

American Society
for
Neurochemistry



Newsletter



Summer 2002

www.ASNeurochem.org

Message from the President

I am pleased to report that the 33rd Annual Meeting at the Breakers, Palm Beach, Florida, was a huge success. It is my sincere hope that you have benefited significantly from the scientific sessions, which were uniformly outstanding. I also hope that you enjoyed the friendly and supportive atmosphere that permeated throughout the social gatherings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers and councilors, particularly David Shine, Lynn Hudson, Doug Anderson and Scott Brady, for their diligence, which made all this possible. All the speakers and session chairs were responsible for the tremendous success in the scientific programs, for which I am truly grateful. Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Linda Garcia for providing the most professional and efficient logistic support, which made this meeting such a smooth and memorable event.

At this meeting, I outlined my vision for ASN during my tenure as the President of ASN. I resolve to carry out the challenge to revitalize ASN as a productive and forward-looking Society.

- We must actively recruit young, talented and vibrant neurochemists and to expand our membership base. For this, I have initiated a major membership drive. All members are encouraged to take an active role in sponsoring new members, especially young investigators and colleagues. I urge each of you to please nominate at least a new member every year. This should allow us to double our membership the first year.
- We must provide meaningful professional and educational services to our members. To examine the needs of our members and to improve services, a membership opinion survey is underway under the chairmanship of Dr. George deVries. This year the Society was also able to raise special funds through the donations from the International Society of Neurochemistry and the Basic Neurochemistry Funds to support many long-standing members to attend the meeting who, due to adverse economic situations in their country, would not otherwise have been able to attend. I am also most pleased that through special NIH grant support, an unprecedented number of young investigators (32) were able to receive substantial travel awards to attend the meeting. This kind of support is not seen in any other professional societies.
- To remain engaged in all fronts of neurological sciences, we must communicate and build strong bonds with other professional societies in our discipline. The Task Force for the Future of ASN, chaired by Dr. Jean deVellis, has provided me with a number of innovative suggestions that will be considered for implementation. Discussion is underway to strengthen our relationship with the International Society of Neurochemistry through co-listing membership directories, as well as providing web access for the Journal of Neurochemistry.

- 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. We have initiated a new Fundraising Committee to coordinate our fundraising efforts.
- To push the cutting edge of scientific inquiries, we need to pay particular attention to new areas of research, such as 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, neural stem cell research, molecular signaling networks, and supramolecular structure and function. The Program Committee, chaired by Dr. Greg Sutcliffe, has already worked very effectively in establishing a very strong scientific program for the 2003 Newport Beach meeting.

Finally, I am very pleased that the Council has re-affirmed our status as a professional Society that supports scientific research based on the merit of the research itself and not upon political, national, racial, religious or gender criteria. This statement is in this newsletter and posted on our web page.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the 34th Annual Meeting in Newport Beach, California in May 2003.

Dr. Robert Yu, President

Secretary's Report

The biannual newsletter was published in December, 2001 on the web in html and pdf format. The html form is edited as new information is added. The paper form was delayed somewhat due to production problems.

In November the membership was asked to read and vote on five amendments to the bylaws. The amendments would a) decrease the number for a quorum at the business meeting, b) streamline the process for initiating action on amendments to the bylaws, c) simplify membership categories, d) clarify the rights of members, e) clarify the process for filling council and officer vacancies, and f) change the way meeting sites are chosen. Unfortunately, the ASN business office has not received a sufficient number of ballots to make the vote valid since our current bylaws state that ratification "shall require approval by mail of a majority of the ordinary members of the Society." To correct this deficiency I plan personally contacting those members who have not sent back their ballots to ask them to vote. The Bylaw amendments and ballot can be found on the web at <http://www.asneurochem.org/library/structure.htm>.

Dr. David Shine, Secretary

Treasure's Report

ASN is fiscally sound. At the end of the 2001 fiscal year, the total funds available were \$418,954, which represents a gain of \$35,777 over a two and a half year period. The most growth occurred in the restricted funds, thanks to Dr. Nicolas Bazan's creation and support for two new funds, the Young ASN Scholars from Latin America fund and the Haber Award Lectureship. The restricted funds include the Folch-Pi (\$31,872), Kies (\$20,403), Young Investigators (\$2,459), Young ASN Scholars from Latin America (\$24,000), and Haber Award Lecturship (\$5,000). Dr. Bazan has promised an additional \$15,000 and \$5,000, respectively, for the latter two funds. Another approach to increasing the relatively small reserves of these individual restricted funds is to allocate any excess money raised from corporate sponsors for ASN symposia/colloquia/workshops. Drs. Jean Merrill and Karen Chandross used such a mechanism at their Palm Beach ASN symposium to donate approximately \$10,000 from Aventis to the Folch-Pi and Kies funds. To further ASN's mission of mentoring students/fellows, "best poster" awards will be presented at future ASN meetings, with Dr. Jean de Vellis providing the financial backing for these awards.

The annual meetings continue to represent ASN's largest financial outlay as well as our greatest financial risk. The NIH grant that Dr. Scott Brady managed to obtain for the Palm Beach ASN meeting added at least \$20,000 to our support, and in the future session chairs are also encouraged to request meeting support from their individual NIH grants. Other strategies for increasing support and revenue of ASN and ASN/ISN meetings, including partnering with a publishing company on an ASN-associated journal, are being explored.

Dr. Lynn Hudson, Treasurer

Financial Report

1/1/01 - 12/31/01 1/1/00 - 12/31/00

Support & Revenue

Support:

Sustaining Donations		23,500.00
Annual Meeting Donations (Chicago)		46,214.00
Basic Neurochem Royalties	6,347.98	19,009.99
Buenos Aires Session Donations	34,458.00	

Revenue

Folch Pi	585.00	250.00
Kies	560.00	415.00
Young Investigator	390.00	142.50
General	260.00	
Haber Fund	5,000.00	
Young Latin American	15,000.00	
Donation for Directory	15,000.00	
98/99 Dues		930.00
99/00 Dues	1,207.50	15,493.65
2001 Dues	39,163.75	3,675.00
2002 Dues	2,190.00	
Total Revenue	120,162.23	109,630.14

Expenses:

Chicago Annual Meeting	805.40	141,078.76
Buenos Aires Expenses	46,223.57	
Palm Beach Annual Mtg. (inc. Deposit)	5,683.77	
General & Mgmt. (inc. Directory, exhibit & other)	40,177.87	21,644.64
1999 Accounting		10,835.00
2000 Accounting		3,200.00
2001 Accounting	3,100.00	
1999 & 2000 Intersociety		4,896.04
2001 Intersociety	2,170.10	
Folch Pi	1,000.00	1,021.70
Kies	1,000.00	1,000.00
Basic Neurochem.	13,989.16	3,084.43
Chicago Young Investigator (Bas. Neurochem.)		11,000.00
Buenos Aires Young Invest. (Bas. Neurochem.)	2,000.00	
Young Investigator	25,500.00	
Expenses	141,649.87	197,760.57
(Gain) Loss on period	(21,487.64)	(\$88,130.43)

Information above does NOT
Include interest from \$110,000 certificate of deposit

Historian's Report

Don Tower published an article more than 15 years ago about the founding of the ASN. Much subsequent history went unrecorded or was lost. Then talks at an ASN Workshop in 2000 were designed to fill some of these gaps. The edited transcripts of these talks, together with many of the photographs shown at the workshop, have now been published electronically on the ASN website for all to share.

