The Newsletter of the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior

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Letter from the President

Mark I. Friedman
Monell Chemical Senses Center

This has been an eventful year for SSIB, and in this last letter from this President I would like to review some of our accomplishments and highlight an important issue that faces the Society.

From a financial perspective, this has been a very active and transitional year. The election of Thom Castonguay as Treasurer transferred fiscal management of SSIB geographically and decentralized operations. Fortunately, there was no need in this electronic age to transfer accounts. SSIB instituted a long range investment plan this year, reflecting both the stabilization of our financial position and our confidence in the future of the Society. We reinforced our fund raising procedures this year to enhance internal communications and record keeping. Additional improvements in fund raising practices helped us to significantly increase Sponsoring Memberships and contributions from the corporate sector. At the business meeting last summer in Canada, the difficulties non-U.S. members face in paying dues were made clear. To correct this situation we established an account which enables members to pay dues using a credit card. The dues statement also included for the first time the option of contributing to SSIB in support of travel awards to the annual meeting.

This year SSIB consolidated its commitment to graduate student and newly postdoctoral members. Membership dues for students were kept low and, pending approval at the Business Meeting in October, this rate will be extended to postdoctoral members for three years following receipt of their doctoral degrees. Student and postdoctoral member participation is a focus at the annual meeting in Baton Rouge. Students organized one of the SSIB symposia ("Learning and Ingestive Behavior") for the first time. Because of the very positive response from SSIB's corporate supporters and the generosity of members who made voluntary contributions, a record number of Young Investigator Travel Awards will be made this year and registration fees for student members have been reduced. A special paper session will be held for Young Investigator Travel Award recipients to present their work orally and special recognition will be made of those who do poster presentations. Recognizing the importance of student representation at Board meetings, the SSIB Board of Directors recently passed a motion to reimburse the student representative to the Board for travel expenses to the annual meeting.

While much was done to enhance participation of graduate students and new postdocs in SSIB, broadening the membership base of the Society remains an important concern. I have asked the Long Range Planning Committee to consider issues concerning the growth of SSIB; in particular whether growth should be a goal of the Society and how we can promote a more
international perspective within SSIB.

Some progress was made this year in facilitating international participation in SSIB. Members from Europe were appointed this year to the Long Range Planning Committee, which will be addressing this issue, and the Membership Committee, which was charged with finding ways to increase international membership. The credit card account for payment of dues was established primarily to benefit non-U.S. members. In addition, a mechanism was set up whereby members from the United Kingdom can pay in British pounds like our colleagues in Canada have used to pay in Canadian dollars.

But much more needs to be done to improve SSIB's international scope. For one, our annual meetings need to better reflect the Society's international membership, and, accordingly, I have asked organizers of the next two annual meetings to consider geographic distribution in their planning. For that matter, we should look forward to an annual meeting outside of North America, to say nothing of more Board members and, indeed, an SSIB President from outside the U.S.

Increasing SSIB's global perspective is not the only mechanism for broadening the Society's scope. SSIB must also reach out scientifically as well. To some extent we have done that through joint meetings with other organizations. However, a look through the SSIB Membership Directory's Research Interest Index reveals a conspicuous fondness for vertebrates and mammals in particular as research subjects; indeed, I could find only one member listing an invertebrate species. I know of one previous SSIB member who did not renew membership because of a perceived lack of interest in invertebrate research in the Society, and I suspect others have not joined for the same reason. The popularity of mammalian species among SSIB members clearly has its roots in the history of the Society's formation. However, there are many scientists who study feeding behavior of invertebrates (or even less popular vertebrates) who could enrich SSIB with their expertise and insights. We should find ways to make them part of SSIB, and a symposia on comparative feeding behavior at an annual meeting would be a good start.

Finally, this last letter from this President would not be complete without thanking the other officers and board members of SSIB for their help and good counsel this year. It has been a pleasure working with them and an honor to serve as your President.

