

Neurochemistry

News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMUNITY OF NEUROCHEMICAL SOCIETIES

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INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR
NEUROCHEMISTRY



American
Society for
Neurochemistry



European
Society for
Neurochemistry



Asian Pacific
Society for
Neurochemistry



ISN. ESN The 20th Biennial Meeting of the ISN Innsbruck, Austria • August 21-26, 2005

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 20th Biennial Meeting of the ISN and the ESN. We are in the process of preparing the fine details for the meeting. As of May 1st, we have received approximately 900 registrations and we are confident to reach more than 1000 in August. A total of about 750 abstracts include some 550 poster abstracts, on a wide range of important topics in neurochemistry and general neuroscience. The final program including the poster presentations will be posted on the website www.isn-esn2005.org by end of May. At that time, all abstracts will be forwarded to Blackwell for publication in the Journal of Neurochemistry. Although we cannot accept further abstracts any more, the registration site will be open until close to the meeting, therefore we encourage everybody who has not yet decided about their attendance of the Innsbruck meeting, to have a look at the outstanding programme and still consider coming to Austria in August.

Please do not forget that, besides the scientific program, there will be a variety of social events during and after the conference. The welcome reception, coffee breaks and lunch, as well as a farewell event in an atmosphere with local Austrian food and music, and most probably a classic concert on Tuesday evening is included in the conference fee. For additional payment, further tours may be booked, spanning

from a rafting adventure for the sports freaks to a visit of the city of Verona, including an opera performance at the world-famous open air arena. Moreover, your registration is a ticket for a prize draw, where you may win one week winter vacation in a five-star resort in the Austrian Alps. Therefore please have a look at recent updates on the event at our web-site and we look forward to welcoming all of you at Innsbruck in August.

Alois Saria

Chair of the Local Organizing Committee
Innsbruck, May 2005

2005 ISN Travel Awards

The ISN Travel Award Committee has awarded 117 applicants with the following geographical distribution: American Continent 34; Europe 35; Pacific Regions plus Asia, Australia and New Zealand 44; Africa 4.

7th Advanced School of Neurochemistry Watching the Invisible: The Impact of Molecular Imaging, Proteomics and Functional Genomics on Modern Neuroscience

Obergurgl, Austria • August 17-21, 2005

The ISN Advanced School committee headed by Eckart Gundelfinger from Magdeburg, Germany, invites 17 faculty members and 40 students from 19 countries from all continents of the world to the Austrian Alps to spend 3 exciting school days together at a rustic mountain resort. The students were selected by the School committee from more than 90 applications.

At Obergurgl University center, which is not far from the place where the mummy of Oetzi, the ancient iceman was discovered, the School will enlighten on recent progress in most advanced technologies to study the nervous system.

Faculty members are all outstanding scientists of high international reputation, who cover different aspects of imaging techniques from the visualization of single

molecules to the analysis of complex brain activation patterns. The tentative program is provided at the School's website: www.neurochemistry-school.de. The Opening lecture will be given by Gero Miesenbock from New York. Three sessions will cover the *Imaging of single molecules and organelles* (I), *Molecular Imaging of synaptic function, assembly and plasticity* (II) and the *Imaging of brain functions* (III). A round table discussion with students and faculty will complete the Advanced School from a philosophical point of view: "The Heisenberg problem in modern biology or how can we observe real life without disturbing it?"

The local organization of the School is greatly supported by Alois Saria and Christiane Riedl from the local organizing committee of the 20th ISN/ESN Biennial Meeting in Innsbruck.



The 2nd ISN Special Neurochemistry Conference on Neural Glycomics and Lipidomics

Jolly Beach Resort • Antigua, West Indies • December 1-5, 2006



The 2nd ISN Special Neurochemistry Conference on Neural Glycomics and Lipidomics will be held on the Caribbean island of Antigua, West Indies on December 1-5, 2006. It will be organized by the chair, Dr. Steven Pfeiffer; Vice-chairs Drs. Tony Futerman and Kuni Suzuki, and an international Program Committee. The Local Host will be the American

University of Antigua College of Medicine, operating through a Host Committee of Drs. Majid Pathan, Steve Glasser, Reza Sanii and Surendra Parmar.

