for the next meeting. We will continue to gather survey data under the leadership of our new President Elect, Wendy Macklin.
As we define who we are and where we are going, the visibility and viability of the American Society for Neurochemistry will be insured. In all of these endeavors, I need the help of all the members of the Society. Working together, we can continue to enhance the image and insure the viability of our Society. I look forward to working with you in this regard

Message from the Past – President .

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The Society continues to grow, despite some uncertain times. One of the most significant events was the resignation of our Meeting Organizer and Society Manager, Ms. Linda Garcia in 2003. Ms. Garcia had been associated with the Society for a number of years, and her responsibilities included providing administrative management of the ASN Office and organizing the annual meetings. To replace Ms. Garcia, we opened a national search and were able to quickly appoint Ms. Sheilah Jewart, Amazing Occasions, Inc., to take on the job of being a Meeting Organizer and Business Manager. To ensure the smooth operation of her office and to define the obligations of ASN, documents governing our relationship with her were negotiated. Ms. Jewart has had many years of experience in organizing scientific meetings at the national level. She is pleasant, well organized, and has proven to be an invaluable asset to the Society. She has worked effectively with Jean deVellis, Chair of the Local Host Committee, Greg Sutcliffe, Chair of the Program Committee, and Linda Garcia to ensure the smooth planning of the 2003 Newport Beach Meeting. In this regard, I wish to thank Jean and Greg for their effort in planning the scientific and social programs, which promises to make the 2003 meeting one of the most successful gatherings in recent years.

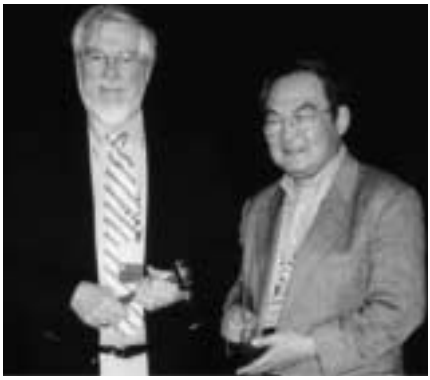
When I took over the Presidency, I resolved to respond to the following challenges that were facing our Society: • To remain as a vital and forward-looking Society, we must actively recruit young, talented and vibrant neurochemists and to expand our membership base.

A special membership drive, “ASN Hat”, is underway under the chairmanship of Alex Chiu. In 2003, we recruited about 50 new members.

- To better improve our scientific programs, a membership opinion survey is underway with George DeVries taking the lead. The result of this analysis will be announced at the Newport Beach Meeting in 2003. I have also established an *ad hoc* Publication Committee, chaired by David Shine, to examine the possibility of having an ASN affiliated scientific journal that will substantially increase the impact and financial stability of our Society. The *ad hoc* Committee on the Future of ASN continues to provide invaluable advices that will improve the well-being of the Society and to ensure that the Society stay at the cutting-edge of neuroscience. We are grateful to Jean deVellis for his remarkable leadership in this Committee.
- To improve our competitiveness in the neuroscience arena and to more accurately reflect the nature of our scientific inquiries, I have established a new *ad hoc* Committee chaired by Wendy Macklin to examine the possibility of a society name change. This plan has the endorsement of the Council.
- To improve fundraising, I have appointed an *ad hoc* Fundraising Committee chaired by Jean Merrill to coordinate our fundraising efforts.
- With the help of the Program Chair, Greg Sutcliffe, I have submitted an application to the National Institutes of Health to support our annual meeting. This grant will be sponsored by NINDS with co-sponsorship from NIA and NICHD.

- We have increased substantially the number of travel awards to young and Latin investigators to enable them to attend the meeting. We also sought special funds to support members who would otherwise not be able to attend the Newport Beach meeting due to the adverse economic situation in their country. We will continue these efforts for future meetings.
- I have appointed Dr. Robert Ledeen as Chair of the 2004 ASN Meeting. Dr Ledeen is an outstanding neurochemist and has served in the same capacity before. He has already assembled a team that consists of many prominent scientists to assist him in this important function. We look forward to a wonderful scientific program for the 2004 Annual Meeting.
- I have appointed Dr. Robert Gould, a long time and loyal member of the Society to serve as the Chair of the Local Host Committee for the 2004 Annual Meeting that will take place in New York City.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge several colleagues, notably David Shine, Lynn Hudson, and Jean deVellis, to name a few, whose constant, capable assistance has made my job to serve you a pleasant one.



Dr. Robert Yu (right)
and Dr. George DeVries (left)

Secretary's Report

Council suggested five amendments to the bylaws at the 32 nd annual ASN business meeting that was held on August 30, 2001 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The amendments originated from discussions of Council and are intended to improve the function of the society's business. In summary, the amendments a) decreased the number for a quorum at the business meeting, b) streamlined the process for initiating action on ammendments to the bylaws, c) simplified membership categories, d) clarified the rights of members, e) clarified the process for filling council and officer vacancies, and f) changed the way meeting sites are chosen.
The amendments were approved by the membership. Of the 503 dues paying members a majority, 268, voted.

The final vote tabulation was:

Amendment 1: Simplification of membership categories and specification of rights and privileges of members.
Results: 261 yes; 6 no; 1 abstain

Amendment 2: To clearly specify the basis for calculations of majorities and quorums.
Results: 254 yes; 12 no; 2 abstain

Amendment 3: The responsibilities for choosing meeting sites and program themes is handled by Council.
Results: 251 yes; 15 no; 2 abstain

Amendment 4: Clarification of the process for filling vacancies on council and officer positions.
Results: 260 yes; 3 no; 5 abstain

Amendment 5: Simplifies and shortens the process by which the bylaws are amended, so that the bylaws can more accurately reflect new initiatives and the intent of changes to the standing rules.
Results: 251 yes; 11 no; 6 abstain

Dr. David Shine, Secretary

Treasure's Report

The ASN remains fiscally sound. The total assets at the end of FY2002 were $426,214, which represent a gain of $11,031 for the year. All of the individual funds (Marian Kies, Folch-Pi, Young Investigators, Young LA Investigators, Bernard Haber Lectureship, and the Basic Neurochemistry funds) are now in interest bearing accounts, which yielded a total of $3769.14 in interest income for FY2002.
The Marian Kies fund finished FY2002 with a total of $28,941, a 42% increase thanks primarily to the largess of Aventis. The Folch-Pi fund remains at its typical level of $31,451, as the small amount of donations and interest income balance out the annual withdrawal for the Folch-Pi Award (which was increased to $1500 last year, along with the Marian-Kies Award). The Young LA Investigators fund finished 2002 with $24,669. Half of that fund is being used to support 6 Young LA Investigators ($2000/ investigator) for the Newport Beach ASN meeting. The Haber Award Lectureship has been untouched, and remains at $5,097. The most stable fund, thanks to the annual infusion of royalties from the Basic Neurochemistry textbook ($11,223 for 2002), is the Basic Neurochemistry Fund, which ended FY2002 at $85,002. The most financially precarious fund has been the Young Investigators Travel Awards, which typically exhausts itself each year. The Young Investigator fund was rescued from the red at the end of FY2002 by a transfer of $3,811 from the general fund, and later by an infusion of $10,000 from the Basic Neurochemistry fund and $10,000 from the NIH grant awarded to ASN for the Newport Beach meeting. To address this problem, the council voted for an annual transfer of $20,000 to the Young Investigator fund from the General ASN account, which would allow for a guaranteed sum of $20,000 to be applied to travel awards for Young Investigators.

