



Serotonin Club Newsletter

Serotonin club
Sixth
IUPHAR satellite meeting
on serotonin

Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. June 27-30, 2006

Sapporo Meeting exceptional success!!

Once again the Serotonin Club produced an outstanding international meeting in a beautiful venue. Sapporo weather was delightful and the Hokkaido University is a beautiful inviting campus that many of us strolled around, as well as other nearby gardens. All the meeting hotels were close, making accessibility for the participants to the conference center extremely easy. The scientific program was packed with excellent presentations and high quality science. For all of this we thank the chief local organizers, i.e., Mitsuhiro Yoshioka and Tsukasa Koyama, their organizing committee, including Taku Yamaguchi and Machiko Matsumoto, and all those individuals and students who helped out to make the meeting run so smoothly. The scientific program was organized by the

officers and the councilors of the Serotonin Club. The meeting started on Tuesday night with a Welcome Party, greetings from President Mark Geyer and Mitsuhiro Yoshioka, the chair of the local organizing committee. The reception was



abundant with fresh fish and fruit, sake, beer and wine.

Wednesday, the scientific portion of the meeting began with opening remarks by President Mark Geyer and the awarding of honorary memberships to Richard Green and Maurice Rapport.



Richard Green, to his great surprise receiving honorary membership certificate from Mark Geyer, President



Maurice Rapport receiving certificate from Mark Geyer, President

Richard Green was one of the founding fathers of the Serotonin Club, served on the Serotonin club council since its inception, as President and as secretary/treasurer for at least 8 years. Maurice Rapport was the person who identified serotonin structure as

5-hydroxytryptamine thereby making it available by chemical synthesis and continues to be active in serotonin research.

John Harvey, Chairman and Professor of Pharmacology at Drexel University gave the Page Lecture. Dr. Harvey described his vast research experience on the selective influence of serotonin on certain behaviors identified using lesioning and precursor replacement techniques. Recently his work has led to the in vivo identification of constitutive activity of the 5-HT_{2A} receptor in Pavlovian conditioning, one of the few laboratories in the world to have done so. It was enlightening and refreshing to hear about the role of serotonin and behavior in this day and age of molecular biology and genetic engineering!



John Harvey delivering the Page Lecture

The first inaugural Rapport Lecture was given the next day by Richard Green from AstraZeneca. The Rapport lecture, deemed to be a lecture of historical nature in regards to serotonin, as given was a mixture of scientific and Serotonin Club history. Richard led us through the assorted means of measuring serotonin in the brain, using fluorimetry, the measurement of the behavioral serotonin syndrome and microdialysis to examine the

function of new serotonin receptors as they were identified and to examine the effects of drugs that act on serotonin receptors, i.e., antidepressants and recreational drugs such as MDMA. Mixed in throughout the lecture was a picture gallery of photos taken during the many Serotonin Club meetings in past years, adding to the enjoyment of the lecture.



Rapport Lecturer Richard Green

The meeting itself consisted of 15 symposia dealing with serotonin as it relates to cardiovascular function, obesity, many psychiatric disorders, immune function, and the physiology of the serotonin neurons. There were two poster sessions with over 80 posters. The banquet was not held in on or near a boat, but instead was in the Sapporo Beer Garden, where registrants cooked their own fresh fish, vegetables and meat while drinking an unending supply of Sapporo beer. It was truly a culinary experience that was very filling and enormously enjoyable!! The meeting ended on Friday afternoon with a closing reception, again with the wonderful fresh fish, fruit, sake and beer true to Sapporo's reputation of excellence.



The abstracts of the meeting have been published in the Journal of Pharmacological Sciences, volume 101, supplement I, 2006.



Travel awards

The Serotonin Club awarded travel awards to fifteen students from around the world to attend the Sapporo meeting. The names of the individuals and their advisors included: Wendy Adams (Maarten van den Buuse, Australia), Julian Albarran-Juarez (Carlos Villalon, Mexico), Miles Berger (Larry Tecott, USA), Massimiliano Bianchi (Charles Marsden, UK), Amy Butler (Nicholas Barnes, UK), Alice Dutton (Nicholas Barnes, UK), Gerard Honig (Larry Tecott, USA), Michelle Jacobs (Ran

Emeson, USA), Madeleine King (Kevin Fone, UK), Ellen Mitchell (John Neumaier, USA), Elsa Monroy-Ordonez (David Centurion, Mexico), Mike Morabito (Ron Emeson, USA), Leslie Morse (Philip Stashenko, USA), Josephine Raley (Trevor Sharp, UK), Araceli Sanchez-Lopez (Carlos Villalon, Mexico). All had poster presentations that were very well attended. Congratulations to all!!

Next Serotonin Club Meeting in Oxford England, July 17-19 2008!!

The venue for the next Serotonin Club meeting has already been set and will be held at Keble College in Oxford England. Trevor Sharp is chairman of the organizing committee that is composed of Charles Marsden, Kevin Fone, and Richard Green as well. Accommodations are within walking distance of the two lecture halls and near the center of Oxford. The meeting will be held July 17-19, 2008.

Dinner SFN at Tu Tu Tango in Atlanta Georgia

As per custom, the Serotonin Club will have a dinner at the Society for Neuroscience meeting, this year in Atlanta Georgia. The format is for celebrating satiety and the fellowship of others whose favourite neurotransmitter is serotonin. This is a purely social event and a great networking opportunity, with no speeches. The dinner will be on **Monday night, October 16th at Tu Tu Tango** (<http://www.cafetututango.com/>). For reservations please send a check to Sheryl Beck at the address listed below by September 30th. You may guarantee a spot by notifying me or Donna O'Brien by email that you will be coming, but **YOU WILL BE CHARGED \$60**, even if you do not come.

If you reserve a spot for the dinner we anticipate that you will be there to enjoy the food and dancing and camaraderie.

Other meetings of interest:

American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, December 3-7, Hollywood, Florida <http://www.acnp.org>

Society for Neuroscience, October 14-18, Atlanta, Georgia, <http://www.sfn.org>.

British Pharmacological Society Winter Meeting in Oxford, UK, 18-21 December, 2006, <http://www.bps.ac.uk/meetings/>

Experimental Biology, Washington DC, April 28-May 2, 2007. <http://www.eb2007.org>.

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