



International Society for Neuroethology

Newsletter
March 2005

International Society for Neuroethology
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Councilors: Andrew Bass; Horst Bleckmann; Thomas J. Carew; Sheryl Coombs; Allison J. Doupe; Martin Giurfa; Ronald M. Harris-Warrick; Eric I. Knudsen; William B. Kristan; Cynthia F. Moss; George D. Pollak; F. Claire Rind; Mandyam V. Srinivasan; Harold Zakon

Next ISN Congress: Vancouver, Canada, in 2007. Local organizer: Catharine Rankin, Univ. British Columbia, Dept. Psychology, 2136 West Mall, Vancouver BC V6T1Z4, Canada. Phone: +1 604-822-5906; Fax: +1 604-822-6923; crankin@psych.ubc.ca

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The ISN President's Column

Edward A. Kravitz (edward_kravitz@hms.harvard.edu)
Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

The ISN in 2005: The election results now are complete: we welcome Martin Heisenberg, President-Elect; Ian Meinertzhagen, Secretary; Peter Narins, Treasurer; and the returning Al Feng as Past President; to our Executive Committee, and Cindy Moss, Ron Harris-Warrick, Tom Carew, Bill Kristan, Sheryl Coombs, George Pollak and Andy Bass to our Council. We thank all of the other candidates who were willing to put their names up for election as well. With Horst Bleckmann, Alison Doupe, Martin Giurfa, Eric Knudson, Claire Rind, Mandyam Srinivasan and Harold Zakon continuing on the Council, we have an excellent team in place to begin the business of running the ISN. In order to maintain international balance, I've also asked Jochen Pflüger to serve

as an *ad hoc* Council member and he has agreed. We offer a great vote of thanks to the departing Council members. I must add that since assuming the mantle of President, I am even more impressed with the amount of work Al Feng, our previous President, quietly and efficiently carried out. So once again Al, we owe you an enormous debt of gratitude, but why didn't you warn me about all this work? I should add that even though her tenure has officially ended, the incredible Sheryl Coombs has continued to serve as our acting-Treasurer while Peter Narins is on sabbatical.

Goals for the ISN: I believe that the major challenge facing the ISN is to change from a slumbering giant that awakens once every three years to hold an excellent Congress, into an exciting dynamic year-round organization. In the past, membership has sagged in the years between Congresses, which is bad for the financial health and well-being of our Society. Moreover, in general it has been hard to engage members in ISN-related activities in off-Congress years. A main focus of the new Executive Committee (EC) and Council, therefore, will be to ask how we can make our Society into a thriving year-round organization. For that purpose, we need your input. Please offer suggestions on improvements that can be made in the running of the ISN to me or to any of the other officers of the Society. Moreover, when called upon to serve on one of our Committees do think seriously of joining our efforts. I and the other members of the EC and Council fully recognize that there should be benefits and rewards of regular membership in the ISN. Other than the Congress, at present, the main benefit we offer members is our excellent Newsletter. In recent years, through the heroic efforts of Art Popper and Janis Weeks, this has become an important document that is well worth reading on a regular basis. But other activities also have begun, will begin this year, and are anticipated for the immediate future of our organization. What follows will list actions already taken in these directions and will document some thoughts about future activities as well.

The Heiligenberg Student Travel Awards: Last year and associated with the Nyborg Congress of the ISN we appointed our first Heiligenberg Student Traveling Fellows. These awards, which are named in honor of Walter Heiligenberg to commemorate his enthusiastic support of young people, are made upon application to the ISN from students who are members of the Society (student membership is free), and whose mentors also are members. They are for student travel or other expenses associated with attending neuroethology-related meetings. To be considered for an award, the students are required to present a platform talk or a poster. Each award is for up to \$600 and the ISN will be able to make 8-10 such awards each year. A committee chaired by Mark Konishi will review applications up to three times a year, provided the numbers of applications warrant it. We encourage you and your students to apply for these awards -- the information on how to apply is listed on the ISN website. An important consideration to help in

maintaining these awards in the future is for you to consider making a voluntary contribution to the ISN specifically for this purpose at the time you pay your annual dues (see the website for information).