Future plans are to add additional chapters to this publication and also to publish it in the conventional way.

I want to thank all those of you who were responsible for sending snapshots of the meeting in Buenos Aires last year. Such pictures enrich the ASN archives, but are of use only if the names of the individuals shown on the photograph are appended to, or written on the back of each photograph.

The ASN Historian is dependent upon those responsible for events, to report newsworthy items about them to the historian. Of course, if those responsible feel that the program, the abstract booklet, or the Neurochemistry News provides adequate coverage of the event for posterity, then no additional report is needed. However that's seldom the case, especially for committee reports, special public policy events and workshops, where the flavor and noteworthy occurrences are missing, when title or abstract are written before the meeting or reports in Neurochemistry News are presented (by necessity) in a severely truncated form.

The ASN Archives are presently housed at the UCLA Medical Library. Anyone requiring information from those archives is encouraged to write to me, and it will be my responsibility to help them to the best of my ability.

Finally, a personal note: I have now held the position of ASN Historian for a number of years.

I have promised the incoming President, George DeVries to continue for his term of office, but beyond that I hope that another suitable and willing replacement will be found. It is important that that replacement and I can work together so that a real continuity can be established. Thank you.

Dr. Claude Baxter, Historian

Intersociety Liaison's Report

Since assumption to the position of Liaison Officer of the ASN, I have focused on two issues:

Co-ordination of emergency funding for Argentinean scientists attending the ASN Meeting at the Breakers. Working in close co-operation with the various officers of the ISN and ASN, I played a role in securing funding support from the ISN to support the ASN effort to provide emergency travel support for both young and established Argentinean scientists.

Establishing long term plans for the next ISN-ASN joint meeting. Due to the operating mechanisms used by the ISN it was necessary to obtain a longer term determination of the site for the ISN-ASN Meeting in 2007. Working with Linda Garcia we will be able to present several options to the ASN-ISN leadership at the Breakers for consideration.

Future plans for Liaison efforts will include a dialogue with ISN officials as to how best implement further joint efforts in the area of support from ISN for annual meetings of the ASN that are not joint ISN-ASN meetings.

Also, plans for joint meetings with other societies that may share membership and or interests with ASN. For example, a one-day overlap in a meeting with a Neurology or Neurotrauma Society.

Dr. Regino Perez-Polo, Intersociety Liaison

Membership Committee Report

The Membership Committee roster was approved by Dr. Robert Yu on Dec 6, 2001. Between Dec 2001 and April 2002, the Committee recommended to the Secretary 34 applications for approval. There were 19 Ordinary, 14 Affiliate, and 1 Corresponding Memberships. In addition, the Membership Committee is evaluating 4 applications, as of May 10, 2002.

The Membership Committee recommends:

- (1) that the Society continues to encourage the membership to recruit new members.
- (2) that the Society takes steps to recognize and retain new members.
- (3) that the Society continues to streamline the process of application

Dr. Alex Chiu, Chair

Standing Rules Committee Report

Members of the committee and the chairs of all ASN committees were contacted and asked whether there were discrepancies between what was written in the Standing Rules and what was actually done. So far three committee chairs have responded that no changes were needed. Karen Chandross, chair of the Marian Kies Committee indicated that her committee may suggest some additions to the Standing Rules re that committee. Lynn Hudson indicated that the following deletions should be made in the Standing Rules for the Office of the Treasurer: delete: "forwarding dues collected from members to the ASN Office" and "designing dues collection sheets." These activities are currently done by Linda Garcia in the ASN Office.

I have some questions regarding the standing rules for the standing rules committee that I will discuss with the committee.

When I have heard from everyone, I will make a complete list of the suggestions, send them to the members of the Standing Rules Committee for their input, and then bring them to Council for their consideration.

Dr. Cara-Lynn Schengrund, Chair

Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award Committee Report

This years committee consisted of Drs. Regina Armstrong (chair), Grace Sun, Gary Gibson, Joe Eichberg, and Jeffrey Yao. Announcements were distributed via the ASN website and program announcements, email distribution lists to colleagues requesting nominees, and the ASN email distribution list. Seven applications were received for the March 15, 2002 deadline. The committee judged this to be an extremely well qualified group of nominees, with multiple applicants being deserving of the award. The final winner was selected (by majority vote) to be Dr. Sandra Hewett, who is a newly promoted Associate Professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Dr. Hewett's scientific efforts have focused on determining the contribution of the inflammatory enzymes inducible nitric oxide synthase and cyclooxygenase to the evolution of brain damage following cerebral ischemia, or stroke. Dr. Hewett is looking forward to organizing a symposium for the 2003 ASN program.

Dr. Regina Armstrong, Chair

Marian Kies Award Committee Report

Committee Members consist of Drs. Karen Chandross, Mary Pacheco, Cara-Lynne Schengrund, Rick Cohen, and Patrizia Casaccia-Bonnel.

Applications were solicited by advertising in the ASN mailings and by encouraging colleagues to nominate their most creative and competitive students. The committee received 6 outstanding applications this year. The nominees were: Kirk E. Dineley, Heather S. Duffy, Joseph A. Nielsen, Jaewon Lee, Poonlarp Cheep-sunthorn, and Naser Muja.

Candidates were evaluated based on the following criteria: 1) Innovative and creative approaches utilized in graduate work, 2) importance and impact of graduate work on entire field, 3) quality of publications, 4) strength of nomination letter 5) quality of ASN abstract, 6) participation at scientific meetings, 7) extracurricular and service activities, and 8) honors and awards.

On May 8th Dr. Chandross notified Kirk Dineley that he was the 2002 recipient. Kirk Dineley is a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh in the Department of Pharmacology in the laboratory of Dr. Ian Reynolds and is expected to defend his thesis within the next two months. Kirk has done outstanding work in the area of fluorescence-sensitive dyes for calcium and zinc measurements and has examined the role of zinc homeostasis in neuronal physiology and neurotoxic events. He also determined how ion-sensitive fluorophores could be used to accurately measure zinc in living cells and demonstrated problems with conventional approaches. His conclusions are novel and should have a global impact on the field of neuroscience. This taken together with his strong letters of recommendation, high quality of publications, and active involvement in the scientific community and extracurricular activities gave him high scores in all categories evaluated.

The 2002 recipient was announced by Dr. Chandross following the plenary speaker on Monday, June 24 at 9:15 - 9:30 a.m in the Ponce de Leon Ballroom IV of the Breakers. His thesis advisor, Dr. Reynolds, said a few words.