Key areas of concentration will include: Moderns Methods of Analysis and Integration, Bioinformatics, Genetic Models, Cellular Migration and Early Neural Development, and Cellular Differentiation, Synthesis, Trafficking and Sorting of Lipids and Glycoproteins, Intracellular Signaling; Glycosphingolipids and Microdomains (lipid rafts), Adhesion and Recognition, Cell-Cell Communication, and Neural Disease. A maximum of 300 scientists will be accepted for attendance. Further program and application material and a website will be made available in Fall of 2005.

Proposals for location of the 22nd ISN Biennial Meeting in 2009

At the deadline for submission of proposals for hosting the ISN Meeting in 2009 the following places had submitted detailed invitation to the ISN:

Beijing • China Busan • South Korea

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 Innsbruck August 21 and 23, 2005 respectively (see Agenda for the General Business Meeting).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTIFICATION

In the near future the Neurochemistry News will exclusively appear online at the ISN website and all-important announcements will be sent to members by E-mail. It is thus necessary to keep the membership E-mail address list updated.

Please, check if your address information in the ISN Membership Directory www.neurochem.org/pages/ISNdirsearch.htm is correct. Use the Directory Change form www.neurochem.org/pages/isn_dir_change.htm to update your information.



The 21st Biennial Meeting of ISN

Cancún, México • August 19-24, 2007

The 21st ISN 2007 meeting will be held in Cancún, México, in conjunction with the ASN. Cancún is a beautiful and most geographically suitable place to congregate scientists from all over the world. It is located on the Caribbean Sea, 150 km South of the North East corner of the Yucatán Peninsula, in México, and it is well communicated with most continents by direct flights from many cities around the world. Cancún is famous for its white powder beaches, turquoise sea, scuba

diving and snorkeling sites, natural sea parks such as Xel-Ha and Xcaret, and many interesting "cenotes" (natural deposits of fresh water, often inside caves, very attractive for diving). In addition, for those interested in prehispanic architecture several important archeological Mayan cities, such as Tulum, Coba and Chichen-Itza, are located within 80-200 km from Cancún. Pre and postcongress tours to these sites will be offered.

Venue

The congress will be held at the "Centro de Convenciones Cancún" (Cancún Convention Center), Blvd. Kukulcán Km. 9, Cancún, 77500-Quintana Roo, México, which has all the necessary space and facilities for the meeting.

Accommodation

A large variety of hotels are available, ranging from five-star and de luxe hotels to low price but nice hotels very convenient for students. Most of them are at walking distance from the Convention Center, which is located in a busy area of the hotel zone, surrounded by restaurants for all tastes and prices, just between the sea and a spectacular lagoon.

Possible cities for satellite meetings

Satellite meetings can be arranged at several cities in the area, such as Mérida or Villahermosa. Other possible sites include México City, Miami and Houston, which are only about two-hours flight from Cancún.

Enquiries

Julio Morán jmoran@ifc.unam.mx
Herminia Pasantes hpasante@ifc.unam.mx
Ricardo Tapia rtapia@ifc.unam.mx

Local Organizing Committee

Julio Morán, Herminia Pasantes and Ricardo Tapia, co-chairpersons of the LOC, have gathered neuroscientists from the three Mexican cities where neurochemistry and neuroscience are well represented.

J. Aceves, México City
C. Arias, México City
F. Bermúdez, México City
I. Camacho, México City
L. Covarrubias, Cuernavaca
M. Díaz, Querétaro
P. Joseph, Cuernavaca
A.M. López-Colomé, México City
L. Massieu, México City
M. Méndez, México City
J. Morán, México City
H. Pasantes, México City
R. Salceda, México City
M. Sitges, México City
R. Tapia, México City

Program Committee

M.T. Miras Portugal, Spain (Chair)
Phil Beart, Australia
Roger Butterworth, Canada
Rodrigo Cunha, Portugal
Vittorio Gallo, USA
Agustina Garcia, Spain
Gary Gibson, USA
Jean Antoine Girault, France
Simon Heales, UK
Ferdinand Hucho, Germany
Eric Klann, USA
Ana M^a Lopez Colome, México
Wendy Macklin, USA
Jean Merrill, USA
Regino Perez-Polo, USA
Marco A. Maximo Prado, Brasil
David Shine, USA
Katsuhiko Yanagisawa, Japan

