Preview on highlights in Paris 2006

David J. Nutt, chair Scientific Programme Committee

Once again we have a vibrant and innovative annual meeting program - this year in Paris! The format is similar to those that have proved so successful in the past with the 4 tracks - clinical treatment - clinical research - interface and preclinical, and the illness related themes of schizophrenia, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, addiction, neuropsychological and paediatric neuropsychopharmacology. Alongside these we have classic symposia in the preclinical arena supported by the two hot topics sessions where 16 of the top young students from the annual NICE workshop present their latest data. Some sessions that cover topics new to the ECNP are those on pathological gambling as a disorder with implications for many psychiatric disorders e.g. OCD and addiction and in which there are rapid advances in the underpinning neuroscience. And one on sleep disorders where the major advances in neurobiological insights gained in recent years will be presented.

This year we are instigating a new development - the Breaking News sessions, one in the interface area and one in the clinical research area. These are designed to allow the very latest data to be presented as the closing deadline for them is just 6 weeks before the meeting itself.

We have received a large number of interesting applications for these slots and expect a very competitive selection process. To add incentive for submissions the speakers will be treated as invited speakers (waived registration fee, 4 nights hotel accommodation and Apex travel expenses).

Two prestigious ECNP Awards for outstanding scientists to be presented at the 19th ECNP Congress in Paris!

Sven Ove Ogren, chair ECNP Award Jury 2006

The ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award was established in 1993 by the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology to recognize individual achievements in basic science and clinical research in neuropsychopharmacology and closely related disciplines. The winner of the ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award 2006 is invited to present the award lecture at the 19th ECNP Congress in Paris. In addition, the award winner will submit a review article for publication in the journal European Neuropsychopharmacology.

The ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award is granted every year alternatively for basic science research and for clinical research.

More information on the awards see page 5.

This year a new award for outstanding scientists has been installed by ECNP: the ECNP Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is an recognition of individuals who have made through a lifelong dedication - innovative and lasting contributions either clinical or preclinical, involving activities ranging from teaching, policy making, drug development, to important clinical inventions. This means that this prize will not focus on a single discovery but recognizes long-lasting and important contribution to the entire field of neuropsychopharmacology, nationally or internationally. The awarders do not have to be actively engaged with research in the field.

The ECNP Lifetime Achievement Award will be granted on a bi-annual basis and it will be presented for the first time at the welcome ceremony of the 19th ECNP Congress in Paris 2006.

Call for Nominations

ECNP/Neuropsychopharmacology Award 2007 in Basic Science

NEW

As from this year’s award the submission of nominations is no longer restricted to ordinary members of ECNP

Winner
ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award in Clinical Research 2006:
Florian Holsboer, Germany

Plenary Lecture
Monday 18 September 2006
11.15-12.00 hours

Winner
ECNP Lifetime Achievement Award 2006:
Raphael Mechoulam, Israel

Obituary

We have learned with great sorrow of the unexpected passing of Professor Dr. med Manfred Ackenheil on August 1st, 2006. Professor Manfred Ackenheil has been throughout his career a world-wide acclaimed pioneer and promoter in the field of Neuropsychopharmacology. Not only has he been an internationally recognised expert in our field but also very much so close and most estimated friend to all of us.

Professor Manfred Ackenheil has been active and productive in the field of Psychopharmacology over the past 40 years with a main interest in the biochemical effect of neuroleptic treatment in schizophrenic patients. He has been involved in several European studies on atypical antipsychotics and was a major contributor with the team of Prof. H. Hippius on the original work on Clozapine. Although Manfred Ackenheil's view broadened over other psychiatric disorders like depression, anxiety and ADHD, his main interest remained in the area of psychotic disorders. From the biochemical interest, the focus moved to the immunological and genetic aspects of the disorder itself as well as the effect of psychopharmacological treatments.