Summary of proposed Marian Kies Committee changes:

Evaluation forms: define a subset of the approved categories in which equal weight should be placed and use the additional categories to help decide between close contenders. The committee recommends that the most weight should be given to the following categories: 1) innovative and creative approaches utilized in graduate work, 2) importance of graduate work on entire field, 3) strength of nomination letter, 4) quality of publications 5) quality of ASN abstract, and. Less weight

should be given to 1) honors and awards as they relate to their thesis research, 2) extracurricular and service activities and 3) participation at meetings, since there may be factors outside of the student's control that dictate the extent of their involvement.

Final scores should be sent to all committee members in an anonymous format for their final review to ensure the opportunity to properly evaluate and/or challenge close or controversial decisions.

Inform applicants as to whether or not they have won at least one month prior to the meeting so that they can make appropriate arrangements.

Increase the award amount to \$1500.

Money raised and left over from symposiums should be put into an "awards" account to be used for expenses and increases in the award amount (Aventis giving extra money to award funds).

Results of ASN Committee Meeting June 2002:

Counsel approved raising award amount to \$1500.

Counsel supports proposed changes to standing rules (e.g., Summary issues 1-4)

Dr. Karen Chandross, Chair

Nominating Committee Report

The chair was appointed by the ASN President, Robert Yu, in September, 2001 to select a committee to nominate candidates for President-Elect for the term 2003-2005 and for Council for the term 2003-2007. Nominations will not be needed for Secretary or Treasurer if the current officers elect to run again.

Nominations and elections will be held in early 2003, prior to the May, 2003 ASN meeting in Newport CA. In preparation, the committee will meet once during the annual ASN meeting in June, 2002 in Palm Beach, Florida. Topics will be (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 and recommending to Council any needed changes in by-laws and standing rules as related to nominations and elections in ASN. The committee is in communication by e-mail to discuss possible changes in standing rules guiding the election and nomination process. During the last half of 2002, the committee will work by e-mail to identify potential candidates for each position.

Dr. Joyce Benjamins, Chair

Young Investigator Education Enhancement Committee Report

The Committee consisted of four members: Thomas N. Seyfried, Chair, of Boston College, Andrej Wieraszko, of CUNY Staten Island, Charissa A. Dyer of U. Pennsylvania and Daniel Kirschner of Boston College.

The Committee dispersed \$27,000 to a total of 32 applicants.

The applicants were from 9 countries including:

USA (16)

Argentina (5)

Chile (3)

Puerto Rico (3)

Brazil, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, and Switzerland (1 each).

Plans for the next year and budget information are uncertain at this time.

Thomas N. Seyfried, Chair

Young Latin American Scholars Committee Report

The Young Latin American Scholars Committee was created on October 2001 under the initiative of ASN President Dr. Robert Yu. One of the major goals of the committee is to provide support for Latin American investigators at early stages of their scientific careers to work in US laboratories. The committee will convene for the first time at the upcoming ASN meeting in Palm Beach, FL. The agenda that will guide the discussions includes: (1) to define the short-term objectives and long-term goals of this committee; (2) to appoint at least two additional committee members, preferably from Latin American countries; (3) to develop criteria for selecting successful candidates; (4) to define the size and duration of the awards; and (5) to discuss ways of informing prospective scholars of the existence of this award mechanism. Immediately after the ASN meeting, the committee will provide the ASN Secretary with a summary of the deliberations and a list of the steps that will be taken in the next few months.

Dr. Oscar Bizzozero, Chair

Electronic Communication Committee Report

Since August, 2001 ASN's web page and internet communication system has continued to improve despite a rather troublesome setback in the unanticipated change in our internet provider. A summary of the committee's activity is as follows:

- On January 10, 2002 we were notified that ASN's web page was chosen by ISI for inclusion in Current Web Contents. The evaluative criteria for inclusion included reviews of the following factors: Authority Accuracy, Applicability & Content, Navigation and Design, Scope, Audience Level, and Quality of Writing. More information may be obtained at: <http://www.isinet.com/isi/hot/essays/selectionofmaterialforcoverage/23.html>
- On January 25, 2002 we received a notice that Interland, Inc. had acquired AT&T's Small Business Hosting Services and that our account would be transferred to Interland's computer. Initially, we experienced significant problems with the account but, hopefully, they were transparent to the membership. We fear that the level of support and dependability of this provider will be less than the previous.
- On January 30, 2002 an online version of "*An Informal Oral History of the American Society for Neurochemistry*", organized and edited by Claude F. Baxter, ASN Historian was posted on ASN's web site.
- On February 14, 2002 Rolf Gruetter established a listserv system to send mass email announcements to the membership. We are trying to use the listserv sparingly to avoid losing impact from too many emails. Also, we feel that the Secretary must approve before the membership is emailed.
- At the annual meeting the chair proposed that he step down and be replaced by Dr. Rolf Gruetter. This was approved.
- We assisted the annual meeting organizers by:
 - establishing and maintaining a meeting web site
 - establishing and supporting online abstract submission
 - establishing an online meeting registration form
- We assisted the membership committee by establishing an online membership application service.

The web site is updated almost daily and the membership directory is updated as needed. The total web page cost since August 2001 to date is \$232.74. The committee welcomes suggestions to improve ASN's presence on the internet.

Dr. David Shine, Chair

Basic Neurochemistry Text Committee Report

1. Sales of the Basic Neurochemistry text are 8,867 texts, 2,319 CD-ROM sets, and 17 slide sets. Of the above sales, 1654 copies of the book and CD-ROM were sold together as a discounted package at a price ranging from \$99 to \$125.
2. \$10,000 one-time grant was made from Basic Neurochemistry book funds to enable investigators from Latin American nations to attend the American Society for Neurochemistry meeting this year and present posters or papers.
3. Copies of Basic Neurochemistry (5) were provided to the meeting planners in Buenos Aires last year to be distributed as prizes for best research posters.
4. An on-line survey was conducted last year of the ASN membership to obtain their comments and suggestions for future editions of Basic Neurochemistry. Thirty people responded and their comments are useful. However, 30 respondents are far too few and we shall send out this survey again and we encourage the members to send in their comments, however brief or ample you may like.

Dr. George J. Siegel, Chair

Inter-American Cooperation Committee Report

Please note that the report for the First Basic Neurochemistry School was submitted shortly after the Joint ASN-ISN meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Besides the organisation of the First Basic Neurochemistry School with an enormous success and demand, this Committee continued to ship current scientific journals (at no cost to the ASN) to two Universities in Argentina and one in Chile.

The second aspect we have been working on is on the identification of possible venues for the second Basic Neurochemistry School. This seems to be a simple task yet it is rather complicated when the idea is to have student participants from several countries in Latin America as well as, faculty from various countries. There is no doubt that the first Basic School of Neurochemistry was extremely successful and one of the key points was the venue that fostered scientific discussions in an informal environment. For the second school professors from two countries manifested interest in hosting it, Mexico and Puerto Rico. At the present time the committee is considering the proposed venues that would most suitably fit our needs and budget. Since, we are still unsure about obtaining any budget for the school from the ASN this decision is rather complicated.

