Neuropsychopharmacology in The Netherlands

René S. Kahn, local advisor of the 18th ECNP Congress, University Medical Centre Utrecht

Neuropsychopharmacology has a long but eventful past in The Netherlands. The research in this field was initiated and embodied in the two major pharmacological research trends in the Netherlands, starting with the appointment of the German physiologist and pharmacologist Rudolf Magnus (1908) and the German endocrinologist Ernst Lacqueur (1920) in Utrecht and Amsterdam, respectively.

Basic history

An important contribution to psychopharmacology from the Magnus line was the behavioural research by Jacques M. van Rossum, performed in Nijmegen’s laboratory of the famous inventor of the molecular receptor theory, Everhardus J. Azini. The behavioural studies of Van Rossum significantly contributed to the dopamine hypothesis of schizophrenia. Interestingly, the cooperation of Lacqueur with a large macaque cattery in Oss resulted in the founding of the pharmaceutical company Organon.

In the tradition of the Lacqueur line, the endocrinologist David De Wied started a large research programme on neuropeptides and brain function after his appointment (1963) as professor of pharmacology in Utrecht and returned the pharmacological laboratory in Rudolf Magnus Institute. Studies were performed on fragments in animals, humans and patients, resulting in hypotheses concerning ACTH neuropeptides and attention and memory, opioid peptides, angiotensin and oxytocin neuropeptides and memory processes, and endorphin neuropeptides and schizophrenia. The current director of the Rudolf Magnus Institute of Neuroscience, Jan M. van Reez, contributed to these studies which investigated the significance of endorphins for addiction.

Clinical history

In the psychiatric realm pharmacological studies were initiated by Hermann M. van Praag, at Groningen University. His studies focused on the role of serotonon in depression and were of major impact in establishing, through CNS studies, the role of serotoninergic mechanisms in major depression. Whether it was through his studies or not, the pharmaceutical company Solvay was one of the first to develop a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, fluvoxamine, which is still widely used as an antidepressant.

Subsequently studies were initiated in Utrecht on the role of serotonin in anxiety disorders by one of his students, René Kahn, currently holding the Chair of Psychiatry in Utrecht that Van Praag held during that time. While in Utrecht, Van Praag, in collaboration with the Rudolf Magnus Institute, performed clinical trials on 5-HTp endorphins and schizophrenia, engendering quite some excitement. Eventually, however, it proved not to be a viable intervention in the treatment for schizophrenia. This holds also for all neuropeptides tested in patients so far.

Discordance

The darker side of psychopharmacological research in The Netherlands occurred around the same time i.e. the late seventies, early eighties of the twentieth century. The anti-psychiatry movement was rather strong around the same time i.e. the late seventies, early eighties of the twentieth century. The anti-psychiatry movement was rather strong around the time Van Praag held that chair. While in Utrecht, Van Praag, in collaboration with the Rudolf Magnus Institute, performed clinical trials on 5-HTp endorphins and schizophrenia, engendering quite some excitement. Eventually, however, it proved not to be a viable intervention in the treatment for schizophrenia. This holds also for all neuropeptides tested in patients so far.

High standard

Since the mid nineteen nineties psychopharmacological research has slowly regained its prominence in The Netherlands. The pharmacological departments moved to basic neuroscience research, particularly in Amsterdam and Utrecht, and have been linked nowadays to clinical research, concentrating more on translational research.

In Amsterdam (Free University) the emphasis is on Alzheimer’s disease and some neurological disorders. In Utrecht (Rudolf Magnus Institute of Neuroscience) psychiatric disorders, like schizophrenia and autism, are investigated. The studies on both locations make use of modern imaging techniques and more recently of genomics methodology.

Large, combined clinical studies are now being conducted in all university psychiatric centers in which psychopharmacological research is being supplemented by genetic and neuroimaging investigations. Funding has been obtained from the Dutch Government to continue cohort studies in the field of anxiety and depression, schizophrenia, childhood disorders and addiction. These studies, including more than 1,000 patients each, offer the hope of scientific breakthroughs in the field of environmental and genetic influences on the origin of these disorders as well as information (pharmaco-genetics) on why some patients benefit and others do not from psychopharmacological treatment. Particularly, the interrelationship with basic neuroscience will stimulate the finding of new drug targets. Indeed, the current century starts with psychiatric and psychopharmacological research having attained a prominent place in The Netherlands. Multiple research groups are active and contribute to this field of psychopharmacological research in The Netherlands which can currently be held to the highest international standards.

