

American Society  
for  
Neurochemistry



Newsletter



Summer 2003

[www.ASNeurochem.org](http://www.ASNeurochem.org)

## Message from the President

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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

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Council suggested five amendments to the bylaws at the 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 amendments 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

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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
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$321,342.39</b>

### 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
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$310,311.66</b>
<b>GAIN ON ONE YEAR PERIOD</b>	<b>\$11,030.73</b>

## **Historian's Report**

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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**

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The office of Intersociety Liaison is responsible for co-ordinating 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**

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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**

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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**

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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<sup>th</sup> 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**

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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**

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Marian Kies Award: Committee Members consist of Drs. Karen Chandross (Chair), Patrizia Casaccia-Bonnet, 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<sup>th</sup> 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**

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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 mid-year and were some delay in the application process as a result. However, we were able to respond 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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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-Bonnet), 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**

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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 to 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 Whitemore

### **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

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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. Arrangements are being made by Sheila Jewart, our new meeting organizer. Following are the members of the Program Committee:

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

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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**

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**Email: [amazing@iag.net](mailto:amazing@iag.net)**

## **ASN Honors Dr. Arlene Chiu For Her Public Service**



Dr. Robert Yu presents Dr. Arlene Chiu 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<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> annual business meeting of the ASN.

**Minutes Approved**

The minutes of the business meeting held at the 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 announced that Ms. Sheilah Jewert has taken the position as well as acting as the meeting organizer for the 34<sup>th</sup> 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 show 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 an-

nual 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 its 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 interest-bearing 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 Treasurer's report was approved.

### **Report on the 34<sup>th</sup> 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 were 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 thought 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. George DeVries presented the data obtained from the membership survey. He stated that there 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 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. Chiu 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 were 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<sup>th</sup> 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 re-elected 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<sup>th</sup> 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. Jacques 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 out-going Councilors, Drs. Narin Banik, David Colman, Roger Butterworth, Wendy Macklin, and Jean Merrill, 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 “heart-felt 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 peer-reviewed publications. His expertise has also contributed to a chapter on psychosis and mania in the latest 10<sup>th</sup> 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:

## Ordinary Members

Madhabi Barua  
Inst. for Basic Research in Develop-  
mental Disabilities  
Staten Island, NY

Cesario Borlongan  
Medical College of Georgia  
Augusta, Georgia

Susan E. Browne  
Weill Medical College of Cornell Univ.  
New York, NY

Miguel A. Contreras  
Medical Univ. of South Carolina  
Charleston, SC

Marion A. De Leon  
Loma Linda Univ., School of Medicine  
Loma Linda, CA

Vittorio Gallo, Ph.D.  
Children's Research Inst.  
Washington, DC

Paula Grammas, Ph.D  
Univ. of Oklahoma Health Sciences  
Center  
Oklahoma City, OK

James A. Hewett  
Univ. of Connecticut Health Center  
Farmington, CT

Michael W. Jakowec  
Univ. of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA

Gwendolyn L. Kartje  
Loyola Univ./Hines VA  
Hines, IL

Vitali Y. Lounev  
Coriell Inst. for Medical Research  
Camden, NJ

Michael Levy  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, TX

Peter John McCaffery  
UMass/E.K. Shriver Center  
Waltham, MA

Francisco Nualarta  
Univ. de Concepcion  
Casilla, Chile

Lisa Opanashuk  
Univ. of Rochester  
Rochester, NY

Joel S. Pachter  
Univ. of Connecticut Health Center  
Farmington, CT 06030

Kevin Pong, B.S.  
Wyeth Research  
Princeton, NJ

Iyer K. Ramaswamy  
UCLA School of Medicine  
Los Angeles, CA

Shannon Schmura Martin  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, TX

### **New members continued**

S. Song  
City of Hope Beckman Research Inst.  
Los Angeles, CA

Seema K. Tiwari-Woodruff  
David Geffen School of Medicine at  
UCLA  
Los Angeles, CA

Christine Thiffault  
Biomedica, Inc.  
San Diego, CA

Elizabeth A. Thomas, Ph. D.  
The Scripps Research Inst.  
La Jolla, CA

Daniel C. Tanner  
Univ. of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM

Styliani E. Tsirka  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, NY

David Saffen  
Ohio State Univ.  
Columbus, OH

Valeria Serban, M.Ph.  
Department of Neuroscience  
NYS IBR  
Philadelphia, PA

Eric Anthony Sribnick, B.A., B.S.  
Medical Univ. of South Carolina  
Charleston, SC

Seigo Usuki  
Medical College of Georgia  
Augusta, Georgia

Adam Christian Vana  
Uniformed Services Univ. of the Health  
Sciences  
Bethesda, MD

Gao, Wangcai  
Univ. of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN

Xiaoguang Liu  
National Inst.s of Health  
Bethesda, MD

Aliya U. Zaidi  
Wayne State Univ. School of Medicine  
Detroit, MI

Zhan Zhang  
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Congratulations to the following Latin American Scholar  
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This award is presented by the ASN to promising young neuroscien-  
tists from Latin America to attend the ASN Annual Meeting and to  
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