Perhaps some members of the Council are not familiar with the “school” or the source of funds, yet it is important to note (as presented previously in our “First School report”) that the financial support for the first school came from the *American Society for Neurochemistry* (ASN), and the *International Society for Neurochemistry* (ISN), that matched the amount allocated by ASN for this purpose. In addition, the *International Brain Research Organisation* (IBRO) and the *Agencia Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología* (ANACYT, Argentina) also provided funds. All the funds were used to cover, lodging and transportation for students and faculty to the school venue. Thus, I emphasise that ASN contributed \$4000.00, ISN matched this amount and the rest of the money came from ANACYT and IBRO.

The ISN is also willing to match the amount that ASN would assign to the second school and it would be of extreme help to know what is the ASN considering to provide given the fact that the Basic Neurochemistry School concept originated from our Committee and therefore could be considered as an ASN initiative.

In summary, the committee is working on the selection of the school venue, the topics, and finding supplementary sources of funds. Yet, we would like to see the manifest enthusiasm from members of the Council on this matter rather than reticence or indifference toward the activities of this Committee. Only then, we would be certain that not only the members of the council but, all ASN members understand the fundamental role The Basic Neurochemistry School or similar activities play for research and teaching the Neurosciences in Latin-America.

Dr. Araceli Espinosa de los Monteros, Chair

2002 Program Committee Report

The 33rd annual meeting of the American Society for Neurochemistry was successfully held at the Breakers Hotel in West Palm Beach, FL from 22-26 June 2002. The meeting attendance was nearly 600 scientific registrants, including approximately 90 students or postdocs.

The Breakers venue was an outstanding setting with excellent meeting facilities. The accommodations were unusually luxurious, but the negotiated rates were competitive with far less impressive locations. Concern was expressed by some that the cost of food onsite was high for students and postdoctoral fellows. However, there were alternatives available within walking distance of the hotel and no complaints were received from students or postdoctoral fellows. Overall, the mechanics of the meeting went extremely well. The few problems were addressed in a timely fashion and things ran smoothly. Linda Garcia in her capacity as meeting organizer for this year and the staff she assembled did an outstanding job this year and are to be commended.

There were 190 scientists that were speakers and/or chairs of sessions. These represented 4 plenary lectures, 12 symposia, 15 colloquia, 13 workshops, and 3 oral sessions. In addition, there were three poster sessions featuring some 115 poster presentations. Sessions were generally well attended and feedback on the quality of the scientific program has been positive.

The scientific program was organized under a series of themes that reflected the diversity of the scientific membership and aided in the organization of sessions. These themes were as follows.

Building the Nervous System. The mechanisms that facilitate the emergence of multiple neural cell types and their specific connections are just beginning to be understood. Sessions in this theme address the generation of cell diversity, elaboration of neuronal cytoarchitecture, specificity of synapse formation and the role of growth factors during development.

Cell and Molecular Neuroscience. The fundamental molecular mechanisms that underlie cellular function in the nervous system provide a foundation for our understanding of disease and injury. Sessions under this theme deal with basic mechanisms applicable in a wide range of health issues, ranging from metabolism to neurotransmitter function from cell motility to cell structure.

Glial Mechanisms and Injury. The crucial role of non-neuronal cells in neural development and pathogenesis will be explored in sessions that address basic glial biology as well as the role of the glia in diseases such as Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's Disease and CNS injury. This has long been a strength of the ASN.

Neuronal Degeneration and Disease. This theme continues the focus neurodegenerative diseases sustained at recent ASN meetings. Sessions will address the mechanisms of neurodegeneration, the role of inflammation and the contributions of neurotransmitters to the disease state.

Thirty-nine subthemes were based on keywords and used to organize the poster sessions into affinity groups. These generally fell within one of the themes as well. The topics and abstracts for the oral sessions were selected from the abstracts submitted as posters. The three most popular subthemes were Neurodegenerative Diseases, Myelin and diseases of myelin, and Neurotoxicity and neuroprotection. Four outstanding abstracts from each of these areas were selected to be presented in the oral sessions. An effort to choose ones presented by less senior scientists. This afforded an opportunity to recognize outstanding young investigators and provide with an chance to speak from platform. The oral sessions were held concurrently without competition from poster sessions or from symposia/colloquia/workshops. The oral sessions were well attended and the presentations were excellent, suggesting that this arrangement can be successful.

The Basic Neurochemistry lecture this year was by Patrica Goldman-Rakic of Yale School of Medicine. She gave an excellent lecture entitled "From Behavior to Molecule and Back: the Challenge of Neuroscience." The other three plenary speakers for this year presented on different aspects of Neurodegenerative Disease. Don Price of Johns Hopkins talked on Alzheimer's and genetic models of neurodegenerative diseases, Virginia Lee from the University of Pennsylvania talked on synuclein and tau protein in neurodegenerative diseases, and Huda Zoghbi from the Baylor College of Medicine talked on polyglutamine-induced neurodegenerative diseases. All three talks were outstanding contributions.

The scientific program this year included several noteworthy elements. The use of themes was helpful in organization of the program, but also served to facilitate publicizing the program as well as to provide a conceptual framework in fundraising (see below). For the first time, posters were only presented for a single day, which meant a substantial reduction in the amount of space required for posters at a considerable savings. The reintroduction of oral sessions featuring young investigators was successful and avoided problems previously encountered in poor attendance. A student/postdoc dinner that featured informal discussions with more senior members of the ASN was very well received and should be useful for increasing the involvement of students and postdocs in the ASN. The participation of young investigators in the program was increased over recent years and this trend should be continued. Finally, the number of sessions and plenary talks presented by women neuroscientists was at an all time high.

Funding for the meeting was sought from a variety of sources. A detailed financial report will come from the business office and the Treasurer's office. Two items will be noted here. First, some session chairs did an excellent job of obtaining support for their sessions, but others appeared content to do little or nothing. We cannot rely on the ASN and granting agencies to provide all the support for the meeting and session chairs need to be encouraged to do more. Second, a multiyear meeting grant application was submitted to the NIH and received an excellent score from the study section. The program officer at NINDA, Dr. Arlene Chiu, was enthusiastic and went to considerable effort to obtain support various institutes. We currently have received \$20,000 on this grant and there is a possibility that some additional funds may be obtained. Unfortunately, a misconception on the part of an NINDS staff person led to only a reduction in the budget and only a single year of support on this application. With appropriate documentation, however, we may be able to obtain several years of support for a future application. This will be coordinated with next year's program committee chair.

Dr. Scott Brady, Chair

2003 Program Committee Report

The 2003 Annual meeting of the ASN will be held in Newport Beach, CA between May 3-8. The chair of the local host committee is Jean deVellis.