New at the 18th ECNP Congress in Amsterdam: a Breaking News session

David J. Nutt, chair Scientific Programme Committee

The Scientific Programme Committee is proud to present a Breaking News session right before the official start of the 18th ECNP Congress in Amsterdam.

When

The session is scheduled for Saturday October 22, 2005 from 18.00 to 19.15 hours and will take place in the FORUM room, RAI Congress Centre.

What

European scientists were asked to encourage submitting abstracts describing new findings in relation to the current status of neuropsychopharmacology and/or neuroscience research. Five proposals, preferably showing a mix of preclinical and clinical research, will be selected by the SPC to be presented at the Breaking News session. Each lecture will consist of an oral presentation of 10 minutes, followed by a discussion of 5 minutes.

Details

The detailed programme of the Breaking News session will be available on-line (www.ecnp.nl) by October 10, 2005. The Size and Burden of Mental Disorders in Europe

Interview with Hans-Ulrich Wittchen, principal investigator of the ECNP Task Force

Maria Vrijmoed – de Vries, editor

Hans-Ulrich Wittchen, Professor of Clinical Psychology and Epidemiology at the Technical University Dresden, Germany, will be giving a plenary lecture on Tuesday October 25 at the 18th ECNP Congress in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In his lecture he will discuss the outcome of an unprecedented comprehensive EU-wide Task Force study on “The size and the burden of mental disorders in Europe”, commissioned by ECNP.

Why is such a study needed?

In the past decade, it has become increasingly evident that it is impossible to make sound statements about the prevalence and burden of mental disorders, or more generally speaking, disorders of the brain. Despite a rich European tradition in epidemiological research in many countries and regions, the heterogeneity of designs and methods on the one side and the diversity of health care systems on the other made it quite difficult to provide a coherent picture of the frequency of mental disorders and concomitantly the facets of burden associated with them. Unlike the US, Canada and Australia with long traditions of regular standardized mental health surveys, there has never been a coordinated EU-wide study program that informs us about such core questions like “How many adults in the EU suffer each year from major depression, panic disorder, alcohol and other substance abuse disorders or dementia?”, “Are prevalence rates on the increase?”, or “How many of those affected are treated?” The lack of such a coordinated sound data base for the EU has led to the unfortunate situation that prevalence findings get overcritically assessed and a particular research interest and according methodological adjustments are frequently unjustifiably generalized. The resulting variation in findings causes confusion not only...
Educational Team Romania

Mihai-Dumitru Gheorghe, local coordinator Educational Team Romania

From April 7–9, 2005 an interactive course for young psychiatrists took place at Poiana Brasov, a mountain resort in Romania. Two ECNP experts, professors Joseph Zohar and Michael Davidson worked with 42 young psychiatrists from Romania.

Themes

In Romania there is great interest in, and a national program about, first episode schizophrenia and depression. Also, during recent years, depression has shown an increased incidence especially in the young socio–professional active population of Romania. The meeting provided the opportunity to elaborate on the point of view of early clinical diagnosis as well as the psychopharmacological intervention modalities in both schizophrenia and depression.

At the start of the meeting the level of interest of the young generation of psychiatrists for the research aspects in psychiatry, their neurobiological basis and their knowledge level of such a difficult field as psychopharmacology was established. Based on this, the present day medical thinking was addressed with the aim of giving a comprehensive overview on the modern clinical and therapeutic approach, in particular with the desire to develop and increase the level of performance in Romania.

Answers could not always be found

There were a lot of questions and analyses; suggestions were made and experiences of clinical and therapeutic situations in psychiatric practice discussed. As always, not all the answers to the questions could be found.

Professor Davidson presented an overview of schizophrenia across the lifespan and emphasized the importance of early identification of risk cases even from the prodromal period. The aspect of early identification in the interventions and studies in schizophrenia was also discussed by a number of the participants.

Professor Zohar considered early clinical diagnosis and therapeutic intervention to obtain remission and clinical recovery in depression. In addition, the importance of research on the early identification of risk factors for therapeutic resistance development was presented.

Dr. Davidson and Dr. Zohar, as well as myself, promoted the idea of a medical approach model to any kind of psychiatric disorder.

