



Serotonin Club Newsletter



The Next Club Meeting Porto, Portugal (17-19 July 2004)

FENS [European Neuroscience] 10-14th July in Lisbon.

EPHAR [European Pharmacology] 14-17th (noon) July in Porto.

Serotonin Club 17th (late afternoon)- 19th July in Porto.

A first announcement for the Club meeting will be sent out to all members later this year.

Proposed Symposia

Following discussions of the scientific committee for the meeting it has been agreed that symposia will be held to cover the following main areas:

- Modulation of 5-HT₃ receptor channels
- Serotonin, stress and anxiety
- Vascular and cardiac 5-HT receptors
- Cortical 5-HT receptor control of aminergic systems and psychiatric conditions
- Challenging the concepts of 5-HT transporter function
- Serotonergic drugs and obesity
- 5-HT_{2C} receptor gene, implications for depression, psychosis and their pharmacology
- Interactions between serotonin and other transmitter systems
- MDMA-induced neurotoxicity
- Schizophrenia, hallucination and memory

In addition, the Club is sponsoring two symposia which will be held in the EPHAR meeting that runs immediately before ours:

- Constitutive activity of G-protein coupled serotonergic receptor subtypes: moving towards functional activity in the CNS
- 5-HT receptors in gastrointestinal disorders

These are not the final titles for any of the symposia listed, but give a flavour of the interest and quality of the meeting.

Poster presentations in the areas covered by the symposia will, of course, be particularly welcome.

Page Lecture

The Councillors of the Club are delighted to be able to announce that the Page Lecture at the Porto meeting will be given by **David Nichols** of Purdue University. Dr Nichols needs little introduction to most of our members. He has worked for many years on the fascinating interface between pharmacology and medicinal chemistry and has clarified many of our ideas on the relationship between structure and function of psychoactive drugs including amphetamines and hallucinogenic compounds. We are very fortunate in having him agree to give the keynote lecture at our meeting.

SFN Meeting – New Orleans

The Serotonin Club dinner will be at Margaritaville Restaurant (1104 Decatur Street), which is near the waterfront, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm on *Monday, November 10*. This year the dinner will be a social gathering with no invited speaker. There will be a New Orleans style buffet dinner with open bar of wine and beer in the Parrot's Nest Mezzanine and Deja Vu Dining Room overlooking the jazz band. The price is \$55 and cheques should be sent to:

Mark Geyer, Dept. Psychiatry, Univ. California, San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0804, USA

email: mark@ucsd.edu

by **October 1, 2003**

Pramod Saxena

We recently heard that Pramod has had a bypass operation and is now recuperating. We are certain that everyone will join in wishing him a fast and full recovery.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members of the Club who have joined since our last Newsletter: **Australia:** Julian Simmons, **USA:** Julie Crider and Evelyn Lambe.

Information on visas for the USA

The following information has been received via IUPHAR and may be of interest to members.

The International Visitors Office (IVO) of the National Academies of the USA has launched a new Web site to provide information on visas for visiting scientists and scholars and advice for organizers of international scientific meetings in the United States. Please see:

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/visas>.

This site includes a questionnaire through which scientists, medical professionals, and scholars can report their difficulties with the visa process. The IVO maintains a list of international scientific meetings held in the United States and shares this list with the Department of State on a regular basis to help validate a visa applicant's purpose for visiting the United States. To register your meeting, send the IVO (visas@nas.edu) the following details: meeting name, location, date, and Web site link. The IVO site also has guidelines for organizing international scientific meetings in the United States. Please visit this site and share it with your colleagues.

International Visitors Office, The National Academies, 500 Fifth Street, NW, Room 578, Washington, DC 20001. Phone: 202-334-2602 Fax: 202-334-2231 Email: visas@nas.edu

Address change?

If you have changed your address send it to us now while you are thinking about it – send to:

rosemary.allen@astrazeneca.com

Generally speaking, all communications with members are now carried out via the internet so if we do not have your current e-mail address you risk losing all contact with the Club

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