Most of ASN's annual expenses are related to our annual meeting. The Newport Beach meeting expense category for FY2002 represents over two thirds of our total assets, a fact that highlights the financial risks incurred by our meetings. Indeed, the overall loss of $23,487 for FY2001 arose from the high cost of the 2001 Buenos Aires joint ISN/ASN meeting. Drs. Yu and Sutcliffe are to be congratulated for following Dr. Scott Brady's lead in obtaining NIH funding for annual meetings. Dr. Jean Merrill deserves kudos for greatly elevating the donations to this year's Newport Beach meeting. Additional venues for increasing annual revenues, including partnering with publishers for a society journal, merit exploration.

Dr. Lynn Hudson, Treasurer

Financial Report

	1/1/02 – 12/31/02
SUPPORT:	
NIH grant for Palm Beach Annual Meeting	25,000.00
Palm Beach Annual Meeting Session Donations	44,780.16
Basic Neurochemistry Book Royalties	11,223.20
Newport Beach Annual Meeting Donations (for 2003)	6,500.00
REVENUE:	
Palm Beach Meeting (Registration, etc)	148,773.89
Folch Pi Award Fund	640.00
Marian Kies Award Fund	9,617.00
Young Investigator	440.00
General Fund	165.00
Haber Lectureship Fund	-
Young Latin American Investigators Fund	-
2001 Dues	2,790.00
2002 Dues	35,835.00
2003 Dues	18,695.00
ISN Donation to Latin America Travel to Palm Beach	7,485.00
ISN Travel Reimbursement	5,629.00
INTEREST from individual CDs:	3,769.14
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	**$321,342.39**
EXPENSES:	
Palm Beach Annual Meeting	119,110.66
Palm Beach Session Expenses	74,479.52
Newport Beach Annual Meeting (for 2003)	16,916.27
ISN Donation to Latin America Travel to Palm Beach	7,485.00
ISN Travel Reimbursement	5,629.00
New York City Annual Meeting (for 2004)	574.84
General Office & Management	38,451.35
2002 Accounting	3,600.00
2002 Intersociety	3,504.00
Folch Pi Award Fund	1,500.00
Marian Kies Award Fund	1,500.00
Basic Neurochemistry Fund	15,771.94
Young Latin American Investigators Fund for Palm Beach	5,800.00
Young Investigator Fund for Palm Beach	14,715.00
Membership Promotion	1,274.08
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$310,311.66**
GAIN ON ONE YEAR PERIOD	**$11,030.73**

Historian's Report

The ASN Archives have functioned quite well as a resource for information sought by members. However difficulties arose in fulfilling some requests because of the nature of the archives. Improvements have been proposed.
The Oral History of the ASN has now been a part of the ASN web site for a full year. Additional chapters will be added. The first of these, authored by M. Lees, concerns the prominent women in Neurochemistry and Neuroscience. It is illustrated with pictures of these women.
Changed storage methods for the information in the ASN Archives are being contemplated. Suggestions are welcome.
My thanks are extended to all those ASN members who have sent to me photographs and other material that will enrich our archives. Please keep up the good work!

Dr. Claude Baxter, Historian

Intersociety Liaison's Report

The office of Intersociety Liaison is responsible for coordinating joint efforts of the ASN with other societies, principally the ISN, for the smoother and more efficient implementation of the goals of the ASN. In the most recent past these efforts have focused on issues of accessibility of members of both societies to the benefits afforded by membership of one or the other society. At this time, two major foci are to insure a smooth planning process for the next joint ISN/ASN Meeting in 2007 with the present focus being on the choice of venue and individuals to represent both societies in the development of a joint meeting plan. Also, another goal is the planning of representation and support of and by the ISN of the 2004 ASN Meeting in New York City. Finally, plans for the possible participation of the ASN in a publishing venture (an ASN associated journal) are in the early stages of planning at this time. As the Liaison officer I would like to welcome informal questions or suggestions from the ASN membership that are relevant to our interactions with other societies in any of our missions as a society.

Dr. Regino Perez-Polo, Intersociety Liaison

Basic Neurochemistry Text Committee Report

Basic Neurochemistry 6th edition sales:
- 8,187 books
- 1480 books with CD
- 352 CDs
- 22 slide sets

Submitted by Dr. George Siegel, Editor-in-Chief

Electronic Communication Committee Report

The web page continues to function in very good fashion thanks to the tireless efforts of David Shine, who was also instrumental in establishing a more functional listserver out of his institution. David, we owe a lot to your efforts and my warmest heartfelt thanks to your hard work!

Dr. Rolf Gruetter, Chair

Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award Committee Report

The 2003 committee consisted of Drs. Regina Armstrong (chair), Grace Sun, Gary Gibson, Joe Eichberg, and Jeffrey Yao. The 2003 winner is Dr. Frank I. Tarazi. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Harvard Medical School as well as Director of the Molecular Neuroscience Program at the Mailman Research Center at the McLean Division of Massachusetts General Hospital. His research efforts have focused on the neuropharmacology and neuroanatomy of receptor systems relevant to the treatment of psychosis and hyperactivity.
This work has resulted in 65 peer-reviewed publications. His expertise has also contributed to a chapter on psychosis and mania in the latest 10 th edition of *Goodman and Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*. He has frequently been an invited speaker and has organized sessions at national and international meetings, including the ASN.

Dr. Regina Armstrong, Chair

Inter-American Cooperation Committee Report

The goal of the "Young Scholars Committee" is to support scientists at early stages of their research career by providing financial aid to attend the ASN meeting and an additional week in a laboratory. That committee offers this opportunity on an one to one basis and we are very glad to see that the interest in supporting young scientific careers is increasing. In the case of our Inter-American Cooperation Committee one of our goals is to provide assistance in the development of Neuroscience's programs encompassing both research and teaching in Latin-American Countries. On these bases, we created the Basic Neurochemistry School because it is a way to reach several students interested in following a research career in the field of neurochemistry. Our school offers a unique opportunity to local and international students from Latin-American colleges, to participate and interact with faculty they would not necessarily have met, if the school was not organized in that specific country. Therefore, our school is intended as a manner of reaching a higher number of people *in situ.* We believe that these two committees complement each other's activities increasing overall the opportunities for those students, to be in contact and participate in research in North America. We report that our committee has focused on working on the following aspects: After the successful accomplishment of our First Basic Neurochemistry School, in Cordoba, Argentina (see our previous reports), two countries manifested their interest in hosting the Second School, Mexico and Puerto Rico (US). Considering the format of the school it was decided that Puerto Rico would offer several possible places for this purpose. Thus, after the ASN meeting in Palm Beach, I visited 15 possible venues in Puerto Rico on my own time and budget thus, at no cost for the ASN. A word of appreciation goes also to the local hosts Dr. Jose Ortiz and Dr. Pedro Ferchmin.