Direct communication

The participants especially appreciated the quality of the discussions and the opportunity for direct communication with the experts. The presentation of the latest data from the research on schizophrenia and depression was also considered very valuable.

Participant’s opinions

Dr. Gabriela Hinderoma, resident at the Psychiatric Department of the Oehriga Hospital, Bucharest, Romania: "I was extremely happy to participate in such an event and I was impressed that professors Zohar and Davidson listened to us carefully and answered all our questions. The way the course was organized, both scientifically and logistically, made me more optimistic about my perspectives in psychiatry".

Dr. Dana Sichitiu, resident at the Psychiatric Department of the Central Military Hospital, Bucharest, Romania: “During the 2 days of discussions, analyses and talks, I obtained important things: confidence in myself and the wish to improve myself in the future. This course proved for me to be an evaluation assessment of my knowledge level and the discussions I had with professors Zohar and Davidson were very useful. I would like to thank professor Gheorghe for giving me the opportunity to participate in such an activity. I hope that ECNP will organize other courses in Romania in the future as well in order to help the development of psychiatric research and psychopharmacology, because young psychiatrists in Romania truly need this”.

Dr. Melitina Nedelcu, psychiatrist at the Department of the Central Military Hospital, Bucharest, Romania: “For me, this course was a unique experience, because of the direct and open style of communication. This course offered me useful skills which will help me in my work as a psychiatrist”.

Follow-up/Yearly summer course

It seemed likely that other young psychiatrists from Romania would like to participate in a course of this kind too, because the interest in psychopharmacology and research of the young Romanian generation was clearly evident at the ECNP Educational Team meeting in Poiana Brasov. The Romanian Association for Psychopharmacology has decided to organize a yearly summer course for young psychiatrists from Romania. The first meeting of this kind took place on July 12-15, 2005. The theme was: Basics in psychopharmacology.

Thank you, ECNP

In conclusion, in my role as local coordinator of the Educational Team Romania, I would like to say, not only on behalf of myself but also on behalf of the participants: “thank you, ECNP, for your support and for the fact that the young psychiatrists from Romania were given this opportunity”.

We hope that ECNP will organize similar activities in Romania in the future. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Iris Allebrandts from the ECNP - Office and my colleague Dr. Alexandru Grigoriu, for the excellent (local) organization.

Abstracts are available on www.ecnp.nl (go to Meetings; Regional meetings)
Interview with Pierre Blier at the ECNP Workshop on Neuropsychopharmacology for young scientists in Europe March 3–6, 2005 Nice, France.

Maria Vrijmoed – de Vries, editor

Pierre Blier, MD, PhD was invited to address the theme “Neuropsychopharmacology: bridging animal and human studies” at the session on Behavioural Pharmacology.

Dr. Pierre Blier is a full professor in the departments of Psychiatry and Cellular and Molecular Medicine at the University of Ottawa and the recipient of the Endowed Chair in Mood Disorders Research at the University of Ottawa, Institute of Mental Health Research (IMHR). He has also been awarded the prestigious Canada Research Chair in Psychopharmacology by the Canadian Federal Government. As a world-renowned scientist, Dr. Blier has received several awards for his groundbreaking research, in particular the Max Hamilton Award in 1998 from the International College of Neuropsychopharmacology for outstanding contributions in psychopharmacology. Dr. Blier has delivered over 250 national and international lectures in his field, and is a well published author with over 200 papers. He is a member of the Society for Biological Psychiatry, of the British Association for Psychopharmacology and of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology, as well as a fellow of the Canadian, American and International Colleges of Neuropsychopharmacology (CINP). He is on the editorial boards of the official journals of these six associations.

How is the research built up at the Institute of Mental Health Research?

In addition to the Mood Disorders Research Unit, there are several focus groups focusing on anxiety disorders, youth psychiatry, forensic psychiatry and schizophrenia. Investigations in the use and efficacy of complementary and multidisciplinary approaches are also ongoing. What still is missing at our institution is a full-fledged imaging programme. We are in the process of recruiting an established “imaging” expert and I hope this will create more collaborations at the University of Ottawa in the area of mental health research.

The research focus in the Mood Disorders Research Unit is on mood disorders in its entire spectrum. Both fundamental research in the laboratory and clinical projects are carried out at the same institution. This enables great opportunities in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborations, and in translating basic research findings to the clinic and back.

