President's Message…..

I am deeply honored to have your trust in giving me this opportunity to serve as your President. The American Society for Neurochemistry is a professional society that has greatly influenced my scientific career. Since the very first meeting in 1970, I have attended nearly all of the annual meetings and served in many offices. For many years, I have encouraged my own students and post-doctoral fellows to attend the ASN meeting. I believe the ASN annual meetings not only offer outstanding scientific programs, but more importantly, professional and personal friendship that is not commonly found in any other professional societies. It is therefore with deep gratitude that I accept this opportunity to serve, and to repay the Society for what it has offered me for so many years. As President, I resolve to respond to the following challenges:

1. To remain as a vital and forward-looking Society. We must actively recruit young, talented and vibrant neurochemists and to expand our membership base. We must provide professional and educational services to our members.

2. To remain engaged in all fronts of neurological sciences. We must communicate and build strong bonds with other professional societies in our discipline.

3. To preserve the fiscal strength of our Society. We must continue strong management and prudent resource allocation, and improve its administrative efficiency in serving the membership.

4. To push the cutting edge of scientific inquiries. With the completion of the human genome project, it is incumbent upon the Society to pay particular attention to new areas of research, particularly in functional genomics and gene expression, proteomics and bioinformatics. Other areas of emphasis include the search of the molecular and chemical basis of nerve cell development, molecular signaling networks, and supramolecular structure and function.

5. To affirm our commitment to educational services in all levels and take initiatives in supporting education and particularly in Neurochemical sciences.

The ASN has opened my eyes to a wide vista and imbued me with the strength and desire to serve with the best of my ability. My challenge for the future of ASN is to muster the wisdom and creativity of all our members to meet the objectives and to preserve the uniqueness of neurochemistry in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Bob Yu
President
Treasurer's Message....
I welcome the opportunity to serve the ASN in the role of treasurer. The ASN is recognized as a society that nurtures young scientists. I am dedicated to continuing the ASN tradition of using fiscal policy to promote the careers of our most promising students, fellows and young investigators. Thanks to the capable efforts of my predecessor, Dr. Regino Perez-Polo, and the input of the ASN Council, the ASN financial picture is currently sound. In these fiscally challenging times, I invite ASN members to share their ideas on how to maintain and expand on this record.

Sincerely,
Lynn Hudson
Treasure

President-Elect's Message...
I am delighted to have been elected to the office of President Elect for the American Society for Neurochemistry. Like many others, I have been actively involved in this Society since its inception in 1970 when I was just beginning my career in Neurochemistry. I look forward to working hard to further strengthening the ASN, first by assisting our current president, Dr. Robert K.Yu and later in helping formulate new policies that will insure continued growth and vitality of the Society. I look forward to continuing interactions and input from members of this Society and working to assure the continued success of the American Society for Neurochemistry.

Sincerely,
George DeVries
President-Elect
Secretary's Message....

It is a great honor to serve as the Secretary of the American Society for Neurochemistry. At the same time I am humbled by the responsibility that this position carries and by the precedent of excellent service set by my predecessor Mary McKenna. I will strive to maintain the high standards set by her and her predecessors. I look forward to working with the new Officers, Councilors, and Committees of the ASN and with Linda Garcia our Society's outstanding office manager.

One of the primary responsibilities of the Secretary is to provide the membership with accurate, current, and easily accessible information on the Society. Today, the Internet is the obvious mechanism to accomplish this task. As the ASN's Secretary I plan to extend the use of the Internet for the Society's business. Already we have effectively used electronic mail to efficiently alert the membership of important information and we have upgraded the electronic membership directory. Soon, in conjunction with the Membership and Electronic Communications Committees we will establish a means for electronic application for membership to the Society. I will work with the Electronic Communications Committee in assisting the Local Host and Program Committees of the 2002 annual meeting in providing up to date meeting and program information, secure online meeting registration and online abstract submission. I welcome suggestions and comments on how we can improve communication within the Society.

Sincerely,
David Shine
Secretary

For up-to-date information go to WWW.ASNeurochem.org

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Ian D. Duncan (2001-2005)  
Charissa A. Dyer (2001-2005)  
Minnetta Gardinier (2001-2005)  
Steven W. Levison (2001-2005)  
Mary C. McKenna (2001-2005)  
J. Regino Perez-Polo (2001-2005)

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ASN Committees continued..

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Important Dates

January 31, 2002 - Deadline for Electronic Abstract Submission to the 33rd Annual Meeting

March 15, 2002 - Deadline for nominations for the:
  - Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award
  - Marian Kies Memorial Award
  - ASN Young Investigator Educational Enhancement Awards

June 1, 2001 - Deadline for advance meeting registration

June 22-26, 2002 - 33rd Annual Meeting of the ASN, Palm Beach, Florida.

ASN's Coordinates are…..

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AGENDA

The Business meeting was held in the Retiro room of the Sheraton Hotel. Seating was at round tables and sodas, Argentinean wine and empanadas were served. A photograph was taken of the officers and council before the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Dr. Nicolas Bazan who welcomed everyone to the 32\textsuperscript{nd} annual business meeting of the ASN.

In Memoriam

ASN Secretary Dr. Mary McKenna read the names of ASN members who had died within the last year. The deceased members were Professor Gerald Cohen, Dr. Donald Reis, John S. O’Brien, M.D. and Dr. Pierre J. Stoffyn. Dr. Stoffyn was a founding member of both the ASN and ISN and was predeceased by his wife and full collaborator Ann Stoffyn. Dr. Gerald Sloan-Stanley, a former collaborator of Jordi Folch-Pi and Marjorie Lees, but who was not an ASN member also died recently. The secretary asked for a moment of silence for all of these individuals.

President’s Report – Dr. Nicolas Bazan

Dr. Nicolas Bazan stated that the past two years had been a time of transition and changes for the ASN. The society has weathered these changes and is stronger than ever both financially and in terms of leadership. The ASN has had two very high quality meetings during his presidency and an outstanding meeting is planned for 2002 in Palm Beach. Having the ASN office in Gainesville Florida and the capable assistance of Linda Garcia has helped us to strengthen the society and run it more efficiently. The ASN is “in the black” due to good fiscal management and the donations that Dr. Bazan was able to obtain during his term in office.

Dr. Bazan announced that he had appointed Dr. Regino Perez-Polo to be the new Intersociety Liaison Officer. Dr. Bernard Haber, the first Intersociety Liaison Officer, recently resigned because of health reasons. Dr. Bazan praised the wonderful work that Dr. Haber did as Intersociety Liaison Officer including opening the channels of communication, and traveling to Buenos Aires in March with ISN Secretary Dr. Arne Schousboe to insure that preparations were in place for the meeting. Dr. Bazan also reported that he had visited both ISN President Dr. Bernd Hamprecht and ISN Secretary Dr. Arne Schousboe, while he was traveling in Europe, to strengthen the relationship with the ISN. Dr. Bazan stated that Dr. Perez-Polo has been a member of both societies for many years and has organized the highly successful ISN Advanced School of Neurochemistry.
Dr. Bazan reported that the Task Force for the Future of ASN had met twice in New Orleans, once in June and also at the time of the Society for Neuroscience Meeting. The Task Force, chaired by Dr. Jean deVellis, met for several hours and discussed ideas that were most important for the future of the ASN. The Task Force met again in Buenos Aires.

