SSIBlings

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Newsletter of the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior

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Letter from the President
Gerard Smith, M.D.

Two of my friends have had the life of their laboratories disrupted by antivivisection zealots. One’s laboratory building was destroyed and the other had animals stolen and misleading videotapes made. I assume that all of you can relate similar outrageous incidents. What’s to be done? Three things, I think: First, be convinced that the purpose of all of these groups is to stop animal research. Do not be taken in by such misleading euphemisms as friends, liberators, or protectors of animals. The past twenty years has shown that these activists will adopt any tactic -- political, journalistic, academic, terrorist or criminal -- that makes animal research more difficult to practice.

Second, be informed about the fundamental issues of animal research. These range from the philosophical to the regulatory. They include man’s right to use animals for research, the problem and control of pain, the search for non-animal "alternatives", the education and training appropriate for scientists and technicians doing animal research, and the role of the non-scientific public in the local and national regulation of animal research. A very useful book, Animal Research and Ethical Conflict by M.T. Phillips and J.A. Sechzer, was published in 1989 by Springer-Verlag. This book provides a critical and clear review of the historical, educational, and regulatory issues of the past twenty years. It also demonstrates how we scientists have usually done too little, too late to combat the attacks of the antivivisectionists.

Third, be active. The most important place for us to be active is in our own laboratories. We must be sure that the research that we do is conducted in the most humane, intelligent, and scientific manner. We must be certain that our technical assistants and students are thoroughly instructed and adequately supervised in the intellectual and technical principles of our research. Since there are no non-animal "alternatives" for the study of ingestive behavior, we must be ready to explain the specific requirements of research concerned with ingestive behavior in a way that persuades the public, who are our patrons and beneficiaries, and that exposes the real threat to medical research and human welfare posed by the antivivisectionists. I intend to propose a new standing committee of our Society that will be concerned with these issues for consideration by the Board. I would like to hear from you concerning what specific activities such a committee should undertake and/or whether you would like to serve on this committee.

There are several items from our recent Board meeting in Philadelphia that you should know about. The combined meeting with NAASO is now scheduled for October 20-23, 1991, in Sacramento, California. Our first independent meeting will be held at Princeton University in June, 1992. Jim Gibbs said that
the work of the Nominating Committee was made easy by the numerous nominations sent in by the membership and the slate of candidates is refreshingly diverse in gender, age, and geography. Finally, we accepted the resignation of Mark Friedman as Chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee and that of Thom Castonguay as Editor of SSIBlings. On behalf of the Society, I thank them for the important contributions they made when the Society, being new, needed them most. Don Coscina has agreed to replace Mark and Karen Ackroff, working with Thom on the next issue, will edit these pages.

Editorial Position filled
Welcome to Karen Ackroff

The ballots are in, the arm-twisting is over, and a new Editor for SSIBlings has been found!!! Welcome to Karen Ackroff. Because some of you might not know Karen, let me summarize her credentials. She is a graduate of Rutgers University (Ph.D. 1987) where she earned her degree with George Collier. After graduate school, Karen started as a post-doctoral fellow at Brooklyn College in the Department of Psychology, working with Tony Sclafani. She has stayed on there as a Research Associate and continues to commute into Brooklyn from Highland Park, NJ, (directly adjacent to the Rutgers campus) where she and her husband John make their home. Karen's scientific interests include the study of taste and its contribution to food intake and obesity. This summer’s issue of SSIBlings will be jointly edited by both Karen and your humble servant. After that, please send your correspondence directly to Karen. Her address is: Department of Psychology, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn NY 11210.

"Free at last, free at last..."

-TWC

Schedule of meetings

Below is a schedule of scientific meetings related to the interests of most of the Society’s members. You might want to "clip and save" it. If I have forgotten any, (and that’s easy to do) please drop me a line and I’ll include them next time.