I still see patients on a daily basis. There are patients participating in our investigator-initiated research projects and treatment-resistant individuals referred by their physician for further psychopharmacological treatment plans. With the help of our research programme, I hope to increase our ability to successfully treat these problematic groups of patients.

The Workshop Nice 2005 from a participant’s point of view

Maria Gabriella Scardó, Sweden

F313 Clinical impact of CYP2D6 polymorphism in patients with Alzheimer’s Disease in therapy with donepezil

Drug treatment of mental disorders including depression, schizophrenia and dementia is still, despite the introduction of many new compounds, far from optimal in a large proportion of patients. Apart from lack of or insufficient response, various adverse drug reactions often limit the use of otherwise efficient drugs, and increase the risk of non-compliance and long-term outcome.

As MD, and as specialist in toxicology, I have been dealing with psychoactive drugs side-effects and health related problems. After getting the PhD in Clinical Pharmacology, the main focus of my post-doctoral researches is on the contribution of polymorphisms in genes coding for drug metabolizing enzymes, transporters and receptors to the inter-individual variability in pharmacological effects of antipsychotics, antidepressants and drugs used in dementia.

in order to identify patients genetically predisposed either not to respond to therapy or to develop unacceptable toxicity, and then to prospectively alter their therapy to avoid treatment that is not likely to be optimal.

Attending the ECNP workshop on Neuropsychopharmacology has given me the chance to update my knowledge in my field of interest and to improve my future research plans. Besides, during the well organised and very rich poster sessions, I had the chance to meet and discuss with scientists working in the same field, therefore establishing relationships that hopefully help build future collaborations. The excellent combination of lectures given by key speakers in the field, and short communications given by young scientists, represented an extremely appealing chance to acquire useful scientific information. I truly appreciate also the stimulating discussions that followed each lecture.

Abstracts and posters are available at www.ecnp.nl (go to Workshops)

The Workshop held for young scientists in Europe is a terrific idea. Bringing together a few senior investigators and a group of junior scientists and clinicians provides an excellent opportunity for high-level interactions. The junior individuals were clearly bright youngsters who really took advantage of this opportunity to interact. They were not intimidated by the group of more senior persons present and the gains were reciprocal.

I really enjoyed participating in the workshop. I certainly hope that the word will go around by the attendees to encourage their peers to participate in this annual event focused each year on a different topic.

The title of your lecture ‘Neuropsychopharmacology: bridging animal and human studies’ is rather intriguing. Do you really “repeat” animal experiments in humans?

The philosophy behind the “bridging animal and human studies” is to investigate a pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics hypothesis generated in the laboratory in a clinical environment. This is an ideal model of true translational research, especially when at least one person is directly involved in both aspects. From such an approach, new hypotheses may even be derived from clinical observations that may initiate new animal studies. The ultimate goal is to make more patients get better, and faster.

One may distinguish three different types of clinical studies:

• Open studies with marketed compounds in patients who are non-responders, for example with higher doses of marketed medications or different combinations of marketed compounds
• Industry-sponsored, but investigator-initiated studies with new compounds as well as marketed compounds
• Studies on other indications for which the compounds were not originally marketed, based on animal work.

In your lecture, you illustrated your philosophy with very nice, high-tech animations. How did you come to make those?

The basic technology was in use by a company that made 3D flight simulations and airplane recognition programs for military use. Their first medical application was in Radiology for the detection of breast cancer. They contacted me when I was at the University of Florida to expand further their incursion in the medical field. With my bank of illustrations, graphic concepts and the help of sponsors, we were able to create 3D animations on how existing medications work and how new approaches may exert their beneficial action in various psychiatric disorders. It really provides a visually appealing learning tool and makes complex issues easy to understand. These animations will progressively become available on DVD through the pharmaceutical industries that sponsored the individual projects and subsequently in a complete self-standing library.

What do you think about the concept of the Workshop?

I certainly hope that the word will go around by the attendees to encourage their peers to participate in this annual event focused each year on a different topic.

Call for Nominees

The objective of this award is to recognize outstanding research in neuropsychopharmacology and related disciplines.

ECNP Lifetime Achievement Award

The objective of this award is to recognize lifetime outstanding contributions to neuropsychopharmacology.