Dr. Bazan announced that the council had approved his new initiative to support Young ASN Scholars from Latin America. This initiative would start with a $15,000 donation obtained by Dr. Bazan and a one-time donation of $15,000 in matching funds from the ASN. The purpose is to facilitate the scientific development and the participation by young Latin American neurochemists in the annual meetings of the American Society for Neurochemistry, along with the visit, for a period not shorter than one additional week, to an established neuroscience laboratory in North America. The goal is to foster mentoring relationships, to teach young scientists new techniques, and to share and encourage new ideas and approaches to neurochemical problems. The initiative was approved by the membership.

Dr. Bazan also presented a proposal for starting a Bernard Haber Award Lecture. The goal of this award would be to first to recognize the contribution of Dr. Bernard Haber to the American Society for Neurochemistry through his contribution as secretary for 6 years and as intersociety liaison officer for more than two years. The award would honor an ASN member who has contributed greatly to intersociety interactions between the ASN and the ISN or other societies. This would be a biannual award and Dr. Bazan announced that he had presented the society with a $5000 check as seed money for the award. Dr. McKenna stated that no one has worked harder, or cared more about the society than Dr. Haber and that this award is a nice way to recognize his efforts. The membership approved the award.

Dr. Bazan stated how pleased he was that the new ASN Directory was published and distributed to members during his term. He thanked Ms. Linda Garcia and Dr. Mary McKenna for their roles in publishing the directory. Dr. Bazan reported that the new directory would not cost the society anything since he had given the ASN a $15,000 check to cover the expenses for the directory. $10,000 will be used to cover the cost of printing the directory and the other $5,000 will be given to Linda Garcia for her extra work in preparing the directory.

Dr. Bazan reported that the foundation that supported his research had donated a total of $45,000 for the joint ISN/ASN meeting. $10,000 of this money was donated for the Molecular Imaging and DNA Technology Forums.

Dr. Bazan thanked Linda Garcia, Dr. Mary McKenna, Dr. Regino Perez-Polo, the Council and the membership for their support and good working relationship during his term in office. The motion to accept the President’s report was approved.

Dr. McKenna stated that the officers and council thanked Dr. Bazan for his strong and effective leadership during his term as president. Dr. Perez-Polo thanked Dr. Bazan for his highly successful fundraising on behalf of the society.
Treasurer’s Report – Dr. Regino Perez-Polo

Dr. Regino Perez-Polo reported that the ASN is stronger than ever financially. This is due to the funds brought into the society by Nicolas Bazan and also to sound financial management. During his term of office the fiscal year for the society was changed to coincide with the calendar year to simplify filing taxes for the society. Dr. Perez-Polo showed an overhead with the society’s expenses and assets. The total assets are now about $500,000. The major cost is expenses associated with the ASN office in Gainesville, FL. These are necessary costs since it has been a great asset for the society to have the office and the services provided by Linda Garcia. The society has reduced expenses. The accounting costs are $3,200 per year and are done by Mr. Bettison at Barker, Lain, Apffell and Bettison in Galveston.

For 2001 we received about $55,202.98 revenue. As of August 31, 2001, the society had total unrestricted funds of $371,891 and restricted funds of $57,539 and interest earned ~$16,000. The $371,891 is distributed between a general fund which has at present has a total of $276,073; the Basic Neurochemistry Fund which has $95,818 (as of 7/31/01). The general fund is from the dues. Money brought in from the royalties from the sale of Basic Neurochemistry is used to support the Basic Neurochemistry Lecturer and also travel awards for young investigators to attend the meeting. The Jordi Folch-Pi ($35,797) and Marian Kies Award ($21,293) funds have remained fairly constant; the Young Investigators Award fund currently has $449. Dr. Perez-Polo pointed out that we should try to increase the money in these award funds.

Revenue over the last two years has increased by $71,807.45. Last year the council and membership had voted that the treasurer could invest up to 25% of the society’s assets in stocks, but Dr. Perez-Polo decided not to do this when the CD matured. This was a good move since the society would have lost some money if he had invested in stocks. Dr. Perez-Polo stated that overall the society is in very good shape financially as he ends his term as Treasurer.

Dr. McKenna commented that the final report from Dr. Sara Szuchet indicated that the Chicago meeting had ended up with a positive cash flow. The members applauded Dr. Szuchet. Dr. Perez-Polo confirmed that he would remain on the finance committee for the next two years. Dr. Bazan thanked Dr. Perez-Polo for his excellent job as Treasurer. The motion to accept Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Since Dr. Perez-Polo would not be at the Banquet on Friday evening, Dr. Bazan presented him a plaque in recognition of his work as the Treasurer of the ASN.

Secretary’s Report – Dr. Mary McKenna

Dr. Mary McKenna reported that it had been a busy year for the secretary since there had been three newsletters published since the meeting in Chicago. Each of these newsletters has been 35-36 pages. Dr. McKenna stated that publishing the newsletter in the Neurochemistry News has gone very smoothly. She prepares and formats the newsletter, and sends it electronically to Dr. Arne Schousboe’s office along with hard copies of any photos if necessary. She also sends the file to Dr. David Shine to put on the
web page. The newsletter is published on the ASN web page about 4-6 weeks before members receive the hard copies in the mail.

Dr. McKenna also reported that she had obtained the renewal of the ASN Trademark patent for another 10 years. The trademark patent is for the name “Transactions of the American Society for Neurochemistry” which is printed on the abstract volume each year. There was some difficulty since this title had been abbreviated for a several years, but Alice Pucknat printed a correction in the June 2000 volume of J Neurochem last year. This enabled us to obtain the final patent renewal, which is good until February 5, 2010.

Dr. McKenna reported that the officers were happy to provide the members with the new directory. Linda Garcia deserves all of the credit for putting the directory together; both Linda and David Shine did a tremendous amount of work updating contact information for members. Dr. McKenna compiled the historical information for the directory. Dr. McKenna reported that she and the other officers have been very conscientious about sending copies of pictures, the call for abstracts, newsletters and the directory to Dr. Claude Baxter for the ASN archives.

Dr. McKenna thanked President Nic Bazan, Treasurer Regino Perez-Polo, Linda Garcia, David Shine and Bernard Haber for their support. She also thanked ISN secretary Arne Schousboe and his assistant Hanne Dano for their work with the Neurochemistry News. Dr. McKenna said that she would assist Dr. Shine as much as possible with his first newsletter and during the transition period.

