



Tenth International Symposium on Neural Regeneration

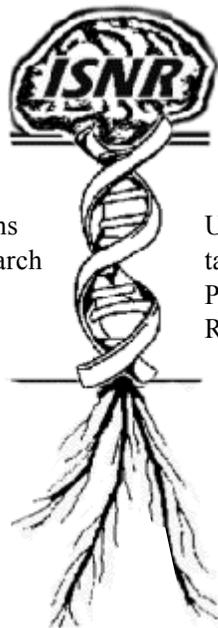
The Tenth International Symposium on Neural Regeneration (ISNR) will be held at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California from Dec. 10-14, 2003.

The meeting will be co-sponsored by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (Medical Research Service), the Paralyzed Veterans of America (Spinal Cord Research Foundation), the National Institutes of Health (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke), the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation and the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association.

In addition to these long-term sponsors, for the first time this

year there are two generous donations from individuals to specifically help sponsor the 10th ISNR conference:

Richard and Gail Siegal, and the Shapiro Spinal Cord Research Foundation.



The keynote speaker for this year's symposium will be Mary Bunge from the University of Miami. Featured talks will be given by Hunter Peckham from Case Western Reserve University, Michael Fehlings from University of Toronto, Ellen Heber-Katz from The Wistar Institute, and Stephen Strittmatter from Yale University.

Following the format of preceding neural regeneration symposia, the program is

divided into six sessions, including:

The speakers for each session and their titles are listed in the program on pages

- 1) Optic Nerve Regeneration, chaired by Albert Aguayo**
- 2) Biological and Translational Potential of Olfactory Ensheathing Cells, chaired by Almudena Ramon-Cueto**
- 3) Visceral Function and Pain in Spinal Cord Injury, chaired by Alexander Rabchevsky**
- 4) Regeneration in Complex Systems, chaired by Susan Bryant**
- 5) Molecular Correlates of Nerve Regeneration, chaired by Marie Filbin**
- 6) Emerging Topics in Regeneration, chaired by John Steeves.**

See **MEETING** Page 4

The Director's Chair



Roger Madison

The International Neural Regeneration Symposia began in 1985, and has been held on a biennial basis since that time. The primary sponsor has been the Department of Veterans Affairs, with the NIH continuously co-sponsoring the symposia since 1987. In more recent years, generous support has also been given by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation and the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association; all of whom co-sponsored the 1997, 1999, and 2001 symposia. The 2003 symposium will be the tenth meeting in this series and is the first to also be sponsored in part by donations from two new sources: Richard and Gail Siegal and the Shapiro Spinal Cord Research Foundation. The generous support of all of our sponsors is gratefully acknowledged.

The primary purpose of the symposium is to present current work in neural regeneration, especially in those areas of research in which there has been some notable recent progress or in which some particularly

Questions about the symposium should be sent to the following address:

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www.vard.org/neural/neural.htm

interesting issues have been raised. A secondary purpose is to foster an atmosphere that is both stimulating and conducive to a free interchange of ideas among investigators, or between seasoned investigators and students. These International Neural Regeneration Symposia have become an established, regularly occurring event with high attendance by both students as well as internationally recognized experts in the field of neural regeneration.

For those who are not familiar with the meeting format, the following material should help to paint a picture of the symposium. The International Symposium on Neural Regeneration has a single session format, including morning, late afternoon and evening presentations, with afternoons free to view posters or relax in pleasant natural surroundings or have a quiet discussion with one or more colleagues and/or students. This format has proven to be quite successful in terms of maximizing interactions among participants. During the previous nine symposia a great deal of interchange took place at these symposia among scientists, among scientists and students, and among scientists and clinicians.

The morning sessions each include an introductory overview by the session chairman (15 minutes) and six speakers (20-25 minutes each, followed by a 5 to 10 minute question/discussion period). The two evening and one late afternoon sessions are similarly organized, except that there are four rather than six speakers per session. The major topics for each symposium are chosen for their timeliness, current interests, and recent progress. Also a factor is their novelty to the symposium, in the sense that these areas of research will not have been covered in depth in recent symposia. Session speakers are chosen on the basis of the contribution they can make to a session and the "cutting edge" quality of their work in a particular area. An attempt is made to balance the subject matter covered in a session.

Student Support

The Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA) has again provided funds for partial support of symposium attendance by graduate students, postdoctoral fellows or clinical residents in training. Applications for support should include the following: 1) a letter indicating the applicant's area(s) of scientific interest and what

Continued next page

benefits he/she would expect to attain from attending the symposium; 2) a curriculum vitae or resume; and 3) a letter from the training director both in support of the applicant and verifying the applicant's training status. While presentation of a poster is not a requirement for an award, a statement of intent to present a poster accompanied by a poster abstract will enhance an application.