Winner ECNP Neuro-psychopharmacology Award 2005

Michel Le Moal, France

The definition for young European scientist is: - PhD students

- Post docs

(Congresses within first four years of employment at a scientific institute or university after having received their PhD)

- Residents (MD’s in research training within first five years after becoming MD)
New set-up of the Educational Track

Joseph Zohar, chair Educational Committee

The educational track in the ECNP meeting is aimed at providing up-to-date, balanced, scientifically sound overviews of a specific topic. The goal is to provide clinicians or scientists with updated information in an area that is not necessarily his/her main focus of research in an interactive manner.

In the era of internet, when data is easily accessible, the Education Committee believes that the focus should be on the interpretation of the data rather than simply presenting it.

The essence of the educational track is focused on interactive sessions in which there is a continuous dialogue between the participants, moderators, and presenters.

Keypad system

As ECNP wants to differentiate the educational track from the other sessions at the ECNP Congress, the Education Committee has decided to try to add a "key pad" system to all the educational sessions. This system enables the presenters to ask the participants questions and to get a response in a few seconds.

The idea is that each presenter prepares multiple choice questions that should be presented on the screen throughout the talk, in order to emphasize and highlight the main issues of the talk. The answers from the audience are instantaneously processed and presented on screen providing a direct feedback possibility.

Working days passed unnoticed

...the scientific programme was very meaningful to me. It was impressive to discuss and talk with leading scientists, whose work help in one’s own research. In particular the meetings with professors Jack Gorman, Andrew Goddard, and David Nutt was mind-blowing.

I hope that by introducing the keypad system, ECNP has found a different and more effective way to keep the uniqueness and the interactive component of the educational track.

The essence of the educational track was effectively maintained, and it provided a stimulating atmosphere where the participants could ask questions and receive feedback during the talks.


to both anxiety disorders and alcoholism. She also presented data on the sleep promoting effect of the first sub-type selective (alpha-5 selective) tracer for this receptor, revealing an interesting distribution that was very limbic centred.

The final speaker, Giovanni Biggio, showed very new data on how adaptive responses to chronic administration of alcohol involved both alterations in the function and composition of GABA-A sub-units and changes in the production of endogenous modulators called the neurosteroids.

The session was extremely well received. Certainly, in terms of quality and presentations it matched anything else at the meeting and each presentation had a considerable degree of questions and answers from quite a large number of top Americans in the field.

Overall, I think it was a great success and I know all the speakers were extremely grateful to have been invited to represent ECNP.

Reports of the ECNP-ACNP Exchange Winners 2004

The ECNP – ACNP Exchange Award has been established to promote exchange of the best posters by young scientists at the ECNP and ACNP Congresses. For the winners selection the ECNP Congress, the Education Committee decided to try to add a "key pad" system to all the educational sessions. This system enables the presenters to ask the participants questions and to get a response in a few seconds.
for basic and clinical researchers but also for policy makers and the public.

A good more recent example was a call from the German press agency in response to a recent report from a US-German cross-national study, asking, "Why is it that Germans have such a good health than the US population?" The answer is, by the way, that in after adjusting for methodological differences there are almost no differences!

Why is the study conducted now?

Several reasons prompted the ECNP action to form a Task Force on this issue. First, it was simply time to respond appropriately to the increasing confusion that has developed even among researchers in the ECNP concerning the prevalence and the burden of mental disorders in the EU. Researchers in basic and clinical research need better answers from epidemiologists about the prevalence and incidence of specific mental disorders for their research. They want to know which prevalence studies between studies are simply mythological artefacts, why there is disagreement and what needs to be done if there are serious unresolved issues. Secondly, the installation of the task force was regarded as timely because solid data were urgently needed for policy reasons. For example, national governments, in EU administration call for suggestions of future research programs and priorities, and the ask for concrete methods to obtain better funding for research, train doctors and researchers alike communicated the core messages and data on why on for example the upcoming next framework program should allocate much more funds in basic and applied research on mental disorders. Thirdly, it is important to state that clinical psychology, neuropsychology and neuropsychology suffer from similar problems and that there has been increasing recognition that joining our forces across disciplines might have much more impact than working alone. We were therefore extremely happy and fortunate to join our forces at the ECNP with the European Brain Council (EBC) initiative on "Cost of disorders of the brain in Europe". The available EU epidemiological and health-economic expertise has been linked in an unprecedented productive way, the outcomes of which will be disseminated at the ECNP conference in Amsterdam and in a special issue of European Neuropsychopharmacology.

How were the countries chosen and how did you proceed?