Important dates in 2002 preceding the meeting are:

July 1	proposals submitted to Greg at Linda@scripps.edu
July 25	session chairs established, invitations to plenary speakers
Aug 15	titles of sessions and speakers established
Aug 25	preliminary program set in stone
October 18	abstract submission begins
December 15	submission window closed

Program Committee members divided in 4 themes:

Building the Nervous System	Glial Mechanisms & Injury
Lynn Hudson	Tony Campagnoni
Terri Wood	Oscar Bizzozero
Randy McKinnon	Monica Carson
Scott Whittemore	Jean Merrill
	Joan Schwartz
	Ian Simpson
Metabolism & Cell& Molecular Biology	Neurodegeneration & Disease
David Sweatt	Jorge Busciglio
Bob Moore	Julie Ellison
Richard Olsen	Paul Patterson
David Colman	Elizabeth Thomas
Steve Pfeiffer	Jeff Redwine
Scott Brady	

These themes cover all of the areas that have historically been of interest to the ASN membership. My job as chairman is to manage the Committee as they develop the program. Our challenge as a scientific society as we as individuals age is to rejuvenate our science and to rejuvenate our membership. Thus, I have encouraged the Committee to select some presenters who are junior, but who have been first authors on important papers, when it seems appropriate.

There will be some changes in the 2003 meeting compared to 2002. These are designed to streamline the presentations while encouraging the informal interactions and collaborations that have been the historic strengths of the ASN:

- 3 simultaneous sessions rather than 4
- breaks between sessions
- reposition the posters so that they receive more emphasis. Since there will be fewer sessions total, and since we are encouraging talks from junior members, I call on senior members to consider presenting posters so that junior members can interact with them scientifically.
- PowerPoint presentations within a session will all be run on a single laptop to reduce the frustrating waste of time that plagued many sessions at the 2002 meeting

Dr. Greg Sutcliffe, Chair

Women in Neurochemistry Annual ASN Meeting

Women in Neurochemistry sponsored a lunchtime event (11:30-1:00) on Tuesday, June 25. To keep costs down, the format was “brown-bag”. After some socializing we had an energetic discussion centered on the theme “WOMEN and TENURE: Time for a change?”. The discussion was led by Pam Knapp, who talked briefly about the origins of the tenure system, and presented some data from the NSF concerning recent tenure trends in the science/engineering fields. A panel of Joyce Benjamins, Tika Benveniste and Babette Fuss provided input from their various career perspectives and experiences. Some of the most interesting discussion centered around whether increased flexibility in tenure timetables was a positive force in recruiting and retaining faculty, and how various institutions were meeting (or not meeting) that particular challenge. Turnout was good – about 40 participants. We hope that even more of you will join us in Newport Beach!!

ASN's *Coordinates* are.....

American Society for Neurochemistry

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EARLY NOTICE

Nomination forms for officers and councillors for ASN will be mailed out in October. Nominations will be requested for President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and five Councillors for 2003-2004. Our current secretary and treasurer are completing their first terms, and are eligible to run again. Election ballots will be mailed in mid-January, with results announced by the time of the ASN meeting in May, 2003.

Questions or comments? If so, contact the chair of the nominations committee (joyce.benjamins@wayne.edu).

33nd Annual Business Meeting of the American Society for Neurochemistry

June 25, 2002 Palm Beach , Florida

AGENDA

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

The Business meeting was held on June 25, 2002 in the Ponce IV room at the Breakers Hotel. It was called to order at 4:41 PM by Dr. Robert Yu who welcomed everyone to the 33nd annual business meeting of the ASN.

Minutes Approved

The minutes of the business meeting held at the 32nd annual meeting in Buenos Aires 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 Sabit Gabay, Tomas Reader, and Leohard Wolf. The president asked for a moment of silence for all of these individuals.

President's Comments - Dr. Robert Yu

Dr. Yu began by thanking the members present for attending the business meeting. He then thanked several people that have worked for ASN and the 33rd meeting. First he thanked those people responsible for the excellent meeting; Dr. Doug Anderson and the Local Host Committee, Scott Brady and the Program Committee for the excellent program, and Linda Garcia the organizer of the 33rd meeting.

Dr. Doug Anderson, Local Host Chair, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcoming them back to Florida in the future.

He then thanked Dr. Jean De Vellis for chairing the Task Force on the Future of ASN and thanked the Officers, Councilors, and Committee chairs for their service to the ASN. He thank Dr. Greg Suttcliffe and the 2003 Program Committee for their work on the next ASN meeting.

Dr. Peter Dunkley, president of the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) stood and thanked Linda Garcia for her assistance in organizing meetings for the ISN during the week.

Dr. Yu announced that the ASN had undertaken a special initiative for the 33rd meeting to assist Argentinean neurochemists in attending the meeting. With the help of the ISN and the Basic Neurochemistry Committee and the Young Latin American Scholars Committee, 11 senior and 5 junior members for the Argentinean neurochemistry community could attend the meeting. He cited this initiative as one example of how ASN strives to pay attention to the needs of its membership.

Dr. Marta Hallak, President of the Argentine Society for Neurochemistry stood and thanked the ASN for the travel assistance on behalf of her colleagues.

Dr. Yu then thanked several people and organizations for their generous donations and efforts to help fund the 33rd meeting and other initiatives of the ASN. He thanked Dr. Nicolas Bazan for his pledge of an additional \$15,000 for the Young Latin American Scholars program and an additional \$5,000 for the Bernard Haber Award Lectureship. He thanked Dr. Jean Merrill for acquiring \$10,000 from Aventis Pharmaceuticals for the meeting. He announced that any residue from this gift would be applied to the Marian Kies Award fund. He thanked Dr. Scott Brady for writing and submitting a grant to the NIH to fund this and subsequent meetings.

Dr. Yu stressed that increasing the ASN membership was important and appealed to the members to nominate at least one new member this year. He announced that members that nominated a new member would get an official ASN cap from him.

Dr. Yu announced that in response to the members' comments the abstract submission fee will be phased out and that the abstract costs will be covered another way.

Dr. Yu asked the membership to begin thinking about a location for the 2007 meeting that will be held jointly with the ISN in the Americas.

Treasurer's Report - Dr. Lynn Hudson

Dr. Hudson began by thanking her predecessor, Dr. Regino Perez-Polo and Linda Garcia for their help in the first months of her tenure as ASN Treasurer. She announced that the ASN is financially sound and presented a spreadsheet of the society's finances (Editor's note: This spreadsheet is shown under the Treasurer's report section above.) In reviewing the restricted funds Dr. Hudson acknowledged Dr. Nicolas Bazan for his gifts in 2001 to fund two new initiatives; the Young Latin American Scholars Program and the Bernard Haber Award Lectureship. She announced that Dr. Bazan has pledged an additional \$15,000 to the Young Latin American Scholars Program and an additional \$5,000 to the Bernard Haber Award Lectureship. This is in addition to the original \$15,000 and \$5,000 that Dr. Bazan gave to the ASN for these two initiatives. She thanked Dr. Bazan on behalf of the

ASN. She stated that the Folch-Pi and Kies award funds have remained stable and asked the members to think of creative ways to supplement these funds. Dr. Hudson stated that the Young Investigators Travel Award is depleted each year and primarily obtains its funding from the Basic Neurochemistry Text revenue.