Applications must be received by October 1, 2003 and should be sent to Dr. Madison at the same address as the Symposium Registration materials listed in this newsletter. Applicants will be notified of the evaluating committee's decision before October 28th. Women and minority students are especially invited and encouraged to apply.

Symposium Proceedings

Abstracts of the symposium proceedings including both oral and poster presentations will be published as a supplement to the Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development, and will also be available on the ISNR web site (www.var-d.org/neural/neural.htm).

Symposium Website

The internet address for the 2003 Tenth International Symposium on Neural Regeneration web site is www.var-d.org/neural/neural.htm. The website consists of basic conference information on: registration, abstract submission, contacts and student travel awards. You will also find a list of scheduled guest speakers, a copy of the 2000 - 2003 Regeneration Research Newsletters, a photo gallery with pictures from prior symposia and previous conference information. There are also links to the Symposium sponsors, PVA, EPVA, NIH and the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation.

Symposium Session Proposals

We would encourage potential contributors to begin thinking now of ideas for a session for the Eleventh International Symposium on Neural Regeneration, which will be held at the Asilomar Conference Center in December, 2005. Session proposals are due by July 1, 2004 so they can be reviewed by the program planning committee at its meeting in late July or August of next year. The program planning committee meets well in advance of the symposium in order to allow adequate

time for application for symposium support funds after a program has been generated. The format for a session proposal is also available from our office, and the format must be followed for a proposal to be duly considered.

Program Planning Committee

Members of the program planning committee for this year's symposium included Drs. Susan Bryant (University of California, Irvine), Edward Hall (University of Kentucky), Roger Madison (VAMC, Durham, Duke University), Ken Muneoka (Tulane University), Michael Sofroniew (University of California, Los Angeles) and John Steeves (University of British Columbia). Guest attendees representing co-sponsoring institutions at the planning committee meeting were Drs. Vivian Beyda (EPVA), Naomi Kleitman (NIH-NINDS) and Adam Richman (VA, Medical Research Service).

The committee members would like to thank all individuals who sent in symposium session proposals for review.

ISNR NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION TEAM

Roger Madison.....ISNR Director
Frances Stuart.....Administrative Assistant
Arvie Wrang.....Publication Design

MEETING

Continued From Page 1

6-7 of this newsletter.

A complete list of speakers and titles for each scheduled session is also available on the Neural Regeneration Website at www.var.org/neural/neural.htm. Please see the Editor's Comments section earlier in this newsletter for additional information about the website.

POSTERS AND ABSTRACTS

Free communication will be presented in the form of posters. Two poster sessions have been scheduled, one on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 11 and one on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 13. Symposium registrants are invited to submit poster abstracts, the deadline for which is **Sept. 1**. An individual may be first author on only one abstract, but a laboratory group may submit more than one abstract. This year all abstract submissions (both oral and poster) will be handled electronically via the website. Follow the instructions and forms on the website. If the number of abstract submissions exceeds available poster space, abstracts received after Sept. 1 will not be considered.

Please note that final acceptance of an abstract requires prior receipt of the registration form and fees. Therefore if you plan to submit a poster abstract you must also register for the meeting by Sept. 1, 2003.

NEW FOR THIS YEAR

Two poster abstract submissions will be selected for short (15-minute) platform presentations during the last session on Emerging Topics. There is a box to check on the submission form of the poster abstracts in order to be considered for a platform presentation. The two individuals from the poster abstract submissions that are selected for short platform presentations will be notified in writing by mid-October.

THE FREDRICK SEIL TRAINEE AWARD

This new award is given in honor of Dr. Fredrick Seil, the first director and founder of the symposia series, and symbolizes his long-term commitment to both the symposium itself and the students and

fellows who attend these meetings. The award will be given to the two best poster presentations by students or postdoctoral fellows, and will be chosen by two teams of planning board members who will review the poster presentations. The awardees will be recognized at the end of the symposium, immediately following the Emerging Topics session. The two awardees will have their names added to the Fredrick Seil Award Plaque, and will also each receive a check for \$250.

SIMILAR TO PAST SYMPOSIA

Talks are scheduled for morning, late afternoon and evening sessions, with afternoons free for viewing posters or for the multitude of activities available on the conference center grounds or in the surrounding area. The Asilomar Conference Center is a state of California facility located in Pacific Grove, just south of Monterey and about 100 miles south of San Francisco. Asilomar State Beach is across the road from the conference center and is quite inviting for pleasant walks or spectacular views of the coast.