ISN General Business Meeting 2005

Congress Innsbruck, Hall "Brussel"

Innsbruck, Austria

Tuesday August 23, 2005

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Results of elections for new Treasurer and Council Members
6. Change of bylaws concerning the procedure for election of Officers and Council Members
7. Report on the activities of ISN Committees
8. Matters arising from the ISN Council Meeting I
9. Report on the 20th Biennial Meeting, Innsbruck 2005
10. Status of the 21st Biennial Meeting, Cancun 2007
11. Status of the 2nd ISN Special Neurochemistry Conference, Antigua 2006
12. Proposals for the 22nd Biennial Meeting in 2009
13. Membership dues
14. Any other business

The reports will be available on the ISN website:

www.neurochem.org/pages/news

Change in Bylaws to be voted on at the General Business Meeting

Following the Council decision at the Osaka Meeting 2004 a change in the bylaws of the Society will be voted on at the General Business Meeting in Innsbruck. The change refers to the procedure for election of Officers and Council Members and if approved will allow the use of electronic voting (see www.neurochem.org/pages/news). A consequence of this change would be the obligation of ISN members to keep their E-mail address updated.

The ISN Committee for Aid and Education in Neurochemistry

The Committee for Aid and Education in Neurochemistry (CAEN) of the 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. Detailed information on the activities eligible for CAEN support can be found at:

www.neurochem.org/pages/CAENguide.htm

Inquiries and requests for application should be directed to the Chair of CAEN: Dr. Steven E. Pfeiffer, Dept. Neuroscience, MC-3401, University of Connecticut Medical School, 263 Farmington Avenue, Farmington CT 06030-3401, USA. Phone: +1 860 679 3395, Fax: +1 860 679 8140,

E-mail: pfeiffer@neuron.uchc.edu

ISN Support for Conferences

The ISN Conference Committee (ISN-CC) provides financial support for the organization of small conferences specialized in neurochemical topics (up to \$US 15,000). The financial support is meant to be used for Young Neurochemists Conference Fellowships and for the Organizers. Additionally, the ISN-CC sponsors neurochemistry symposia within meetings of other scientific societies or groups in the neuroscience field (up to \$US 7,000).

Applications are examined by the ISN-CC twice a year (April 30 and October 31) and are granted on a competitive basis favouring programs with international speakers and audience. Applications must be submitted at least 4 months prior to the meeting to be sponsored and the meeting, if sponsored, should be held no later than 1 year after the application has been handled. Guidelines and application forms can be found at www.neurochem.org/pages/ISN-CC.htm

Inquiries and applications should be directed to the Chair of ISN-CC: Dr. Kazuhiro Ikenaka, National Institute for Physiological Sciences, 5-1 Higashiyama, Myodaiji, Okazaki, Aichi 444 – 8787, Japan, Phone +81 564 59 5245, Fax +81 561 59 5247, E-mail: ikenaka@nips.ac.jp • Application deadlines: April 30 and October 31.



Plan early to attend the 37th ASN Annual Meeting that will be held in Portland, Oregon, USA from March 11th to the 15th, 2006 at the Hilton Hotel.

Call for Session Proposals for the 37th Annual Meeting

The program committee for the 37th annual meeting invites submissions for symposia, colloquia, and workshops. Go to: <http://asneurochem.org/ASN2006Proposals.htm> to submit your proposal.

New President-Elect and Counselors Elected

Members of ASN elected Monica Carson the next President-Elect. The six members that were elected to the post of Counselor were Regina Armstrong, Vittorio Gallo, Eric Murphy, Thomas Seyfried, David Shine, and Teresa Wood. Lucia Notterpek was elected Alternate to the Council. Thank you to all that participated voted in this election.



Abel Lajtha

Abel Lajtha Selected to Receive the Bernard Haber Award

The Bernard Haber Award is given in honor of Bernard Haber to an ASN member that has helped develop and strengthen relationships between the ASN and other neurochemistry and neuroscience societies from around the world including fostering research and academic cooperation and facilitating and encouraging the development of younger neuroscientists outside the US. The Bernard Haber Award Committee has chosen Abel Lajtha as the first recipient of this prestigious award.