The Bullock Visiting Lecturers: Ted Bullock, a founder of the ISN, our first president and one of the foremost figures in our field, has agreed to allow the ISN to name our visiting lectureships in his honor. The ISN plans to begin making awards for Bullock lecturers this year (see report by Al Feng in this issue of the Newsletter – Al is chairing the committee drawing up the guidelines for the awards). These awards will be modeled after the Grass Visiting Lecturers of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN), but rather than being limited to travel in North America alone, organizations throughout the world will be able to apply for funding to bring distinguished neuroethologists to their locale. Decisions will be made and announced in the very near future about the size of the awards, their eligibility, and the application procedure. As with the Heiligenberg Awards, voluntary financial contributions from members will be welcomed to supplement the funds available to the ISN for these awards.

The next ISN Congress—Vancouver, BC during the summer of 2007 (hosted by Cathy Rankin): The Congress Committee chair and co-chairs for the next Congress have been appointed. Barb Beltz has agreed to Chair the Committee, and her co-chairs will be Cathy Rankin (wearing a second hat as Chair of the local Organizing Committee), Ron Harris-Warrick and Sten Grillner. Barb welcomes input from members of the ISN on plans for the Congress and I'm certain she will welcome volunteers willing to serve on her committee that will plan the Congress. A well-balanced committee (areas of research expertise, international representation, breadth of knowledge of the field) will ensure an outstanding Congress. You can reach Barb at <bbeltz@wellesley.edu>

Chapters and other committees: The co-chairs of a committee to explore the possibility of establishing Chapters of the ISN throughout the world will be Barry Trimmer and Hans Hofmann. Both of these investigators have experience organizing and running meetings and both are interested in exploring the prospect of regular neuroethology-related meetings sponsored by the ISN and held in locales throughout the world. ISN Chapters might be modeled on the SfN Chapters in North America, with Chapter activities announced in the ISN newsletter and with Chapters eligible for financial support for visiting lecturers and for other Chapter-related activities. If this committee interests you, please contact either Barry ("Barry A. Trimmer" barry.trimmer@tufts.edu) or Hans ("Hans Hofmann" <hans@cgr.harvard.edu>). Finally Don Edwards, the Chair of the Membership Committee and Zen Faulkes, the Chair of the Web Oversight Committee, have volunteered to continue running these committees while we decide the future directions and organization of the ISN, and I thank them for their loyal support of our Society.

Future directions: Of great concern to members of the ISN in the U.S. are the impending and proposed cuts in the budgets of the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health that support much of the research we do. In general, neuroethology-related research has not been well funded in the U.S. and with these drastic cuts the situation looks even worse. I do not know what the situation is in other countries and perhaps a committee of the ISN should look into the matter. I do know that I was one of the signers of a document in support of the funding of science in France, so I suspect that this is an international problem. One of the things that our Society can do is to get the message out about the wonderful, exciting and important science that we do. This promotion can only help in a bad funding scene. Towards that end the ISN Education Committee via the use of web-based educational materials and the Newsletter will serve ever more important roles in advertising our field. No Chair is yet in place for that Committee, although a member of the previous Education Committee has been contacted about serving as Chair. In the President's Column in future editions of this Newsletter and via bulletins sent out by our excellent management firm (Allen Marketing and Management, Becky Noordsy, contact person- <noordsy@allenpress.com>) we will keep members of the ISN informed of activities in these directions.