Professor Manfred Ackenheil has been an eloquent and honoured speaker and chair in many congresses and meetings that the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) has organised over time. He has also been serving since 1987 on several committees of ECNP and has been a most successful President of our College from 1995 to 1998. In his capacity of most appreciated leader, he has always taken pride in helping and motivating young scientists to engage in high quality research in our field. Aside from the sudden loss of a very dear acquaintance friend, we will miss a great human being who always showed unlimited generosity and an exceptionally creative scientist who made unique contributions to ECNP and to the field of Neuropsychopharmacology. May his wife and his entire family accept our most sincere condolences.

Professor Julien Mendlewicz
ECNP President
Interview with the winner of the 2005 ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award in Basic Science: Michel Le Moal, France

You have had your training in both psychiatry and neurology. Your focus over the past 30 years has been on translating preclinical findings to the clinic. It seems that you have not worked in clinical practice during that period.

After my training, also in philosophy next to psychiatry and neurology, I have been active as a neuropsychiatrist for 15 years, with clinical psychiatry as my main focus. In the 60/70s Minimal Brain Dysfunction (MBD, now called attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder ADHD) has been proposed as a disease entity but not recognized so in France and elsewhere in Europe. In the U.S.A. there was a neuroscience research performed on the possible involvement of damage in dopamine (DA) cells in the brain as a basis of MBD. I got the opportunity to spend a postdoctoral period in Pasadena (Caltech), in the laboratory of Jimmy Olds, the discoverer of brain reward systems and self-stimulation. During this period I had the possibility to visit frequently the UCLA Medical Centre, only forty minutes from Pasadena, to understand how these colleagues were conducting both research on MBD and clinical practice. It was a very exciting period and Los Angeles was a great place, a sort of paradise, for neuroscience as a new discipline.

Back in France, I tried to mix clinical practice and research, but my endeavor was beyond its time, even after a few years it was still not possible. At that time psychosis was deliriously dominant. I turned definitively to basic neuroscience; there was no other choice for my generation, at least in France.

I started a laboratory in Bordeaux with the idea to promote a sort of new discipline, experimental psychopharmacology. I also returned to California to continue my training in basic neuroscience in a series of summers (14 in fact) working with George Koob for a lifetime collaboration, in Floyd Bloom’s lab, first in the Salk, then in the Scripps Institution.

In Bordeaux I created a CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), then an INSERM laboratory and also a large Institute for Neuroscience, the Institut François Magendie. François Magendie, a MD from Bordeaux, has been professor at le Collège de France, the mentor of Claude Bernard. I have had the good fortune along my scientific career to have been surrounded by fantastic and first class collaborators from various horizons and countries and to have been granted enough funds to do what I wanted to do.

Why did you direct your research to addiction, has this been serendipity or a clear choice? How do you look at addiction as compared to 30 years ago?

Addiction is a human disease, a relapsing disease. Drug addictions represent a part of the various addictions now studied. This disease concentrates all the problems of modern medicine and of neuropsychiatry in particular. Drugs are products of the social environment. Most of the human beings take drugs, the most addictive drugs are by far nicotine and alcohol, the legal ones, but a very limited number of subjects become addicted.

“Where” the pathophysiological processes take place is examined at different levels, from molecular to systems.

All these questions and their responses are still a matter of debate and theories. The dopamine systems are, needless to say, involved especially for drugs to produce their positive and rewarding effects through the limbic regions. If dopamine is already in an allostatic state, these effects will increase vulnerability. Of course, research on addiction benefits from animal models and there is in this domain a real experimental psychopharmacology. Finally, I think that addiction enlarges neuropsychopharmacology towards other disciplines. Drugs have particular effects, actions and their own special properties depending on the brain state of a particular individual. A drug has a different effect on a “normal” or a schizophrenic subject; the vulnerability evoked above reflects a brain state that drugs may help to understand. Drugs of abuse open windows onto complex brain functions, cognition, decision making, willpower... and on their pathologies due to drug use. Moreover drugs of abuse are products of a given society and are used according to particular social determinants: they reveal something about the interface of cultures and individuals.

What do you consider as your most important contribution, or most exiting contribution to neuropsychopharmacology?

