



# Serotonin Club Newsletter



Keble College, Oxford



Dr. Marsden Welcoming Toast

## Serotonin Club Satellite Meeting

EPHAR 2008

### Keble College, England

The Serotonin Club produced an outstanding international meeting in a historically beautiful academic setting at Keble College in Oxford. The majority of the attendees stayed at the college and were enveloped by the collegiate atmosphere. The weather was a bit on the chilly side, but it did not prevent walking around Oxford to investigate its many colleges. The scientific program was full of excellent presentations and high quality science. For all of this we thank the chief local organizers, i.e., Trevor Sharp, Richard Green, Charles Marsden, Kevin Fone and Nicholas Barnes. The scientific program was organized by the officers and the councilors of the Serotonin Club. The meeting started on Thursday night

with a welcome reception and greetings from President Charles Marsden.

Friday morning the students who received the travel fellowships were announced and presented with their certificates.



Travel Awardees

Joël Bockaert, from the University of Montpellier, gave the Page Lecture on the 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor, its history and pharmacology. Dr. Bockaert delivered an excellent overview regarding the current knowledge of this

historically ignored receptor that has generated new found interest. Dr. Bockaert was one of the fathers of the 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor and introduced it to the Serotonin Nomenclature Committee.



**Page Lecturer:** Joël Bockaert

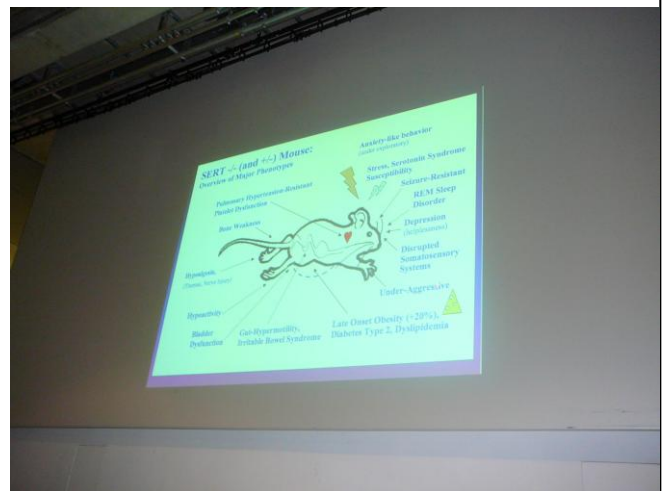
The 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor is a G-protein linked receptor with diverse functions throughout the body, including the brain controlling learning and memory, respiration, feeding behavior and depression. In the periphery it controls the heart, lungs, GI tract and bladder. Structure-activity experiments comparing the 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor with rhodopsin has lead to information on how the receptor is activated. Investigation of new agonists and partial agonists for the 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor is leading to a plethora of potential new drugs with therapeutic potential for treating memory disorders, irritable bowel syndrome, depression and cardiac arrhythmias.

The Rapport lecture was presented by Dr. Dennis Murphy from the National Institutes of Mental Health. The lecture gave a historical perspective on genetic influences in serotonin research, discussing the consequences of alteration in serotonergic related genes in mice and other animals, including humans, and the phenotypes related to functional serotonergic gene variants. The primary example and emphasis of the lecture was on the genetic manipulation of the serotonin re-uptake inhibitor (SERT). Alterations in the SERT

gene leads to phenotypic alterations in both the central and peripheral nervous system, e.g., increases anxiety and stress susceptibility, gut dysfunctions, irritable bowel syndrome, bone weakness, and late-onset obesity.



Dennis Murphy delivering Rapport lecture



SERT knockout mice -

The meeting itself consisted of 16 symposia dealing with serotonin as it relates to imaging models of 5-HT function, 5-HT<sub>3</sub>, 5-HT<sub>4</sub> and 5-HT<sub>2C</sub> receptors, regulation of serotonin related genes, schizophrenia, cardiovascular function, and GI function. There were two poster sessions with over 60 posters. Meals were held in a massive gothic-like dining hall that had stained glass windows and pictures of gowned academicians on the surrounding walls. The

banquet on Saturday night was highlighted by the awarding of honorary membership to Manfred Gothert, the organizer of the Serotonin Club meeting in Porto, Portugal.