We included all EU countries – the old countries as well as the new membership states – as well as Norway and Switzerland. A series of expert inquiries with diagnostic experts as well as national advisors from all EU countries were involved. Systematically, all available studies in all language areas (regional, national and cross-national ones) were reviewed; and if possible, the original data were accessed and systematically re-analyzed. A remarkable total of 27 studies covering a total of over 150,000 subjects alone for mental disorders were included. In a series of expert meetings we agreed not only on joint methods, but also on the interpretation of findings, ultimately published in European Neuropsychopharmacology 15.4.

What are the most salient findings?

1) First, I find it remarkable that there is little evidence for considerable cultural or national variation, after taking into account design, sampling and other methodological differences between studies.

2) There are serious variations in illegal drug disorders and depression, both needing research attention, there is little evidence that there is a true increase in the prevalence of mental disorders over the past 20 years. (3) Thirdly, conservatively estimated, almost 1/3 of the adult population suffered from at least one mental disorder in each year. The lifetime risk for experiencing a disorder of the brain is likely to exceed clearly 50%.

4) The majority of patients remain untreated in all almost EU countries. If treated, the intervention is most likely to be insufficient, as well as the follow-up. In the mental health sector is actually relatively rare in many countries.

There is also evidence that with the exception of severely disabling and psychotic disorder, treatment usually takes place many years - or even decades - after onset of the disorders. At that point patients usually suffer from highly co-morbid patterns of mental disorder and disability.

6) As a result of the combined effects of high prevalence, early onset, persistence of many disorders, delayed or no treatment and high co-morbidity, the burden in terms of disability and costs for the system is extraordinarily high. We estimated conservatively that the total costs exceed the incredible amount of 386,176,000 Euro per year.

7) Probably because of low treatment rates, two thirds of costs occur in terms of indirect costs (disability). Pharmacological (drug) treatment costs, overall, account for less than 5% of total costs.

Maybe more importantly, the study also identified the considerable deficits in our knowledge; namely (a) there are not sufficient study findings available to estimate the prevalence in children and the elderly – both a serious miss; (b) data are also lacking for many mental disorders, like impulse control disorders, sleep disorders and personality disorders. Finally, across all disorders there are not sufficient data on impairment and disability, service utilization, use and user needs for treatment and care and health economic implications of mental disorders.

How should doctors – how should politicians respond?

A modest wish is that it would be a wonderful Task Force achievements, if, from now on, we would start to communicate about the size and burden in a more converged way. If the outcome of which will be disseminated at the ECNP conference in Amsterdam and in a special issue of European Neuropsychopharmacology.

Brainstorming sessions revisited

David Nutt, chair Scientific Programme Committee

The first brainstorming sessions (organised in Stockholm) were very well received. Following this publication of study findings the Scientific Programme Committee decided to repeat the successful format of these brainstorming sessions. Brainstorming sessions are small focused sessions by ECNP members on a topic of their choice. Within each session, two experts in that specific field of interest initiate the discussion. At the request of many participants, the sessions in Amsterdam will be scheduled in the early morning as breakfast sessions. A total of 9 will be scheduled on Sunday to Tuesday, from 07:45 – 08:45 hours. A light breakfast will be served. Topics on Sunday are CCK research, PTSD, and cognitive paradigms. On Monday topics are cerebrospinal fluid, psychotropic drugs in children/adolescents, and heart-brain axis. Tuesday’s sessions will focus on metabolic syndrome, OCD and depression, and anti-depressants.

Plan your personal programme before the congress!

For many years ECNP in conjunction with Elsevier, has provided a Congress Information System (CIS) on the internet six weeks prior to the congresses. CIS means full access to the (continuously) updated programme, gives the latest changes, provides access to all available papers, has a search facility on author, keyword or free text and the possibility to create your own personal itinerary through the congress by means of a personal planner.

Congress Party

The congress party will take place in the Beurs van Berlage, originally a merchant’s stock exchange. It was officially opened by Queen Wilhelmina in 1903. This historical building is only open to the public on very special occasions, for instance the Royal Wedding in February 2002, when the Prince of Orange married Maxima.

You will not want to miss this evening filled with games from the old days, traditional entertainment and typical Dutch food. Have you, for instance, ever heard of a shovelboard! Roll up your sleeves and prove yourself to be a champion. Wouldn’t you like to try your hand at a cow milking contest or cheese catching! Win a rose at the shooting gallery or have fun at the carnival mirrors.