I like the data published in the 80’s that evidence the functions modulated by the different dopamine systems, the mesocortical in particular. We have also shown that these systems were interdependent and were under the influence of other amines. Important also is the concept of inter-individual differences in dopamine utilization, meaning different cerebral states leading to different modalities of adaptations or desadaptations. I like also the demonstration that the dopamine neurons are directly modulated by stress hormones, as a basis for vulnerabilities and pathologies. In 2005 we have published, George Koob and me, a book “Neurobiology of Drug Addiction” that summarizes the data and theories in the field (see ‘separate box’).

What do you predict for the future?

The most important problems for medicine and social security systems in developed countries are not those due to pandemic medicine anymore. They are due, besides population aging, to a series of increasing new pathologies, psychopathologies, obesity, diabetes, violence, risk taking, addictions, etc. These are now called the biobehavioural disorders, at the interface of the individual and the society. Self-regulation failure is a major pathology of our time, the incapacity of impulse control and the passage to compulsive. All these are in some extent brain diseases. That is a new field of research, to understand the “why” and “where” (transmitters, receptors) and to develop therapeutic strategies besides new social regulations. It is a part of my interests.

What would you like to have done and/or what would you still like to do?

I would not be able to think of anything I have not done that I would have liked to do. I am happy with how things turned out: there are many good collaborators at the INSERM Institute in Bordeaux and my collaboration with the Scripps Institute and George Koob is productive. Perhaps time is ripe to bring more questions and more meaning in science, to bring more theories to make sense of the mountains of data published every year. But that needs time.

Interview with the winner of the 2005 ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award in Basic Science: Michel Le Moal, France

Addiction is a human disease, a relapsing disease. Drug addictions represent a part of the various addictions now studied. This disease concentrates all the problems of modern medicine and of neuropsychiatry in particular. Drugs are products of the social environment. Most of the human beings take drugs, the most addictive drugs are by far nicotine and alcohol, the legal ones, but a very limited number of subjects become addicted.

“What” the pathophysiological processes take place is examined at different levels, from molecular to systems.
Neuropsychopharmacological research in France

Michel Hamon, Paris, France, Member of the Scientific Programme Committee 19th ECNP Congress

The clinical branch of Neuropsychopharmacology is actually born in France: it was the discovery of the antidepressant properties of chlorpromazine in the early fifties of the last century by H. Laborit, J. Delay and P. Deniker at the St Andre psychiatric hospital in Paris. A discovery which is indeed the landmark for psychiatry really becoming a medical discipline with rational bases, and the equivalent of that for antibiotics for infectious diseases. The Nobel prize was naturally given for the latter discovery but – surprisingly – not for the discovery of the first psychotropic drugs, in spite of millions of patients suffering from psychiatric disorders who have since benefited from effective treatments with these drugs. The Nobel prize was given instead for the development of 무Mutagens mutagens (Dr. M. El-Kady in the other hand). The first group developed clever behavioral tests for validating and still used today - to assess the potential psychotropic properties of drugs in rodents. Also in the sixties, J. Glowinski came back from the laboratory of Julius Axelrod at the NIH in Bethesda, USA and created, at the College de France in Paris, the first truly large-scale laboratory of "Neuropsychopharmacology" in the country. This school is mainly devoted to studies on the brain programming the action of psychotropic drugs. More than 20 research units dedicated to this research field have been set up over the last 30 years by young scientists who were trained in J. Glowinski's laboratory. These research units are widely distributed throughout France, in the Paris area, and also in Marseille, Lyon, Montpellier, Bordeaux, Toulouse, etc. I personally belong to this latter category as I personally belong to this latter category as I prepared my PhD in Glowinski's lab, and then set up an INSERM unit entitled "Neuropsychopharmacology" in 1985 at Poitou-Salpêtrière hospital in Paris. Nowadays, Neuropsychopharmacology is a well recognized discipline in France thanks to major breakthroughs which have been achieved in the recent past both in laboratories of public research agencies (INSERM, CNRS, INRA) and universities, and in pharmaceutical companies. A few examples among many others are:

• the discovery and pharmacological characterization of - dopamine D3 receptors (P. Sokoloff and J.C. Schwartz)
  - histamine H3 receptors (J.M. Arrang and J.C. Schwartz)
  - 5-HT4 receptors (A. Dumas and J. Bockaert)
  - metabolite glutamate receptors
  - J.P. Pin

• the first successful cloning of an opioid (delta) receptor and the generation of knock-out mice deficient in the three classes of opioid receptors (B. Birnbaumer, J.L. Hintner, etc.)

