



# Serotonin Club Newsletter



*Faculty of Medicine*

**Montpellier France,  
Faculty of Medicine,  
July 10-12, 2012**  
**Registration and  
Abstract submission are  
open**  
**January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**  
**Deadline May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

[www.serotoninclub.org](http://www.serotoninclub.org)

1. Click on Visit the meeting webpage.
2. Click on Registration and Deadlines that will take you to the Registration webpage.
3. Click on Pre-registration and Registration that will take you to the pre-registration website, i.e., Incription aux Colloques/Coferences Registration.
4. Click on the appropriate flag (French or English).
5. Go to the bottom of the page where you will see the Serotonin Club logo. Click on the logo.

Abstract submission for speakers and for posters is also available through the Serotonin Club website (Click on Visit the meeting webpage, then on Abstract Submission).

Other information available on the website includes a list of hotels, information regarding the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Montpellier, child care, and the International Music Festival that takes place in July.

To see the entire program with all speakers, please go to [www.serotoninclub.org](http://www.serotoninclub.org)

Arrangements are well underway for the Serotonin Club meeting to be held in Montpellier France at the Faculty of Medicine.

Please see the outlined schedule below. This meeting will have primarily separate, non-concurrent sessions; the exception is the last day, when there will be six concurrent sessions. Each symposia will be comprised of four speakers (one of which is a travel awardee), and will last two hours. **Dr. Elaine Sanders Bush will be giving the Page Lecture and Dr. Ewan Mylecharane the Rapport Lecture.** Lunch will be provided every day of the meeting and the banquet will be held the night of July 11<sup>th</sup>. The local organizing committee, composed of Joel Bockaert, Michel Hamon and Philippe Marin, are doing a wonderful job. Please let us know of any industry contacts you may have in any part of the world that would be interested in exhibiting or helping finance the meeting.

## Meeting Schedule:

### JULY 10

9:00-9:15 am Opening

9:15-10:15 am PAGE LECTURE – Dr. Elaine Sanders-Bush

10:15-10:45 am Coffee break

10:45 am-12:45 pm Symposia 1: **“Regulation of 5-HT neurochemistry and behavior by unsuspected “villains”: Implications for psychiatric disorders and drug abuse.”**

Chair: Lynette C. Daws

12:45-2:00 pm LUNCH

2:00-4:00 pm Symposia 2: **“Putting the pieces together: Integrating Dopamine, serotonin, reward, and aversion.”**

Chair: John Neumaier

4:00-4:30 pm Coffee break

4:30- 6:30 pm **POSTER SESSION**

6:30 -8:30 pm Continuing poster session with wine and cheese

### JULY 11

8:00-9:00 am RAPPOR LECTURE – Dr. Ewan Mylecharane

9:00- 9:30 am Coffee break

9:30-11:30 am Symposia 3: **“Serotonergic neurons and adaptive responses to emergency situations: a focus on autonomic and nociceptive systems.”**

Chair: Véronica Fabre

11:30 am-1:00 pm LUNCH

1:00 -3:00 pm Symposia 4: **“Multiple facets of serotonin: placenta, blood, bone connection.”**

Chair: Francine Côté

3:00-5:00 pm Symposia 5: **“New serotonin transporter redux 2012.”**

Chair: Kathryn A. Cunningham

5:00-5:30 pm Coffee break

5:30-7:30 pm Symposia 6: **“Serotonin in the cardiovascular system: New findings on an old transmitter.”**

Chair: Luc Maroteaux

Co- Chair: Stephanie Watts

7:45 Departure for Banquet

### JULY 12

9:00-11:00 am Symposia 7: **“New roles of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor in neurodevelopmental and cognitive processes.”**

Chair: Joel Bockaert

Co- Chair: Mark Millan

9:00-11:00 am Symposia 8: **“The 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptor system: therapeutic potential and advantages from novel ligands.”**

Chair: Nicholas Barnes

Co- Chair: Beate Niesler

11:00-11:30 am Coffee break

11:30 am-1:30 pm Symposia 9: **“Recent advances in understanding the interaction between the glutamatergic and serotonergic systems.”**

Chair: Mark A. Geyer

Co- Chair: Adam Halberstadt

11:30 am-1:30 pm Symposia 10: **“Molecular genetics of serotonin neuron development, physiology, and pharmacology.”**

Chair: Evan Deneris

1:30-2:30 pm LUNCH

2:30-4:30 pm Symposia 11: **“From ligand functional selectivity to brain region selectivity: Differential pharmacological targeting of serotonin system.”**

Chair: Kelly A. Berg

Co- Chair: Adrian Newman-Tancredi

2:30-4:30 pm Symposia 12: **“Ovarian sex steroids and serotonin function.”**

Chair: Alan Frazer

Departure



Room where posters will be held

## Young Investigator Travel Awards

Deadline is extended to  
February 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

Successful applicants will be informed  
shortly thereafter

The Serotonin Club will make a limited number of travel awards available to *pre- and post-doctoral students and junior researchers, not more than three years past their post-doctoral training, who are authoring communications to the Montpellier meeting.*

The size of the award is not yet finalized but will, as always, cover the cost of registration and will, subject to funds available, also try to assist with travel and accommodation costs.

