



Serotonin Club Newsletter

IUPHAR Satellite Meeting, 2002-Mexico

The Councillors are now starting to plan for the 5th IUPHAR satellite meeting of the Serotonin Club which will be held in conjunction with the IUPHAR congress which takes place next year in San Francisco. The Club is to hold a satellite meeting in Mexico (by the sea!), the chief organiser being Carlos Villalón. It would be good if members would start thinking *now* about possible symposia, both the research areas to be covered and indeed possible organisers of each symposium and speakers (you are welcome to suggest yourself as an organiser). If you have ideas you are encouraged to send them to Carlos at:

carlos_villalon@infosel.net.mx

We will need to be making firm decisions on the format of the meeting by later this year. As before we hope to have a mix of high quality symposia, free communications and a good social program.

SO START THINKING NOW!!!

Mailing of this Newsletter

The first electronic mailing of the Newsletter went fairly well. However, a number of people who had not sent an updated e-mail address to this office or had not given us one at all did cause problems. Rosemary has chased many people and I think we are now in good shape for this mailing

(provided some of you have emptied your overflowing boxes; this caused some returns).

A very few people, including our Past President, had problems in reading the Word attachment, therefore, we are trying a new approach this time. The Newsletter has been sent out as a pdf file since everyone has, or can download free, an Adobe Acrobat Reader. I am hoping, therefore, that you have all been able to read this Newsletter without any problem.

Keep us up to date

We regularly receive Newsletters which have been returned to us because the addressee has moved. Make sure you tell us when you are moving so we can keep you informed about the Club.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members of the Club who have joined since our last Newsletter:

Italy: Mario Pestarino, **Sweden:** Mikael Landén, **UK:** Richard McQuade, **USA:** Jagadeesh Rangisetty.

Items of interest

I am happy to include items of interest to members so if you are organising a meeting about Serotonin or have some other matter you wish to share with readers, please contact me and I will try and fit it in.

Subscriptions

If you have had a note about renewing your subscription please send us your cheque **now** to save the time and cost of a reminder.

Sven Ahlenius

I was enormously saddened to hear recently of the death of Sven Ahlenius, an old friend and colleague and a regular presenter to meetings of the Serotonin Club. Below I reproduce an obituary shortened from that prepared for the AstraZeneca in-house notification by Christer Köhler and Johan Luthman, two of Sven's Swedish colleagues. I thank them for allowing me to reprint this and to David Jackson who translated it from Swedish.

Sven Ahlenius passed away on Monday the 19th February 2001 in Trondheim, Norway, as a consequence of a heart attack. Sven Ahlenius was educated at the University of Gothenburg under the supervision of Professors Arvid Carlsson and Jörgen Engel. After completing his doctoral studies, Sven continued at Gothenburg, but also undertook a post-doctoral period at MIT with Walle Nauta. After working with Swedish Defense Laboratories Sven was hired by the then Astra Research Laboratories in Södertälje, Sweden, as a behavioural pharmacologist. During the 1980s, Sven's work concentrated on developing new antipsychotic drugs and he also developed a close collaboration with his colleagues in Gothenburg, publishing a large number of highly cited papers on sexual behaviour, partial agonists, selective autoreceptor agonists and in other fields. He was awarded an adjunct Professorship in Psychopharmacology at the University of Gothenburg. In the 1990s Sven concentrated more on antidepressant research, and he and his collaborators began to explore the pharmacology of the newly emerging 5-HT selective ligands. During this period, his Adjunct Professorship was transferred to the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm. In 1997, Sven transferred full-time to the Karolinska Institutet and recently he took up a position as Professor of Biological Psychology at the University of Trondheim, Norway, where he was building up his research activity when he died.

Sven's death is a great shock to the many who have had the privilege of knowing and collaborating with him. Sven built up an extensive contact net and collaborated on many projects. His broad knowledge, which reminded one of a true renaissance man, his extremely high scientific standards and his stubbornness in producing high quality work was well known to his collaborators. He was loyal in all respects and he will be missed by his collaborators and colleagues. Our thoughts are with his family and friends in this time of sorrow.

Serotonin Notes

Many of you will remember these short reviews on matters of interest to serotonin researchers written by senior scientists and which were distributed to members of the Club. They went into abeyance for a while but we are re-activating the scheme. The Notes will again be distributed by e-mail.

We need your e-mail address

Please see note on mailing above and if you have changed your address send it to us now while you are thinking about it – send to: rosemary.allen@astrazeneca.com

Job opportunity

Dr Peter Vanhoenacker (Univ. Gent, Belgium) is urgently looking for a post-doc to work on a project concerning the 5-HT₇ receptor. If you are interested contact him directly at: petervh@dmb.rug.ac.be

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