Dr. Bazan thanked Dr. McKenna for her excellent job as Secretary of ASN for the past two years. The motion to accept the Secretary’s report was approved.

Comments from the Incoming President – Dr. Robert Yu

Dr. Bob Yu stated that he looked forward to leading the ASN for the next two years. Dr. Yu thanked the outgoing officers for their work on behalf of the society and their assistance during the transition.

Standing Committee Reports

Election Committee – Dr. Joyce Benjamins (given by Dr. Nic Bazan)

Dr. Joyce Benjamins chair of the Election Committee was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Bazan announced the results of the election. The incoming officers are: President-Elect, Dr. George DeVries; Secretary, Dr. David Shine and Treasurer, Dr. Lynne Hudson. Dr. Robert K. Yu is incoming President and will take office officially at the banquet on Friday August 31, 2001. The newly elected members of the Council are: Dr. Monica Carson, Dr. Ian Duncan, Dr. Charissa Dyer, Dr. Minnetta Gardinier, Dr. Steven Levison, Dr. Mary McKenna and Dr. Regino Perez-Polo. The newly elected alternates to the Council are Dr. Alexander Gow and Dr. Richard Wiggins. Continuing members of the Council (until 2003) include Dr. Roger Butterworth, Dr. David Colman, Dr. Wendy Macklin, Dr. Jean Merrill and Dr. Naren Banik. The report was approved by the membership.
Local Host Committee - Dr. Juana Pasquini

Dr. Pasquini gave a preliminary report on the Buenos Aires Meeting, which has been very successful. There were 855 total scientific registrants and 977 total registrants. Revenue from registration fees was $271,000 and almost $40,000 was obtained from exhibitors. Additional funds were obtained from governmental agencies giving support to science and technology; $50,000 from the Agencia Nacional para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (National Agency for Science and Technology), $5,000 from CONICET Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (National Research Council for Science and Technology). Donations from foundations were $13,000 from Antorchas Foundation, and 7,000.00 from IBRO. $40,000 was given as a loan from the ISN to be repayed after the meeting. Total revenue was approximately $425,113. Corporate donations included the use of 2 confocal microscopes for the meeting. Major expenses for the meeting included Congresos Internacionales SA (CISA) services and staff, ~$38,000; meeting rooms, $104,398.60; audiovisual ~$16,000; banquet and other social events, $88,357; mailing of the Second Circular, $10,918.49; poster boards ~$10,000. Total expenses were approximately $371,000 (including repayment of the loan from the ISN. The preliminary report was approved.

Dr. Bazan thanked Dr. Pasquini and her committee for a wonderful job with the meeting arrangements.

Program Committee 2001 – Dr. Kaz Ikenaka

Dr. Kaz Ikenaka reported that the scientific program of the meeting was outstanding and very well received. Dr. Ikenaka thanked the ISN officers, ASN officers, the program committee and the local organizing committee for all of their work that contributed to the success of the meeting. He announced that the Marian Kies and Jordi Folch-Pi symposia had been excellent. He announced that there were nearly 700 posters at the meeting; a number that is hard to believe. The report was approved.

The officers thanked Dr. Ikenaka for a great job with the program. The officers and membership applauded both Dr. Pasquini and Dr. Ikenaka for a great meeting.

Palm Beach Meeting Venue 2002 – Ms. Linda Garcia

Ms. Linda Garcia gave a report about the venue for the 2002 ASN Meeting in Palm Beach. The meeting will be held June 22-27, 2002 at the internationally known resort the Breakers. The Breakers is the premiere meeting site on the ocean in Palm Beach, Florida and is one of only two 5 star 5 diamond resorts in the world. The Meeting site is about one hour from Miami, and 4 miles from the Palm Beach airport, so attendees can fly into either Miami or Palm Beach. Current flights are about $250 from DC, $350 from LA and airfares from Europe are low. ASN will have all of the meeting space at the Breakers. The rooms will be $155 per night. Dr. Doug Anderson and Dr. Ron Hayes from University of Florida will head the Local Host Committee. The report was approved.

Dr. Bazan encouraged ASN members to come to the meeting and bring their families to enjoy this outstanding meeting venue.
Dr. Scott Brady reported that he is looking forward to an exciting and interesting program for the 2002 meeting. The program committee has a list of tentative sessions; but they were disappointed by the small number of proposals. Dr. Brady reported that the committee would still be accepting proposals until September 15th; they want to finalize the program by October 1. Dr. Brady stated that the Program Committee needs feedback as to what the society wants to have at the meeting. Dr. Brady gave handout of current tentative program. The overall theme is "Neurodegeneration, models, mechanism and therapeutic strategies". There will be several plenary lectures including ones by Dr. Don Price, Dr. Virginia Lee and hopefully Dr. Huda Zoghbi. They will try to have a symposia connected with each of these speakers. Dr. Brady encouraged members to send him more proposals for sessions. The report was approved.

Membership Committee – Dr. George DeVries

Dr. George DeVries reported that there were about 40-50 new members per year since he had been in charge of the committee. Dr. DeVries emphasized that we need to develop a brochure that lists the benefits of membership in the society. The membership committee had encouraged the society to have student members. He reported that things will be set up for online applications this year thanks to David Shine’s efforts. The report was approved. Dr. Bazan thanked Dr. DeVries for his work as chair of the membership committee.

Intersociety Liaison – Dr. Regino Perez-Polo

Bernard Haber was the first person appointed to this office. Bernard has stepped down for health reasons. Dr. Perez-Polo stated that he has been a long time member of both the ASN and the ISN and looks forward to working to working to further intersociety cooperation. He will try to expand the participation of various constituencies that are not represented now. He wants to bring in young people from South America who are not yet attending the ASN meeting. He wants to focus on the young, disadvantaged scientists. The report was approved.

Basic Neurochemistry Committee – Dr. George Siegel (reported by Dr. McKenna)

Dr. Siegel was unable to attend the meeting in Buenos Aires. Dr. McKenna reported that the Basic Neurochemistry book was doing very well, as indicated by the treasurer’s report. She said that Dr. Siegel requested all ASN members go to the web site and fill out a questionnaire to give their opinions and suggestions for the next edition.

The website is http://rsb.info.nih.gov/NeuroChem/BN_2001_survey.html The report was approved.

ASN Task Force – Dr. Jean de Vellis

Dr. deVellis reported that the Task Force for the Future of the ASN has met three times during the past year. The most recent meeting was on August 27th in Buenos Aires. Dr. deVellis stated that the Task Force has dealt with important issues pertinent to the
future of ASN such as defining the mission of the ASN, defining ways to increase the number of young members, and strategizing how to raise the visibility of the society. The task force is also dealing with the questions of the sites and formats for future meetings, and the intersociety interactions with the ISN. The report was approved.