The site selected was Yabucoa given its accessibility from and to the airport.

Moreover, the Parador Palmas de Lucia is a site that will foster informal discussions among student participants and the faculty. Therefore, we prepared the budget, and program for the Second School and they have been submitted to the consideration of the members of the ASN council. The second aspect is raising additional funds to be used to support the airfare of those students that will come from countries in South America and might not have the money to support their own trip.

A separate issue was my visit to Costa Rica I was honored to be selected by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and CONICIT (http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2002/0828conicit.shtml) to visit Costa Rica and participate in a Women's Science forum and their IV Annual Science meeting.

We discussed strategies to teach science at an early age and stimulate these young students' interest in science. Moreover, emphasis was given to exhort the participation of more women in the scientific field. During my stay I had the opportunity to meet with the single member of the yet to be developed Neuroscience department.

One of my goals as the chair of the Inter-American Cooperation Committee has been to increase the interest and participation of young women and men in the scientific endeavors within Latin America and the Caribbean regions. I believe that my presence

in this event was an initial step of many that would be required to establish a strong network. This Committee has maintained in contact with the people of CONICIT to see how can we help them form a neuroscience group.

Report respectfully submitted by,
Dr. Araceli Espinosa-Jeffrey, Chair

Marian Kies Award Committee Report

Marian Kies Award: Committee Members consist of Drs. Karen Chandross (Chair), Patrizia Casaccia-Bonnefil, Rick Cohen, Alexander Gow, Mary Pacheco, Cara-Lynne Schengrund.

Applications were solicited by advertising in the ASN mailings and by encouraging colleagues to nominate their most innovative and competitive students. This year the committee received exceptional nominees and selected Dr. Heather Duffy based on her overall high scores. Heather is currently a postdoctoral Fellow at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Department of Neuroscience in the laboratory of Dr. David Spray, where she also did her graduate research. She has done outstanding work in the field of gap junction biology that has global impact in the field of neuroscience. This taken together with her strong letters of recommendation, high quality of publications, active involvement in the scientific community and extracurricular activities as an educator gave her exceedingly high scores in all categories evaluated. Karen Chandross presented Heather with the award following the plenary lecture on Monday, May 5 and both Heather and Dr. Spray, said a few heartwarming words. The committee met on May 4 th and came up with suggestions for ways to improve the application and review process and would like to invite suggestions from ASN members. On May 7, 2003 Council approved a change to standing rules, which states that the Marian Kies award recipient will be given the opportunity to organize a symposium, rather than colloquium, as part as their award. Last year's award recipient, Kirk Dineley, successfully defended his thesis on 11.14.02. We encourage you to begin thinking about nominating one of you most outstanding graduate student's for next year's meeting.

Dr. Karen Chandross, Chair

Membership Committee Report

The Membership Committee roster was approved by Dr. Robert Yu on Dec 6, 2001. The Membership Committee has the following members: F.-C. Alex Chiu (Chair), Ricky Cohen, James Haley, Joseph Neary, Joseph Poduslo

Between July 2002 and April 2003, the Committee recommended to the Secretary 39 applications for approval. This is slightly higher than the number we have last year (34), but it is still quite low. Based on the recent change in the criteria for Ordinary Membership, all the applicants were recommended for acceptance as Ordinary Members.

To break down geographically, 38 applications were from North America, and 1 was from South America (Chile). To break down in ranks, 19 applicants held faculty positions (ie Assistant Professor or above), 16 were postdoctoral fellows in academic institutions or research scientists in industries, 3 were senior predoctoral students.

Dr. David Shine should be commended for coordinating and streamlining the application process. We have a change in the administrative staff midyear and were some delay in the application process as a result. However, we were able to responded to the initial on-line application within 3 days, and once the applicant completed her application, we were able to forward a recommendation to the Council, on average, within a month.

The Membership Committee recommends that the Society continues to encourage the membership to recruit new members, especially from South America.

Dr. Alex Chiu, Chair

Nominating Committee Report

Members: Joyce Benjamins (Chair), Regina Armstrong, David Martin, Mary McKenna, Juana Pasquina, Jeffrey Yao, Marc Yudkoff; ex officio, Robert Yu

The ASN President, Robert Yu, appointed the chair in September 2001 to select a committee to nominate candidates for President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer for the term 2003-2005 and for Council for the term 2003-2007.

Nominations were held in November 2002 and elections in March 2003, prior to the May 2003 ASN meeting in Newport CA. In preparation, the committee met once during the annual ASN meeting in June 2002 in Palm Beach, Florida. Topics discussed were (1) reviewing the schedule and procedure for nominating and electing officers and

council, in keeping with the current or revised by-laws and standing rules, whichever are in effect after the 2002 meeting, (2) establishing the process for identifying qualified candidates for each position, and (3) discussing possible changes in by-laws and standing rules related to nominations and elections.
The committee was in communication by e-mail during the year to identify potential candidates for each position and to discuss possible changes in by-laws guiding the election and nomination process.

Nominations – The nomination form was mailed November 25, 2002 with return date of January 9, 2003. A total of 49 members returned nomination forms compared to 29 two years ago. Only one candidate received the six or more nominations for President, automatically placing that person on the ballot. The current Secretary and Treasurer, each eligible to run again, were the only candidates receiving more than six nominations for those positions. Eight individuals received six or more nominations for Council. The consensus of the committee was to place on the ballot the names of those individuals selected by the nomination process, without additional candidates from the nominating committee.

Elections – The ballot was mailed on February 27, with return date of March 28, 2003. A total of 207 ballots were returned, with the following results.

President-elect – Wendy Macklin
Secretary – David Shine
Treasurer – Lynn Hudson
Councilors – Karen Chandross, Douglas Feinstein, Sandra Hewett, Pamela Knapp and Mark Smith
Alternate (2003-2007 term) – Jeffrey Yao

Alex Gow has taken the position of Charissa Dyer (2001-2005) who has stepped down from Council.

Recommendations – The by-laws and standing rules governing nominations and elections need major revisions to streamline the process, establish a more representative process and remove inconsistencies. The chair and committee strongly recommend that the nominations and elections be conducted electronically prior to the 2005 ASN meeting. Specific suggestions are summarized in a separate document.