Student Section

News of student members, or issues which you feel may concern students should be e-mailed to:

Michelle Lee:
leem@medcolpa.edu
Tel 215-842-676

Paige Israel:
paisrael@u.washington.edu
Tel 206-543-9515

Supporting Members

Since the last report (in the January 1995 issue), the following members have given voluntary contributions to the student fund, which helps bring students to our meetings through Young Investigator and travel awards. We thank them for their generosity.

Rebecca Corwin
Steven Cooper
Valerie Duffy
James Smith
SSIB / NAASO meeting
October 12-17, 1995

The second joint meeting of SSIB and NAASO (North American Association for the Study of Obesity) will be held from Thursday, October 12 through Tuesday, October 17, 1995 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The program includes a wide variety of topics from ingestive behavior and obesity studies. At last count there were 167 posters (55 in the SSIB portion of the meeting, 112 for NAASO), 185 oral papers (51/134) and lots of symposium speakers. A new item in the program is a workshop on Friday at 4:30, concerning new opportunities for funding through NIDA’s Behavioral Sciences Research Branch.

The previous issue of SSBlings listed the topics and speakers of the four SSIB symposia. Here are the times and topics of the oral paper sessions:

SSIB sessions
Thur 2:00-4:00 Gastrointestinal controls:
Stomach and small intestine
Fri 10:30-12:30 SSIB Young Investigator Awards
Human food intake I
4:30-6:00 Hepatic and intestinal controls
Drinking and salt intake
Sat 10:30-12:00 Human food intake II
Central nervous system
Chemical senses
NAASO sessions
Mon 2:30-5:00 Genetics
Treatments
Metabolism
Naas Young Investigator Awards
Tue 8:00-10:00 Body composition

The annual Business Meeting of SSIB will be held Friday at 6 pm. The SSIB Long Range Planning Committee and Board of Directors meetings are on Thursday morning, prior to the start of the conference.

Note that this is not an expensive conference. Hotel costs include a continental breakfast and if 2 people share a room the cost is only about $40 per night. The registration fee includes lunch on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and Monday for the joint meeting. There are also receptions on Thursday (SSIB), Saturday (SSIB/NAASO) and Sunday (NAASO) evenings. Only the banquets on Friday (SSIB) and Monday (NAASO) are extra.

See page 8 for contact information for the local organizers at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

Pennington Meeting Feedback Request

The SSIB Program Committee would appreciate comments and suggestions to help us further improve future meetings. Evaluations of the strengths and weaknesses of the Pennington meeting as well as of previous meetings would be especially helpful. We are interested in the whole range of organizational issues, from administrative details to matters of scientific content. Please relay comments to any of us.

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SSIB Returns to Canada Next Year

The SSIB '96 meeting will take place at the Banff Center for the Performing Arts on August 22-25, 1996. The Banff Center has lovely recreation facilities including a gym and swimming pool and the town of Banff is a tourist attraction for people around the world. A summer vacation in Alberta or British Columbia around the time of the conference would be attractive and feasible. Camping is available a few miles from the conference site. The conference program is being organized by Sue and Bob Ritter. Henry Koopmans is responsible for the local arrangements.
Meeting Report:
Fourth Food Choice Conference
April 1995, Birmingham, U.K.

The fourth international multidisciplinary research conference on food choice (FCC-4) took place in April of this year at the University of Birmingham. A number of BFDG* members were in attendance, along with other familiar faces from feeding and psychopharmacology interest groups. However, this meeting series is almost unique in attracting delegates from so far afield, in terms of both disciplinary and geographical origins.

Symposia and poster sessions proceeded under headings as diverse as “Concerns about food safety”, “Plant-food choices”, “Psychopharmacology and food choice”, “Social factors in healthy eating” and “Cognitive processes in food choice”. Numerous domestic and European bodies were represented at the meeting, which attracted psychologists and consumer scientists from across Europe and North America, as well as representatives from food manufacturers, commercial research establishments, and specialists in marketing. The diversity of contributors may be exemplified by Marcia Pelchat of Monell speaking on dietary monolony and food cravings, Professor Yamada’s poster comparing Japanese and American advertising of a popular oatmeal product, and presentations by Sean Stitt’s group from Liverpool, setting food choice research firmly in a party political context.