Once again, a personal appeal from me—get involved with the ISN—it is, after all, our Society. ♦

This issue of the Newsletter

Ian A. Meinertzhagen, (iam@dal.ca)

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

This issue of the Newsletter is under new management. As ISN Secretary effective January 2005, I will be taking on the job of editor, following on from the very able stewardship of our outgoing secretary, Janis Weeks. This issue of the newsletter represents my first major undertaking as Secretary. I'd like to thank Janis for her expert service in producing the newsletter during the last three years, and in maintaining the very high editorial standards to which I must now aspire. The job is perhaps easier than it once was now that the newsletter has moved completely to an electronic version but it still needs material from ISN members on all aspects of the Society's activities. We need material from members at all career stages and from all countries. Some start has already been made in providing news about our younger colleagues in the Society, and I would like to provide some additional emphasis to our world-wide, especially non-English speaking representation. In support of the latter, under a new series in each Newsletter we will try to present an article on the activities of neuroethologists from around the world. The first article in this series is

from Frank Coro, and gives some background to neuroethology in Cuba. My only other responsibility in this message is to remind you that this is your newsletter; I merely put it together. So I would like to solicit articles and other input from ISN members on topics and features that you'd like to see covered in these pages. Please send me your ideas, or preferably material, for such articles. ♦

Ted Turns 90!

Bill Kristan and Kathy French (wkristan@ucsd.edu)
Section of Neurobiology, University of California, San Diego,
USA

In May 2005, Theodore Holmes Bullock will enter his tenth decade. To celebrate his long and extraordinarily well-spent life, a hundred or so of his friends gathered in San Diego on January 4, 2005 to discuss science, scientists, Life, the Universe...and enteropneusts. Jan Leonard initiated the idea for the party, then she and Rich Satterlie arranged with the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) to hold an afternoon session honoring Ted on the opening day of their annual meeting (conveniently located at the Town and Country Hotel in San Diego). The event was appropriate because Ted was president of SICB back in the days when it was known as the American Society of Zoologists. For this session, Bob Josephson constructed a great symposium centered around the theme of Ted's 1959 review article entitled "Neuron doctrine and electrophysiology" (*Science* 129:997-1002). Mike Bennett provided an historical perspective, starting with Ramón y Cajal and ending with—you guessed it—gap junctions; Dan Johnston described how knowing the electromorphology of dendrites has expanded the neuron doctrine; Doug Fields convinced us that we need to take neuro-glial interactions more seriously; Chuck Stevens pointed out some of the constraints on the evolution of brain size; and Eve Marder discussed the *yin* and *yang* of neuronal plasticity vs. stability. Not surprisingly, the speakers had no trouble at all relating their most recent data and ideas to Ted's 1959 classic.

The group then moved to the Birch Aquarium on the UCSD campus for a reception and dinner jointly sponsored by Neurobiology, Neurosciences, and SIO. This venue offers a panoramic view of the ocean, the village of La Jolla, and the labs where Ted has so productively spent the past four decades. During the evening many of Ted's students, postdocs, and colleagues (both current and former) recalled the wonderful times they have had with Ted in his lab, at his home, and trekking with him all over the world. Some of the participants are pictured below. The highlight of the evening was Nick Holland's description of a newly discovered acorn worm (enteropneust) that he named *Torquarator bullocki* to honor Ted (see Holland et al. *Nature* 434:374-376, 2005), whose 1940 thesis was on this group of critters.

Ted had the last word and, as usual, straightened out the details of the stories that the rest of us had embellished or mis-remembered. He then invited everyone



Participants, from left to right: 1. Doug Fields; 2. Jeff Corwin; 3.; Bill Roberts; 4. Ted Bullock; 5. Chris Platt; 6. Joseph Schulman; 7. Larry Goldman; 8. Felix Strumwasser; 9. Peter Pickens; 10. Bob Josephson; 11. Albert Feng; 12. Ellis Berkowitz; 13. Carl Hopkins.

over to his new lab the following morning to carry on the story-telling in a less formal atmosphere.

Ted's decade celebrations keep getting better and better; mark your calendars for May, 2015 for the big 100!