Standing Rules Committee – Dr. Dale Birkle

Dr. Birkle outlined the major points to be changed in the bylaws. She indicated that under the current regulations the membership would need to vote at the meeting to allow a ballot to be sent to the members on the bylaws changes. Dr. Birkle indicated that the final wording needed to be worked out, but the changes were related to the following items: a) decreasing the number for a quorum at the business meeting from 10% to 5% of the membership; b) streamlining the process for initiating action on amendments to the bylaws; c) simplifying membership categories; d) clarifying the rights of members, e.g., emeritus members have all of the rights and privileges of ordinary members including the right to vote, e) clarifying the process for filling council and officer vacancies, and f) changing the way meeting sites are chosen. Dr. Scheungrund pointed out that we must check the articles of incorporation to be sure that any proposed changes do not conflict with them. It was moved and seconded that the proposed changes in the bylaws be sent to the membership for a written vote. The motion was passed to have the membership vote on changes to the bylaws.

Dr. Bazan thanked Dr. Birkle for the excellent job she did with the standing rules committee. The report was approved by the membership.

Young Investigator Enhancement Award Committee - Dr. Alex Gow (reported by Dr. Perez-Polo)

Dr. Alex Gow not at the meeting in Buenos Aires. Dr. Regino Perez-Polo reported that the Young Investigator Enhancement Award Committee had supported an additional 8 investigators from the American to go to the meeting. This amount was in addition to the money that was allocated by the ISN/ASN Travel Award committee. The report was approved.

Electronic Communications Committee – Dr. David Shine

Dr. David Shine told the members that the ASN Website is now on AT&T. He also reported that we still have a lot of bounced emails when we send out electronic notices. Dr. Shine told the membership that if they have something to report to society members send it to him. The report was approved.

Dr. McKenna told the membership that everyone owes a lot of thanks to David for the hours of work he has done setting up the ASN web site and maintaining both the ASN and ISN web site. The officers and members applauded David for his great job.

Jordi Folch-Pi Award Report – Dr. Anthony Campagnoni (reported by Dr. McKenna)

Dr. Campagnoni was not at the business meeting so Dr. McKenna gave the information from his report. There were no applicants for the Jordi Folch-Pi Award after
the first call so the committee contacted last year’s applicants. The separate email notice just for nominations for this award was very effective in bringing in other excellent nominations. The awardee for 2001 is Kelsey Martin from UCLA. Her work is on neuronal plasticity and she had outstanding letters of recommendation. Unfortunately Dr. Martin was unable to attend the meeting due to a family obligation. She will organize a symposium at the 2002 ASN meeting in Palm Beach. The report was approved by the membership.

Dr. McKenna urged the ASN members present to nominate qualified candidates for both the Jordi-Folch Pi and Marian Kies Awards for 2002.

**Marian Kies Award Committee Report – Dr. Charissa A. Dyer**

Dr. Charissa Dyer reported that there were three excellent candidates for the Marian Kies Award this year. The 2001 recipient will be announced at the Banquet on Friday. Dr. Dyer thanked Karen Chandross for making the award certificate and she also thanked her committee members. Dr. Chandross will present the award since Dr. Dyer is unable to be present at the banquet. The report was approved.

**Inter-American Cooperation Committee – Dr. Araceli Espinosa de los Monteros**

Dr. Espinosa de los Monteros reported that during the past year the main focus of her committee has been to organize the first Basic Neurochemistry School for young South American students and postdocs. School for young Latin American students and postdocs that would be held. The school will be held from September 1-3 2001, after the meeting in Buenos Aires, in Vaquerias, Cordoba, Argentina. The response was great and a first rate program has been put together. She is expecting 52 attendees primarily from Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela. Dr. Espinosa de los Monteros will submit a final report after the school.

Dr. Bazan thanked Dr. Espinosa de los Monteros for her efforts organizing the school. The officers and council wished her the best of luck with the school and applauded her efforts. The report was approved.

**Old Business:**

Dr. Bazan asked if there was any old business to be considered. There was no old business.

**New Business:**

The minutes from the 2000 Business meeting in Chicago were published in the Neurochemistry News in June 2000. Copies were also distributed at the 2001 Business meeting. Dr. Bazan moved to accept the minutes from the previous business meeting in New Orleans. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned.
Thank you Outgoing ASN Officers!!
Thanks to Nic, Mary and Regino for your excellent service to the Society. Thanks to your efforts ASN remains a strong, forward-looking scientific society.

Great meeting in Buenos Aires!!
Thanks to Dr. Juana Pasquini and her Local Host Committee and Dr. Kaz Ikenaka and his Program Committees for an excellent meeting! Read the meeting report elsewhere in the Neurochemistry News.

Basic School of Neurochemistry a hit…
Thanks to Araceli for organizing the first Basic School of Neurochemistry following the ISN/ASN meeting in Buenos Aires. Thirty-three students attended. See the organizers' report in this issue of the newsletter.

Souvenir Photos from Buenos Aires…..
There are lots of pictures from the Buenos Aires meeting on the web. Go to ASN's web site and click on "New & Info" to see the list. SEND MORE! If you have pictures that you'd like to post send them to Dave Shine at hshine@bcm.tmc.edu.

Check the web site…..
The most up-to-date information about ASN is on the web. Check the "What's New" section for the most recent changes. If you wish to post something contact Dave Shine at hshine@bcm.tmc.edu.
Bylaw Amendments.....
Soon you will receive a ballot to ratify amendments to the bylaws that were approved at the ASN business meeting in Buenos Aires. PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE. Currently, our Bylaws state that a majority of the membership must cast a vote for the election to be valid. If we don't get sufficient votes we have to do it all over again.

Read the biographical memoir of Jordi Folch-Pi....
Marjorie B. Lees and Alfred Pope have written a biographical memoir of Jordi Folch-Pi. It is posted on the National Academy of Science's web site at http://books.nap.edu/html/biomems/jfolch-pi.html.

ASN Meeting On-Line....
For the first time in ASN's history you will be able to submit your abstracts on-line and register on-line. This isn't your mentor's ASN.

Jobs??.....
Yes, we post job offerings on this web site. Send electronic copies to Dave Shine at hshine@bcm.tmc.edu they will be posted for a year. FREE! To check the list go to "News & Info" on ASN's web site.

Keep your coordinates current....
If you change address, phone/fax numbers, email address, or name send the information to the ASN business office.

Web site has moved....
ASN's web site is now on AT&T's hosting service. The only address is www.ASNeurochem.org. The old ones no longer work.

Keep up ASN's archives...
If you have photographs or historical matter send them to ASN's Historian Claude Baxter. He is hard at work cataloging and archiving the society's history. (Look for an oral history of the ASN on this web site soon.)