Dr. Hudson summarized the two unrestricted funds; the Basic Neurochemistry Text account and the General Operating account. The Basic Neurochemistry account receives funds from the royalties of the book each year. The total assets are around \$409,000. The society took in approximately \$42,000 a year in dues and spent approximately the same amount for office management and accounting fees in the year. Dr. Hudson stated that she just filed the tax report and that the ASN did not have to pay taxes

Dr. Hudson stated that our biggest financial outlay and our biggest financial risk is our meetings. Last year we met jointly with the ISN in Buenos Aires we lost \$11,000 whereas we normally clear or make a little profit.

Dr. Nicolas Bazan stood and announced that the residual funds, amounting to \$10,000 from his session will be applied to the Young Latin American Scholars Program.

A question was asked from the floor whether ASN's funds were earning interest. Dr. Hudson answered that approximately one-third of the assets were in an interest bearing certificate of deposit. She is checking into whether better investments are available.

Dr. Claude Baxter asked whether there remained support from exhibitors for the meetings. Dr. Yu answered that we should do more to incite exhibitors to the next meetings.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Secretary's Report - Dr. David Shine

Dr. Shine announced that the winter newsletter was posted in December on the web and that the paper version followed. The paper version was delayed due to production problems. The summer issue will be on the web and in the mail in mid-summer.

Dr. Shine stated that an important issue was the ratification of the bylaws. He stated that there has not be sufficient votes cast to meet the current requirement that a majority of the members must vote to make the ratification vote valid. The council has authorized Dr. Shine to contact those members that have not voted to ask them to vote.

The Secretary's report was approved.

Historian's Report - Dr. Claude Baxter

Dr. Baxter stated that a historian's job is only as good as the information that he receives. He asked that those sending him records and photographs please annotate them with names of members and spouses. He announced that the oral history was on the net and thanked all of the participants for a job well done. He has solicited 3 more chapters and welcomes suggestions for more. Dr. Baxter noted that the ASN archives are located at UCLA and that anyone can access them with his permission. He will also help them find items in the archives. On a personal note Dr. Baxter said that he has been the ASN's historian for 6 years and has agreed to stay on for another 2 years. He invited anyone who wished to be the next historian to come forward within the next two years.

Dr. Yu thanked Dr. Baxter for a great job.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership Committee - Dr. Alex Chiu

Dr. Chiu thanked Linda Garcia and David Shine for helping the committee get the turn around time for application processing time down to 3 weeks. Dr. Chiu recognized the new members attending the business meeting.

Dr. Chiu stated that at their has been 38 new members added since the Buenos Aires meeting that works out to an annual rate of about 45 new members. At this rate the society is not attracting enough members to be sustained. He asked the membership to seek out and sell the society to our colleagues.

Jordi Folch-Pi Award Report – Dr. Regina Armstrong

Dr. Armstrong announced that Dr. Sandra Hewett was chosen from 7 strong nominations as the recipient of the 2002 Jordi Folch-Pi Award. She asked the membership to begin thinking of nominees for the 2003 award.

Nominating Committee – Dr. Joyce Benjamins

Dr. Benjamins announced that the committee will be calling for nominations in early Fall of this year and the elections will be held in early 2003 before the meeting in May 2003. She asked the members to begin considering nominations. She stated that they have found inconsistencies between the Standing Rules and the Bylaws that they will address once the Bylaws ratification process is completed. She thanked the committee for their hard work.

Electronic Communications Committee – Dr. David Shine

Since August, 2001 ASN's web page and internet communication system has continued to improve despite a rather troublesome setback in the unanticipated change

in our internet provider. Dr. Shine announced that he will step down as chair of the Internet Committee and has asked Dr. Rolf Gruetter to take this position. Dr. Gruetter said that he would. Dr. Shine thanked Dr. Gruetter for setting up a more efficient way to notify the membership via the Internet.

Young Investigator Enhancement Award Committee - Dr. Thomas Seyfried

Dr. Seyfried announced that the committee distributed \$24,000 to assist 32 young investigators to attend the meeting. The recipients came from 9 countries: 16 from the USA, 5 from Argentina, 3 from Chile, 3 from Puerto Rico, and 1 each from Brazil, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. Plans for the next year's funds are uncertain at this time.

Public Policy and Education Committee - Dr. Minnetta Gardinier

Dr. Gardinier announced that there was no outreach forum at the Buenos Aires meeting since it was a joint meeting with the ISN and there was no forum at the current meeting for various reasons. She announced that there would be an outreach forum at the 2003 meeting in Newport Beach probably on Parkinson's Disease. There may be a colloquium associated with the outreach forum so that young investigators can speak about their research.

Basic Neurochemistry Committee – Dr. George Siegel

Dr. Siegel announced that the text is used through out the world. He said that 8,867 copies, 2,319 CD, 17 slide sets were sold. He thanked Dr. Wayne Albers for working on a survey that will be send to the members via the web site to gather information for planning the next edition.

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

Dr. Espinosa de los Monteros reported that the Basic Neurochemistry School was held in conjunction with the annual meeting in Buenos Aires. She thanked the ASN, its members, the editors of the Basic Neurochemistry text, and the meeting organizers for their support of the school. She stated that the committee is planning another school for 2004. Information on the school will be posted on the web site.

Young Latin American Scholars - Dr. Oscar Bizzozero

Dr. Bizzozero stated that this is a new committee with the main goal is to allow young Latin American scholars to attend the annual ASN meetings as well as work for a short time in a laboratory in the US. During the past months the committee participated in arranging assistance for young Argentineans to attend the 33rd meeting. He will send a list of 3 additional members from Argentina, Chile, and Mexico to Dr. Yu for approval for this committee. These Latin American committee members will function to help identifying scholars that the committee will sup-

port. He stated that he has already received offers from several people that are willing to host scholars from Latin America.

Dr. Bazan stood and commented that early in ASN's history Jordi Folch-Pi recognized the importance of forging links with Latin American neurochemists. He also stated that the additional \$10,000 funds from his symposium are only to be used for the Young Latin American Scholars program.

Marian Kies Award Committee – Dr. Karen Chandross

Dr. Chandross announced that this year's winner was Kirk Dineley. She stated that the committee has decided to weigh selection criteria differently. She announced that the award will be raised to \$1,500.

Standing Rules Committee – Dr. Cara-Lynne Schengrund

The committee worked by email to collect suggestions to change the standing rules. They have received several and will be sent to council.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

ASN Task Force – Dr. Jean de Vellis

Dr. deVellis reported the committee met and focused on the annual meeting. The committee also discussed the need for a survey to determine how ASN is meeting the needs of the membership. Dr. George DeVries will be setting up this survey with a professional group. He asked the members to email him with ideas to enhance the upcoming 2003 meeting in Newport.

Intersociety Liaison Report - Dr. Regino Perez-Polo

Dr. Perez-Polo stated that since he took over the position from Dr. Bernard Haber he has primarily focused on being a facilitator between the ISN and ASN on supporting the Argentinean scientist to travel the annual ASN meeting. He stated that he is thinking about how to best integrate the interests of the two societies for the upcoming ASN/ISN joint meeting to be held in 2007. He is also considering mechanisms that may permit the ASN to have overlapping meetings with other societies.

Dr. Yu thanked the chairs and the committee members for their hard work in the last year.