Neuroethology in Cuba

Frank Coro (fcoro@fbio.uh.cu)
Faculty of Biology, Havana University, Cuba

In 1970 a young (at that time) teaching assistant at Havana University, together with some enthusiastic undergraduate students, started to undertake research on the



From left to right: Dr. Emanuel Mora, Dr. Frank Coro, Dr. Martha Pérez. M.Sc. Marcia Mellado, M.Sc. Alejandro Barro and M.Sc. Silvio Macías.

tympenic organ of some nocturnal moths, rather abundant in our tropical island. The degree of improbability of success for such a project was considerable: there were no Professors to whom we could address such matters, and actually nothing at the University regarding either insect or even animal physiology. The teaching assistant (Frank Coro) together with his other colleagues (including Martha Pérez) had at that time also the job of teaching lectures, seminars and labs on general, animal and comparative animal physiology to the many students of the School of Biology. Actually, the youthfulness of the participants was the best, and almost sole qualification underlying the survival of this research. Thirty-five years have past since that uncertain beginning, and we now can say that there is an active research group (see photo, left) that deals not only with the tympanic organs of different moth species, but also with bioacoustics in bats and, to a lesser extent, in birds.

For more that 20 years, our main research technique has been the electrophysiological recording of activity from the tympanic nerve of different moth species, and



Empyreuma affinis (Lepidoptera, Arctiidae, Ctenuchinae)

from these studies some papers have been published in *Naturwissenschaften* and the *Journal of Comparative Physiology series A*. In the beginning of this research (from 1972 until 1976) we received the help of Prof. Dr. Rustem Zhantiev, from Moscow State University. By the end of the '80s the lack of a behavioral component of this research had become an important drawback.

Our electrophysiological recordings lead us to propose



Urania boisduvalii (Lepidoptera, Uraniidae)

ideas that required support from behavioral studies. Basically, we had come to the conclusion that some moth-species are able to use sound during their mating behavior, and that they have modifications of their auditory organs associated with that function. On the other hand, we could turn to advantage the lack of air conditioning in our laboratory to give us the possibility to study the influence of temperature on the physiology of the A1 auditory receptor cell of moths (*Naturwissenschaften*, 1990; and *J. Comp. Physiol. A*, 1994). In 1995, a most kind invitation from Drs. William E. Conner and Mark Sanderford from Wake Forest University in North Carolina, USA, gave us the opportunity to test our hypothesis under field and wind-tunnel conditions with infrared cameras and ultrasonic microphones and we were able to document the sound emission produced by male and female *Empyreuma affinis* during their mating behavior (*Naturwissenschaften*, 1998).

Since 1997 we have been collaborating with colleagues in laboratories in Germany (Prof. Dr. Manfred Kössl from



Molossus molossus (Molossidae)

Frankfurt University and Marianne Vater from Potsdam



Pteronotus parnellii (Mormoopidae)

University) and the United Kingdom (Prof. Ian Russell from Sussex University). This has been made possible by funding from the VW Foundation, and has given us the opportunity to study various projects: bat echolocation (Emanuel, Silvio and students); sound emission in different moth species (Martha, Marcia, Alejandro, Frank and students); distortion product otoacoustic emissions in moths and bats (Marcia, Silvio, Frank and students); and continued electrophysiological recordings from the tympanic organs of moths (Frank, Martha, Marcia, Alejandro and students). The possibility of doing research at labs abroad has also increased the methods we have been able to use to study our biological objectives: electrophysiology of the auditory system of Cuban bats in Frankfurt (Emanuel and Silvio), laser vibrometry of the tympanic organ of Cuban moths in Odense (Frank in collaboration with Prof. Axel Michelsen and Dr. Annetarie Surlykke), and ultrastructure of the tympanic organ of Cuban moths in Montevideo (Frank in collaboration with Dr. Omar Trujillo-Cenóz). At present Marcia holds an IBRO Fellowship in Ian Russell's lab doing research on the molecular aspects of the cochlea.

