Impressions from the 22nd ECNP Congress in Istanbul

Sven Ove Ögren, Sweden
Chair Scientific Programme Committee

It is a great honour to give my impres- sions as chair of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) of the 22nd ECNP Congress in Istanbul. The week before the start of the congress was very dramatic and all of us in the organisation had reminis- cences of 2001 and ‘September 11’ when the ECNP Congress in Istanbul had to be cancelled one week before its opening. From our TV sets came very alarming news and at some points we had the impression that the whole of Turkey was flooded with water and on the brink of a natural disaster. Several speakers sent worrying e-mails about what to do and a few cancelled their presentations. Luckily, the ECNP Office onsite gave a more balanced view and the president of ECNP gave the go-ahead for the ECNP Congress.

In view of this dark background, it is my pleasure to report that the 22nd ECNP Congress was again acknowledged as a specta- cular meeting. As in the last two years, the ECNP Congress attracted a large number of delegates (close to 8,000), who filled the lecture rooms from morning to late afternoon throughout the congress. I was delighted to notice that the three plenary lectures attracted a large audience and that the attendance in the various symposia was overall very high. I was also impressed by the high level of personal involvement shown by the delegates, which indicates the important role that another leading preclinical scientist, Michel Hamon, has agreed to take up the role. We wish him a great deal of success in this position and look forward to the 23rd ECNP Congress in Amsterdam, which will be the first under his chairmanship.

The Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) is one of the key functional elements of ECNP. Its main role is to produce the sci- entific symposia that give us such high-quality annual meetings. But in addition it makes recommendations for the ECNP symposia at other international and national meetings. Because of the scale of the ECNP Congress and the interdisciplinary nature of ECNP, these tasks are very complex and demanding. The chair of the SPC is therefore a challeng- ing position and one that is critical for the optimal functioning of ECNP. In recent years, to provide stability and expertise in the position, the SPC chair has been appointed to serve for three years. We have now come to the end of the term served by Sven Ove Ögren and I want to thank him on behalf of all the members of the Executive Committee and the members of ECNP for his outstanding efforts in this role. His will be a hard act to follow. But I am delighted that another leading preclinical scientist, Michel Hamon, has agreed to take up the role. We wish him a great deal of success in this position and look forward to the 23rd ECNP Congress in Amsterdam, which will be the first under his chairmanship.

The major aim of the SPC is to create a high-quality scientific programme with a balanced mix of basic/clinical science and applied clinical developments. Another important aim is to report on new and exciting discov- eries in the field of neuropsychopharmacology (not only within Europe), attracting basic to clinical researchers, physi- cians, industry representatives, policy-makers and opinion-leaders.

The 2010 ECNP Congress in Istanbul was by any criteria a forma- ble success. I am convinced that everyone attending the congress felt that he or she had learned many interesting new things which captivated his or her scientific imagination. I think that the 22nd ECNP Congress gave all of us the lasting impression that the future for neuropsychopharmacology in Europe is bright.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the organizers and, in particular, the local advisors, who made the 22nd ECNP Congress such a memorable meeting, and the ECNP Office.
As chemist by training, you started your research activity with a PhD on a bacte-
rial alcohol dehydrogenase involved in hydrocarbon metabolism.

How and why then did you move to neuropsychopharmacology?

After secondary school, when I had to decide on my future, a friend of mine became mentally ill. I did not understand what was wrong with him and I wanted very much to know. I considered activities which might be related to chemistry and therefore I chose to study biochemistry.

For my military service I looked for replacement work and found an opportunity at Jacques Glowinski’s laboratory. This was my introduction to neurosciences. After my military service I stayed as a post-doc in the team, working on cortical and subcortical dopaminergic systems and although I never left, the topic has changed.

Last year, Jacques Glowinski won the ECNP Life Achievement Award and you are honoured this year with the ECNP Neuropsychopharmacology Award. As you were in Glowinski’s team for 30 years, is it indeed a nice recognition of this lab. Can you tell me more about the position of this lab with respect to neuropsychopharmacology in France?

Most neuropsychopharmacologists in France have worked either in the Paris School, i.e. ‘Glowinski’s laboratory’, or in the Bordeaux School, i.e. ‘Le Moal and Cardo’s’ laboratory. There are also schools in Montpellier and Strasbourg, which are younger and more molecular-directed.