## SFN Serotonin Club dinner Washington DC Spirit of Washington boat

Monday Night November 17<sup>th</sup>  
Dinner and music

We have rented the top floor of the Spirit of Washington for the annual Serotonin Dinner at SFN. This may be one of the final years that the Serotonin Club dinner will be held on a boat for a while. There will be food, beer, wine and music this year. Our dinner event is planned to promote satiety and sanity. Members and non-members interested in learning more about this exciting field are welcome to attend. This is purely a social event with no speeches. Please bring your

students, mentors and colleagues!!! Dinner is \$60 for Serotonin Club members, \$90 for non members and \$35 for students. So relax, eat, drink, and enjoy meeting new and old colleagues!! Pay by Paypal (go to [www.serotoninclub.org](http://www.serotoninclub.org) for instructions) or send a check made out to the Serotonin Club to the address at the end of this newsletter. Please pay in advance by October 31st!!!! **See attached flyer.**

## Results of the Elections for Councillors

The results are in and have been tabulated. Thank you all for voting, we did have a excellent turnout. The North American councillors for 2009 to 2012 are Lynette Daws, Kelly Berg, Kathryn Cunningham and Dave Nichols. The new European councillors Kevin Fone and Umberto Spampinato will be joining the current councillors, Mark Millan and Trevor Sharp. The new Rest of the World councillors David Centurion and Mitsuhiro Yoshioko will join Maarten van den Buuse and Arthur Christopoulos.

In January, Charles Marsden will be stepping down as President to take the role of Immediate Past President with Teresa Branchek assuming the role of President (2009-2010). North American Vice President will be Julie Hensler (2009-2012) and European Vice President Frances Artigas (2007-2010). Sheryl Beck will continue as Secretary/treasurer for two more years.

## Two special Journal editions published.

Selected papers from the recent Oxford meeting were chosen for a special edition of **Neuropharmacology** entitled Serotonin Club at 21 that will be published very soon. In addition **Trends in Pharmacology** also published an issue dedicated to Serotonin Research, Volume 29 (9) that includes a

short article on the history of the Serotonin club. Please download these important two issues that will stimulate your interest in Serotonin and perhaps inspire new research.

## **Festschrift to Mark the Official Retirement of Professor Charles Marsden from the University of Nottingham**

Submitted by Kevin Fone



Many readers will be aware, from the Oxford meeting of the Serotonin Club this summer, that Charles Marsden officially retired from the University of Nottingham at the end of August. To mark the occasion, and celebrate his enormous contribution to neuropharmacology, a day-long Festschrift was held in the Medical School of the University of Nottingham on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. I am delighted to say that the whole event was an enormous success, with well over on hundred people in attendance. Nine speakers from as far away as Melbourne, Australia, New York and California contributed to the event. From left to right, Kevin Fone, Tom Blackburn, Jim Hagan, Andrew Lawrence, Emma Kidd, Nigel Maidment, Allison Fulford and Geoff Bennett are shown with Charles in the centre of the photograph, and Trevor Sharp, who was obviously feeling camera shy, also

contributed but managed to escape the picture.

I opened the session with an overview of Charles's career history. The content of each subsequent talk reviewed the speaker's experience gained in their time at Nottingham, during which they had been supervised by Charles or, in the case of Jim, collaborated on research projects. As well as science, each talk included many light-hearted anecdotes relating to their interaction with Charles. As anyone who knows Charles and his vibrant personality and passion for travel will be aware, this was not a difficult task. Indeed, soon the sessions turned into short confessions from neuropharmacologists, including several 'bedtime stories' which cannot be reported here. Charles denied them all of course!