There are even some original Dutch drinks to be won, the traditional beers, cheese and butter!

When you are tired of cheese catching, come and watch a demonstration of this popular sport. It is for those who have seen a cricket player coordinate and continuous high-quality research programme.

At the 18th ECNP Congress two Hot Topics Sessions are scheduled at which 16 young scientists will present their latest results. These young scientists have been selected from the poster presenters at the ECNP Workshop on Neuropsychopharmacology for Young Scientists: in Europe, March 2005.

Hot Topic Session on Preclinical Neuropsychopharmacology
Sunday October 23, 2005 Room N.O 9 00 11:05 hours

Hot Topic Session on Interface Neuropsychopharmacology
Sunday October 23, 2005 Room N.O 14.00 16:05 hours

For details click on abstracts and programme at www.ecnp.nl
ECNP Congresses:

- October 22 - 26, 2005: 18th ECNP Congress, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- September 16 - 20, 2006: 19th ECNP Congress, Paris, France
- October 13 - 17, 2007: 20th ECNP Congress, Vienna, Austria
- August 30 – September 3, 2008: 21st ECNP Congress, Barcelona, Spain
- September 12 - 16, 2009: 22nd ECNP Congress, Istanbul, Turkey

For further information:
Organising secretariat: Scientific secretariat:
ECNP-Office: PO. Box 85410
3508 AK Utrecht, The Netherlands
phone: +31 30 253 8567
fax: +31 30 253 8568
e-mail: secretariat@ecnnp.nl

ECNP Workshop on Neuropsychopharmacology for Young Scientists in Europe:

- March 9 - 12, 2006: Nice, France

Topics:
- Molecular neuropsychopharmacology
- Behavioural pharmacology
- Clinical neuropsychopharmacology
- Anxiety: towards new drug targets

ECNP Consensus Meeting:

- March 12 - 15, 2006: ECNP Consensus meeting, Nice - France

Topic: Psychiatric disorders in older people

For further information:
Secretariat:
ECNP-Office: PO. Box 85410
3508 AK Utrecht, The Netherlands
phone: +31 30 253 8567
fax: +31 30 253 8568
e-mail: secretariat@ecnnp.nl

Calendar of ECNP Events

Events national societies

October 5 - 8, 2005
24th Symposium of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Neuropharmakologie und Pharmakopsychiatrie (AGNP)
Darmstadt, Germany
for more information: www.agnp.de.

November 4 – 5, 2005
National Conference of Psychopharmacology Section of Polish Psychiatric Association
“Neuroanatomy and neuropsychopharmacology of psychiatric disorders: implications for treatment”
Bydgoszcz, Poland

Events related organizations

November 2 - 5, 2005
5th Annual Meeting of the International College of Geriatric Psychoneuropharmacology
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
for more information: www.icgp.org

August 24 – 28, 2006
16th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Developmental Neuroscience
Banff, Alberta, Canada
for more information: www.isdn-conference.cheetem.com

Information about national societies:

The British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP) held its summer meeting in Harrogate in July, 2005. It is considered by many to be the highlight of the BAP year. The annual guest lecture was presented by Jan M. van Ree, entitled “Opioids and the dynamics of addiction.”

The BAP launched the “Preclinical certificate in psychopharmacology” already in 2001. The aim of this important educational initiative is to increase awareness of, and interest in preclinical psychopharmacology through the provision of a series of training modules, which cover key aspects of research on animals and humans as well as career development in this field.

The BAP will continue its initiative on the Continuing Professional Development and Certificate in Clinical Psychopharmacology programme.

During 2005 – 2006 BAP will publish consensus guideline statements covering: Treatment of anxiety disorders, ADHD in transition from child to adult and Clinical practice with anti-dementia drugs.

The new board of the Psychopharmacology Section of the Polish Psychiatric Association (PPA) consists of:
President: Prof. Janusz K. Rybakowski
Vice-president: Prof. Magdalena Rzewuska
Vice-president: Prof. Jan Horodnik
Secretary: Dr. Jytyna Felix-Wysoczka
Treasurer: Dr. Jolanta Kucharska-Mazur

Psychopharmacology Section of PPA is co-editor of the quarterly journal: Farmakoterapia w Psychiatry i Neurologii (Pharmacotherapy in Psychiatry and Neurology). Prof. Magdalena Rzewuska is the Editor-in-Chief of this journal.