At Glowinski’s laboratory there were seven teams, each devoted to another aspect of the physiology of mental diseases. The teams worked in close proximity and that turned out to be very profitable: one could always go to the ‘neighbours’ for advice on topics you were not sure about.

Neuropsychopharmacology grew in the period of 1950–1979, and had its peak in the 1980s. After 1990, the focus of neuropsychopharmacology moved away to neuromaging, neurosciences and genetics.

As Jacques Glowinski has retired (see interview in ECNP Matters), his laboratory is being dismantled. Already six teams have left and I will leave from January 2010 to another centre: at the Pierre & Marie Curie University, i.e. Paris.

Within neuropsychopharmacology, research on addiction seems especially active in France, notably thanks to MIDLT, the French Agency against Addictive Drugs, of whose Scientific Committee you are president. Can you draw a brief overview of this matter and integrate your own contributions in this context?

MIDLT is an interdepartmental mission for the fight against drugs and drug addiction. MIDLT was established in the ’70s as a mission from the prime minister. It consists of a 10-year collaboration between 17 ministries in the fight against addiction. Money can be given to the police, the customs or the justice departments as well as for research.

I was asked to research how cocaine addiction works. It is in that research that I started to shift from dopamine towards noradrenalin and serotonin and the uncoupling phenomenon in the cortex (see jury report for more details). I found that all addictive drugs induce this uncoupling of cortical serotonin and noradrenalin.

Drug addiction is a major public health problem, especially because it concerns adolescents, i.e. ‘the future’ of our countries.

Addiction, which is, as I propose, the occurrence of cortical serotonin and noradrenalin uncoupling after drug intake, is partly a result of genetics and for a large part a result of environmental factors. Actually, the coupling of serotonin and noradrenalin does not exist at birth but develops over the years up to the age of 15. Whether the coupling ends up being strong or weak depends on a history of (lots of) stress. The more stress an infant suffers the weaker the coupling will be and the more susceptible to addiction he or she may become. Moreover, it is not the pleasure felt after taking drugs that results in becoming addicted, but it is the uncoupling that induces withdrawal effects after the drug-taking has stopped.

The risk of becoming addicted, that is, the degree to which drugs induce uncoupling, differs strongly between different drugs and is smaller than usually thought: 85% of the cocaine users do not become addicted, and this percentage goes up to 99% for those who have taken or received morphine. In contrast, one estimates that 22% of the general population is addicted to tobacco, one of the most addictive drugs of abuse!

Once uncoupled, the serotonin and noradrenalin stay uncoupled. After ceasing to smoke, 86% of people relapse after a few weeks despite nicotine replacement therapy. My team has proposed that the naturally occurring MAOIs (monamine oxidase inhibitors) in tobacco play a role in the addiction process. Actually, tobacco and tobacco smoke contain a powerful MAOI called aacahylede. There is some indication that this compound is responsible, with nicotine, for the addictive potency of tobacco. Sugar, honey or chocolate, which are addictive often added to tobacco, produce aacahylede when they are burned and it is very likely that they also participate in the addiction process. MAOIs by themselves do not induce uncoupling, nor does nicotine. However, when MAOIs and nicotine are given together, as it is the case with tobacco, uncoupling occurs.

What can really be expected from pre-clinical research today for a better clinical management of this disease?

The final outcome of the research is a pat- tern on a compound that should alleviate the withdrawal effect of smoking, while one is still taking the nicotine through skin patches or chewing gum. In animals this compound seems to alleviate withdrawal effects, whereas no toxicity is found. Research is still being performed to see whether the uncoupling can be reversed. We have obtained very prelimi-

nary data indicating that some pharmacological treatments may reverse uncoupling.

ECNP has a strong focus on involving young scientists in neuropsychopharmacology. How is the situation in your lab in this respect?