Bernard Haber

FUTURE ASN MEETINGS:

- Portland, OR • March 11-16, 2006
- Cancun, Yucatan • August 19-24, 2007

Check the Online ASN Newsletter for more up-to-date ASN News at www.ASNeurochem.org

Keep Your Directory Information Correct
Check the ASN Online Directory

ESN

Members of ESN are invited to participate at the next [ISN/ESN meeting to be held in Innsbruck, 21-26 August, 2005](#). For information concerning the meeting please visit www.isn-esn2005.at

The officers of ESN are sad to announce that Professor Volker Bigl (Leipzig, Germany) died at the age of 63. He was an active member of ESN and served the Society as a Secretary in the period of 1992-1996. He would be remembered by his friends and colleges in ESN.

Call for nomination for the Council of ESN

Three new members are to be elected to the Council of ESN. Members of ESN are kindly asked to send nominations for ESN Council to Vera Adam-Vizi by e-mail (av@puskin.sote.hu).

The deadline for sending nominations is September 15, 2005. The list of current members of the Council is available on the ESN homepage: <http://bioingweb.dimisem.med.unipg.it/dimi/esn/index.htm>

Call for organizing the 4th ESN Conference on "Advances in Molecular Mechanisms of Neurological Disorders".

Please send proposals to Gianfrancesco Goracci by e-mail (goracci@unipg.it).

ESN Council Meeting

ESN Council Meeting will be held on [August 25, 2005, Thursday 12:15 pm](#) in the "Congress of Innsbruck". Council members will be notified about the exact site of the meeting by e-mail.

The agenda is as follows:

- President's report
- Secretary's report
- Treasurer's report
- Election of officers
- Future meeting, events

ESN General Business Meeting

ESN General Business Meeting will be held on [August 25, 2005, Thursday 6:30 pm](#) in the "Congress of Innsbruck", venue of the ISN/ESN Meeting. The exact site of the business meeting will be announced in Innsbruck, during the ISN/ESN meeting.

The agenda is as follows:

- President's report
- Secretary's report
- Treasurer's report
- Change of the Constitution of ESN
- Future meetings, events
- Other business

7th Biennial Meeting of APSN

Singapore • July 3-5, 2006

Venue:

Suntec International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Singapore

Website: <http://www.suntecsingapore.com>

Congress Website: <http://www.apsn2006.org>

Contact:

Integrated Meetings Specialist Pte Ltd (Singapore)

1122A Serangoon Road

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Obituary

VOLKER BIGL (1942-2005)

AN APPRECIATION

It is with great sadness that our colleague and friend, Volker Bigl, passed away at his home in Leipzig on 24th March 2005 after a long illness.

Volker graduated at the Medical Faculty of Leipzig University in 1966 and continued his career in neurochemistry in the Abteilung fuer Neurochemie at the University under the direction of Dietmar Biesold. As a consequence of the ability of Dietmar Biesold to maintain international scientific contacts throughout Europe and North America despite the restrictions imposed by the Cold War, Volker spent a 6 month sabbatical in the USA in the laboratory of Larry Butcher in 1981 extending his interests in the cholinergic system of the rat brain. On returning to Leipzig, he submitted his doctoral thesis on structural and functional aspects of the central cholinergic system and obtained the D.Habil. degree in 1983.

The main research interest of Volker Bigl has been in the structure of the cholinergic system in the cortex, an unusual area of research for a neurochemist at the time. In his research, he always emphasised the importance of combining the structural

and functional aspects of the cholinergic system. This developed into an interest in neuroplasticity, an area in which he co-operated with his future wife, Marina, in studies of the visual system of the rat. In more recent years, Volker's interests expanded into the role of the cholinergic system in Alzheimer's disease, research that was aided by the availability of human brain material.

With the increasing size of the Neurochemistry Department, Volker took on a more managerial role. Following the retirement, and untimely death, of Dietmar Biesold in 1991, Volker was made Head of Department. This co-incided with the period of German reunification. Shortly after, he became Dean of the Medical Faculty and, in 1997, was elected Rector of Leipzig University. Volker was the only senior academic in the former GDR to achieve such an appointment, a position he fulfilled with distinction.