The entire meeting took place at Mason Hall, one of the Residences on the Vale Site, a most picturesque setting just a mile or so from the centre of the city, and within walking distance of the celebrated regeneration area of canals, museums, theatres, hotels, restaurants and conference facilities. The University’s own Institute of Fine Arts houses one of the finest small art collections in the world, a stone’s throw from the FCC venue. While tied to this location during the day, the exceptional quality of evening meals in Hall gave delegates ample incentive to go in search of one of the many hundreds of South Asian restaurants in the city.

With many thanks to the organisers, we all look forward now to the FCC-5 at St. Louis University, Missouri, 6th-9th June 1996. [See page 7 for contact information.—Ed.]

Richard W. Gray
University of Sussex, U.K.

*Originally published in the newsletter of the British Feeding and Drinking Group (BFDG)

Books

Voluntary Food Intake and Diet Selection in Farm Animals. J. M. Forbes.

A casual survey of the literature on the physiology of ingestive behavior conveys the impression that the rat reigns supreme. There are many good reasons why investigations on eating and drinking have focused on the laboratory rat, but there are other forms of vertebrate life on this planet and they exhibit many variations of ingestive behavior and the underlying physiology that controls that behavior. Given that studies on the human must be limited, and that the rat is not identical to the human, an awareness of studies on other species could be useful to the investigator of thirst and hunger whatever her or his particular experimental model. Aside from the human and rat, the most intensive studies have been made on animals closely associated with the human: either as companions (dog, cat, horse) or as food animals (chickens, cows, pigs, sheep). The subjects have included representatives of many birds and mammals that exhibit a wide range of eating habits and associated digestive tract function: carnivores, herbivores, omnivores, granivores, insectivores - and what have you. These variations may resemble the human better than the rat (maybe the omnivorous pig does) or may have specialized certain aspects of vertebrate ingestive behavior and digestive function (ruminants like the cow): a rich selection for classic comparative studies. The details exhibited by the many species reveal the general patterns of the physiology of ingestive behavior. It is for reasons such as these that this book by Mike Forbes is significant as a survey of the work that has been done with farm animals of economic importance: ruminants, poultry and pigs.

Throughout the book a certain common pattern can be discerned: First, a few introductory comments; then a summary of current concepts - often based on work on non-farm animal species. Next a step-by-step review of investigations on the common farm species is presented. This review generally considers findings in the literature in a typical “review paper” fashion. This “review paper” fashion that comprises so much of the book is inevitable, but it also makes absorption of the information difficult. Fortunately, Forbes provides for each topic a final brief paragraph in which the results as found in the literature are summarized, and then, despite frequent seemingly irreconcilable differences in the results from different investigators, he makes a
personal evaluation of the status of that topic or problem. This last concluding statement for each topic is often somewhat tentative or speculative in nature, but helps the reader to arrange and even integrate mentally the diverse findings.

The book itself integrates information of a diverse nature: feeding behavior; physiological mechanisms of the controls of eating (and to a minor extent drinking); growth and fattening; reproduction and lactation; diet digestibility; specific nutrients affecting intake; learning and food preferences; diet selection; specific nutrient appetites; environmental factors; fresh and conserved (preserved) grass; and finally prediction of voluntary intake. All this for the various species of farm animals and each in relation to food intake. An astounding feature is the extensive list of references: 88 pages or about 1400 citations, most of which concern farm animals. Forbes’ suitability to write such a tome is emphasized by the frequent mention of work done by himself with his co-workers and students, particularly on ruminants and poultry.

This ambitious, almost encyclopedic work will be most useful for investigators with special interests in farm animal digestive behavior, but should also interest all concerned with the general biology of food intake in mammals and birds.