Oct 10-11 The Biology of Feast and Famine. Toronto Canada

Oct 24-28 The 6th Annual International Congress on Obesity. Osaka, Japan

Oct 28-Nov 2 The Annual meetings of the Society for Neuroscience St. Louis, MO

Oct 31 Annual SSIB meeting St. Louis MO

Apr 11-14 '91 The Eastern Psychological Association New York City

Apr 21-26 '91 The Annual meetings of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Atlanta, GA

Oct 20-23 '91 Jointly sponsored North American Association for the Study of Obesity (NAASO) and Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior (SSIB) meeting Sacramento, CA

Nov 7-9 '91 San Antonio Neuroscience satellite meeting

Nov 10-15 Annual Meetings of the Society for Neuroscience, New Orleans, LA

And if the above isn’t enough to consider, remember that SSIB is planning its first independent meeting to be held during the third or fourth week of June, 1992!

Comings and Goings

The halls of the National Institute of Mental Health will seem very empty this fall. That’s because both Marion Hetherington and Julio Licinio will be leaving Bethesda and moving into new positions. Marion has accepted an offer from the University of Dundee in her native Scotland where she will assume the position of Assistant Professor of Psychology. Julio’s move isn’t quite as far, since he will be
assuming the duties of Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Yale University in New Haven, CT. Our best wishes and congratulations to you both!

Report of the Secretary
B. Hoebel
SSIB Board Meeting
Philadelphia, March 29, 1990

The Nomination Committee reported that nominations had been received from 40 members for the three board positions to start in November of 1990. Each of the nominees were proposed by at least three members. They are: for President-Elect (1990-1991) R. Ritter, B. Rolls and A. Sclafani who is currently Treasurer; for Board of Directors (1990-1993) F. S. Kraly, S. Leibowitz, T. Moran, S. Ritter, E. Striker, M. Tordoff, and J. Vasselli.

The Board voted for a new eligibility rule stipulating that current Officers (e.g. A. Sclafani) and Board Members are not eligible to run for office until the last year of their term. In the present instance, by virtue of his nomination this year, Tony will be a nominee for President-Elect next year (1991-1992) when he becomes eligible by the new eligibility rule. Future calls for nomination from the general membership will list those office holders who are not eligible.

SSIB will meet this Fall on Halloween at the Society for Neuroscience (SN) meeting, Wednesday, October 31, in St. Louis. Alan Epstein has planned a social event in the convention center with a no-host bar and plenty of good food. The speaker will be outgoing SSIB President Gerry Smith.

In the Spring of 1991 SSIB will meet for the traditional 5-minute talks at EPA Thursday, April 11, in NYC. Anyone wishing to help organize this should contact Gerry Smith.

Michael Tordoff and Israel Ramirez reported that 100 SSIBers had registered for the Chinese dinner at this year’s meeting. So many volunteered to give talks that two sessions were planned, one at dinner and one at a reception at the Monell Center the next evening. To reduce the number of talks various means were discussed including limitations by rotation, age or EPA participation. For next year Katherine Houpt suggested that the short talks start after dinner, rather than before dinner, for the sake of those that must teach on Thursday and then zip into the SSIB meeting.

In the Fall of 1991 the SSIB Annual meeting will be a joint meeting with NAASO and is scheduled for October 20-23 in Sacramento, California. The SSIB-NAASO Organizing Committee includes Judy Stern (Chair), Richard L. Atkinson, Alan N. Epstein, M.R.C. Greenwood, James O. Hill, Anthony Sclafani, and Dennis A. VanderWeele.

Again in the Fall of 1991 on the heels of NAASO there is a SN meeting November 10-15 in New Orleans, but the main event will probably be a Feeding Satellite in San Antonio organized by Matt Wayner.

In the Spring of 1992 the first independent SSIB meeting will be on the campus at Princeton University tentatively set for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 25, 26 and 27, to be organized by Bart Hoebel.

The Treasurer’s Report was filed by Tony Sclafani showing a March 26, 1990 balance of $15,819.64.

Executive Officer, Harry Kissileff agreed to prepare a proposal for amending the SSIB Bylaws to better define membership categories. Assisting Dr. Kissileff will be SSIB President Gerard Smith, Secretary Bartley Hoebel, and Treasurer Anthony Sclafani. Harry reported on U.S. tax status and presented a SSIB calendar of over 40 due dates, deadlines and meetings for the year to keep us on track.