Jeannot Tassin was born in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. Currently, he is Director of Research at the Inserm Molecular Genetics, Neuropsychopharmacology and Behaviour laboratory. College de France, Paris, France. Jeannot Tassin is married and has four children.
Jean-Pol Tassin’s early work and Ph.D. thesis in 1973 concerned an alcohol dehydrogenase involved in the metabolism of hydrocarbons by bacteria. A chemist by training but with a strong interest in psychology and psychoanalysis, he then joined, as a post-doctoral fellow, the laboratory of Jacques Guevrekian at the Collège de France to work in the team of Anne-Marie Thierry. This was an exciting time in the laboratory, since a novel dopamine system had been discovered projecting to certain (limbic) cortical areas, a system that had escaped detection by the histochemists. Jean-Pol Tassin became immediately involved in the neurochemical and functional characterisation of this system, obtaining important results that were published, among others, in three Nature papers. Interesting aspects were the selective activation of this system by stress and some cortical and subcortical dopaminergic innervations; observations functional hierarchies resulting in specific behaviors such as locomotor activity or behavioral sensitization. Moreover, a differential regulation of dopamine D1 receptors in the prefrontal cortex versus striatum/nucleus accumbens by, respectively, noradrenergic and glutamatergic afferents could be established. He also demonstrated the presence of a peptide neurotransmitter, in these mesocortical dopamine neurons and that the neurotransmitter binding sites and dopamine receptors in the rat prefrontal cortex showed a distinct overlap. Taken together, Jean-Pol Tassin was instrumental in defining important roles for the dopaminergic cortical system with implications for involvement in higher brain functions and pathology, including schizophrenia.

In the mid 1990s Jean-Pol Tassin made the surprising observation that D-amphetamine-induced locomotor activity, a much-studied behavior at that time tightly linked to the dopamine system, could be inhibited by a blockade of cortical α2B-adrenoreceptors, as well as by genetic deletion of this receptor. A similar situation could be shown for 5-HT2A receptors. In fact, he found that these two receptors exerted a modulatory, inhibitory influence on each other, an effect that seems necessary for normal cortical function. However, this mutual inhibition could not be seen in wild-type mice after repeated administration of psychostimulants. Jean-Pol Tassin termed this mechanism “uncoupling”, which induces a long-term, perhaps irreversible, sensitisation of these two neuron systems. Moreover, this effect is not seen after selective increases of extracellular dopamine levels, indicating an important dichotomy: whereas dopamine nerve endings are necessary for drug-induced reward, the addictive effects may not be related to dopaminergic mechanisms.

These results have led Jean-Pol Tassin to formulate a novel and original model of addiction: when repeatedly exposed to psychostimulants, two important monoamine systems, the noradrenergic and the serotonin neurons, are chronically uncoupled. During withdrawal these uncoupled neurons are exposed to desynchronised activation and the brain reacts with distress and discomfort that can be relieved by further intake of drug. This is called reactivation, which induces an artificial recoupling of the neurons. The model may provide some explanation why humans addicted to drugs, even long time after withdrawal, and may also open up for new therapeutic strategies.

Following up on this trail the Tassin team has recently shown that nicotine, in contrast to other psychostimulants, cannot uncouple noradrenergic and serotonergic neurons. However, this can occur when nicotine is administered together with an MAO inhibitor. Since MAO inhibitors are present in tobacco, this may explain the potent addictive effect of smoking and why nicotine administered as chewing gums or patches are not good tobacco substitutes.

Taking these findings together, Jean-Pol Tassin has proposed a novel and original model of addiction, whereby uncoupling of the monoaminergic neuronal systems. Moreover, this effect is not seen after selective increases of extracellular dopamine levels, indicating an important dichotomy: whereas dopamine nerve endings are necessary for drug-induced reward, the addictive effects may not be related to dopaminergic mechanisms.

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23rd ECNP Congress, 28 August-1 September 2010 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Call for papers
The submission of papers for poster presentation at the 23rd ECNP Congress is open until 31 March 2010. You are invited to visit the ECNP website for instructions on the preparation of papers. Please note that you can have your registration fee waived if your paper is accepted for presentation and publication in the congress supplement to the journal *Neuropsychopharmacology*. For further information, please visit the ECNP website: www.ecnp.eu.

Call for brainstorming sessions
ECNP members are invited to propose a small focused brainstorming session on a topic of their choice in the field of neuropsychopharmacology and related sciences at the 23rd ECNP Congress in Amsterdam. If you are interested, please send your proposal according to the guidelines mentioned on the member page of the ECNP website. The deadline for submission of proposals is 31 March 2010.

New: ECNP has a new environment-friendly initiative
As from 2010 ECNP has decided to announce upcoming ECNP Congresses and Meetings via posters and e-alerts, whereas complete information will be available on the ECNP website. With this initiative ECNP aims to contribute once more to the preservation of natural resources.