T. Richard Houpt
Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine


The goal of this Dahlem workshop was to find new strategies for identifying mechanisms involved in the regulation of body weight from a biological and behavioral perspective. The book will present the background papers and group reports resulting from the meeting, which had four discussion groups. Each was organized around four or five key topics expressed as questions; judging by the latter, as specified in the book announcement, most of the major issues in the field have been covered. The first group identified the important animal and human models for studying body weight regulation, along with their strengths and weaknesses (group report by Caterson et al.). Separate papers on experimental models of hyperphagia and appetite (York and Bray), nutrient partitioning (Stock) and animal (Hansen) and human (Sjöström) metabolic syndrome are included. The second group examined the biobehavioral determinants of body weight regulation (Lissner et al.), with papers on food intake (Blundell), physical activity (Saris) and early influences (Dietz). The third group considered the metabolic and physiological mechanisms of body weight regulation (Eckel et al.), including peptides (Levine and Billington), hormonal and metabolic (Astrup and Flatt) and molecular and cellular determinants (Ailhaud). The last group asked about the best application of genetic tools in studying body weight regulation (Warden et al.), with papers on strategies for identifying human obesity genes (Price), molecular genetic approaches to complex traits (Friedman) and manipulating the mouse germline (Kozak).

To order, contact Dahlem Konferenzen, Rothenburgstr. 33, 12165 Berlin, Germany. Fax (+49) 030 793 3215.

Current Corporate Sponsors of the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior

Bayer Corporation
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The Nutrasweet Company
Pfizer Central Research
The Procter & Gamble Company
Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Servier Amérique
The Sugar Association
Wyeth Research Limited (UK)

New numbers...

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71 West Warren Avenue
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fax: 313-577-7636
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Randy Seeley’s new telephone number at the University of Washington is 206-543-8893.
Columbia University Seminar on Appetitive Behavior

Scheduled Speakers for the Academic Year 1995-1996
All meetings are on Thursday evenings

Dr. L. Arthur Campfield and Françoise J. Smith
September 21, 1995
Recombinant mouse OB protein:
Evidence for a peripheral signal linking
adiposity and central neural networks

Dr. David J. Mela
October 19
From the lab to the living room:
Consumer studies of ingestive behavior

Dr. Anton J. W. Scheurink
November 2
Food intake, fuel homeostasis and
the autonomic nervous system

Dr. Meena M. Jhanwar-Uniyal
December 14
Neurochemical and molecular aspects
of diet choice, body weight regulation,
and hormonal alterations in diabetes

Dr. Stephen C. Woods
January 18, 1996
The insulin story: A 25-year perspective

Dr. Jack Davis
February 8
Exploring the internal structure
of a meal in the rat

Dr. Zoe S. Warrock
March 7
Great taste...Less filling: Mechanisms of
high-fat diet hyperphagia in the rat

Dr. Leanne L. Birch
April 4
Learning and experience impact on
the controls of food intake in childhood

Dr. Harvey Grill
May 2
Rethinking the neural control of feeding:
Contributions of the caudal brainstem

To be announced
June 20

For further information contact:
Dr. Harry R. Kissileff  Dr. Laurence J. Nolan
Seminar Chairman  Seminar Rapporteur
St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital  (same address)
1111 Amsterdam Ave.  212-523-2486
New York, NY 10025  ln29@columbia.edu

Sponsored in part by Hoffmann-La Roche, Miles
Inc./Bayer AG, PepsiCo, McNeil Specialty, and the
New York Obesity Research Center, St. Luke's/
Roosevelt Hospital Center.