We all look forward to maintain the collaborative projects we have been able to achieve, and to develop new ones that would be of mutual convenience. Our modest labs (continued on next page)

2004 ISN Annual Financial Report

Sheryl Coombs, ISN Treasurer (scoombs@luc.edu)
Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, USA

As of 12/31/2004

Total Assets as of 12/31/03: \$278,392.82
Cash Assets: \$23,845.94
Investment Assets: \$254,546.88

Cash Revenues in 2004: \$40,156.71
Membership Dues: \$16,800.00
Investment Income (Net) \$3,767.31
Savings Interest \$25.62
Donations: \$645.00
Congress \$0.00
Other \$18,918.78

Investment Portfolio: Gain/Loss (Market Value)
Year to Date \$9,751.72
Cumulative Since Inception (1994) \$105,624.22

Expenses in 2004: (\$28,436.69)
Operating Expenses (\$26,605.17)
Conference Expenses (\$1,831.52)

Revenues minus Expenses: (\$11,720.02)

Total Assets as of 12/31/04: \$296,097.25
Cash Assets: \$50,859.99
Investment Assets: \$245,237.26



Neuroethology in Cuba (contd)

at Havana University are open to all of our colleagues who are willing to work with us, and who will look together with us for the needed funding source. ♦

Heiligenberg Student Travel Awards:

During the year there were 18 applications for the 2004 Heiligenberg Student Travel Awards. The six students selected as recipients of these awards were:

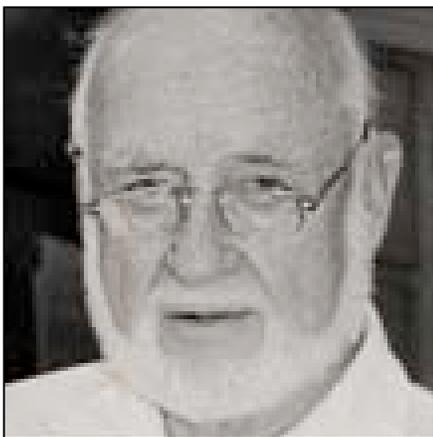
Amin, Nooper
Newcome, James
Rosenberg, Lior
Sinha, Shiva
Spitzer, Nadia
Zee, Jade

Congratulations to all of you! ♦

ISN Distinguished Lectures to be named Bullock Traveling Lectures

Al Feng, ISN Past President
(afeng1@uiuc.edu) University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, USA

The ISN Executive Committee decided at its August 2003 meeting that the Society will establish an ISN Distinguished Lecture Program to promote neuroethology as a discipline. An annual budget has been set aside in support of this Program. The Program will be modeled after the Grass Visiting Lectures of the Society for Neuroscience and will support 8-10 lecturers annually to various international, national or regional meetings (e.g.,



the Göttingen Neurobiology meetings, annual meetings of the Society for Neuroscience, Nerve Net meetings, etc.) at which significant amounts of neuroethological

research are presented. In Nyborg, President Ed Kravitz announced that with Ted Bullock's consent these lectures will be named the Bullock Visiting Lectures. I am delighted to announce that we have now received that consent. We make this acknowledgement to recognize Ted's significant contributions to neuroethology and to honor him as the founding president of the ISN.

We are now making plans to launch this Program. Ed Kravitz has appointed me to chair the Committee that will establish this Program and I am pleased that the following ISN members have agreed to serve on this Committee: Horst Bleckmann, Carl Hopkins, Eric Knudsen, Bill Kristan. In the interim, we are clarifying the details surrounding the awards, e.g., the amount of award, the request process, and the individuals or organizations eligible to apply for a Bullock Traveling Lecturer. If you have suggestions for this Program, please send them along to me (afeng1@uiuc.edu). Thank you in advance.

3rd GORDON CONFERENCE ON NEUROETHOLOGY

MAGDELEN COLLEGE OXFORD, U.K. AUGUST 7-12, 2005

Nicholas J. Strausfeld
Division of Neurobiology, ARL, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA

The third Gordon Conference on Neuroethology will be held later this year at Magdalen College, Oxford. Applicants should apply on-line at the Gordon Conference Organization Website (<http://www.grc.uri.edu/>)

PROGRAM

(Note that while thematic content of the conference is set, the titles of presentations are still tentative and subject to change.)