Call for applications: ECNP Fellowship and Travel Award 2010
Young scientists are invited to apply for the ECNP Fellowship and Travel Award 2010. The application period is open until 31 March 2010. Please visit the ECNP website for further information on these awards and to check if you match the application criteria set for each award.

Report from the 10th ECNP Regional Meeting
Jaanus Harro, Estonia, chair Local Advisory Committee

The 10th ECNP Regional Meeting was held in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. The meeting attracted more participants than the venue, the Võru Hotel Conference Centre, could possibly accommodate, so the registration had to be closed early. Altogether 364 participants attended the meeting.

While the number of Estonian psychiatrists and pharmacologists in the audience was the highest, it amounted to just 27% of the attendees. Large groups of participants came from Poland, Italy, Greece, Hungary, and Latvia, but altogether 22 countries were represented. While the strategically situated and both medieval and modern Tallinn has attracted many international events in recent years, the ECNP Regional Meeting was an event noticed even outside the neuropsychopharmacology community. Words of welcome were delivered by Mrs Evelyn Ilves, the First Lady of Estonia, and Professor Richard Vilems, the president of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. The Ansis South Handbell Ensemble, led by Aivar Mäe, made the point particularly clearly that even if Estonians are best known for being mostly silent people who hold disproportionately large singing festivals, they can also express even in music a variety of deep emotions with minimal means.

The programme consisted of two keynote lectures, two meet-the-expert sessions, four symposia (depression, anxiety, psychogenetics, and neuroplasticity), and poster sessions. The industry’s viewpoint was presented in satellite symposia and exhibitions. The scientific programme, as one would expect from ECNP, was of the highest standard, owing to the presence of Tomas Hökfelt, Sweden, Professor Richard Villems, the president of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, the Arsis Federation of the Societies of Biological Psychiatry, Siegfried Kasper, Austria. The speakers list was fairly international and among the lecturers 14 nations were represented. The poster sessions were lively and offered more junior scientists a chance to present their findings, ranging from fundamental neurochemistry to psychiatric genetics. The ECNP Regional Poster Awards were given to two young researchers from the University of Tartu, Külli Jaks and Evelyn Kirse. Both of them attended the 22nd ECNP Congress in Istanbul.

The 10th ECNP Regional Meeting was a pleasure to everyone, even to the local organizers! This was due, especially, to the well-designed standard operating procedures for managing these events, and the highly skilled team of the ECNP Office. Many thanks to everybody who contributed in whatever form. We are looking forward to meeting all of you again under the flag of ECNP.

24th ECNP Congress: call for symposium proposals

The Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) of the 24th ECNP Congress invites you to submit proposals for a full symposium. You will find details of the requirements for a symposium proposal, the submission pages and the selection criteria set by the SPC on the ECNP website.

Please note that the deadline is 31 March 2010.
This year the annual conference of the BPA was held in the town of Russe on the Bulgarian bank of the Danube River. For a very long time this town was the only Bulgarian bank of the Danube River. For a very long time this town was the only Bulgarian bank of the Danube River. For a very long time this town was the only Bulgarian bank of the Danube River. For a very long time this town was the only Bulgarian bank of the Danube River. For a very long time this town was the only Bulgarian bank of the Danube River.

The audience comprised nearly 70% of all Bulgarian psychiatrists. The attendees had the chance not only to participate in a spirited discussion but to listen in a friendly relaxed atmosphere to important additional comments from the international experts on the contemporary treatment of anxiety disorders and psychoses. Everyone carried away with them some new knowledge and a sense of deep satisfaction with the very high scientific quality of the symposium.

The ECNP supported symposium turned out to be the highlight of the whole conference and received special attention from the local and national media whose representatives densely populated the press conference held by Joseph Zohar and Michael Davidson. The press asked a number of questions on the aims and scope of activities and the scientific quality of the symposium. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive; we were fortunate that the speakers, the venue and the 45 young people who attended from across Europe clearly clicked.

The challenge now is to create a sustainable tradition for the ECNP School which helps to promote the mission of the educational initiative identified by Yves Lecrubier - the improvement of standards of practice in neuropsychopharmacology over the next 20 years.

On the format, the majority of the feedback was very positive on the balance between formal presentations and the workshops, and in particular the informal, interactive format and the openness of the lectures.