Job Openings

Postdoctoral position available in a multidisciplinary
group with interests in obesity and diabetes at the V.A.
Medical Center and University of Washington in
Seattle. The research focuses on cell biology of
hypothalamic neural systems in relation to food intake
and body weight regulation. Research training
involves localization of neuropeptides, receptors, and
signal transduction molecules using in situ
hybridization, immunocytochemistry, stereotaxic
surgery, and computer image analysis. Applicant
should have a recent Ph.D., training in
neuroendocrinology, research experience with basic
molecular biology techniques, and must be a U.S.
citizen. Send letter describing research interests and
experience, curriculum vitae, and the names of three
references to: Dr. Denis G. Baskin, Division of
Endocrinology/Metabolism, Mail Stop 151, V.A.
Medical Center, 1660 So. Columbian, Seattle, WA
98108. The Department of Veterans Affairs is an
Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer.

Postdoctoral research fellowship in the study of eating
and its disorders. Two full-time postdoctoral research
training fellowships in the normal and abnormal
controls of eating and body weight are available
beginning 1 July 1996 at the New York
Hospital–Cornell Medical Center, Westchester
Division. Individual research projects can be carried
out in genetic, molecular, neurochemical,
developmental, behavioral or clinical research.
Fellowships are usually awarded for two years and the
stipends are competitive. Applicants must be citizens
of the United States because the fellowships are
supported by the National Institutes of Health. Women
and minority members are encouraged to apply. Send
letters of interest to: James Gibbs, M.D., Edward W.
Bourne Behavioral Research Laboratory, the New York
Hospital–Cornell Medical Center, Westchester
Division, 21 Bloomingdale Road, White Plains, NY
10605 USA. Fax: 914-682-3793.

Faculty position at the Monell Chemical Senses Center
for an Assistant or Associate Member with research
interests in human chemosensory perception as it
relates to food and fluid intake, appetite, and food
choice. The successful applicant is expected to generate
a creative and productive research program that
interfaces with scientific interests at the Monell Center.
Send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, one page
summary of research plans, extramural support
history, recent publications, and the names, addresses
and telephone numbers of references no later than
November 1, 1995 to: Dr. Gary Beauchamp, Director,
Monell Chemical Senses Center, 3500 Market Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3308. The Monell Chemical
Senses Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer and
courages the application of women and minorities.
Calendar: Upcoming Meetings

The second joint meeting of SSIB and NAASO (North American Association for the Study of Obesity) will take place October 12-16, 1995 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This is our main 1995 meeting. Additional information appears in this issue. For further information, contact Mark Friedman or the local organizers (see page 8 for contact information).

The 25th annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience will be held November 11-16, 1995 in San Diego, California. SSIB will be represented with an ingestive Behaviors Social hosted by Greg Ervin, on Tuesday November 14 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the San Diego Marriott Hotel near the Convention Center.

The annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association will be held in Philadelphia March 29-31, 1996. As usual, SSIB will hold a dinner/brief talk meeting in conjunction with EPA. It will be held at a local restaurant (to be determined) on Thursday night at 6 pm. For details, contact Harvey Grill via e-mail: grill@cattell.psych.upenn.edu. The call for titles for the SSIB meeting will appear with the January issue of SSIBlings. For information on submitting abstracts to the EPA meeting, contact executive officer Murray Benimoff, tel 609-256-4585 or 609-795-9050, fax 609-256-4929, e-mail benimoff@heroes.rowan.edu.

The Fifth International Behavioral Neuroscience Society Conference will be held in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico, on May 2-5, 1996. The scientific program will include plenary lectures, oral communications and poster sessions. The purpose of the IBNS meeting is to facilitate communication among scientists engaged in understanding the neural basis of behavior. Session topics will focus on (but are not limited to) themes of Neuropeptides, neuroimmunology, hormones and behavior; Learning, memory and neuronal plasticity; Drugs of abuse and psychopharmacology; Hormones, development and behavior; and Hunger and satiety. Suggestions for additional topics and symposia are invited and should be sent to Dr. Mary Erskine, Chairperson, IBNS Program Committee, Dept. of Biology, Boston University, 5 Cummington Street, Boston, MA 02215 USA. Fax 617-353-2093, E-mail erskine@biology.bu.edu. Inexpensive air fare and hotel rates ($95/night for single or double) are available. Abstract deadline is February 15, 1996. For meeting information including satellite symposia, registration material, call for abstracts, and membership application, please contact Marianne Van Wagner, IBNS Central Office, Division of Life Sciences, The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX 78249-0662 USA. Tel 210-691-4481, Fax 210-691-4510, E-mail editoff@lonestar.utsa.edu.