Sunday morning/afternoon: Conferee registration, Magdalen College

Session 1 – Introductory Lectures. Sunday evening, August 7th

Opening welcome

Chairs and co-Chairs of the GRC 2005 meeting: N. J. Strausfeld (University of Arizona, Tucson, USA). Catharine Carr (University of Maryland, College Park, USA), Paul S. Katz (Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA)

Speakers

1. Thomas Seeley (Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University, USA) Cooperation, group functioning, and the hive.

2. Edmund T. Rolls. (Department of Experimental Psychology University of Oxford, UK) How the brain recognizes faces.

Session 2 – Ecological Neuroethology. Monday morning, August 8th

Chair and discussion leaders: Eric Warrant (University of Lund, Sweden), Anna Gislen (University of Lund, Sweden)

Speakers

1. Jochen Zeil (Australian National University, Canberra, Australia) Visual ecology of fiddler crabs.
2. Peter Narins (UCLA, USA) Sound extraction from noisy backgrounds.
3. Carolyn Shumway (Dept. of Research, New England Aquarium and Dept. of Biology, Boston University, Boston, USA) How social and habitat complexities shape brain and behavior.
4. Melissa Bateson (School of Biology, University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne). Context-dependent foraging decisions in rufous hummingbirds.

Business Meeting and Poster Session Monday evening August 8th

Posters will remain up until the last evening of the conference and will provide a focal point for afternoon and evening discussions.

Session 3 – Evolution of Behaviors and Brains Tuesday morning August 9th

Chair and discussion leaders: Catharine Rankin (Brain Research Centre and Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada), Jonathan Bacon (University of Sussex, UK)

Speakers

1. Hudson Kern Reeve (Cornell University, Ithaca, USA) Evolution of cooperation and conflict in wasp societies.
2. Heather Eisthen (Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA) The evolution of brains and the behavior they support.
3. Kenneth Catania (Department of Biological Sciences, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA) Cortical evolution and the senses.
4. Daniel Robert (School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol, UK) Co-evolution of acoustic systems.

Session 4 – Emergent Social Behavior Tuesday evening, August 9th

Chair and discussion leaders: Susan Fahrbach (Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, USA), Samuel S-H. Wang (Department of Molecular Biology, Princeton University, USA).

Speakers

1. Harold Zakon (School of Biological Sciences, University of Texas, Austin, USA) Signalers and receivers in animal communication.

2. Fred Dyer (Michigan State, USA). Sequential data gathering by honey bees

3. Tucker Balch (College of Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA) Interactive automata.

Session 5 – Navigation and Migration Wednesday morning, August 10th

Chair and discussion leaders: Katalin Gothard (University of Arizona, USA), Francesco Battaglia (College de France, Paris)

Speakers

1. Anna Gagliardo (Dipartimento di Etologia, Ecologia ed Evoluzione, Università di Pisa, Italy) Neuronal basis of pigeon homing.
2. Thomas Collett (School of Biological Sciences, University of Sussex, UK) Evolution and mechanisms of navigation by insects.
3. James Knierim (Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, University of Texas Medical School, USA) Olfaction, hippocampus, and place memory.
4. Kenneth J. Lohmann (Department of Biology, UNC-Chapel Hill, USA) Sea turtle migration and magnetic maps.

Session 6 – Social Position: Recognition of Kin and Competitor. Wednesday evening, August 10th

Chair and discussion leader Lori Marino (Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology Program, Emory University, Atlanta, USA), Brenda McCowan (School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis, USA)

Speakers

1. Daphne Soares (Department of Biology, University of Maryland, College Park, USA). Communication and neurobiology of crocodylians.
2. Olivier Pascalis. (Department of Psychology, University of Sheffield, UK) Cognitive development of face recognition.
3. Elizabeth A. Tibbetts (Center for Insect Science, University of Arizona, Tucson, USA). How wasps recognize each other's faces.