Suggestions for changes in the format were particularly focused on the workshops, whose structure had been left to the speakers who led them. It has been proposed to provide future participants with a format in which they could present a case study. Other topics in a workshop format could include problem-solving strategies, specific topics like pharmacogenetics, and study designs. In addition, a mix of the plenary lectures and workshop settings over the day may result in more sustained attention.

From the many suggestions for additional topics, such as child and adolescent neuropsychopharmacology, basic and clinical neuroscience, RCTs, addiction and aging-related effects, it is clear that not all can be covered in the given five days. Several participants therefore even suggested considering a follow-up programme!
Thank you, Joseph Zohar!

David Nutt, United Kingdom
president ECNP

After more than a decade of inspiring chairmanship of the ECNP Educational Committee, Joseph Zohar has stepped down in preparation for his presidency of ECNP.

As a member of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC), Joseph Zohar has been able to voice the ideas of the Educational Committee on the contents of the educational update sessions at the ECNP Congresses and also to be an advocate for changes and improvements, such as the use of a voting-padd system. His enthusiasm made it possible to convince speakers in these sessions to consider their lectures far further in advance than has typically been the case. In addition, very successful and appreciated educational teams, now named seminars, have been installed during Joseph Zohar’s term.

The last initiative under Joseph Zohar’s chairmanship was the video recording of lectures held at the ECNP Congresses and other Meetings and its subsequent publication on the ECNP website. ECNP started with the recording of the plenary lectures and the lectures in the educational updates track at the 22nd ECNP Congress. You are invited to visit the Istanbul 2009 webpage where you can find the link to these first webcasts. As you may see, I have been one of the guinea pigs and it’s not all that bad to see and hear yourself on the screen.

Joseph Zohar has taken over chairmanship of the Educational Committee, and Joseph Zohar will remain as a member. I am confident that under the inspiring leadership of Celso Arango, the Educational Committee will continue to expand ECNP’s educational activities.

Report from the winners of the first ECNP Research Grant for Young Scientists

Georgi Hranov, Bulgaria

When I finally arrived in Welwyn Garden City, United Kingdom, my initial enthusiasm had already badly bruised, what with the endless translations, communications, negotiations, permissions and approvals, synchronizations and preparations. Moreover, after trying a long string of agencies and individuals, I had finally procured lodgings entirely not to my liking and a flight schedule bringing me in the anywhere of somewhere, and in the middle of the night!

The next day the town proved to be a small cozy and green place leading a quiet and closed-in life. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in which I was supposed to spend most of the following six months was a medium-size institution (according to our Bulgarian urban standards) spread over three wings and some additional small pavilions. I was met at the Mental Health Unit by my mentor Professor Naomi Fineberg and her gentle kindness somehow managed to melt the grudges and disappointments that had amassed during the previous months. She introduced me to the members of her team and I felt it was not going to be tough after all. Well that was a mistake once again! No matter how mellowing and considerate she is as a person, Naomi Fineberg again! No matter how easygoing and considerate she is as a person, Naomi Fineberg again! No matter how easygoing and considerate she is as a person, Naomi Fineberg again! No matter how easygoing and considerate she is as a person, Naomi Fineberg again! 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Report from the 2009 ECNP-EPA Seminar in Neuropsychopharmacology in Poland

Janusz K. Rybakowski, head of Psychopharmacology Section, Polish Psychiatric Association, Poland

The seminar in Neuropsychopharmacology held on 28-30 May in an eighteen century palace in Gniezno, Poland was repeated in Poland with the ECNP-EPA joint with the Association of European Psychiatric Associations (EPA). In 2009, this initiative was repeated in Poland with the ECNP-EPA Seminar in Neuropsychopharmacology held on 28-30 May in an eighteen century palace in Czerniejewo.

The seminar was attended by local experts in psychiatry, but the main attraction was the participation of leading psychiatrists and psychopharmacologists from various countries. The seminar was organized by the Polish Psychiatric Association and the Section for Psychopharmacology of the European Psychiatric Association (EPA), together with the Scientific Programme Committee of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP).

The seminar was divided into six main sessions, each focusing on a particular topic in neuropsychopharmacology. The sessions were attended by over 300 participants, including young and established researchers, scientists, and clinicians from Poland and other countries.

During the seminar, the participants were given the opportunity to present their latest research findings in the form of oral and poster presentations. The presentations were followed by discussions, allowing the participants to exchange ideas and insights. The seminar also included workshops, which provided a platform for the participants to engage in hands-on learning and practical sessions.