Local attractions include the Monterey Bay Aquarium on Cannery Row, the Museum of Natural History, Point Pinos Lighthouse and the Pacific Grove Art Center, which showcases local, regional and international talent. To the south of Pacific Grove is 17-mile drive and Pebble Beach golf course. Further south is Carmel and site of the Carmel Mission, which was founded by Father Junipero Serra in 1770. Carmel also hosts numerous art galleries and unique shops.

Within driving distance is Point Lobos State Reserve where hundreds of different animal and bird species have been identified. A spectacular event in nature occurs December to April when the migration of the Pacific gray whale takes place.

The weather is generally warm and sunny in December, although evenings can be cold and rain is always possible. Dress at Asilomar is casual, and you should be aware that the main meeting room has limited heat, so bring some warm clothes just in case.

REGISTRATION

Space is limited at the conference center,

and early registration is advised. Rooms and meals are on a package basis. Most rooms are for occupancy by two or more people and sharing arrangements are encouraged, which will reduce the cost per individual. Day use arrangements are possible, but these are on a fee basis, and also require registration. To register, please detach or photocopy the registration form in the newsletter (or download the form from the website) and fill in the appropriate information. Include a check drawn on a US bank or money order (purchase orders or credit cards cannot be accepted) for the appropriate registration fee(s) in US dollars made out to Regeneration Research Symposium and mail it to the Office of the International Symposium on Neural Regeneration at the address below.

Upon receipt of your registration form and fee, we will forward the forms and information for making your lodging arrangements directly with Asilomar.

Please do not attempt to contact the conference center directly without having registered. The registration fee is \$75 for conference attendees, \$30 for graduate or post doctoral students or residents in training (a letter from the program director verifying the training status is required for qualification for the student registration rate), and \$15 for accompanying persons not attending the symposium, but planning to participate in the social activities, including the symposium banquet. Attendance at and participation in the symposium by minorities and women is invited and encouraged.

Abstract Submission Instructions

Refer to the ISNR website at www.vard.org/neural/neural.htm for instructions regarding poster abstract submissions. Multiple poster abstracts may be submitted, however, each poster abstract must have a different first author. Make sure to indicate whether you would like to be considered for a short (15 minute) platform presentation. Final acceptance of submitted abstracts requires prior registration for the meeting.

The deadline for poster abstract submission is Sept. 1, 2003. First authors of poster abstracts will be sent instructions for mounting their poster by Nov. 1, 2003. Poster boards are approximately 8 feet wide by 4 feet high. If you have questions, please write to us at the above address, call (919) 286-0411, ext. 7691, fax (919) 286-6811, or send an e-mail to rdm100@duke.edu.

A New Look At Asilomar



International Symposium on Neural Regeneration

Wednesday - December 10, 2003

3:00 - 6:00 PM Arrival of participants and check-in

6:00 PM Dinner

7:30 PM Welcome and Keynote Address Keynote
Speaker: Mary Bunge, University of Miami,
Miami, Florida, USA
"Neuroprotection and regeneration strategies
to promote repair of the injured spinal cord"

Thursday - December 11, 2003

Morning Session

Optic Nerve Regeneration

Chairman: Albert Aguayo, Montreal General Hospital -
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

8:15 AM Chairman's Introduction

8:30 Ben Barres
Stanford University - Stanford, Calif., USA
"Amacrine-signaled loss of intrinsic axon
growth ability by retinal ganglion cells"

9:00 Solon Thanos
Universitat Münster - Münster, Germany
"Mechanisms of axonal regeneration in the
monkey retina"

9:30 Martin Berry
Centre for Neuroscience, Neural Damage and
Repair - Kings College, London, UK
"Acute and delayed optic nerve regeneration
in the adult rat: sleeping fibres awakened,
putative CNS inhibitory signals ignored, deno
vo scar formation inhibited and established
scars dispersed"

10:00 Break

10:30 Sarah Dunlop
University of Western Australia - Crawley,
Western Australia
"Molecular and behavioral correlates of optic
nerve regeneration"

11:00 Peter Hitchcock
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, Mich., USA
"Injury-induced neurogenesis in the retina"

11:30 Joseph Rizzo
Massachusetts Institute of Technology -
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
Veterans Affairs Medical Center - Boston,
Mass., USA
"Development of a microelectronic retinal
prosthesis"

Noon Lunch

1:00 PM Poster Session 1

5:00 PM Featured Speaker: Hunter Peckham
Case Western Reserve University -
Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center
"Neuroprostheses for functional restoration:
Current status and future directions"

6:00 PM Dinner

Evening Session

Biological and Translational Potential of Olfactory Ensheathing Glial Cells

Chairman: Almudena Ramon-Cueto, Institute of
Biomedicine, Spanish Council for Scientific
Research - Valencia, Spain

7:15 PM Chairman's Introduction

7:30 Jeffery Kocsis
Yale University - New Haven, Connecticut, USA
"Transplantation of bone marrow stromal cells
to remyelinate the spinal cord"

8:00 Susan Barnett
University of Glasgow - Glasgow, Scotland
"The pros and cons of olfactory ensheathing
cells in CNS repair"

8:30 Jane Roskams
University of British Columbia - Vancouver,
British Columbia, Canada
"Lamina propria and olfactory bulb-derived
ensheathing cells: Twins separated at birth?"