SSIBlings Editor, Thom Castonguay, passed on suggestions of members who might be able and willing to be the new Editor. The job requires performing the work necessary to acquire newsletter material and publish it. Appreciation was expressed to those who volunteered. Membership was discussed with
the aid of data prepared by A. Sclafani. Paid membership includes 4 Emeritus members, 360 Regular members, 42 Student members, plus 43 "semi-hemi-members" who owe dues. The total membership stands at 449. USA members account for 351 of the 449, plus 42 from Canada, 11 from France, 8 England, 8 Japan, 5 Italy, 5 Australian, and 11 from other countries. Drop-outs numbered 21, but new members outnumbered them 2 to 1. Welcome to the 45 new members.

Advantages were pointed out in having one of our number on the Board of Society for Neuroscience. This requires "block nominations" as opposed to "dilute nominations." The SSIB Board voted to recommend that members of SN nominate Gerry for the SN Board. Gerry has experience both on the SSIB Board and the SN Program Committee.

Gerry Smith appointed a Distinguished Career Award Committee of Harry Kissileff and Alan Epstein to help him pick an awardee/speaker for the Independent SSIB meeting in June 1992.

Matt Wayner’s proposal for a new Behavioral Neuroscience Society was brought up. Those who have opinions should write to Matt.

SSIB-NAASO Meeting

The 1991 meeting of SSIB will be held jointly with NAASO (North American Association for the Study of Obesity) in Sacramento, CA, October 19 (or 20) to 22 (or 23). This meeting will be the official SSIB meeting for the year although satellite meetings with Neuroscience and EPA will also be held for those who attend those meetings and wish to participate. In order to begin planning for that meeting and to have the greatest possible participation and input from our members we are asking that each member who may be interested in attending fill out the survey that was mailed to you with this year’s election ballot and return it by June 1, 1990, to Judy Stern who is chair of the organizing committee for this meeting. A joint SSIB-NAASO program committee has been formed and has already had its first meeting. The SSIB members of the committee, in addition to Judy Stern, are Anthony Sclafani, Dennis VanderWeele, and Alan Epstein. Feel free to contact them directly with your suggestions in addition to filling the survey. Plans for the meeting call for a number of plenary sessions with issues of interest for members of both societies as well as separate sessions on topics that may be of interest to members of one society only. This meeting is a stepping stone to our first totally independent meeting which will be held in June of 1992.

Membership Drive

While it is true that the Society has experienced good initial growth, it is also true that there are many of our colleagues and collaborators who have not joined our ranks as members of the Society. Our request is that each member during the next few months approach a colleague and invite him/her to apply for membership. Application forms are readily available from the Secretary (B. Hoezel), any of the Society’s Officers or members of the Board of Directors.

Students take note. One large and relatively untapped source of new members is that group of students doing research in ingestive behavior. Student memberships are inexpensive (probably the cheapest single line item on any job applicant’s CV!), and they carry with them the opportunity of competing for sponsorship to national and international meetings like the International Congress on the Physiology of Food and Fluid Intake Satellite meeting in Paris last summer. If you aren’t already a member, consider joining today!
Career Opportunities

Pre- and Postdoctoral Training at the Monell Chemical Senses Center

Through a grant from the Howard Heinz Endowment, the Monell Chemical Senses Center offers pre- and postdoctoral fellowships and short-term internships for specialized basic research training. The predoctoral fellowships support graduate students enrolled in an accredited doctoral program who wish to conduct their dissertation research at the Center.

Postdoctoral fellowships are available for new doctoral level scientists, although more established investigators seeking specialized training are also encouraged to apply. Internships for 2-3 months are intended primarily for graduate students to participate in ongoing research during the summer or for laboratory rotations.

For further information, contact Dr. Mark I. Friedman, Monell Chemical Senses Center, 3500 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 Tel: 215-898-6666.

Dr. Donald Cosicina is seeking a post-doctoral fellow to join his group in Toronto, Canada. The position can be taken up at any time depending on the success of the candidate in obtaining external salary support with Don's assistance. The focus of research will revolve around neurochemical controls over feeding, with particular reference to metabolic covariates. Excellent space and testing facilities exist. For more information, contact Don by phone (416-979-6821), FAX (416-979-2243), or in writing (Section of Biopsychology, Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, 250 College Street, Toronto, Canada M5T 1R8). Canadian citizens or permanent residences are particularly encouraged to apply.