Volker Bigl resigned from the rectorship in 2003 and had planned to return as the head of the Neurochemistry Department and to continue his research on the central cholinergic system. Tragically, this was not to be. He was diagnosed with a glioma early in 2004 and, despite two major surgical operations, followed by chemotherapy, he died in his sleep in March.

Dr. Brian Leonard & Dr. Thomas Arendt

Meeting Announcements

Meetings supported by ISN (October 31, 2004 deadline)

- **7th Neurochemistry Winter Conference 2005**
April 2-8, 2005. Sölden, Austria. Report available on www.neurochem.org/news
- **Molecular Mechanisms of Exocytosis and Endocytosis**
April 3-5, 2005. University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh
- **ISN Symposium on the Formation of Macromolecular Signalling Complexes in Neurons and Glia. VII Argentine Neuroscience Workshop**
April 7 -11, 2005. Cordoba, Argentina
- **ISN Symposium on Advancement of Neurochemistry in Africa. 7th Biennial Meeting of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa**
April 18- 22, 2005. Cape Town, South Africa. Report available on www.neurochem.org/news
- **ESF MARIE Network workshop on Myelin Structure and its Role in Autoimmunity II. From Biophysics to Neuroimmunology**
May 1-5, 2005. Potenza, Italy. Report available on www.neurochem.org/news
- **10th International Congress on Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (Batten Disease)**
June 6-8, 2005. Helsinki, Finland
- **ISN Symposium on Molecular, Physiological, and Chemical Rendition of the Neuronal Stress Response. 30th FEBS Congress and IUBMB Conference, The Protein World**
July 2-7, 2005. Budapest, Hungary
- **2005 Summer Neuropeptide Conference**
July 5-9, 2005. Florida, USA
- **ISN Symposium on the Neurobiology Phosphatases. Europhosphatases 2005: The Biology of Phosphatases**
July 10-14, 2005. Cambridge, UK
- **5th International Symposium on Experimental and Clinical Neurobiology**
September 19-22, 2005. The High Tatras - Stara Lesna, Slovak Republic
- **Molecular Genetics of the Mind**
October 16-20, 2005. Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia

Satellite Meetings of the 20th Biennial Meeting of the ISN

- Pre-Meeting Satellites:**
- **Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Drugs of Abuse and Neurotoxicity: cocaine, GHB and substituted amphetamines**
16 - 19 August 2005, Isola di San Servolo, Venice, Italy. Organizers: S. F. Ali and F. Fornai
 - **Myelin Development and Function: Neuron-glia Interactions in Health and Neurological Disease**
17 - 21 August 2005, Kloster Irsee, Irsee, Germany. Organizers: R. Bansal, L. Feltri, K. Ikenaka, S. Pfeiffer, L. Wrabetz
 - **Chromogranins in Health and Disease**
18 - 21 August 2005, Sölden, Ötztal Valley, Tyrol, Austria. Organizers: R. Fischer- Colbrrie and H. Winkler
- Post-Meeting Satellites:**
- **Molecular Basis for Signal Transduction in Neurodegeneration and Neuroregeneration**
27 - 30 August 2005, Warsaw, Poland. Organizers: J. B. Strosznajder, B. Luczynska
 - **Glutamate in CNS Metabolism and Neurotransmission: Interactions at the Inter- and Intracellular Level**
27 - 31 August 2005, Wierzba, (Mazurian Lakes), Poland. Organizers: J. Albrecht, A. Schousboe

Other Meetings

- **9th International Congress on Amino Acids and Proteins**
August 8-12, 2005. Viena, Austria
- **4th International Conference on Biochemical Markers for Brain Proteins**
September 8-10, 2005. Boothbay Harbor, Maine, USA
- **New Perspectives in Neurotransmitter Transporter Biology - the 15th Neuropharmacology Conference**
November 9 -11, 2005. Washington, DC, USA

Editorial Information

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Deadlines: Material for December Issue (November 15, 2005), Material for June Issue (May 15, 2006)
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