The seminar culminated in a panel discussion where the participants discussed the future of neuropsychopharmacology and its role in addressing global health challenges. The panelists included leading experts in the field, who shared their perspectives and highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing our understanding of neuropsychopharmacological disorders.

In conclusion, the 2009 ECNP-EPA Seminar in Neuropsychopharmacology in Poland was a successful event that brought together scientists and clinicians from various countries to share their knowledge and experiences. The seminar provided a valuable platform for the exchange of ideas and fostered collaborations that are crucial for advancing our understanding of neuropsychopharmacological disorders.
TEM Dementia and Neurodegenerative Disorders

Richard F. Cowburn, Sweden, coordinator

This TEM meeting was chaired by Richard Cowburn and Hilika Soininen, Finland. Lars Olson, Sweden, summarised advances in Parkinson (PD) aetiology focusing on genetics. Genes responsible for autosomal dominant and recessive disease have been identified. Genes with causative mutations may also carry less devastating mutations that increase risk. The large number of implicated genes can be grouped as important for mitochondrial function, pyramidal/basal protein degradation, or protection against oxidative stress. None are specifically expressed in dopamine neurons, and most have general neuronal or cellular functions. Knowledge of genetic contributions to PD has allowed better animal modelling. Clinical consequences of genetic findings will include early, even pre-symptomatic diagnosis, presumably individualised treatments, and eventually disease-modifying treatments.

Rohan de Silva, United Kingdom, described tauopathies as a group of neurodegenerative disorders characterised by fibrillar deposits of abnormally hyperphosphorylated and aggregated tau. Tau gene (MAPT) mutations causing frontotemporal dementia and common polymorphic variation in MAPT that influence risk of PSP and corticobasal degeneration implicate defective tau protein and its homostasis as the key to pathogenesis. A consistent mechanism emerging is increased production of more fibrillar tau variants. Therapeutic approaches for tauopathies aim to prevent or clear pathological protein aggregates and/or reduce levels of pathogenic tau. The different approaches being tested were summarised and placed in the context of current debates and uncertainties around the key event(s) in tau-related pathogenic processes.

Kaj Blennow, Sweden, summarised biomarkers for Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and dementia. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) biomarkers of beta-amyloid 1-42 and total and phosphorylated tau are at high diagnostic value for AD and a high predictive value for identifying presymptomatic AD in mild cognitive impairment (MCI) cases. To improve the predictive value even further, CSF biomarker data should be combined with MRI for hippocampal and cortical volume atrophy. The different approaches being tested were summarised and placed in the context of current debates and uncertainties around the key event(s) in AD-related pathogenic processes.

TEM Anxiety Disorders and Anxiolytics

Astrid Lindefors, United Kingdom, coordinator

This meeting was chaired by Astrid Lindefors and David Baldwin, United Kingdom, and focused on the roles of the neurotransmitter glutamate and the endocannabinoid system. These neurotransmitters play a crucial role in the modulation of fear and anxiety, and their dysregulation is implicated in various anxiety disorders. The meeting focused on the development of novel therapeutic approaches for anxiety disorders.

Anxiolytics

Richard F. Cowburn, Sweden, coordinator

This TEM meeting was chaired by Richard Cowburn and Hilika Soininen, Finland. Lars Olson, Sweden, summarised advances in Parkinson (PD) aetiology focusing on genetics. Genes responsible for autosomal dominant and recessive disease have been identified. Genes with causative mutations may also carry less devastating mutations that increase risk. The large number of implicated genes can be grouped as important for mitochondrial function, pyramidal/basal protein degradation, or protection against oxidative stress. None are specifically expressed in dopamine neurons, and most have general neuronal or cellular functions. Knowledge of genetic contributions to PD has allowed better animal modelling. Clinical consequences of genetic findings will include early, even pre-symptomatic diagnosis, presumably individualised treatments, and eventually disease-modifying treatments.

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Other impressions from the 22nd ECNP Congress

Participants’ points of view and suggestions for improvement

Karol Grabowski, Poland
Areas of interest: sleep disorders, affective disorders

“The congress was great, the scientific level was very high and the organisation excellent. I will apply in my daily professional life the knowledge acquired at the congress by changing the pharmacotherapy of insomnia”.