• the isolation of nociceptin, the endogenous ligand of opioid-like receptors (J.C. Schwartz)
  - etc. etc.

The second pillar of Neuropsychopharmacology in France: its preclinical branch, was really built 40 years ago by J.R. Boissier, P Simon and their colleagues on the one hand, and J. Glowinski on the other hand. The first group developed clever behavioral tests for validating and still used today - to assess the potential psychotropic properties of drugs in rodents. Also in the sixties, J. Glowinski came back from the laboratory of Julius Axelrod at the NIH in Bethesda, USA and created, at the College de France in Paris, the first truly large-scale laboratory of "Neuropsychopharmacology" in the country. This school is mainly devoted to studies on the brain programming the action of psychotropic drugs. More than 20 research units dedicated to this research field have been set up over the last 30 years by young scientists who were trained in J. Glowinski's laboratory. These research units are widely distributed throughout France, in the Paris area, and also in Marseille, Lyon, Montpellier, Bordeaux, Toulouse, etc. I personally belong to this latter category as I personally belong to this latter category as I prepared my PhD in Glowinski's lab, and then set up an INSERM unit entitled "Neuropsychopharmacology" in 1985 at Poitou-Salpêtrière hospital in Paris. Nowadays, Neuropsychopharmacology is a well recognized discipline in France thanks to major breakthroughs which have been achieved in the recent past both in laboratories of public research agencies (INSERM, CNRS, INRA) and universities, and in pharmaceutical companies. A few examples among many others are:

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  - etc. etc.

J.C. Schwartz)

ECNP incentives for young European scientists

ECNP has installed the following of incentives for young scientists:

• Awards
  - Reduced or waived registration fee at ECNP Congresses
  - ECNP/Workshop on Neuropsychopharmacology for Young Scientists in Europe

The definition for young European scientists is:

- PhD student
- Post-doc – for congresses within the first four years of employment at a scientific institute or university after having received their PhD
- For the workshop: within the first four years of employment after having received their PhD
- Residents, i.e. MD’s in research training within the first five years after becoming MD.

Young scientists at the 19th ECNP Congress, 16-20 September 2006, Paris, France

This year, six young scientists have been granted an ECNP Fellowship Award. The award will be presented at the opening ceremony of the congress on Saturday 16 September 2006 starting at 18.00 hours. Another 41 young scientists have been granted an ECNP Travel Award. These awards will be presented at 11.05 hours on each day a poster session will be held.

In addition, sixteen young scientists will present their latest results as speaker in the two Hot Topics Sessions. These young scientists have been selected from the poster presenters at the ECNP Workshop on Neuropsychopharmacology for Young Scientists in Europe, March 2006.

Hot Topics Session on Preclinical Neuropsychopharmacology
Sunday 17 September 2006 Havana Amphithéatre 09.00 – 11.05 hours

Hot Topics Session on Interface Neuropsychopharmacology
Sunday 17 September 2006 Bordeaux Amphithéatre 13.15 – 16.05 hours

For details see www.ecnp.nl

Educational Team Slovakia

Report from one of the ECNP Educational Team Award winners:
Genoveva Almassyová, MD, Svaty Jur, Slovak Republic

From 6 – 8 April 2006 an interactive lecture for young psychiatrists took place in Smolenic in the Slovak Republic.

There are not many occasions available in Slovakia for young doctors to build and improve their skills of scientific presentation. One of the best has been the ECNP Educational Team held from 6-8 April 2006 in the beautiful Carpathian castle Smolenic. Under the supervision of international chairmen – Prof. Zochov (Israel), Prof. Davidson (Israel) and Prof. Höschl (Czech Rep.) – 28 young psychiatrists and researchers in the field of psychopharmacology and psycho-endocrinology had a chance to present their work and discuss what can be improved in the content of the research as well as the presentation itself. We also had the honour to listen to the guest-speakers Prof. Jelena and Prof. Peci, who joined the chairmen in showing how a lecture should look like.