The joint annual meetings of the Association for the Study of Food and Society, the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society, and the 5th Food Choice Conference will be held June 6-9, 1996 in St. Louis, MO, USA. This meeting brings the societies together to create broad discussions of contemporary food, eating, dietary, and nutrition abehaviors, food and agricultural practices, policies, concepts and issues, and the history, philosophy and values which underlie them. Abstracts and proposals for panels or sessions must be submitted by March 1, 1996. For more information, including the instructions for preparing photo-ready abstracts, contact Dr. Bill Hart, Dept of Nutrition and Dietetics, St. Louis University, 1504 S. Grand Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63104-1395 USA. Tel 314-577-8523, Fax 314-577-8520, e-mail hartwd@sluvca.wlu.edu.

The First International Symposium on Sweeteners will take place in Jerusalem, Israel, July 14-20, 1996. Topics will include natural and synthetic sweeteners, health and side effects, mechanisms of gustation, legislation, commercialization and use of sweeteners in food products, sensory characteristics, structure-activity relationships, neurophysiological aspects, and inborn and acquired aspects of sweetness. For further information and to receive the Second Circular and Call for Abstracts, contact the Secretariat, Jerusalem International Symposium on Sweeteners, P.O. Box 50006, Tel-Aviv 61500, Israel. Tel 972 3 514 0014, fax 972 3 517 5674 or 972 3 514 0077. E-mail 100274.2665@compuserve.com.

The third independent meeting of SSIB will take place in Banff, Alberta, Canada August 22-25, 1996. Bob and Sue Ritter are in charge of the program, and Henry Koopmans is handling the local organizing. Details will appear in future issues of SSIBlings.
From the Editor's Desk...

The upcoming joint meeting of SSIB and NAASO in Baton Rouge promises to be packed with information (see story) and well worth attending. I hope to see many of you there.

Dues notices will be mailed out soon. If you have any changes to your contact information (new postal/e-mail addresses, phone/fax numbers), please indicate them on the form. It is important that you type the changes, or write them very clearly, or we may not be able to get in touch with you! The next version of the SSIB Membership Directory is slated for early 1996.

Postdoctoral members, please be sure to respond to the relevant items on the dues notice if you qualify for the dues reduction.

A nominating petition was sent with this issue of SSIBlings. Please use it to suggest candidates for the upcoming election (President and Board members).

E-mail users: Getting started on the INGEST mailing list

The membership of the mailing list has grown considerably since its beginnings, and SSIB encourages everyone to make use of this resource. Some people may have avoided joining the list because of previous experience with another list that sent dozens of uninteresting messages every day. This has not occurred with the INGEST list, which isn't used frivolously. It has great potential to reach a sizable proportion of the membership very quickly, and it's a very economical way to communicate with colleagues.

To subscribe, send the message

SUB INGEST firstname lastname
(substituting your name exactly as you would like it to appear in messages) to

LISTSERV@CUVMA.BITNET
or
LISTSERV@CUVMA.COLUMBIA.EDU

In time, you should receive a return message welcoming you to the list. From then on, when anyone sends a message to the address INGEST@CUVMB.BITNET or INGEST@CUVMB.COLUMBIA.EDU you will get a copy. You can post your own messages, including replies to mailing list items. If you wish to send a personalized reply to someone, please note that person's address and send the message to that address only. This is perhaps the only "problem" with the list; people who don't follow the italicized advice may remain unaware of the error (and the resulting annoyance of their colleagues) because the list default is that you do not get a copy of any message you send. To receive copies of your messages, you can send the message SET INGEST REPRO to the LISTSERV address above to change that parameter.

Staying in Touch

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1995 meeting: local organizers
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