9:00 Martin Oudega
University of Miami - Miami, Florida, USA
"Schwann cells and olfactory ensheathing glia
for repair of the injured spinal cord"

Friday - December 12, 2003

Morning Session

Visceral Function and Pain in SCI

Chairman: Alexander Rabchevsky
University of Kentucky - Lexington, Kentucky, USA

8:15 AM Chairman's Introduction

8:30 Lynne Weaver
John P. Roberts Research Institute - London,
Ontario, Canada
"An early anti-inflammatory strategy markedly
reduces autonomic dysreflexia and chronic
pain after clip-compression spinal cord injury
in rats"

9:00 Matt Ramer
University of British Columbia - Vancouver,
British Columbia, Canada

International Symposium on Neural Regeneration

"Intraspinal sprouting and neuropathic pain following dorsal rhizotomy"

9:30 George Smith
University of Kentucky - Lexington, Kentucky, USA
"Growth and guidance factors modulating nociceptive afferent sprouting within the adult spinal cord"

10:00 Break

10:30 Vivian Mushahwar
University of Alberta - Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
"The use of novel electrical stimulation techniques for restoring motor function after spinal cord injury"

11:00 AM Featured Speaker
Michael Fehlings
University of Toronto - Toronto, Ontario, Canada
"Neuroprotection of the injured spinal cord: from bench to clinical application"

Noon Lunch

5:00 PM Featured Speaker
Ellen Heber-Katz
The Wistar Institute - Philadelphia, Pa., USA
"A model of mammalian regeneration - The MRL mouse"

6:00 PM Dinner

Evening Session

Regeneration in Complex Systems

Chairman: Susan Bryant
University of California - Irvine, California, USA

7:15 PM Chairman's Introduction

7:30 David Gardiner
University of California - Irvine, California, USA
"Vertebrate limb regeneration and the origin of limb stem cells"

8:00 Ken Muneoka
Tulane University - New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
"Role of Msx genes and BMP4 in fetal digit regeneration in the mouse"

8:30 Shannon Odelberg
University of Utah - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
"Determining the molecular basis for cellular dedifferentiation during newt limb regeneration"

9:00 Catherina Becker
University of Hamburg - Hamburg, Germany
"Molecular determinants of successful regeneration in the CNS of adult zebrafish"

Saturday - December 13, 2003

Morning Session

Molecular Correlates of Nerve Regeneration

Chairman: Marie Filbin
Hunter College - New York, New York, USA

8:15 AM Chairman's Introduction

8:30 Melitta Schachner
University of Hamburg - Hamburg, Germany
"Glycans and recognition molecules of the immunoglobulin superfamily in regeneration"

9:00 Wolfram Tetzlaff
University of British Columbia - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
"Cell body treatment strategies to promote axonal regeneration after acute and chronic spinal cord injury"

9:30 Mark Tuszynski
University of California - San Diego, Calif., USA
"Growth factor gene therapy in SCI"

10:00 Break

10:30 AM Featured Speaker
Stephen Strittmatter
Yale University - New Haven, Conn., USA
"The role of Nogo and Nogo receptor in axonal regeneration"

Noon Lunch

1:00 PM Poster Session 2

Afternoon Session

Emerging Topics

Chairman: John Steeves
University of British Columbia - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

4:15 PM Chairman's Introduction

4:30 Two chosen poster presentations

5:00 To Be Announced

5:30 To Be Announced

6:00 The Fredrick Seil ISNR Trainee Awards

6:30 PM Symposium Banquet

Sunday - December 14, 2003

Departure of Participants

Tenth International Symposium on Neural Regeneration

December 10 - 14, 2003

Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, California, USA

Upon receipt of payment with this Registration Form you will be sent an Asilomar Housing Registration Form.

Symposium Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

I plan to present a poster Yes No (Abstract Deadline is September 1, 2003)

Please enclose a check or money order made out to

Regeneration Research Symposium

to cover the following:

Registration fee (regular)..... \$75
Registration for accompanying person (not attending the conference) \$15
Registration for a student, fellow or resident (with letter from training director)..... \$30

TOTAL \$ _____

Name of accompanying person _____

Sorry, Credit cards or Purchase Orders NOT accepted.
Please send check drawn on U.S. bank or money order in U.S. funds

Mail this form with payment to:

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Questions??? Give us a call at
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