Dr. Joyce Benjamins, Chair

Standing Rules Committee Report

The Standing Rules Committee met twice during the Annual Meeting of the ASN. They reviewed the By-Laws and the first portion of the Standing Rules to determine whether the Standing Rules were consistent with the By-Laws. During the review, it was noted that some editorial changes should be made to the By-Laws and possibly some substantive ones will be needed. When the Committee finishes reviewing the Standing Rules, all suggestions will be forwarded to Council for their consideration.

Dr. Cara-Lynn Schengrund, Chair

Young Investigator Education Enhancement Committee Report

The Committee consisted of three members: Thomas N. Seyfried, Chair, Boston College, Andrej Wieraszko, CUNY Staten Island, and Daniel Kirschner, Boston College. The Committee dispersed $20,000 to a total of 26 applicants. The applicants were from 4 countries including: USA (21), Argentina (3), Chile (1), Canada (1).

Plans for the next year appear more clear at this time with the society approval of a fixed budget of $20,000. This will facilitate the actions of this committee. We ran into a slight problem with some applicants from Argentina applying for and receiving awards from both the Young Latin Amer Scholars Committee and the Young Investigator Enhancement Award Committee.

Dr. Thomas N. Seyfried, Chair

Young Latin American Scholars Committee Report

This year our committee consisted of 6 members: Dr. Oscar Bizzozero (chair; USA), Dr. Marta Antonelli (Argentina), Dr. Nicholas Bazan (USA) Dr. Francisco Nualart (Chile), Dr. Herminia Pasantes (Mexico), and Dr. Regino Perez-Polo (USA). The availability of the YLAS awards was announced in the ASN newsletter, the ASN website, the ASN program and in various scientific societies throughout Latin America. A total of nine very-competitive applications were received by the March 15, 2003 deadline. Committee members ranked these applications based on (1) the applicant's qualifications and interest in neurosciences; (2) the quality and commitment of the host laboratory, (3) the benefit of visiting a US lab for the applicant's scientific career, and (4) the recommendation letter attached to the application. The committee selected the top 6

candidates disbursing a total of $12,000. This year's awardees are Ms. Corina García (host lab: Dr. Patrizia Casaccia- Bonnefil), Mr. Pablo Paez (host lab: Dr. Anthony Campagnoni), Mr. Lionel Müller Igaz (host lab: Dr. James Eberwine), Dr. Analía Reinés (host lab: Dr. David Colman); Dr. Gabriela Salvador (host lab: Dr. Robert Anderson), and Dr. Alberto Ramos (host lab: Dr. Efrain Azmitia). The plan for next year is to grant another 5-6 awards.

Dr. Oscar Bizzozero, Chair

2003 Program Committee Report

For establishing the program of the 2002 annual meeting, Dr. Scott Brady visualized the interests of the ASN as falling into 4 quadrants, which he referred as **Building the Nervous System, Metabolism & Cell & Molecular Biology, Glial Mechanisms & Injury, and Neurodegeneration & Disease.** The present program chairman has found that they serve as excellent themes around which a program that serves the needs of the entire ASN membership can be constructed. Accordingly, Dr. Sutcliffe selected a rather large program committee whose membership covered the entire spectrum of ASN interests and represented all demographic groups, with attention given to gender and stage in career. He divided the members into 4 quadrants (as listed below) and charged the members of each quadrant to develop a list of topics that they thought deserved a session at the annual meeting.
He also solicited proposals from the entire ASN membership. The response was outstanding. In total, 52 sessions were considered by the program committee. After discussion of the candidate proposals, the committee, using NIH-style scoring, ranked them.

Building the Nervous System
Lynn Hudson
Terri Wood
Randy McKinnon
Scott Whittemore

Metabolism & Cell & Molecular Biology
David Sweatt
Bob Moore
Richard Olsen
David Colman
Steve Pfeiffer
Scott Brady

Glial Mechanisms & Injury
Tony Campagnoni
Oscar Bizzozero
Monica Carson
Jean Merrill
Joan Schwartz
Ian Simpson
Julie Ellison

Neurodegeneration & Disease
Jorge Busciglio
Jeff Redwine
Paul Patterson
Elizabeth Thomas
Minnetta Gardinier

The committee also submitted suggestions for plenary speakers. Dr. Sutcliffe asked for additional suggestions from the general membership at the annual business meeting held at the 2002 Palm Beach venue. In all, 13 well-known investigators, all leaders in their fields, were nominated. The program committee ranked these candidates. The selectees were Joshua Sanes, Carla Shatz and Fred Gage.

The program was assembled, attempting to balance sessions of more general interest and accommodate requests from session chairs that had a participant who has limited availability during the time of the meeting. Almost all participants confirmed their participation as of 9/18/02. Dr. Sutcliffe has been impressed by the enthusiasm shown by the session organizers, which suggests that the sessions will be informative and lively. Posters will be displayed in a marquee during the breaks.

Abstracts were submitted online by a deadline of December 16. These were sorted by topic and organized into 3 sessions. In total, there are 3 plenary sessions, 13 symposia, 16 colloquia, 5 workshops, and 201 posters, 24 of which have been organized into 3 sessions of oral presentations (see below). The abstracts were assembled into publication format and sent to Blackwell Press 1/30/03, and the daily Scientific Program was assembled and emailed shortly thereafter to Sheilah Jewart, who merged it with the daily events program and oversaw its printing. The last few months have been occupied with small details batted back and forth by email with Sheilah.

Several features of the program have been designed to promote and support the active participation of young investigators. We scheduled three sessions where oral platform presentations selected from submitted abstracts by the 3 session chairs (Cara Lynne Schengrund, Minnetta Gardinier, Oscar Bizzozero) will be presented.

The chairs used stage in career as a major factor in their selections, thereby giving young investigators an opportunity to present their data to a general audience. We have encouraged senior investigators to submit posters that they will display themselves so as to provide access of senior members by the junior attendees. We have scheduled a dinner event specifically for student and postdoctoral attendees at which they will have informal interactions with ASN officers and other senior members of the Society. Several sessions were organized by junior investigators.

As Chair of the program committee, I express my thanks and recognize the contributions to the Society of the committee members and session chairs. Special recognition is due to the officers of the Society, Bob Yu, Lynn Hudson and especially Dave Shine, who handled the abstract submission and numerous stupid questions.
Monica Carson and Elizabeth Thomas provided substantial input. And Sheilah Jewart carried the administrative load...well done! It has been a pleasure to work with her even though, at the time of writing this report we have only met by email.

J. Gregor Sutcliffe, Chair

2004 Program Committee Report

The 2004 annual meeting of the ASN will be held in New York City, August 13-19, at the Waldorf Astoria. This landmark hotel with its excellent facilities provides an attractive venue for the first ASN meeting to be held in NY City.
Arangements are being made by Sheilah Jewart, our new meeting organizer.
Folowing are the members of the Program Committee:

Bob Ledeen (Chair)	Jim Haley	Jim Schwartz
George DeVries	Sandra Hewett	Eric Simon
(Ex Officio)	Nick Ingoglia	Greg Sutcliffe
Narin Banik	Abel Lajtha	Frank Tarazi
Karen Chandross	Mark Mattson	Gusheng Wu
Ian Creese	Bruce McEwen	Bob Yu

The local chairman for this meeting is Bob Gould. His committee and ours are attempting to coordinate our planning.