Dr. Lynette Daws submitted a grant application to NIDA to support at least 10 travel fellows. Awardees will be provided a mentor to meet with them during the meeting.

The awards will be decided by the organizing committee and symposia chairs. Decision will be final. **The applications should be related to one of the accepted symposia, as the travel awardee will be the fourth speaker in the symposia (as well as a poster presenter).**

Please submit all applications to Shatich Livingstone ...Yes, I'm back!!!  
([livingstonesa@email.chop.edu](mailto:livingstonesa@email.chop.edu)).

Applications are composed of a 1) a copy of the abstract submitted, 2) the symposia that the abstract is related to (please see [www.serotoninclub.org](http://www.serotoninclub.org) for program) and 3) a cover letter from the applicant's Head of Department who should confirm the applicant's academic status and the fact that sufficient funding is not available from any other source to support the applicant's travel to the meeting. Incomplete applications will not be considered and will be returned.

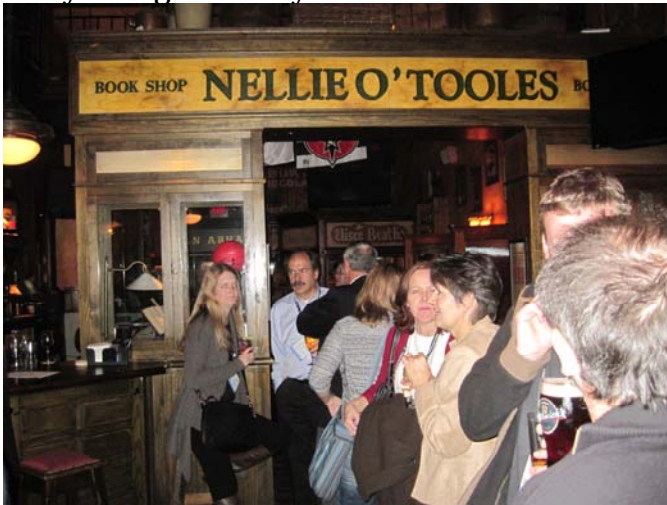
*Applicants must be members of the Serotonin Club. Instructions for joining the Serotonin Club are below and on the website at [www.serotoninclub.org](http://www.serotoninclub.org)*

## SfN Reception a Success!! Serotonin Club Mixer at the Society for Neuroscience Meeting



This year we held a mixer at Fado's Irish Pub during the Society for Neuroscience meeting in Washington DC. It was a wonderful opportunity to share a drink or two with colleagues and friends (old and new) from around the world. The turnout was exceptional and we are thrilled to have had so many young scientists join us. The venue proved to be an excellent choice as the appetizers and cocktails were superb, and staff and management extremely accommodating. Ireland's own, Dr. John Cryan, gave an insightful and very witty talk, providing a humorous comparison of

serotonin and the Irish (see below for reprint of talk). We thank John for providing the entertainment, and Dr. Lynn Daws and Dr. Sheryl Beck for their efforts in organizing this event. Also, a special thanks to those at the event helping with the details ~ Dr. Kelly Berg, for collecting all that money, Rebecca Horton and Dr. Georgianna Gould for assistance with registration at the door, and Dr. Nicole Baganz for the photography (see Serotonin Club Facebook page). Looking forward to seeing everyone again next year!



### **Serotonin and the Irish: A Personal Perspective by John F. Cryan**

First of all I'd like to thank Lynn Daws, Sheryl Beck and all for inviting me to speak here at the Serotonin Club gathering in Fado Irish Pub. To be honest when Lynn e-mailed me I didn't really appreciate the task ahead and only quickly read the email and just saw –talk, in Irish pub with free beer!!!. How could an Irishman refuse...

My relationship with serotonin goes back to the people I trained and worked: Brian Leonard in Galway, Ireland, Trevor Norman in Melbourne, Irwin Lucki in Philadelphia, Athina Markou in La Jolla and Daniel Hoyer in Basel. However, I have to confess that I've spent the past 15 Years trying to move away from serotonin on to other neurotransmitter systems – norepinephrine, GABA, Glutamate... but as I reflect today I feel like Al Pacino in the Godfather Part III *“Just when I thought I was out..... they pull me back*

*in”* so my lab today continues to work on 5-HT and its interaction with other systems.

Well, we are in a pub called Fado, which means “long ago” in the Irish language, every good Irish story begins with Fado, fado.... Which made me think about what story I can tell you and it is basically that being Irish is very much like serotonin.