Award information......
Looking for information on the Folch-Pi, Kies, or Travel Awards? Go to "News & Info" on the ASN's web site.

Finally, Thank you Mary and Linda....
I am indebted to Mary McKenna and Linda Garcia for helping me get this first newsletter to the printer.

Sincerely, Dave Shine
Welcome from ASN 2002 Local Host Committee Chairman:

Colleagues:

On behalf of the Florida Host Committee, I extend to all an invitation to attend the 33rd Annual Meeting of the American Society for Neurochemistry in Palm Beach, Florida, June 22 - 26, 2002. Scott Brady, scientific program chairman, and the program committee have developed an outstanding scientific program that addresses up-to-date issues relating to neurochemical, cellular and molecular studies of the nervous system in health and disease. ASN has always presented outstanding scientific programs, and the upcoming meeting will be no exception.

I am pleased to serve as the host chairman for ASN's first meeting in Florida. While Florida is commonly known as the tourism capital of the world, Palm Beach, Florida is one of the state's most exclusive destinations. The boulevards are lined with gigantic palm trees, the summer climate is tempered by breezes from the Atlantic Ocean, and the area is full of options for fun. Start your week by flying directly into Orlando, Miami, Fort Lauderdale and taking the scenic drive to Palm Beach. Also, many major airline carriers fly directly into Palm Beach. Then spend 5 nights and 4 days at one of the most luxurious resorts in the world, The Breakers, while enjoying time with colleagues and catching-up on the latest in contemporary neurochemistry research. Plan to join us oceanfront for the final night banquet and then possibly cruise Thursday through Sunday to one of the post-meeting sites of Cozumel or the Bahamas. Please bring your family to this meeting and plan to enjoy everything that the Sunshine State of Florida can offer!

We look forward to seeing you next June in Palm Beach, Florida!

Sincerely,
Douglas K. Anderson
ASN Host Committee Chairman
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NEUROCHEMISTRY
33rd ANNUAL MEETING

Palm Beach, Florida
The Breakers Resort & Spa
June 22 - 26, 2002

The Breakers
Palm Beach

- Young Investigator Travel Awards
- Jordi Folch-Pi Award
- Marian Kies Award

On-line Abstract Submission Deadline: January 31, 2002

Robert K. Yu, President, ASN
Scott T. Brady, Program Chairman
Douglas K. Anderson, Host Committee Chairman
Supported by the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight
Brain Institute of the University of Florida

For more information contact:
ASN, P.O. Box 143060, Gainesville, FL 32614
Phone: 352/271-3383 or Fax: 352/271-3060
e-mail: WestPalm2002@aol.com
PLENARY SPEAKERS:
- Patricia Goldman-Rakic; Yale University School of Medicine
- Donald Price; Johns Hopkins University College of Medicine
- Virginia Lee; University of Pennsylvania
- Huda Zoghbi; Baylor College of Medicine

SYMPOSIA:
- Implications of Stem Cell Plasticity in Neurological Diseases
  Anne Baron-Van Evercooren
- Biology of Presenilins
  Jorge Buciglio
- Dynamics of the Neuronal Cytoskeleton
  George Langford
- Molecular Intervention in Spinal Cord Injury and Recovery
  Regino Perez-Polo
- The Genetic, Molecular and Cellular Bases of Neurofibromatosis Type 1
  Nancy Ratter
- Regulation of Neural Development by BMP and Activin Family Members
  Alison Hall
- Checks and Balances in Cholinergic Gene Expression
  Hermosa Soreq
- Regulation of Oligodendrocyte Development
  Rashmi Bansal
- Function and Pathogenesis in Parkinson’s Disease
  Tamie Chilcote
- Differentiation Plasticity of Stem Cells
  Sean S. Liour

COLLOQUIA:
- The Emerging Role of Peroxisome Proliferator Activated Receptors in Brain
  Douglas Feinstein
- Role of Protease-Activated Receptors in Neural Development, Degeneration and Trauma
  Barry W. Festoff
- New Functions for Retinoic Acid in the Developing CNS
  Peter McCaffery
- Mitochondria - Beyond Bioenergetics
  Anne Murphy, Ian Reynolds
- Dopamine D_4 Receptors: Basic and Clinical Status
  Frank Tarazi
- Aβ Degradation and Clearance in Alzheimer’s Disease
  Mark S. Kindy, Louis B. Hersh
- Transport of Neurotrophins and their Receptors
  Moses Chao
- Control of Lifespan by Insulin/BDNF Signaling in the Nervous System
  Mark Mattson
COLLOQUIA:

- Biochemical Mechanisms Underlying Neuroinflammatory Response
  Eric Murphy, Colin Combs
- Iron and Copperin Neurodegenerative Diseases
  James R. Connor
- Differential function of Microglia and Macrophages in CNS Inflammation
  Monica J. Carson
- From CNS Inflammation to Repair: Genomics-Based Gene Discovery
  Karen Chandross, Jean Merrill
- Structural and Molecular Dissection of the Node of Ranvier
  Kazuhiko Ikenaka, David Colman
- Neuron-astrocyte Interactions
  Gerald A. Dienel, David C. Spray
- New Roles for GABA in the Central Nervous System
  Monica Fiszman

WORKSHOPS:

- Control of AlzheimerAmyloidogenesis by Gonadal Hormones
  Sam Gandy
- Is Dopamine the Answer: Other Systems in the Neurochemical Effects of Psychostimulants
  Sari Izenwasser, Yossef Itzhak
- Compartmentation of Neuronal Metabolism
  Mary McKenna, Ursula Sonnewald
- Gene Expression Profiling of Alzheimer’s Disease Dementia
  Giulio Maria Pasinetti
- Biological Roles of Glycosphingolipids
  Cara-Lynne Schengrund, Robert Yu
- Molecular Events in Neurodegeneration and Neuroprotection in Neurodegenerative Diseases
  M.B.H. Youdim
- In Vitro Neurotoxicology: Tools for Cellular Neurobiology
  Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni
- The Role of Transglutaminases in Normal Brain Function and Neurodegeneration - An Update
  Arthur J. L. Cooper
- NAAG and NAALADase: Functional Properties in the Central and Peripheral Nervous Systems
  Edward Lieberman, Joseph Coyle
- Biochemical/Surrogate Markers of Acute CNS Injury
  Ronald L. Hayes, Kevin Wang
- Regulation of Glial Cell Functions by Nucleotide Receptors
  Joseph Neary, Gary Weissman
- Microglial Activators and Inactivators
  Steve Levison
- Transporters as Potential Targets for Modulating Presynaptic Glutamatergic Function
  Jeffrey Erickson
Nominations are encouraged for the following awards to be granted in conjunction with the American Society for Neurochemistry 33rd Annual Meeting scheduled for June 22 - 26, 2002 in Palm Beach, Florida:

- ASN Young Investigator Educational Enhancement Awards
  * to assist young investigators with travel expenses related to the ASN meeting

- Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award
  * designated for travel; recognizes a young investigator who has demonstrated a high level of research competence and originality, who has significantly advanced the knowledge of neurochemistry and shows a high degree of potential for future accomplishments

- Marian Kies Memorial Award
  * honors a junior scientist for outstanding research conducted during graduate training

Details regarding all awards may be received by contacting:
ASN office: 352/271-3383
Inquiring on-line to: LindaHou@aol.com
Reviewing the meeting section of the ASN website:
www.ASNNeurochem.org

Deadline for submitting applications is March 15, 2002.
ASN welcomes the following new members:

**Ordinary Members**

Jesus Angulo  
Dept. Biological Sciences  
Hunter College, CUNY, NY  

Pradeep Banerjee  
Forest Laboratories  
New York, NY  

Martha Bohn  
Northwestern Univ. Medical School  
Chicago, IL  

Beatriz Caputto  
Universidad Nacional de Cordoba  
Cordoba, Argentina  

Ye Chen  
LCMN, NICHD, NIH  
Bethesda, MD  

Seongeun Cho  
Dept. of Neuroscience  
Wyeth Ayerst Research, Princeton, NJ  

Severn Churn  
Neuromolecular and Neurochemical Research Facility  
Medical College of Virginia  
Richmond, VA  

Thomas Corso  
Department of Biochemistry  
Canisius College, Buffalo, NY  

Lee Dawson  
Wyeth Ayerst, Neuroscience Discovery Res.  
Princeton, NJ  

Gail Deadwyler  
Hines VA Hospital  
Hines, IL  

Anne-Marie Duchemin  
Dept. Psychiatry  
Ohio State University, Columbus, OH  

Millicent M. Dugich-Djordjevic  
Neuralstem Biopharmaceuticals LTD  
College Park, MD  

Timothy Foley  
 Dept. of Chemistry  
Univ of Scranton, Scranton, PA  

Emma Frost  
Dept. of Anatomy, Phys., & Genetics  
Research Associate Uniformed Service Univ., Bethesda, MA  

Lakshmi Gollapudi  
Hines VA Hospital  
Hines, IL  

Marco Giorgetti  
Dept. of Neuroscience  
Chicago Medical School, North Chicago, IL
New Ordinary Members cont’d.

Michael T. Heneka  
Dept. Neuroanesthesia Research  
Univ. of Illinois at Chicago

Vincent LeLievre  
MRRC, UCLA  
Los Angeles, CA

Jia Luo  
Dept. of Anatomy  
West Virginia Univ., Morgantown, WV

Hari Manev  
Dept. Psychiatry  
Univ. of Illinois at Chicago

Jeff Mason  
Columbia University  
New York, NY

Nicholas J. Pantazis  
Dept. Anatomy and Cell Biology  
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Voon Wae Yong  
University of Calgary  
Calgary, Alberta, CAN

Affiliate Members:

Linda M. Chicoine  
Cognetix, inc.  
Ivoryton, CT

Sam Chang  
Molecular & Medical Pharmacology  
UCLA

John (Kent) Fitzgerald  
Hines VA Hospital  
Hines, IL

Terra Jean Frederick  
Neuroscience Dept., Penn. State Univ.  
College of Medicine  
Hershey, PA

Rosario Garrido  
Dept. of Neurosurgery  
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Rajendra Goswami  
Dept. of Pediatrics  
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Sean S. Liour  
Institute of Molecular Medicine & Genetics  
Augusta, GA

Subramani Munirathinam  
Univ. of Connecticut,  
Storrs, CT

Jennifer Ness  
Dept. Neuroscience & Anatomy  
Penn. State Univ. College of Medicine  
Hershey, PA
New Affiliate Members cont’d.

Joe Allen Nielson  
Dept. of Anatomy  
Uniformed Services Univ. of the Health Sciences  
Bethesda, MD

Christos M. Rialas  
Neuroscience Research Institute  
SUNY, Old Westbury, NY

Bhardwaj Sanjeev  
Douglas Hospital Research Centre  
Quebec, Canada

Christian Schmeer  
Centro de Biofísica y Bioquímica  
Laboratorio de neuroquímica  
IVIC, Caracas, Venezuela

Xiongwei Zhu  
Institute of Pathology  
Case Western Reserve University

**Corresponding member:**

Asmik S. Sargsyan  
Department of Peptide Chemistry  
Institute of Biotechnology  
Yerevan, Republic of Armenia

**Emeritus member:**

Jacques Nunez  
NIMH-NIH  
Bethesda, MD

**REMEMBER…….**

Please see that your address information updated.  
Send your information to the ASN business office:

**American Society for Neurochemistry**  
P.O. Box 143060  
Gainesville, FL 32614-3060  
Voice: 352/271-3383 Fax: 352/271-3060 E-mail: LindaHou@aol.com  
You can check your information at http://www.ASNeurochem.org
Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award for 2001
Dr. Kelsey Martin

The winner of the 2001 Jordi Folch-Pi award is Dr. Kelsey Martin. Dr. Martin's research interests lie in understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying learning-related synaptic plasticity. To study these questions she uses two experimental models of learning-related synaptic plasticity: long-term facilitation of the sea slug Aplysia sensory-motor synapses and long-term potentiation of rodent hippocampal synapses. As a relatively young investigator she has done ground-breaking work in several areas including the role of synaptotagmin as a negative regulator of transmitter release, and determining how MAP kinase and PKA act in the nucleus to regulate gene expression and in the cytoplasm to produce changes in the strength and structure of synapses.

Dr. Martin received her B.A. in English from Harvard University, spent two years in the Peace Corps in Zaire, obtained her M.D. and Ph.D. from Yale, and performed postdoctoral work with Eric Kandel at Columbia. She is now an Assistant Professor in the Neuropsychiatric Institute at UCLA.

As one of her referees put it--"her work has already altered the way that the international neuroscience community thinks about synaptic plasticity, leading many people-for the first time-to view the synapse as a distinct and important compartment for gene regulation at the translational level. No one who knows Kelsey doubts that she will emerge as one of her generation's leading neuroscientists."

Anthony T. Campagnoni, Ph.D.