As one of the participants, I appreciate mostly the interactive set-up of the educational team - the real authorities in the field talked to us as if we were their colleagues. They encouraged us to ask questions to them and to each other. And what is more: to doubt generally believed presumptions and to extend our view to the problems - simply to understand, that any scientific truth is nothing more than a hypothesis what has not been disproved yet.

After the presentations on the second day, an enjoyable reward for everyone was prepared, i.e. the sight-seeing of the medieval Red Stone Castle followed by excellent food and wine tasting in a stylish wine cellar. The last day we met in a plenary session to compare and discuss what was presented in small groups before. Finally, two participants were rewarded with the grant for the 19th ECNP Congress in Paris, 16-20 September 2006. As a conclusion I can only say on behalf of all participants, that we thank the lecturers once again and that we wish to have more such excellent workshops.
Impressions from Amsterdam at the 18th ECNP Congress

Award winners 2005
18th ECNP Congress, 22-26 October 2005
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

ECNP Fellowship Award

P.2.146 Cusin, Cristina, Italy (U.S.A.)
P.5.039 Jacobs, Edwin, The Netherlands
P.6.043 Judge, Sarah, United Kingdom
P.1.064 Van West, Dirk, Belgium
P.2.147 Maron, Eduard, Estonia
P.4.066 Munafo, Marcus, United Kingdom

ECNP Poster Award

P.2.051 Carvalho, L.A., United Kingdom
P.4.021 Davies, S.J.C., United Kingdom
P.8.066 Edgar, P.E., New Zealand
P.3.055 Gallifaska, B., Poland
P.6.013 Harro, J., Estonia
P.2.092 Jansson, L., Sweden
P.1.024 Kim, D.H., Republic of Korea
P.7.022 Mulder, M., The Netherlands
P.5.059 Tiihonen, J., Finland
P.5.015 Schwarzman, A., Russian Federation

ECNP-ACNP Exchange Award

P.2.051 Carvalho, L.A., United Kingdom
P.4.021 Davies, S.J.C., United Kingdom

ECNP Guided Poster Tour 2005 presenters

Tuesday
P.3.103 Bergi, D., Spain
P.3.028 Kang, M.H., Republic of Korea
P.1.056 Salainini, M.J., U.S.A.
P.1.064 Soria, G., Spain
P.3.059 Tiihonen, J., Finland
P.4.011 Vauchou, S., U.S.A.

Wednesday
P.7.004 Böcker K.B.E., The Netherlands
P.2.051 Carvalho L.A., United Kingdom
P.4.021 Davies S.J.C., United Kingdom
P.2.042 Hellsten, J., Sweden
P.8.018 Hillard R., J. Mulchahey, U.S.A.
P.8.040 Prostran M., Yugoslavia

ECNP Travel Award

P.4.024 Amiaz, R., Israel
P.3.043 Bai, Y.M., Taiwan
P.2.026 Basar, K., Turkey
P.1.031 Benazzi, C., Italy
P.3.103 Berge Basquero, D., Spain
P.2.017 Brenner-Lavie, H., Israel
P.2.051 Carvalho, L.A., United Kingdom
P.2.040 Caso, J.R., Spain
P.8.018 Dmitriek-Walgaze, M., Poland

P.2.011 Fedotsova, J., Russian Federation
P.3.125 Ghia, J.J., U.S.A.
P.2.042 Hellsten, J., Sweden
P.1.015 Janas-Kozik, M., Poland
P.3.028 Kang, M.H., Republic of Korea
P.3.157 Lee, K.Y., Republic of Korea
P.2.104 Leggas, G.M., Italy
P.7.001 Manos, I., Israel
P.3.043 Minman, B., Italy
P.8.050 Mondelli, V., United Kingdom
P.7.022 Mulder, M., The Netherlands
P.2.019 Myyn, A.M., The Netherlands
P.3.045 Olszowy-Miklesberg, L., Poland
P.3.041 Demiul Osuby, S., Turkey
P.4.037 Pieraccini, F., Italy
P.6.004 Pinno, E., Belgium
P.3.111 Pia, N., New Zealand
P.8.009 Ráhmer, A., Hungary
P.3.033 Schootemakere, A., The Netherlands
P.6.011 Sengel, C., Turkey
P.6.033 Soria, G., Spain
P.3.058 Suparnawidjaja, A., Poland
P.4.004 de Barros Viana, M., Brazil
P.1.016 Vauchou, S., Greece
P.3.075 Wyszogrodzka-Kucharska, A., United Kingdom