Session 7 – Sensory and Motor Control: From Animals to Robots. Thursday Morning, August 11th

Chair and discussion leaders: John Hildebrand (Division of Neurobiology, University of Arizona, Tucson, USA), Hillel J. Chiel (Department of Biology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA)

Speakers

1. Barbara Webb (Institute of Perception, Action and Behavior, School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, Scotland) Robot models of the auditory and visual localization behavior.
2. Bijan Pesaran (Division of Biology, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA) Decoding of movement

planning and the control of neurally-driven prosthetic devices.

3. Charles Higgins (Computer and Electrical Engineering, University of Arizona, Tucson, USA) Real system-inspired neuromorphic circuits and behaviors.

4. Roy Ritzmann (Department of Biology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA) The mechanical roach: Interaction between descending and local control.

Session 8 – Gene Expression and Behavior Thursday evening, August 11th

Chair and discussion leaders: Henrike Scholz (Biozentrum, University of Würzburg, Germany), Charles W. Whitfield (Department of Entomology, Institute for Genomic Biology University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA)

Speakers

1. Adi Mizrahi (Department of Neurobiology, Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel) Genetic manipulation of neurons and shaping circuitry for adult sensory functions.

2. Hideaki Takeuchi (Biology Department, University of Tokyo, Japan) Gene expression and behavior in honey bees.

3. Reinhard Wolf (Institute of Neurobiology and Genetics, University of Würzburg, Germany) Genetic dissection of visual perception and conditioning in the fruitfly.

Friday, August 12th. *Departure after breakfast at Magdalen College* ♦

Meetings and Courses

Polish Neuroscience Society 7th International Congress, Kraków, September 7-10, 2005

The Polish Neuroscience Society will hold the 7th International Congress of the Polish Neuroscience Society at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, from September 7 to 10, 2005. The Polish Neuroscience Society organizes international congresses every second year to provide a forum for active neuroscientists from Poland and other countries working on many aspects on the nervous system, on different animal models, as well as on the human brain. The 7th International Congress shall comprise plenary lectures, symposia and poster sessions. We are especially glad to host the 7th International Congress participants at the Jagiellonian University, the oldest in Poland and one of the oldest universities in the world. We are also fortunate to have the city of Kraków, an historic centre and the cultural heart of Poland, as the venue for the Congress. Kraków offers all the modern amenities of a popular tourist city, as we hope all participants will be able to discover for themselves. The conference will be held in the recently built Third University Campus. The First Campus, located in old Kraków, encloses the University's historic buildings,

including Collegium Maius, the oldest University building, where we will hold the Welcome Reception. We hope that the Congress will provide an opportunity for all participants not only to present and discuss their recent scientific data and exchange information with others but also to visit magical places in Kraków. For online Registration and all information go to:

<http://www.ptbun.org.pl/pns2005.html>

Katarzyna Nalecz, President, Polish Neuroscience Society and Elzbieta Pyza, Chairperson, Organizing Committee.

Positions Available

Wellesley College invites applications for a **two-year postdoctoral research/teaching fellowship**, sponsored by a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Biological Sciences Education Program. The fellow will work with an interdisciplinary, interdepartmental (Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Neuroscience) group of four faculty mentors (Mary M. Allen, Barbara S. Beltz, Joanne Berger-Sweeney and Nancy H. Kolodny) and our undergraduate students on projects applying magnetic resonance imaging and/or spectroscopy to problems in microbiology and/or neuroscience. Depending on the interests and background of the fellow, he/she will focus on aspects of neuronal function in the crustacean brain and/or mouse models of developmental disabilities, or stress responses of cyanobacteria. The work will be performed at Wellesley College on our 400 MHz NMR spectrometer equipped with a magnetic resonance micro-imaging system. Experience in magnetic resonance is preferred but not essential. Depending on the field of the fellow, teaching (25% time) will be either in chemistry, biology or neuroscience. Applications, including CV, statement of research experience and research interests, and three letters of recommendation, should be sent to Nancy H. Kolodny, Chemistry Department, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02481, or nkolodny@wellesley.edu prior to April 1, 2005. Wellesley College is an EO/AA educational institution and employer. The College is committed to increasing the diversity of the college community and the curriculum.