The first call for program suggestions was sent to the ASN membership in March of this year, and several excellent symposium suggestions have been received.
These were considered by the Program Committee at its first planing session at Newport Beach on May 8, 2003. The other goal of this session will be to plan general strategy for the 2004 program. To date relatively few suggestions have been received for other sessions (e.g. workshops), so that an additional request for suggestions will go out to the membership following the Newport meeting.

Following are important dates in 2003/2004
May 15, 2003 Call for additional program suggestions from ASN members
July 15, 2003 Final date for program suggestions
Aug 30, 2003 Session titles & chairs established; invitations to session speakers
Sept 30, 2003 Preliminary program completed
Jan 5, 2003 Abstract submission begins
Mar 15, 2004 Final date for abstract submission

As with the Newport Beach meeting, we shall make a special effort to involve younger neurochemists as presenters wherever possible. Attention will be given to the program wishes of our membership, as revealed in the recent questionnaire sent out by George DeVries (incoming president). If additional planning sessions of the Program Committee appear desirable, these can be arranged since most members of the committee are located in the New York metropolitan area.

Dr. Robert Ledeen, Chair

ASN Survey Report

The results of a recent survey of the ASN membership have recently been posted on the ASN website. A total of 118 members out of an active membership of 508 responded to the survey. In general, the respondents were satisfied with the functioning of the Society. The survey respondents felt that the Society has done a good job of attracting young investigators. There was a general lack of support for a change in the name of the Society. The minority of members who wanted a change in the name of the society, favored the name American Society for Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience. There was a general lack of support for the Society starting its own independent journal, although the results were not conclusive in this regard. The respondents felt that the annual meeting should be rotated between the East Coast, Midwest, and West Coast, much in the same way ISN has begun to rotate their meetings internationally. Scientific content, meeting site, and cost were the three important considerations for attending an ASN meeting. Most people favored having a fixed time for the meeting, with March, April, May, and June being the most favorable dates. A banquet at the annual meeting was felt to be important, but most respondents would like it to be optional and with alcoholic beverages served. There was a general feeling that more time needed to be devoted to poster sessions, and that the oral slide sessions should be continued and expanded. Most respondents wanted to attend 2-3 symposia per day. The satellite special interest meetings were viewed as an excellent addition to the meeting.

These results will be useful in guiding future activities of the Society as well as future ASN meetings. In addition, we will continue to survey other members of Society and other segments of the neuroscience community to learn how the Society could attract additional people to the meetings. For further details of the survey results, please consult the website. An exit survey also was taken at the recent Newport Beach meeting and the results of this survey are being used to guide the Program Committee for 2004. These surveys will be continued and expanded under the leadership of Dr. Wendy Macklin, who is President Elect of ASN. If you have any comments or suggestions about the surveys, please contact her or any of the officers of the Society

Dr. George H. DeVries, Chair

Women in Neurochemistry
Annual ASN Meeting

The Women in Neurochemistry annual social and networking event was held early Monday evening. This was the first time that we have had an open bar, and the food was tremendous – so we are very thankful to Shielah Jewart for making such fabulous arrangements!! Turnout was terrific – about 45 participants.

It was especially encouraging to see a good representation of post-docs and students. The theme of the discussion was "Careers: Crisis and Change: Why women leave careers in science and medicine". The discussion was led by Pam Knapp who presented data about faculty attrition compiled during the past 1.5 years of faculty exit interviews at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. A number of participants enlarged on their own personal satisfactions and dissatisfactions with careers in science, and the choices that they've made along the way. There was also an energetic discussion on whether women and men face similar "career crisis" pressures.

Thanks go to Sandy Hewett for helping to organize the discussion this year, and for agreeing to mastermind the event at the New York City meeting in 2004

Dr. Pamela Knapp, 2003 Organizer

ASN's *Coordinates and Business Manager* are.....

American Society for Neurochemistry
Ms. Sheilah Jewart
9037 Ron Den Lane
Windemere, FL 34786
Phone/Fax 497-876-0750
Email: amazing@iag.net

ASN Honors Dr. Arlene Chiu For Her Public Service

Dr. Robert Yu presents Dr. Arlene Chui with an award for her service to ASN and the Neuroscience Community.

From time to time, the Society selects certain individuals to be honored for their outstanding Public Services at its annual meeting. At the last Council meeting in Palm Beach, Florida, Councilors and Officers voted unanimously that we present this Public Service Award to Dr. Arlene Chiu, Program Administrator of the NINDS, NIH, for her efforts in promoting the mission of the American Society for Neurochemistry. Dr. Chiu has worked tirelessly with members of this Society as well as those in the Neuroscience Community in promoting their research and in administering their grants. In addition she is a strong and effective advocate of the programs of NINDS. Her specific area is in Neural Stem Cell Biology. This is one of the most exciting areas of neuroscience research today because of its tremendous implications in unraveling the mystery of brain development and in neural repair. At the opening session of the Annual Meeting, Dr. Robert Yu, President of the American Society of Neurochemistry, presented Dr. Chiu with a Public Services Award.

Dr. Robert Yu, Past President of the ASN.

34 th Annual Business Meeting of the

American Society for Neurochemistry

May 6, 2003, Newport Beach, CA

AGENDA

(Note: Detailed reports of the officers and committees were provided to the Secretary before the meeting and are posted on the web site and included in a separate section of this issue of the newsletter. The reports were reviewed and approved by the Council. Hence, the reports at the business meeting were brief.)

The Business meeting was held on May 6, 2003 in the Plaza Room I at the Hyatt Newporter Hotel. It was called to order at 6:30 PM by Dr. Robert Yu who welcomed everyone to the 34 th annual business meeting of the ASN.

Minutes Approved

The minutes of the business meeting held at the 33 rd annual meeting that was held in Palm Beach were approved as written.

In Memoriam

ASN President Dr. Bob Yu read the names of ASN members who had died within the last year. They are Nancy Dahl and Paul Murphy. The president asked for a moment of silence for these departed members.

President's Comments – Dr. Robert Yu

Dr. Yu began by thanking the members present for attending the business meeting. He announced that the Society was in good shape.

Dr. Yu informed the members that Ms. Linda Garcia had resigned her position as manager of the ASN business office. He announce that Ms. Sheilah Jewert has taken the position as well as acting as the meeting organizer for the 34 th meeting.

Dr. Yu thanked Dr. Greg Sutcliffe, Chair of the Program Committee for an outstanding program and Dr. Jean de Vellis, Chair of the Local Host Committee for his assistance in arranging an excellent meeting venue and organizing the pre-meeting workshop.