Editors note: Read the National Acadamy of Sciences' biographical memoir of Jordi Folch-Pi by Marjorie B. Lees and Alfred Pope at http://books.nap.edu/html/biomems/jfolch-pi.html
Dr. Sean Liour was the winner of this year's Marian Kies Award. He received his PhD in 1999 in Dr. Robert Yu's laboratory in the department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics at the Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA. The main focus of his dissertation research was to investigate the expression and metabolism of gangliosides in normal neuronal development and in neurodegenerative diseases. In doing so, he established an in vitro neuronal differentiation model using an embryonal carcinoma stem cell line to investigate the possible function of gangliosides in neuronal development. Dr. Liour characterized the expression and localization of gangliosides, particularly ganglio-N-tetraose series gangliosides, in this cell culture model. He found that the level of ganglio-N-tetraose series gangliosides expression is highly elevated during rapid neurite outgrowth, and this elevation is mainly controlled at the transcriptional level of several glycosyltransferases. Localization study of these ganglio-N-tetraose series gangliosides showed that they are abundant on the filopodia as well as lamellipodia of growth cones during the early stage of neurite outgrowth. These data suggested that gangliosides may have a functional role in neurite outgrowth, especially axonal guidance. Dr. Liour also examined the abnormal ganglioside expression and metabolism associated with several severe neurological disorders, including mucopolysaccharidoses (MPS). Dr. Liour currently is developing a cell therapy strategy for correcting the neurological disorders in these MPS. Dr. Liour currently is a post-doctoral research associate at the Medical College of Georgia.

Charissa A. Dyer, Ph.D.
Chair
Marian Kies Award Committee
Breakfast for the Women in Neurochemistry at the Joint Meeting of the ISN and ASN, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2001

The Breakfast for Women in Neurochemistry took place during the Joint Meeting of the International Society for Neurochemistry and the American Society for Neurochemistry that was held in Buenos Aires between August 26 and 31, 2001.

During the breakfast four different topics were addressed by 4 women researchers from different countries. The intention was to have a point of view from women with different backgrounds and experiences, to analyze if certain disadvantages (or advantages?) that women face during their scientific careers are common to all women scientists around the world.

The program of the breakfast was the following: (a) **Women in the academic-scientific systems**, which was addressed by Prof. Dr. Hermona Sorek, Department of Biological Chemistry, Hebrew Institute Life Science, Jerusalem, Israel, (b) **Do you think that there are still subtle cultural messages about appropriate females roles and behaviors that condition women in science?**, discussed by Prof. Dr. Natalia Gulyaeva, Institute Higher Nervous Activity and Neurophysiology, Moscow, Russia, (c) **Is there a feminine style and a masculine style to do research?**, addressed by Prof. Dr. Patrizia Casaccia-Bonnefil, UMDNJ, Department of Neuroscience, Piscataway, NJ, USA and (d) **Do you think that women scientists are evaluated correctly, at an equal level than men?**, commented by Prof. Dr. Beatriz Caputto, Department of Biological Chemistry, University of Córdoba, Argentina.

A more extensive report of the WIN breakfast can be found in "News and Info" on the ASN web page at www.ASNeurochem.org/
The First Basic School of Neurochemistry: Neurotransmitters, Trophic Factors and Receptors.

Following the joint ASN / ISN meeting in Buenos Aires, the First Basic Neurochemistry School took place from September 1st to 3rd, 2001 in Hotel Vaquerías, a resort operated by the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba in Huerta Grande, province of Córdoba, Argentina. This School was the first of a continuing enterprise, initially proposed to the ASN council by the Inter-American Cooperation Committee at the Annual Meeting in 1999. The School project got approved during the ASN Annual Meeting held in Chicago in March 2000. The aim of this program is to have a Basic Neurochemistry School every two years, either in conjunction with but not conditioned to, an annual ASN meeting or, any other national or international meeting. Since 2001 was the year that both ASN and ISN would hold their joint meeting in Buenos Aires (Argentina) it was deemed that it would be a good start for this type of academic activity. At that time, both Dr. Nicolás Bazan, President of ASN as well as Dr. Roger F. Butterworth, Chairperson of the Committee for Aid for Neurochemistry (CAN) of the ISN pledged their support to this project, since this Basic Neurochemistry School would obviously set an example of intersociety educational activities, specifically designed to complement the school programs in the field of neurochemistry for undergraduate and graduate students.

After the acceptance of the School Proposal by the ASN council in March 2000, constructive discussions held in Buenos Aires during June 2000 with Drs. Juana Pasquini and Eduardo F. Soto (of the Local Organising Committee for the 2001 ASN/ISN meeting in Buenos Aires) a tentative title and list of possible teaching themes were put forward. For this endeavour it was necessary to count with a local organizer group that included Dr. Maccioni, Dr. Caputto and Dr. Hallak all of them members of the Interamerican Cooperation Committee. The program for the school was established according to their suggestions and with the idea to complement their already existing graduate program in the field of Neurochemistry. On these bases the theme for the First School of Basic Neurochemistry was chosen to be Neurotransmitters, Trophic Factors and Receptors.

Following discussions during the ISN meeting in Berlin in 1999, it was decided to have this First School of Neurochemistry in the Province of Cordoba. Indeed, Hotel Vaquerías located in the hills of Cordoba, is operated by the Universidad de Cordoba for different scientific, academic and cultural activities, and it was very suitable to accommodate both students and the faculty fostering contact among all participants. It was also established from the start that about half of the teaching faculty would be from the host country and the other half from abroad.

With this in mind, the members of the Committee worked throughout the second half of the year 2000 to establish and then confirm the participation of the faculty and secure the essential funding. By the end of the year 2000, the financial support for the First School of Basic Neurochemistry had been practically secured from both ASN and ISN, as well as from the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) and the Agencia Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (ANCYT) from Argentina. In addition to this, Dr. George Siegel
authorised the donation of one set of slides and five copies of the most recent edition of the book *Basic Neurochemistry*; this textbook had been selected by the Inter-American Cooperation Committee as the reference book of the course, and it would set the standards for the scientific and academic levels of the Basic Neurochemistry School. The local organizers in Córdoba together with members of the Interamerican Cooperation Committee, were in charge of selecting the applicants, securing the facilities in Vaquerías and of organising the reprints of articles and the handouts that some of us prepared into a comprehensible book of abstracts to be distributed to the students attending the School.

The joint ISN / ASN meeting in Buenos Aires ended on a Friday evening with that fantastic Tango show that all of us will always remember. The students of the Basic Neurochemistry School had to left by bus to Córdoba right after the end of this event. They travelled overnight and arrived as planned on Saturday morning in the city of Córdoba. They were the lucky ones, since those of us that were supposed to take the plane in the morning and join the bus with the students were delayed at the Jorge Newberry Airport in Buenos Aires because of a failure of the radar installations. Fortunately, Dr. Marta Hallak was with us, and with her cellular phone she kept the communications line open. The courses started as scheduled on that same Saturday although with a slight change in the program; our colleagues from Córdoba that were already on site gave the initial lectures. Eventually, we all arrived to Córdoba at the end of the day in Vaquerías to find that the School had opened its doors on time and it was up and running very well.