Post-doctoral position in avian neuroecology available for an experienced field ornithologist in a project that aims to describe the exact pattern of neurogenesis and apoptosis across the seasonal cycle in two closely related songbird species: the willow tit (*Parus montanus*) and the great tit (*Parus major*). Willow tits hoard food, whereas great tits do not, but both species sing seasonally. Seasonal patterns in neuronal turnover will be related to the seasonal patterns in behaviour in the field in Oulu (Northern Finland). You should have extensive

experience studying tit behaviour, and be interested in expanding your skills into more mechanistic approaches.

The project is based in the 5* rated Psychology, Brain and Behaviour Group at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK, and is run in collaboration with the group of Prof. Markku Orell at the University of Oulu in Finland, where the field work will take place. The candidate should be willing to spend part of the year in Finland and part in England. For informal enquiries, please contact Dr. Tom Smulders (tom.smulders@ncl.ac.uk). Further details of the research going on in the laboratory can be found at <http://www.staff.ncl.ac.uk/tom.smulders>.

The post is available from 1 July 2005, open to negotiation; closing date: April 13, 2005. More details at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/vacancies/vacancy.phtml?ref=D325R>

Post-doctoral position, Bowling Green State University, Department of Biological Sciences (www.bgsu.edu/departments/biology) and the JP Scott Center for Neuroscience, Mind and Behavior (<http://caspar.bgsu.edu/%7eneuro/neuroFaculty.shtml>)

Postdoc opportunity to investigate how octavolateralis sensory systems extract information from hydrodynamic and acoustic signals. Neuroanatomical, physiological, behavioral and computational modeling approaches are applied to questions of how fish acquire, process and use lateral line and auditory information during natural behaviors. Research projects include investigations into the mechanosensory processing of unsteady flows and vortex formations, population code dynamics for decision-making processes, and multimodal sensory guidance of behavior. Ideal applicants will have a background in one or more of the following areas: sensory biology, systems-level neurobiology, fish biology, fluid mechanics. Experience with neuroanatomical, neurophysiological, or behavioral approaches to the study of the nervous system a plus. Start date ^ spring through fall of 2005.

Email CV, summary of research experience, and the names and contact information for three references to Dr. Sheryl Coombs (scoombs@bgsu.edu). ♦



Material for Future ISN Newsletters

The Editor would welcome, indeed wholly depends upon, material for future newsletters to fill the various sections of each issue. Reference to past issues will reveal the scope and style of contributions, the breadth of their variation and the depth of their originality. Material is solicited for meetings, courses, and job opportunities which might include some aspect of neuroethology and therefore be of interest to readers of the Newsletter. Advertisements for positions (faculty or trainees) are limited to 150 words. Announcements of new books (copyright 2005) *written or edited by ISN members* should include the full citation information (including ISBN) *plus* a 40-50 word description of the book. (Note that books containing chapters contributed by an ISN member are not appropriate for inclusion.) We also welcome announcements of courses and future meetings, reports on recent meetings, discussions of research areas or topics of interest to neuroethologists, laboratory profiles, and editorials. We also regretfully publish occasional obituaries and memorials.

Material should be submitted no earlier than one month before the next issue (in this case, July, 2005). We also welcome announcements of future meetings, discussion material about research areas or topics of interest to neuroethologists, and similar types of material. Word limits depend on the type of article. Have an idea for an article that you or someone else would write? Contact the Secretary prior to submission to determine the length and suitability of material to be submitted. All material must be submitted electronically, preferably as an attached file to an e-mail prepared in MS Word and sent to Ian Meinertzhagen at iam@dal.ca

Add our Link to Your Website!

Adding a link to ISN (<http://neuroethology.org>) on your website helps raise our profile in the scientific community. ♦

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