As part of the event the Pro Vice Chancellor with responsibility for the Medical Faculty (Professor Alan Dodson) unveiled a plaque in the recently refurbished research laboratories on E floor in the School of Biomedical Sciences, now named the Charles Marsden Neuroscience Laboratories in honour of the 30 year contribution that Charles made to research in Nottingham. In the evening fifty guests accompanied Charles to Mr. Man's Chinese restaurant in nearby Wollaton Park, and even the monsoon which occurred that evening could not dampen the spirits of all who attended.

Charles will not be leaving us entirely but merely starting a new chapter in his career as an emeritus professor (same email address). However, and I know I am biased, I think this was a wonderful, fitting tribute to a gifted scientist, exceptional mentor and great friend. It was a pleasure to organise and I must pass on many thanks to the British Association for Psychopharmacology, GlaxoSmithKline and Solvay Pharmaceuticals for their generous donations which made the whole event possible.

## Other Meetings of Interest:

Society for Neuroscience 2008  
Nov 15-19, Washington, DC  
[www.sfn.org](http://www.sfn.org)

ACNP 2008  
Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, Scottsdale, Arizona  
[www.acnp.org](http://www.acnp.org)

British Pharmacological Society  
Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>  
Hilton Brighton Metropole, Brighton, UK  
[www.bps.ac.uk](http://www.bps.ac.uk)

42<sup>nd</sup> Winter Conference on Brain Research  
Jan 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Copper Mountain, CO  
<http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/conferences/conference.asp?ID=318>

College on Problems of Drug Dependence  
June 20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>  
Reno/Sparks, Nevada  
<http://www.cpdd.vcu.edu>

CINP World Congress  
June 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Hong Kong, China  
<http://cinp.org/events/event/hong-kong-2010/>

## Change in Dues:

Students who can document that they are still in their pre-doctoral training or in their first three years of postdoctoral training may pay only \$30/3 years in dues. Please have your current mentor send a letter documenting your current student status.

Regular members pay \$60/3 years.

**You can pay for your dues and for the SFN dinner using a credit card at**



Go to [serotoninclub.org](http://serotoninclub.org) website and click on the link for Pay dues for instructions. If you are receiving this newsletter then you are already a member. We will contact you when it is time to renew. **PLEASE URGE YOUR COLLEAGUES AND STUDENTS TO JOIN!!!!** Those members whose membership is due for renewal in 2008 will be contacted at the beginning of the year. You may also send a check for \$30 or \$60 USD payable to the Serotonin Club directly to Sheryl Beck (address at end of newsletter).

## Address change?

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

[rivers@email.chop.edu](mailto:rivers@email.chop.edu)

**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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# Serotonin Club Dinner 2008

At the annual Society for Neuroscience meeting  
November 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC USA

The Serotonin Club is an international organization dedicated to sharing information on research concerning this formidable neurotransmission system. The serotonin system is involved in many essential physiological functions, including, sleep, feeding behavior, and psychiatric disorders. Our dinner event is planned to promote sleep, satiety and sanity. Members as well as non-members interested in learning more about this exciting field are welcome to attend. This is a purely social event with no speeches. So relax, eat, drink, and enjoy meeting new and old colleagues!!

This year the dinner will be held on The Spirit of Washington  
600 Water Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024  
(boarding at Pier 4 at 6<sup>th</sup> & Water streets SW)  
Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 10:00 pm.

To pre-register, Please pay using PayPal (preferred method – [www.serotoninclub.org](http://www.serotoninclub.org) and click on “pay dues”, type “SFN Dinner” in the description and make payment by credit card) or send a check by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 to:

Attention: Sheryl G Beck PhD  
4N ARC, Rm. 402A, Children’ Hospital of Philadelphia  
3615 Civic Ctr. Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19104  
\$60.00 U.S. for members, \$90.00 U.S. for non-members and \$35.00 U.S. for students & post-docs - payable to: The Serotonin Club

215 - 590 - 0651 (t)

215 – 590 – 4107 (f)

There will be no tickets available at the door, you must register.  
Spirit’s bountiful evening buffet features two carving stations and a full range of entrees to suit every taste. Our dinner will be held on the top floor of the boat.

**SPIRIT**  
SCRUISES  
Washington, D.C.  
& National Harbor, MD