Winners 2005 of ECNP-Neuropsychopharmacology Award (centre) and ECNP Fellowship Award

Music during the welcome ceremony

Opening by the president of ECNP

Congress party

Travel award winner

Travel award winner

Congress at a glance
The Austrian Association for Neuropsychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry (OEGPB) was founded in June 1998 by S. Kasper (first president), H. Aschauer (secretary), H. Schubert (treasurer), and S. Rudas (member) since there was no such society in Austria. The Society keeps growing ever since and has now 198 members.

The object of the non-profit-oriented association is to promote scientific research and advanced vocational training of physicians and therapists in the field of neuropsychopharmacology and biological psychiatry. To achieve this goal the society holds annual meetings, has a home page (www.oegpb.at) and a journal which is distributed to all doctors of medicine and not only to specialists in psychiatry and neurology in order to reach all doctors prescribing psychotropic medications (Clinicum py: 17000 issues; 6 times per year). Additionally the society organizes consensus documents to be distributed via the own journal as well as the media in relevant areas for clinical practice like depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety disorder, suicidality and dementia.

The present Board of the OEGPB until 2007 consists of:

President: Prof. Hans-Peter Kapfhammer MD, Medical University of Graz, Styria
Vice President: Prof. Harald Schubert MD, Psychiatric Hospital of the Tyrol
Past-President: Prof. Siegfried Kasper MD, Medical University of Vienna
Secretary: Prof. Rainer Danzinger MD, Medical University of Graz, Styria
Treasurer: Prof. Manfred Haushofer MD, Social Medicine Centre, Donaupital, Vienna

Other members:
- Prof. Michael Bach MD, Psychiatric Hospital Steyr, Upper Austria
- Prof. Michael Maasold MD, Anton Poschek Institute Kalksburg, Vienna
- Prof. Bernd Salerno MD, Medical University of Vienna

OEGPB will be having its 8th Annual Meeting from 16-17 November 2006 and will be presenting their new Consensus Statement on Dementia during the congress as well as the winners of the 2006 Prizes for Clinical Psychiatry and for Bipolar Disorders (the last as a guest from Austria), and the travel grants for national and international meetings.

Benefits for its 198 members are:
- Various Travel Grants for national and international Meetings (including ECNP)
- Receipt of publications: ClinCom py (the journal of the OEGPB, 6 times a year), International Psychiatry in Clinical Practice, Consensus Statements, book gifts on psychiatry care of patients and other items
- Use of the homepage (about 5000 visits per months) of the OEGPB (www.oegpb.at) with its additional member only pages
- Reduced Admission Fee for the Annual Congress

British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP): educational events

“...To advance education and research in the science of psychopharmacology”

The ECNP-ACNP Exchange Award winners 2005 have participated at the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Hawaii, 1-15 December 2005.

The winners have presented the (updated) selected poster at the ACNP meeting.

Report by Simon Davies, United Kingdom

October’s ECNP meeting yielded an incredible surprise – selection as an ACNP-ECNP exchange fellow to attend the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Hawaii, 1-15 December 2005.

The winners have presented the (updated) selected poster at the ACNP meeting.

Report by Livia A. Carvalho, United Kingdom

My attendance to the ACNP Annual Meeting 2005 was a scientific success. During the meeting I have been able to build and strengthen my network with people who are relevant to my interests. I discussed my data on antidepressant modulation of glucocorticoid function in healthy volunteers and the audience has offered me lots of advice, both general and specific to my future research.