The applications to participate were numerous, there were 33 students attending this First School, the majority (27) came from several Neurochemistry groups in Buenos Aires, Córdoba and Bahía Blanca (Argentina). Moreover, students from several Latin-American countries including Mexico (3), Colombia (1), Brazil (1) and Spain (1) participated. This number of attendees was greater than what had been initially contemplated, i.e.: about 20 participants, and made us all aware of the great interest that Latino-American students have for such training activities. The original faculty group was made up by ten scientists, six of them from Argentina and four from the U.S.A. and Canada, namely Dr. Araceli Espinosa de los Monteros (California), Dr. Francisco Barrantes (Bahía Blanca), Dr. Roger F. Butterworth (Montréal), Dr. Beatriz L. Caputto (Córdoba), Dr. José Luis Daniotti (Córdoba), Dr. Shalini Kumar (California), Dr. Hugo J.F. Maccioni (Córdoba), Dr. Jorge Medina (Buenos Aires), Dr. Santiago Quiroga (Córdoba) and Dr. Tomás A. Reader (Montréal). An unexpected nomination did not allow Dr. Medina to participate, and unfortunately at the last minute Dr. Barrantes could not travel to Córdoba. In spite of this, the main themes of the program were well covered by the presentations of the eight Professors. In addition, all the students received the handouts and reprints for each topic allowing them to read ahead and discuss their topics of interest.

The overall format of the School was such that it encouraged numerous interactions between the students and the faculty. In fact, the lectures allowed not only for the usual regular period of questions following a presentation, but in addition there were numerous
informal discussions, that were often continued in the dining room, where everybody had their meals.

An important aspect of this Basic School was that the students had to present their work, and these presentations were alternated with the more _official_ lectures given by the faculty. The oral presentations were of a very high quality, and the vast majority of the students made a special effort to give their talk in English. In this regard, this particular activity was very rewarding for everybody, since it provided the students with a forum, in many cases it was their first opportunity, to speak about their graduate work and to do so in English, i.e.: a foreign language, but that is the universal language of Science and of the scientific community at large.

The last day Dr. Araceli Espinosa presented one of the _Basic Neurochemistry_ books with the CD and the set of slides to Dr. Beatriz Caputto. This material is now available to students and post-doctoral fellows at the Universidad de Córdoba, the host institution. The other four books and respective CD’s, were presented to students representing Universities of Colombia, Brazil, Mexico and Bahía Blanca, Argentina. It is noteworthy to mention that the group from Mexico indicated that the book was already at their library and kindly presented it to the students from Buenos Aires, and we really appreciate the kindness of the Mexican group.

The social activities included a visit to the cascade on Wednesday afternoon and a glass of Margarita cocktail for each participant the last night. There is no doubt that the First School was a complete success and we are certainly already working on the second School to take place in 2003. The venue and topics are being discussed at the present time by the new appointees of the Inter-American Cooperation Committee.

On behalf of the students and the entire faculty, we would like to thank the entire staff of Hotel Vaquerías for their help in running this School and acknowledge once again the financial support from the American Society for Neurochemistry (ASN), the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN), the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO) and the Agencia Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (ANCYT, Argentina). In addition, we are very grateful to Dr. George Siegel that authorised the donation of one set of slides and five copies of the most recent edition of the book _Basic Neurochemistry_.

Dr. Tomás A. Reader (Montréal)
Dr. Araceli Espinosa de los Monteros (Los Angeles)

Photos of the school can be accessed by going ASN's website and clicking on "New & Info" to link to the photo site.
In Memoriam - Pierre Stoffyn

In Memoriam - John N. Whitaker

John Nicholas Whitaker, MD, 60, August 29, 2001 from injuries sustained during a bicycle race in Tennessee. For the past 15 years, Dr. Whitaker served as chairman of neurology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and was president of the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation since 1992. He was also a trustee of Hendrix College and of The Altamont School and a member of the board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

"John was one of the those rare people who was able to balance all the duties required of an internationally known researcher, a deeply caring physician, a dedicated teacher and a keen administrator. He was a cherished colleague and friend," said William B. Deal, MD, vice president and dean of the School of Medicine. "His passing leaves a very big void for all of us. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family."

A native of Memphis, Tenn., Whitaker received his undergraduate degree (magna cum laude) from Hendrix College and his medical degree from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine (1965). Following a medicine internship, he obtained neurology training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, finishing in June, 1970. He then served as a clinical associate in the Medical Neurology Branch at NIH before joining the University of Minnesota as an assistant professor. He was on the neurology staff of the University of Tennessee in Memphis from 1973-85 and chairman of the Department of Neurology at that institution in 1983-85.

Since 1985 he served as professor and chair of the Department of Neurology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He also had appointments in the departments of Cell Biology and Physiology and Biophysics at UAB.

His honors included membership in Alpha Omega Alpha, selection as a Clinical Investigator and a Medical Investigator in the Veteran's Administration, and recipient of a Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award. His service in organizations included President of the American Neurological Association (1995-97), Chair of the Medical Advisory Board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (1994-97), and previous or current service on the editorial boards of the Annals of Neurology, Muscle and Nerve, Journal of Neuroimmunology, Journal of Immunology, Journal of Neurological Sciences, Multiple Sclerosis, Archives of Neurology, and Neurobase.
Whitaker continued…

Dr. Whitaker held memberships in national and international societies including the American Federation for Clinical Research, The American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, the American Society for Neurochemistry, the International Federation of Multiple Sclerosis Societies, the National Institutes of Health Neurology C Study Section, The World Federation of Neurology, Commission on Cerebrospinal Fluid and a multitude of editorial boards.

His research was supported by the NIH, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the Veterans Administration. He was the Principal Investigator of three phase 3 trials of agents for multiple sclerosis and was involved in a number of clinical programs dealing with the optimal care of patients with multiple sclerosis. He was a member of the Data Safety Monitoring Board for the Immune Tolerance Network and Centers for Autoimmunity. He also directed a post-doctoral fellowship training program in neuroimmunology and multiple sclerosis. Dr. Whitaker was the author of more than 200 scientific articles and book chapters.

"Dr. Whitaker was a major figure in American medicine. This is a real loss," said UAB President Ann Reynolds. "The passion he carried for his patients, research and students was one of the traits that I most admired. I will also miss his subtle sense of humor and joy in all things academic. The entire UAB family extends our condolences to John's family. Our loss is small compared to theirs."

A memorial service was held for Whitaker on Friday, August 31, 2001 where his multifaceted life of intellectual curiosity, academic and administrative excellence, and integrity was lauded. In lieu of gifts, the family has requested contributions be made to the John Whitaker, MD Endowed Chair Fund of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Attn: Audie White 500 Building, Suite 402 500 22nd Street Birmingham, AL 35233 975-7328 or The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Alabama Chapter 3530 Independence Drive, Suite 3534 Birmingham, Alabama 35209

From the UAB Health System Newsletter.

Please inform the ASN business office or the ASN Secretary of members that have passed away.
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NEUROCHEMISTRY

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