Why do I say this:

- Relatively speaking serotonin makes up only a small number of the brains neurons. Ireland is a small nation (5 million people) but the Irish sure make a lot of noise
- Like being Irish, serotonin is in your blood
- The rostral raphe nucleus, the “home” of serotonin is a small area divided in two segments, i.e., dorsal and median raphe, that can have differing effects. Ireland is a tiny island at the edge of Europe which is divided in two, both sides which have been known to fight with each other....
- Raphe serotonin can have a vexed relationship with its neighbors...enough said about Irelands neighbors the better
- We all know that there is a large family of 5-HT receptors... and the Irish are known for their fecundity....In all families, especially Irish families there is always a black sheep:- 5-HT3 anyone!
- If you deplete 5-HT by dietary means it can recover and it causes us to exert long lasting effects. In Ireland we had the potato famine that still leaves a mark on our social history.
- Serotonin's actions are often far away from its home. Being Irish means that emigration is part of our heritage, even if we've never wandered far from the family farm.
- Serotonin has got a lot of bad press recently, i.e., suicide, pharmaceutical conflicts, withdrawals – Irish, we've had the IMF in, banking crises, property crash, clerical sex abuse scandals.
- Serotonin is basically involved in everything; Irish are everywhere.....

- Serotonin is involved in mood; being Irish makes you happy; everyone wants to have more serotonin; everyone wants to be Irish. On the flip side no one does misery better than the Irish "Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood," wrote Frank McCourt, in his memoir, "Angela's Ashes,"

*"This is one race of people for whom psychoanalysis is of no use whatsoever."* - Sigmund Freud said about the Irish

- Serotonin is involved in learning and memory; Irish never forget and the English never remember

- Serotonin is stubborn- very different to other monamines and indeed it was Churchill who said "We have always found the Irish a bit odd. They refuse to be English."

- Gastrointestinal function: Approximately 90% of the human body's total serotonin is located in the enterochromaffin cells in the gut, where it is used to regulate intestinal movements. The majority of people who identify themselves as Irish live outside of Ireland

- Serotonin is involved in motility and defecation and it has often been said that the Irish are full of s@\*t

- Serotonin is long known to modulate food intake - the less said about Irish cooking the better.....

- Regarding Sex- Serotonin can have an inhibitory effect. Oliver J. Flanagan, the longtime Fine Gael politician, once famously said "there was no sex in Ireland before television". The notion of Irish men having sex still seems faintly ridiculous unless you're Colin Farrell.

- That brings us aptly to Alcohol: 5-HT is key to alcohol's action

*"I am a drinker with a writing problem"* said the famous Irish writer Brendan Behan whereas a former soccer superstar George Best is reported to have said *"I spent 90% of my money on women and drink. The rest I wasted."*

- Serotonin has given us superstars – Prozac, LSD, buspirone, the triptans, ondansetron, MDMA, clozapine: The Irish have Yeats, Joyce, Beckett, Bono & U2, Shaw, Wilde, Graeme McDowell and Rory McIlroy

- These serotonin drugs are antidepressants, antipsychotics, antimigraine, antianxiety, antiemetic- basically anti-everything. Indeed, the Irish can also be pretty good at being anti-everything

Finally, if the corollary of my argument is to be taken then one can take something that the Irish are masters at and implicate a role for 5-HT in it.

- Thus I give you the hypothesis that serotonin is involved in being good at golf

This week in Ireland we inaugurated a new President Michael D. Higgins and in his acceptance speech he spoke of how *"I love our shared island, our shared Ireland and its core decency. I love it for its imagination and its celebration of the endless possibilities for our people"*

Here as I look around at the wonderful friends, colleagues and serotoninologists I see people who love our shared neurotransmitter system, 5-HT and all its complexities, love it for its imagination and we celebrate its endless possibilities.

## Facebook page

Remember we now have a Facebook page as well. Make sure you visit the site at [www.facebook.com/pages/Serotonin-Club/170600399644105](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Serotonin-Club/170600399644105) and "like" the Club to join. Information about meetings, publications and pictures from previous meetings and the SfN dinners/receptions are posted. Any questions should be addressed to Adam Halberstadt at [ahalberstadt@ucsd.edu](mailto:ahalberstadt@ucsd.edu).

**Other Meetings of Interest:**

Australian Neuroscience Society  
Annual Meeting  
29<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2012  
Gold Coast, QLD  
[www.ans.org.au/ans-annual-conference/](http://www.ans.org.au/ans-annual-conference/)

CINP World Congress  
June 3rd – 7th, 2012  
Stockholm, Sweden  
[www.cinp2012.com](http://www.cinp2012.com)

Serotonin Club Meeting  
Montpellier France  
July 10-12, 2012  
[www.serotoninclub.org](http://www.serotoninclub.org)

EPHAR 2012  
Granada, Spain  
July 17-22, 2012  
<http://www.ephar2012.org/>

FENS Forum of Neuroscience  
July 14-18, 2012  
Barcelona, Spain  
[www.fens2012.neurosciences.asso.fr](http://www.fens2012.neurosciences.asso.fr)

World Congress of Basic and Clinical  
Pharmacology 2014  
July 13-18, 2014  
Cape Town, South Africa  
[www.iuphar2014.org](http://www.iuphar2014.org)

**Pay your 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 using a credit card at**



Go to [www.serotoninclub.org](http://www.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 2011/2012 will be contacted by Shatich Livingstone. 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 now while you are thinking about it to: [livingstonesa@email.chop.edu](mailto:livingstonesa@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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