The committee reports were approved.

Report on the 33rd Annual Meeting:

Meeting Organizer - Linda Garcia

Ms. Garcia predicted that the meeting will break even. All of the reserved rooms at the Breakers were sold and additional rooms at another hotel were sold. She stressed that an added advantage of this meeting was that it was tax exempt so that the society saved approximately \$15,000. She will try to get the meeting in California tax exempt also. She reported that the student/postdoc dinner was a success. She thanked the officers of both years for their work and support for the past two years. She also thanked Dr. Scott Brady who has served as her mentor from the very start of her association with the society.

Program Committee - Dr. Scott Brady

Dr. Brady reported that he has received good feedback on the high quality of the sessions. He stated that the few scheduling problems resulted from scheduling constraints of the speakers. He reported that the NIH grant was funded and that the amount will be sufficient to fund the young investigators' travel. He will present a formal report once the meeting has closed and all the information is in.

Dr. Brady stated that the society cannot overestimate the contribution that Linda Garcia has made to ASN to make this an efficient and business-like organization. He acknowledged Ms. Garcia as an incredible asset to the ASN.

Dr. Yu thanked Scott and Linda for their hard work that made the meeting a success.

Dr. Bernd Hamprecht asked what the proportion of young people attending the meeting. Ms. Garcia said that there was 575 registrants excluding guests of which about 90 were students or postdocs.

Report on the 34rd Annual Meeting:

Program Committee - Dr. Greg Sutcliffe

Dr. Sutcliffe announced that the next meeting will be held at Newport Beach, CA on May 3-8, 2003. Dr. Jean de Vellis will be the local host chairman of the meeting. He announced important deadlines for the meeting. July 1st was the deadline for proposals and on July 25th the sessions will be selected. August 15th formal titles and list of speakers will be collected and on August 25th preliminary program will go to the printer. Abstract submission will start on October 18th and close on December 15th. He described how members of the program committee have been assigned to the topics that have been historically important to the society along with new topics. The 4 general areas are (1) building the nervous system (2) metabolism and cell and molecular neurobiology (3) glial mechanisms and injury (4) neurodegeneration and disease. The committee members have been encouraged to seek out junior scientists to speak. Changes for the upcoming meeting will include streamlining the sessions and encourage informal interactions. There will be three

simultaneous sessions with breaks between them. There will be more emphasis on poster sessions. He invited senior investigators to also present posters. Dr. Sutcliffe stated that since PowerPoint presentations have been problematic that he will ask session organizers to require PowerPoint presentations in advance so that they can be reviewed a loaded before the session.

2003 Local Host Committee - Dr. Jean de Vellis

Dr. de Vellis announced that the meeting would be held at the Hyatt Newporter in Newport Beach, California. The meeting site is close to the John Wayne airport and he encouraged the members to arrive by that airport. Transportation to and from John Wayne airport and the hotel is free. Site is good for interactions and there is a lot to do in the area. Dr. de Vellis thanked Linda Garcia for her help in identifying the site and organizing the meeting. The room rate will be \$147. He said that there would be a hospitality suite to foster interactions.

Dr. Andrejz Wieraszko asked that meetings be scheduled as not to conflict with members' teaching responsibilities. Ms. Garcia stated that timing is tied to arranging good hotel rates and locations. Dr. Minnetta Gardinier stressed that the deadline is near and that it is important to get additional proposals.

Dr. Yu thanked Drs. Sutcliffe and deVellis, and Ms. Garcia for their work on the upcoming meeting.

New Business:

Dr. George Siegel announced that he submitted to the ASN Council a draft of a resolution in response to a call for a moratorium on support of cultural and research links with Israel, published as an open letter April 6, 2002 in The Guardian. He outlined the background of the moratorium and the statement that he has drafted. He stated that his draft stresses the importance that political agendas should not impact on intellectual and scientific interactions.

Dr. Yu announced that the deliberations of the Council regarding this matter would be posted on the ASN's web site and in the newsletter.

Dr. Claude Baxter stood and acknowledged three "heroes" for their contributions to the ASN. He recognized Linda Garcia for her management, Nicolas Bazan for his financial contributions to the ASN, and David Shine for his work in establishing the ASN on the Internet.

As there was no more business the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM.

**The American Society for Neurochemistry
gratefully acknowledges the generous support
from the following for the 33rd Annual Meeting**

*National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
National Institute on Aging
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
Evelyn F. & William L. McKnight Brain Institute
of the University of Florida*

*Allergan
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matosis Foundation, Inc.
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Novartis Pharmaceuticals
PeproTech Inc.
Pfizer Global Research &
Development
R & D Systems, Inc*

Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award for 2002 Dr. Sandra Hewett



The winner of the 2002 Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award is Dr. Sandra J. Hewett. Dr. Hewett's scientific efforts have focused on determining the contribution of the inflammatory enzymes inducible nitric oxide synthase and cyclooxygenase to the evolution of brain damage following cerebral ischemia, or stroke. As related by one of her referees, her studies have provided "fascinating glimpses of a potentially important new therapeutic target, and she is ideally positioned to have a major impact in this rapidly emerging area of research."

Dr. Hewett received her B.S. in Biology from Providence College. She went on to obtain a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology working with Dr. William D. Atchison at Michigan State University. Sandra's postdoctoral training was with Dr. Dennis W. Choi at Washington University. She was then recruited to a faculty position at the University of Connecticut Health Center, where she was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Neuroscience. As a faculty member Sandra now spends one-third of her time teaching, two-thirds doing research, and all of her time as a "high octane scientist".

Regina Armstrong, Chair Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award Committee

More information on Dr. Hewett can be found at
<http://grad.uhc.edu/phdfaculty/hewett.html>

Marian Kies Memorial Award for 2002

Dr. Kirk Dineley



Kirk Dineley is a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh in the Department of Pharmacology in the laboratory of Dr. Ian Reynolds and is expected to defend his thesis within the next two months. Kirk has done outstanding work in the area of fluorescence-sensitive dyes for calcium and zinc measurements and has examined the role of zinc homeostasis in neuronal physiology and neurotoxic events. He also determined how ion-sensitive fluorophores could be used to accurately measure zinc in living cells and demonstrated problems with conventional approaches. His conclusions are novel and should have a global impact on the field of neuroscience. This taken together with his strong letters of recommendation, high quality of publications, and active involvement in the scientific community and extracurricular activities gave him high scores in all categories evaluated.

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

Statement of the ASN Council Regarding a Proposed Moratorium on Scientific and Cultural Links with Israel

The American Society for Neurochemistry (ASN) supports freedom of scientific research and communication, in the pursuit of the well-being of humanity, for all scientists of all nations. The ASN believes that scientific research rests on the merit of the research itself and not upon political, national, racial, religious or gender criteria of the investigators. In affirmation of the principle of scientific freedom, the Council of ASN voices strong objection to the recent petition for a moratorium on support of cultural and research links with Israel, published as an open letter April 6, 2002 in The Guardian. The ASN Council objects to any such a moratorium regarding scientists from any country. The freedom for scientific work and communication among peoples of diverse nations cannot be held hostage to the political agendas of any government or to political events or views of any partisan group. The proposed moratorium would constitute a political constraint on academic freedom. Any moratorium on research and cultural links with scientists from any country may have detrimental effects far beyond current political circumstances. Interruptions of cultural links serve to further polarize and do not reconcile conflicting views. We therefore confirm our determination to ensure that all of our activities will remain open to the full participation of scholars of all backgrounds and nationalities.