Dr. Yu reviewed some of the actions that he took in the past year. He continued to stress the importance of increasing the membership of the ASN and asked the members present to nominate new members. In the past year he appointed Dr. George DeVries to

carry out a survey of the membership to determine how the Society is serving its members. He appointed Dr. Jean Merrill to chair a committee to coordinate and improve procurement of donations to fund the annual meetings. He said that Dr. Merrill has done an excellent job and thanked her. Dr. Yu thanked Dr. Greg Sutcliffe, the 2003 Program Committee Chair for assisting him in writing a NIH grant to help fund speakers and young investigators for the annual meeting.
He announced that the grant was funded. He stated that the Society needs to support young investigators and announced that 26 young scientists were provided travel funds through the Young Investigator Education Enhancement Committee.
He announced that he had appointed Dr. Robert Ledeen as the chair of the Program Committee and Dr. Robert Gould as chair of the Local Host Committee for the 2004 annual meeting. Dr. Yu said that a lot of discussion took place in selecting New York City as the meeting site for the 2004 meeting. He said that he thought that it was a good choice and stated that the ASN has never met in New York City, the venue has a lot to offer, expenses would be in line with the recent meetings, and that the ASN should so solidarity with the victims of 9/11 by meeting in New York City.

Dr. Yu concluded by thanking Dr. Lynn Hudson, Treasurer, and Dr. David Shine, Secretary, for their assistance.

Secretary's Report – Dr. David Shine

Dr. Shine announced that all five amendments to the Bylaws passed. He thanked those that had voted. He stated that the members should expect additional Bylaw amendments to be presented for ratification.

Treasurer's Report – Dr. Lynn Hudson

Dr. Yu recognized Dr. Lynn Hudson, Treasurer for her report.

Dr. Lynn Hudson reported that the ASN was financially sound at that at the end of 2002 had a total of $426,214 in its general and restricted accounts. Of the restricted accounts the Jordi Folch-Pi and Marian Kies Memorial Award accounts had $31,451 and $28,941, respectively, in the accounts. The Young Latin American Scholars account had $24,669. She noted that these monies will be exhausted if no additional funds are added to this account. The Haber Lectureship award has not been used and has $5,097 in its account. The Basic Neurochemistry Text account that represents royalties from the sale of the Basic Neurochemistry Text has a balance of $85,002. Dr. Hudson acknowledged the Chair of the Basic Neurochemistry Committee, Dr. George Siegel, for applying some of these funds to the Young Investigator's Travel Award. The general fund has a balance of $251,054.

Dr. Hudson commented that while the general fund has a large amount of money its balance represents about the same amount of money as the expenses for the annual

meeting. She warned that if a catastrophic problem with the meeting occurred the general fund could be depleted. She stated that the Society should be aware of this potential problem and take measures to insure that future meetings were successful as well as increasing the balance of the general fund account.

Dr. Hudson recognized the efforts of Dr. Jean Merrill, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, for her efforts in increasing the level of contributions to the meeting. She also recognized Dr. Scott Brady, Chair of the 2002 Annual Meeting, for establishing the practice of submitting an NIH grant to help defray the costs of the meeting and supporting attendance by young investigators.

Dr. Hudson announced that the Council has passed two measures regarding financing the annual meeting. It had set aside $20,000 a year to support the efforts of the Young Investigator Education Enhancement Committee in providing travel assistance to young investigators to attend the annual meeting. In another action the Council has decided that any speaker at the annual meeting that is not an ASN member will be given complementary registration.

Dr. Hudson concluded with the statement that the Society is in a sound financial position but she is concerned that the annual meeting represents a financial risk that the Society should take measures to lessen. She suggested that increasing the general funds and paying attention to the membership survey in order to make the Society and its meetings attractive to it current members and potential new members are examples of lessening this financial risk.

In response to a question by Dr. Gerald Cohen, Dr. Hudson stated that the Societies funds are deposited in interestbearing certificate of deposit accounts and that the current yield is 1.5-2.0%.

Dr. Yu thanked Dr. Hudson for her service to the Society. The Treasure's report was approved.

Report on the 34 th Annual Meeting:

2003 Program Committee – Dr. Greg Sutcliffe

Dr. Yu recognized Dr. Greg Sutcliffe, Chair of the 2003 Program Committee for his report.

Dr. Greg Sutcliffe said that the specifics of the Program Committee's actions and will be posted on the ASN website and in the newsletter. He stated that he used the outline of the members' interests that Dr. Scott Brady had created to organize his committee so that the interests of the membership would be represented. Fifty-two proposals where submitted, from which the Program Committee selected the session topics. He thanked his committee and members for submitting proposals. He thanked the session chairs for responding to the deadlines that he had established.

Dr. Sutcliffe asked the members to respond to the 2004 Program Committee Chair, Dr. Robert Ledeen, in the same positive fashion that they did for him. He asked the membership to let Dr. Ledeen know what aspects they liked and disliked about the current meeting. Dr. Sutcliffe identified two aspects of the meeting that he thought could be improved: the length of time devoted to poster presentations and the use of computer presentations – especially those using the Mac platform.

Dr. Yu thanked Dr. Sutcliffe and the Program Committee for an excellent meeting.

2003 Local Host Committee – Dr. Jean deVellis

Dr. Yu recognized Dr. Jean deVellis, Chair of the 2003 Local Host Committee for his report.

Dr. deVellis reported that the meeting has 437 registrants. Half of the registrants were members of the ASN, which was in line with other annual meetings for several years. Of the registrants, 97 were postdocs or graduate students.

He reported that his committee had arranged a postdoc/graduate student dinner that was well attended and appreciated by the attendees.

Dr. deVellis reported that in addition to helping in organizing the annual meeting, he and Dr. Hideyuki Okano organized a pre-meeting workshop titled "Neural Stem Cell Biology and Potential Therapeutic Applications". The workshop was underwritten by Wiley Publishers and the Journal of Neuroscience Research and was free to the 100 attendees.

Dr. Yu commented that the meeting attendance may have been impacted by the restriction on travel due to SARS and the close timing with the ISN/APSN joint meeting in Hong Kong.

Dr. Yu thanked Dr. deVellis and the members of the Local Host Committee for an excellent venue.

Historian's Report – Dr. Claude Baxter

Dr. Yu recognized Dr. Claude Baxter, Historian for his report.

Dr. Baxter reminded everyone that the archives were available to all ASN members and that he was happy to help them access the information in them. He announced that some of the archival material that was though lost has been found in private hands and, through the good graces of Dr. Marion Smith, thinks that these items will be recovered within the year. Dr. Baxter reminded the members that the Oral History of the ASN was posted on the web site and that new chapters will be added. He asked that if members have ideas for additional chapters to please contact him.