More on Drinking Tubes

Many of you will recall that the first few issues of SSIBlings included several suggestions on what to do about the increasing cost of graduated water bottles. Kenny Simansky from the Medical College of Pennsylvania wrote recently that he has found an inexpensive graduated drinking tube supplier. Allentown Caging in New Jersey will consider developing a mold for polycarbonate tubes that would sell for between 9 and 10 dollars each.

In order for them to pursue this, however, they need to know the size of the potential market. If you or any of your colleagues need to buy graduated drinking tubes in the not-too-distant future, it may be well worth your while to contact Kenny directly. His address is Department of Pharmacology, Division of Neuropsychopharmacology, 3200 Henry Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19129

Obituary
Mauricio Russek Dead at 58

Mauricio Russek, Professor of Biological Sciences in the Department of Physiology of the School of Biological Sciences of Mexico died suddenly on January 6, 1990, at the age of 58, leaving us all shocked and saddened. Mauricio was a major figure in our field. He was a pioneer investigator of the role of the liver in satiety. In the early 1960's he began an unbroken series of studies that brought the periphery back into our thinking by showing that adrenergic agents act on the liver to reduce food intake in the dog and rat. This was the principal theme of his work and he pursued it with tenacity, creativity, and boundless enthusiasm.

He was an internationalist. At various times in his career he worked at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Claude Bernard University in Lyons, UCLA, the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Pennsylvania. He served us all as a member of the International Commission on the Physiology of Food and Fluid Intake. In Mexico he led a
laboratory of talented and productive students and colleagues.

He was one of the most vivid personalities in our midst. His vitality and enthusiasm for the life of the research scholar were magnetic to all who knew him, and extended to the practical aspects of our field. He was very proud of the fact that he had eaten in all thirteen of the three-star restaurants of France!

Those of us who were his friends are heart-broken over the tragic news of his sudden death, and all of us in the Society have lost a colleague whose creativity broadened our understanding and enriched our imaginations.

A.N. Epstein

Meeting Change

The format of the meeting "Thirst: Physiological and Psychological Aspects" originally scheduled as a two-day workshop followed by a three day symposium, has been changed. The meeting, sponsored by the International Life Sciences Institute, will now be limited to a three day closed workshop, attended by scientists who have prepared manuscripts for a monograph on thirst. This monograph will be published in early 1991 by Springer-Verlag as part of the ILSI Human Nutrition Reviews monograph series.

For information about this publication, please contact Lili Merritt, Conference Coordinator, International Life Sciences Institute, 1126 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 Tel: 202-659-0074.

Meeting Announcement

The Biology of Feast and Famine: Relevance to Eating Disorders
October 10-11, 1990
Toronto, Canada

The objective of the conference is to examine eating behavior and the physiological and metabolic events associated with eating disorders. Scientists who have knowledge of biological processes relevant to eating disorders will be brought together with those who have experience with and experimental data on patients with eating disorders. Major conference themes include: Control Mechanisms in Feeding, Physiological Determinants of Neuronal Metabolism, Food Deficits, Nutritional Status and Appetite Signals and treatment of anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa. The program will include both lectures and poster sessions. Symposium speakers include: GH Anderson (Toronto), JE Blundell (Leeds), C Bouchard (Laval), P Cowen (Oxford), CG Fairburn (Oxford), M. Fernstrom (Pittsburgh), P Garfinkle (Toronto), J Gibbs (Cornell), P Gold (NIMH), B Hoebel (Princeton), KN Jeejeebhoy (Toronto), W Kaye (Pittsburgh), S Kennedy (Toronto), JA Leblanc (Laval), E Marliss (McGill), P Penshaw (Toronto), BT Walsh (N.Y.U.) and RJ Wurtman (M.I.T.).

The abstract deadline for this meeting is July 1, 1990. Registration costs $150 (Canadian) or $130 (US) until June 30, 1990. After July 1, registration will be $200 (Canadian) or $175 (US). The fee will cover the costs of two breakfasts, coffee breaks, two lunches, a cocktail hour and a banquet. Space is limited to a total of 150 participants. The conference hotel is the Novotel in Toronto. Room rates for the conference are expected to be $115/room.

For application forms or more information contact: Edmund Li, Ph.D., Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A8.