Specifically, my meeting with Charles Nemeroft and the content of his talk, reporting that only women with early trauma had profound hypercortisolaemia where women with no trauma had not, was particularly rewarding. It is well known that some patients with major depression show hyperactivity of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, which is thought to participate in the development of the depressive symptoms; but it was still unclear why it didn’t happen to everyone. Charles Nemeroft’s talk has inspired me to investigate whether the antidepressant modulation of glucocorticoid function in depressed patients is different in patients with or without early trauma.

The panel on stress, pain and emotion was also of particular relevance to my work. Other talks which addressed related mechanisms of antidepressant action were of interest as there might be a crosstalk of neurotransmitters, second messengers and hormones. Moreover, it was incredible to attend a panel on clock genes, melatonin and affective disorders. The topic melatonin and affective disorders was also the topic of my thesis! I had the fortune to meet investigators and experts in the field of whom I have been reading their work for years: Margarita Dubocovich, William Bunney Jr, Alfred Lewis and Thomas Wibe.

In summary, the meeting was organized with interesting activities from early in the morning to late evening. The sunny blue sky outside didn’t distract the participants and the panels, lectures and poster sessions were always very well attended to. I was assigned a mentor and we met on the first day, Saturday 10th as at the welcome reception for travel awardees. These programmed meetings were a key point to help get to know better the place, the people from the meeting as well as other travel awardees and how the conference works.

I would like to thank ECNP once again for awarding me the ECNP-ACNP Exchange Award 2005.
Calendar of ECNP Events

ECNP Congresses

13 - 17 October 2007
30 August - 5 September 2008
12 - 16 September 2009
28 August - 1 September 2010
3 - 7 September 2011
13 - 17 October 2012

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20th ECNP Congress, Vienna, Austria
21st ECNP Congress, Barcelona, Spain
22nd ECNP Congress, Istanbul, Turkey
23rd ECNP Congress, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
24th ECNP Congress, Paris, France
25th ECNP Congress, Vienna, Austria

Information related organisations

Honorary President International Society for Bipolar Disorders

Mogens Schou, M.D., Dr. Med. Sci.
24 November 1918 - 29 September 2005

3 - 7 September 2011

24 November 1918 - 29 September 2005

Mogens Schou, M.D., Dr. Med. Sci.
Passed away

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Events national societies

Belgian College of Neuropsychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry
Annual forum “Beyond the classical psychopharmacology”
20 October 2006, Brussels, Belgium
Information: Dr. Daniel Souery, e-mail: souery@ulb.ac.be

Czech Neuropsychopharmacological Society
Workshop Addiction and Eating Disorders - Neurobiology and Comorbidities
26-29 April 2007, Brno, Czech Republic
Information: sulkova@med.muni.cz

Hellenic Society for the Advancement of Psychiatry and Related Sciences
The Second Deal Congress on Psychiatry and the Neurosciences
7-10 December 2006, Athens, Greece
Information: secretariat@ma-wfdsp.deucongress.gr, easytravel@hol.gr

Polish Psychiatric Association
42nd Congress of Polish Psychiatrists: Psychiatry among medical sciences
14-17 June 2007, Szczecin, Poland
Information: pps@ic.pam.szczecin.pl

Spanish Society of Biological Psychiatry
-X National Congress of Psychiatry: 16-21 October 2006, Sevilla
-XI National Congress of Psychiatry: 25-29 September 2007, Santiago de Compostela
Information: secretaria@psiquiatriasevilla06.com; congresos@viajeshalley.es;
www.psiquiatriasevilla06.com

Events related organisations

ACNP Annual Meeting
3-7 December 2006, Hollywood, Florida
Information: www.acnp.org

78th International Congress on Bipolar Disorder
7-9 June 2007, Pittsburgh, U.S.A.
Information: www.78bipolar.org

Seventh Göttingen Meeting of the German Neuroscience Society
29 March – 1 April 2007
Information: www.neuro.uni-goettingen.de

ecnp matters

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9 – 12 March 2008

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Information related organisations

March 2007: the British Psychological Society launches the Journal of Neuropsychology a new international peer-reviewed journal. www.bps.uk