Dr. Baxter thanked those that have sent photographs to him. He asked those who send photographs to please label them with the date and the names of the people in them on a label affixed to the back of the photograph.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Intersociety Liaison Report – Dr. Regino Perez-Polo

Dr. Regino Perez-Polo stated that the charge of the Intersociety Liaison was to foster cooperation between the ASN and other scientific societies, most notably the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN). He said that the ASN and ISN cooperate informally in many ways and that it is the Liaison's responsibility to make sure that there are no misunderstandings between the two societies. Dr.
Perez-Polo said that he is participating in the planning for the joint meeting between the ISN and ASN in 2007. He reported that two potential sites have been identified for the 2007 meeting. They were Cancun, Mexico and Montreal, Canada.
He stated that as soon as a site is chosen it will be announced to the ASN membership. Dr. Perez-Polo asked that if members have suggestions or concerns regarding ASN's interactions with other societies to contact him.

Dr. Rick Cohen noted that the Journal of Neurochemistry offers color figures at no charge to ISN members. He inquired whether this could be extended to ASN members.

Dr. Perez-Polo mentioned that there has been discussion regarding the possibility of the ASN publishing a journal. He stated that it would be very important for the ASN to carefully consider this position. He predicted that specific proposal would be presented to the membership in a year.

Dr. Gerald Cohen suggested that since it seemed that the joint ISN/APSN meeting may be cancelled due to SARS that the ASN could extend an invitation to the ISN to hold their biannual meeting in conjunction with the ASN in New York City next year. Dr. Perez-Polo suggested that it would be difficult for the ISN to plan such a change in a year.

Membership Survey Committee – Dr. George DeVries

Dr. Geoge DeVries presented the data obtained from the membership survey. He stated that their had been much discussion of the ASN with regard to its membership and its future. He said that this survey was designed to obtain data on the membership's perception of the Society and its function. The survey was posted in March and 118 out of approximately 506 dues-paying members completed the survey.

He said that incentives were offered to members that submitted surveys. Dr. DeVries announced that Dr. Georgi Marco won the Palm PDA was and Dr. Karen Chandross won the DVD player. Six members won a laser pointer. Dr. DeVries presented a slide

show detailing the answers to the survey questions. (Note: The slide show will be posted on the ASN web site.) He cautioned that it is not yet known whether the answers represent a valid sampling of the membership.

Standing Committee Reports:

Standing Rules Committee – Dr. Cara-Lynne Schengrund

Dr. Yu recognized Dr. Cara-Lynn Schengrund, Parliamentarian and Chair of the Standing Rules Committee for her report.

Dr. Schengrund thanked the members of the committee. She reported that the Standing Rules Committee had met twice at the annual meeting and have identified items in the Bylaws and Standing Rules that may require modification. She said that members should expect to receive amendments to the Bylaws in the upcoming year.

Membership Committee – Dr. Alex Chiu

Dr. Chui thanked the members of the Membership Committee. He recognized Dr. Yu for his leadership in increasing members of the ASN. He stated that 39 nominations were approved by the committee and sent to Council. About half of the new members are junior faculty.

Jordi Folch-Pi Award Report – Dr. Regina Armstrong

Dr. Armstrong thanked the members of the committee for their efficient deliberations. The winner would be announced after the plenary lecture the next day. She suggested that in the future the winner should be announced earlier in the meeting so that members could congratulate the recipient. (Note: the winner of the Folch-Pi Award was Dr. Frank Tarazi.)

Marian Kies Award Committee – Dr. Karen Chandross

Dr. Chandross thanked the members of the committee. She said that the committee chose Dr. Heather Duffy among several outstanding nominees. Dr. Chandross stated that the committee has identified several items that they will initiate to improve the process of selecting awardees in the future. She asked the members to begin identifying candidates for 2004.

Young Investigator Enhancement Award Committee – Dr. Thomas Seyfried

Dr. Seyfried thanked the members of the committee. He reported that the committee dispersed $20,000 to 26 young investigators to defray their travel costs to attend the meeting. Twenty-one awardees came from the US, one from Chile, one from Canada, and three from Argentina. He stated that the establishment of a stable budget of $20,000

by the Council would make the committee's job easier in the future. Dr. Rick Cohen suggested that the committee might wish to explore the possibility of obtaining travel funds for Canadian residents from the Canadian government.

Public Policy and Education Committee – Dr. Minnetta Gardinier

Dr. Minnetta Gardinier said that there was no report from the Public Policy and Education Committee as the committee did not do anything in the past year.

Inter-American Cooperation Committee – Dr. Araceli Espinosa-Jeffrey

Dr. Araceli Espinosa-Jeffrey reported that the committee's efforts were focused on organizing a second Basic Neurochemistry School that is planned to be held in Puerto Rico. She invited members that have suggestions for the school or wish to participate to contact her. She thanked the ISN for its support of the first school and said that she looks forward to continued cooperation with that society.

Basic Neurochemistry Committee – Dr. George Siegel

Dr. George Siegel reported that 8,561 copies of the Basic Neurochemistry book have been sold; 8,187 with the companion CD-ROM. Few slide sets where sold so that they are considering discontinuing them in the future. Also, the cost of producing the CD-ROM is high so that the committee is considering revising the content in the future. He thanked the more than 80 people that are involved in publishing the book.

Dr. Yu thanked Dr. Siegel and the editorial committee and said that he looks forward to the 7 th addition in the future.

Dr. Eichberg asked about the survey that the committee posted last year. Dr. Siegel said that very few people responded to the survey.

Young Latin American Scholars – Dr. Oscar Bizzozero

Dr. Oscar Bizzozero thanked the committee for their efforts. He reported that the committee received 9 applications and approved 6 to receive $2,000 each to attend the annual meeting and visit US laboratories for 1 to 4 weeks after the meeting.
Three awardees were female and 3 male. Three awardees were postdocs and 3 were graduate students. ASN members headed five of the six host laboratories. Dr.
Bizzozero stated that the committee would attempt to fund 5 or 6 Latin American scholars next year. His committee will explore means to maintain funding for this program.

Dr. Robert Gould suggested that the awardees be acknowledged in the next meeting and publicize their award by marking their posters.

Nominating Committee – Dr. Yu for Dr. Joyce Benjamins

Dr. Robert Yu gave the Nominating Committee report for Dr. Joyce Benjamins. He announced that Dr. Wendy Macklin was elected President-Elect and Drs. Lynn Hudson and David Shine were reelected to the positions of Treasure and Secretary, respectively. Five new members of the Council were Drs. Karen Chandross, Doug Fienstein, Sandra Hewett, Pamela Knapp, and Mark Smith. He announced that Dr. Alex Gow, Alternate to the Council, will assume the position held by Dr. Charissa Dyer who had stepped down from the Council. Dr. Jeffrey Yao will take Dr. Gow's position as Alternate to the Council.

Report on the 35 th Annual Meeting:

Program Committee – Dr. Robert Ledeen

Dr. Robert Ledeen, Chair of the 2004 Program Committee reported that a call for program suggestions was sent to the ASN membership in March and that his committee had received several excellent symposium suggestions. These suggestions will be considered by the Program Committee at its first planning session later that week. He stated that the committee will make a special effort to involve younger neurochemists as presenters wherever possible. He said that attention would be given to the program wishes of the ASN membership and they will attempt to increase the participation of the membership. He noted that the deadlines for the meeting will be narrower than in the past.