Suggestions for improvement:
- To have longer breaks between sessions. It was hard to get on time in a new session
- I would like to attend more workshops and panel discussions

Gábor Imre, Hungary
Areas of interest: OCD, schizophrenia and anorexia

“I enjoyed most the poster and brainstorming sessions. At the poster session I had the opportunity to discuss with the presenter of the poster P4-b 002 (Effects of dopamine antagonists on therapeutic action of clomipramine in a spontaneous alternation model of OCD in rats) a model that I have been trying to establish in our lab. He gave me great instructions on how to achieve it”.

Suggestions for improvement:
- Perhaps to offer more on preclinical studies
ECNP Congresses

23rd ECNP Congress 28 August–1 September 2010
24th ECNP Congress 5–9 October 2013
25th ECNP Congress 50 August–3 September 2014
26th ECNP Congress 29 August–2 September 2015
27th ECNP Congress 17–21 September 2016
28th ECNP Congress 2–6 September 2017
29th ECNP Congress 6–10 October 2018
30th ECNP Congress 6–10 September 2019

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ECNP Workshop on Neuropsychopharmacology for Young Scientists in Europe

Recurrent topics:
• Molecular neuropsychopharmacology
• Behavioural pharmacology
• Clinical neuropsychopharmacology

4–7 March 2010, Nice, France
Variable topic: Bipolar disorders: towards new drug targets
3–6 March 2011, Nice, France
Variable topic: Schizophrenia: towards new drug targets
15–18 March 2012, Nice, France

ECNP Consultation Meeting
7–9 March 2010, Nice, France
Topic: The future of the placebos in clinical trials in brain diseases
6–8 March 2011, Nice, France
18–20 March 2012, Nice, France

ECNP Meeting: Neuropsychopharmacology across Brain Diseases
9–11 March 2010, Nice, France
For further information:
e-mail: nice2010@ecnp.eu

ECNP-EPA Seminar in Neuropsychopharmacology
22–24 April 2010, Trést, Czech Republic
For further information:
e-mail: secretariat@ecnp.eu

11th ECNP Regional Meeting
14–16 April 2011, St. Petersburg, Russia
For further information:
e-mail: stpetersburg2011@ecnp.eu

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ECNP Matters

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Meetings national societies

Italian Society of Neuropsychopharmacology
XVII National Congress: Epigenetics to Experimental and Clinical Neurobiology
22–25 September 2010, Cagliari, Italy

Polish Psychiatric Association
49th Congress and celebrating the association’s 90th anniversary
23–26 June 2010, Poznan, Poland
Information: rybakowski@wlkp.top.pl

Meetings related organisations

3rd European Brain Policy Forum: a focus on schizophrenia and the European society
23–24 February 2010, Madrid, Spain
Information: www.schizophreniaatwork.org/eupolicy2010.php

PWP Meeting (Psychiatrie in Wissenschaft und Praxis - Psychiatry in Science and Practice)
6 March 2010, Vienna, Austria
Information: www.medizin.cas.cz/biologicalpsychiatry

11th International Greenfield Symposium on Advances in Alzheimer Therapy
24–27 March 2010, Geneva, Switzerland
Information: www.siumed.edu/cme

2nd Annual Schizophrenia International Research Conference – Bridging Research to the Clinics
10–14 April 2010, Florence, Italy
Information: www.schizophreniaconference.org

15th Annual Meeting Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology
14–17 May 2010, Ottawa, Canada
Information: www.cccnp.ca

2010 Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatry Association (APA)
22–26 May 2010, New Orleans, USA
Information: www.psych.org/AnnualMeeting

Drug Safety, Bridging the Gap
25–27 May 2010, Washington DC, USA
Information: www.drugsafety2010.com

5th European Molecular Imaging Meeting
26–29 May 2010, Warsaw, Poland

18th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Developmental Neurobiology (ISDN)
6–9 June 2010, Estoril, Portugal
Information: www.isdn-conference.echeveix.com

16th Update in Psychiatry
17–18 June 2010, Venice, Austria
Information: www.update.europe.at

2010 Mid-Year Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS)
30 June–3 July 2010, Krakow, Poland
Information: www.insm.org

2nd EENS Forum of European Neuroscience
3–7 July 2010, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Information: forum.eens.org/2010

16th World Congress on Basic and Clinical Pharmacology
17–23 July 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark
Information: www.worldpharma2010.org