The Council of the American Society for Neurochemistry
June 26, 2002
Palm Beach, Florida

ASN welcomes the following new members:

Ordinary Members

Marta Antonelli
Universidad de Buenos Aires
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Darrell W. Brann
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Colin Combs
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Yogesh Dwivedi
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL

Soo-Youl Kim
Weil Medical College of
Cornell University
White Plains, NY

Mark S. Kindy
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY

Lawrence Litt
Univ of California San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Ann Marini
Uniformed Services University of
the Health Sciences
Bethesda, MD

Paul M. Mathews
NYU Medical School
Orangeburg, NY

Susan McGuire
Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Medi-
cal Center
Chicago, IL

Olivera Nesic
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, TX

Wang Qun
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO

Keiji Suetake
Sapporo Medical University
Sapporo, Hokaido Japan

Margaret J. Velardo
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

New Members Continued:

Affiliate Members:

Sara Becker-Catania
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Los Angeles, CA

Nicolas Chatauret
Hôpital St-Luc
Montreal, Quebec

Andres Diaz
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Cynzia Dello Russo
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Michael Grider
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Eric Hauser
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Kennie R. Shepherd
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Charissa A. Dyer (2001-2005)
Minnetta Gardinier (2001-2005)
Steven W. Levison (2001-2005)
Wendy Macklin (1999-2003)
Mary C. McKenna (2001-2005)
Jean Merrill (1999-2003)
J. Regino Perez-Polo (2001-2005)

Alternates to Council:

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George DeVries
Regino Perez-Polo
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ASN Committees continued..

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ASN Committees continued..

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ASN Committees continued..

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REMEMBER.....

Please see that your address information updated.

Send your information to the ASN business office:

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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>

Secretary's Corner.....

Cast your vote on the Bylaws changes - please....

Almost a year has passed since the Council approved amendments to the ASN's Bylaws. The amendments originated from discussions of Council and are intended to improve the function of the society's business. In summary the amendments a) decrease the number for a quorum at the business meeting, b) streamline the process for initiating action on amendments to the bylaws, c) simplify membership categories, d) clarify the rights of members, e) clarify the process for filling council and officer vacancies, and f) change the way meeting sites are chosen. In reality these amendments are not likely to be a high priority to today's busy neurochemists so it is understandable that many of you put the amendment ballot aside and never looked at it again. You may have assumed that others would vote and that your opinion wasn't that important. This is not true. The current Bylaws require a majority of the membership *to cast a vote for the election to be valid*. To date we are way below the required number of ballots cast to make the vote valid. Please take the time to review the amendments and vote. I've posted the amendments and instructions for voting at: <http://www.asneurochem.org/library/structure.htm> The Council has authorized me to start a nagging campaign that I plan to start soon. Don't make me have to call you.

Membership...

At Palm Beach several non-members remarked that they were impressed with the ASN and its meeting. Several said, "I should join." You too may have heard this. Please join with me and follow up by getting these interested scientists to join our society.

Thanks to Mary and Linda....

My job as ASN's secretary has been a breeze thanks to the help of Mary McKenna and Linda Garcia. Thanks for y'all's help.

Meeting photos on the web...

I am posting photographs from the Palm Beach meeting on the web. Check them out at <http://www.asneurochem.org/library/whatsnew.htm>. If you have some that you wish to share send them to me. I can take any format - including the paper kind.

Name change....?

The Council has charged Wendy Macklin with the job of looking into what's involved in changing ASN's name. I'm sure that she would like to hear from you.

In Memoriam

Tomás Reader (1944 - 2002)



It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing away of our friend and colleague, Dr. Tomás Reader, professor in the Department of Physiology and member of the Center for Research in Neurological Sciences, at the Université de Montréal.

Following medical school, Tom worked on the visual system with Dr. Eduardo de Robertis in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He then pursued studies as a postdoctoral fellow, still in the same laboratory studying the pharmacology and biophysics of the cholinergic postsynaptic membrane. Once in Montreal, Tom continued his studies of monoamines in the visual system with Dr H.H. Jasper. In fact, an important part of his career at Université de Montréal focused on the electrophysiology, neuroanatomy and neuropharmacology of biogenic amines in the cerebral cortex. During most recent years Tom got interested on the changes in monoamines produced by spinalization. Tom was a prolific researcher and he fostered much collaboration and published 130 scientific articles.

Tom was also deeply involved in teaching for the medical and physiology training programs as well as the graduate study programs in neurological sciences of his University. Because he was supportive of all activities that would complement the graduate and undergraduate programs in Latin America, Tom's teaching activities reached beyond the institution where he worked. He taught regularly as an invited professor at the Universities of IVIC, Venezuela, and also at the University Bogotá, Colombia. He also participated as an invited faculty on the First Basic Neurochemistry School of the ASN that took place last September in Cordoba, Argentina.

We also want to extend to his wife, Céline Germain, his mother, Rita Mautner and his brother Claudio our most sincere sympathy, as well as our assurance that we will do our utmost to keep Tom's memory alive. It was indeed Tom's wish to grant a portion of his estate to create the Fond "Tomás Reader pour la recherche sur la moelle épinière" (Tomás Reader Fund for spinal cord research) at Université de Montréal, a fund which will be administered by the CRSN. Donations may be addressed to Fonds Tomás Reader, Bureau de Développement, Faculty of medicine, Université de Montréal, P.O. Box 6128, Centre-ville Station, Montreal, QC H3C 3J7

Araceli Espinosa

In Memoriam

Leonhard S Wolfe (1926-2001)

Killam Professor, Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, McGill University. Was born on March 5, 1926 in Auckland, New Zealand. He died December 3, 2001 in Montreal of complications following a stroke. Dr. Wolfe was educated at Christchurch, New Zealand and St. Catherine's College, Cambridge in Entomology, the University of Western Ontario in Medicine and the royal Victoria Hospital, the Maudsley Hospital and McGill University. Leon Wolfe spent most of his working life at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital as a medical research scientist specializing in neurochemistry and inherited diseases. His distinguished career won him many honours. He was also an accomplished classical pianist, a potter, an enthusiastic bridge player and a field naturalist extraordinaire. He will be missed by the neuroscience community.

Sabit Gabay

We have learned that Dr. Gabay died the week just preceding the annual meeting. His death is a great loss to his family, friends, and colleagues of the worldwide neurochemistry community. He will be greatly missed.

We plan to post a more comprehensive a memoriam on the web and in the next newsletter.

Please inform the ASN business office or the ASN Secretary of members that have passed away.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NEUROCHEMISTRY

Application for (check one)

- Ordinary Membership
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