Local Host Committee – Dr. Robert Gould

Dr. Robert Gould, Chair of the 2004 Local Host Committee announced that the 2004 Annual Meeting will be held in the historic Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Among the ideas that the committee has for the meeting are special luncheons with plenary and symposium speakers, scheduling the banquet earlier in the meeting, and inviting a local science writer to speak at the meeting.

New Business:

Announcements from the President of the International Society for Neurochemistry – Dr. Peter Dunkley

Dr. Yu recognized Dr. Peter Dunkley, President of the International Society for Neurochemistry.

Dr. Dunkley announced that the officers and councilors of the ISN had decided to cancel the joint meeting of the ISN and the APSN that was to be held in Hong Kong due to the SARS threat. He said that additional information would be posted on the ISN web site.

In response to a question by Dr. Robert Ledeen, Dr. Dunkley said that the sentiment of the ISN was to publish the abstracts submitted to the meeting.

Dr. Dunkley acknowledged the outstanding work that the Local Host Committee Chair, Dr. Alfreda Stadlin, and the Program Committee Chair, Dr. Mark Smith, had done for the meeting.

Dr. Robert Yu remarked that he sympathized with the officers and councilors of ISN on making this decision and thought that it was a wise one.

Dr. Dunkley continued with the reminder that the ISN and ASN plan to have a joint meeting in 2007. He also announced that the ISN has instituted a new series of meetings to be held in the years that are not occupied by the ISN biennial meetings. These meetings, called Special Neurochemistry Conferences, would be more focused than the general meetings. The meetings would rotate through the geographical regions of Europe, the Americas, and the Far East and the ISN would provide $150,000 of funding for each meeting. He announced that the first meeting would be held in Avignon in May 2004 and be organized by Dr. Jacque Mallet. Dr. Dunkley urged the members to consider this funding mechanism for meetings that may be held in the Americas. He said that the application process and guidelines for organizing a Special Neurochemistry Conference would be posted on the ISN's web site soon. He stated that this new initiative represents another opportunity for ISN members in the Americas to benefit from the income that the ISN derives from the Journal of Neurochemistry.

Installation of New Officers

Dr. Yu thanked the outgoing Councilors, Drs. Narin Banik, David Colman, Roger Butterworth, Wendy Macklin, and Jean Merril, for their service to the ASN. He said that it had been a great pleasure and a rewarding experience to serve the ASN in the past two years. He felt that the ASN was in good hands with new officers. He then handed the gavel to Dr. George DeVries.

Dr. George DeVries gave a "heartfelt thanks" to Dr. Yu for his leadership during some trying times for the ASN. He said that Dr. Yu had made the sudden change in ASN business office manager and meeting organizer very smooth with the expeditious hiring of Ms. Sheilah Jewart to replace Ms. Linda Garcia. He said that he was very grateful for what Dr. Yu has done for the Society and, on behalf of the members presented him with an inscribed desk pen set. There was a hearty round of applause for Dr. Yu.

Dr. DeVries stated that he would take his mandate for his presidency from the membership survey that he had just completed. He would concentrate on strengthening what was working and improving what the members thought was not. He would try to get the membership more involved in decisions making and communicating with the leadership. Dr. DeVries cited meeting site selection as one example of where he would like to see greater membership participation take place. He stated that his first task

would be to reappoint and appoint chairs and members to the standing committees. He asked the members present to contact him if they had particular interests in committee assignments.

Dr. DeVries concluded with stating that the future of ASN is bright and he thanked the members for their confidence in electing him as President of the ASN.

Dr. DeVries called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, seconded and passed by acclamation. The annual business meeting was adjourned.

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Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award for 2003
Dr. Frank Tarazi

The Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award is presented by the American Society for Neurochemistry to an outstanding young investigator who has demonstrated a high level of research competence and originality, who has significantly advanced our knowledge of neurochemistry, and who shows a high degree of potential for future accomplishments. The 2003 selection committee consisted of Drs. Regina Armstrong (chair), Grace Sun, Gary Gibson, Joe Eichberg, and Jeffrey Yao.

The 2003 awardee is Dr. Frank I. Tarazi. Dr. Tarazi earned an. M.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and his Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Rutgers University Center for Neuroscience. He then joined the faculty at Harvard Medical School and McLean Hospital. Dr. Tarazi currently holds the academic rank of Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Harvard Medical School. He is also Director of the Molecular Neuroscience Program at the Mailman Research Center at McLean Hospital. Dr. Tarazi's research efforts have focused on the neuropharmacology and neuroanatomy of neurotransmitter receptor systems relevant to the treatment of psychosis and hyperactivity. This work has resulted in 65 peerreviewed publications. His expertise has also contributed to a chapter on psychosis and mania in the latest 10 th edition of *Goodman and Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*. Dr. Tarazi has received numerous honors and awards from scientific and biomedical societies and associations.
He has frequently been an invited speaker and has organized sessions at national and international meetings, including the American Society for Neurochemistry.
Dr. Tarazi is working with the program committee to organize another session for the 2004 ASN.

Dr. Regina Armstrong, Chair

Marian Kies Memorial Award for 2003
Dr. Heather Duffy

The 2003 Marian Kies recipient, Dr. Heather Duffy, has done outstanding and elegant work in the field of gap junction biology. She is one of few scientists who have combined classic neurochemical approaches and high resolution imaging techniques to study the intermolecular interactions in connexins, the proteins that form gap junction channels. Her exciting results have had a tremendous impact on our understanding how the 3 dim structure of the proteins that make up gap junction channels relate to their crucial function in the nervous system and throughout the body.

Heather has been actively involved at scientific meetings, has received several travel awards, and has organized and chaired several symposia. Heather has also dedicated much of her energy towards educating and mentoring young students interested in science. She is actively involved in the National American Indian Science and Engineering Society and was a coordinator for the Albert Einstein College of Medicine Women in Science Symposium series.

Heather's high impact research efforts, together with active involvement in the scientific community and experience as an educator has made it an honor for the committee to select her as this year's recipient.

Dr. Karen Chandross, Chair of the Marian Kies Memorial Award Committee.

ASN welcomes the following new members:

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Zhan Zhang
Wayne State Univ.
Detroit, MI

Corresponding Member

John Melville Land
Inst. of Neurology, UCL
London, England

2003
Young Latin American
Scholars Award

Congratulations to the following Latin American Scholar Award Recipients.

This award is presented by the ASN to promising young neuroscientits from Latin America to attend the ASN Annual Meeting and to visit a U.S. laboratory.

Corina Garcia
Lionel Muller Igaz
Pablo Paez
Alberto Ramos
Analia Reines
Gabriela Salvador

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2003 Young Investigator Educational Enhancement Award Recipients

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