



ASSOCIATION FOR CHEMORECEPTION SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER

edited by Thomas R. Scott

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I. General Comments.

The fall edition of your newsletter brings comments from Gary Beauchamp, the minutes of the AChemS X business meeting, an update on APA's continuing drama, announcements of meetings past and future, of awards and of available positions, and a joke.

II. From Gary Beauchamp, Chairperson, AChemS.

I have two points of information.

1) National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). The bill authorizing this new Institute was signed into law by President Reagan on October 28. According to Geraldine Fox, who has been very active in the establishment of the Institute, the Acting Director as of November 4 is Jay Moskowitz, Ph.D. (Acting Director, NIDCD; NIH, Bethesda, MD 20892). [N.B.: Dr. Moskowitz received his Ph.D. at Brown and has been an N.I.H. employee for 20 years.] Dr. Moskowitz is soliciting nominations for two Advisory Bodies. One is an Advisory Board consisting of 18 members, as well as ex-officio members drawn from the federal government. The Advisory Board apparently will serve to review and evaluate the NIDCD plan for organizing the functions of the Institute. The exact duties and responsibilities of this group are unclear to me.

The second group is an Advisory Council which will advise "...on matters relating to the conduct and support of research training, health information dissemination, and other programs with respect to disorders of hearing and other communication processes, including diseases affecting hearing, balance, voice, speech and language, taste, and smell." They will also involve themselves in the review of grant applications.

Membership in both groups appears to be designed to be distributed among the various scientific disciplines involved in the Institute. In addition, the Advisory Board is to include individuals with a sensory disorder and parents of individuals with a sensory disorder. The Advisory Council will also include leaders in public policy, law, etc.

According to Ms. Fox, from whom I have almost all my information on this issue, these two Boards should be selected by January 1. In addition to these groups, Dr. Moskowitz is apparently naming a Task Force to recommend/nominate the permanent Director who should be selected by April and installed by July.

The extent to which those of us in the chemosensory community will have a voice in the new Institute remains unclear. In discussions with Ms. Fox I have emphasized both our concern at being left out of initial planning and fear that we will not be adequately represented in the Advisory groups. Similar concerns have been expressed to Dr. Moskowitz's office.

2) The Frito-Lay Award for Distinguished Research in Taste. Frito-Lay, Inc. has generously agreed to sponsor this award. The details of the nomination process and criteria for selection will be described by Bruce Halpern, Chairperson of the Awards Committee in his mailing to all AChemS members. Briefly, the award will recognize excellence in any area of taste research and will consist of a plaque and \$5,000.

III. Minutes of the Business Meeting, AChemS X, held April 30, 1988, Sarasota, FL.

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 PM by Charlotte Mistretta.

1. Reports.

A. Elections committee (Bruce Oakley).

The membership nominated 16-21 names per open position. Largely from these lists, but with some of its own suggestions, the elections committee (Adam Drewnowski, Sue Kinnamon, Sarah Newman, Wayne Silver and Bruce Oakley, chair) developed a slate of two candidates for each office.

The 188 ballots were opened and counted on March 29, 1988 in the Neuroscience Laboratory Building at the University of Michigan by Drewnowski, Newman and Oakley. The election results with total votes cast for each office are:

EXECUTIVE CHAIR ELECT (serves in 1990)

____ Robert O'Connell
185 total votes

PROGRAM CHAIR ELECT (serves in 1990)

____ Claire Murphy
187 total votes

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR (serves in 1989 & 1990)

____ Judith Van Houten
182 total votes

TREASURER (serves in 1989 & 1990)

____ Thomas Finger
176 total votes

COUNCILLOR (serves in 1989 & 1990)

____ Stephen Roper
185 total votes

B. Treasurer's report (Dave Hill).

AChemS had or anticipates expenditures of about \$25,000 during the fiscal year July 1, 1987-June 30, 1988. Income from dues, registration, corporate support and interest is expected to total \$28,405. Thus the chemosensory coffers should be swollen by some \$3,000 leaving us with an anticipated net worth of about \$24,000 by June 30, 1988.

The Executive Board will initiate a change in the by-laws to extend the term of the treasurer from two years to three.

C. Membership committee (Mike Meredith).

The membership of AChemS has risen by 50 during the past year, from 363 to 413. This is largely attributable to an increase of 37 student members. Attendance at the annual meeting increased from 327 to 335.

There were motions made and seconded that the Association should waive registration fees for invited speakers from outside AChemS as well as for traveling fellows. Both passed by unanimous (15-0) votes. A motion that ECRO and JASTS registrants should be charged members' fees also passed unanimously.

Our policy on selling the membership list was discussed. It was agreed that the chair of the membership

committee will only release the list for one-time special purpose uses, and that this should be done free of charge.

The deadline for receipt of dues was set for the end of the annual meeting. The membership directory will be printed and distributed within a month of the meeting to those who have paid their dues.

To promote our functions more widely, we will send notices of annual meetings to the editors of newsletters in related societies. Judy Van Houten will organize a list of appropriate societies.

D. Student awards (Linda Kennedy). Al Farberman and Linda Kennedy (ACChemS councilors) received 43 requests for support from 33 labs. They made 18 travel awards (70% of airfare) and 27 housing awards, expending just over \$5000 and using three complimentary rooms in the process. With requests for support rising even faster than the resources allocated to meet them, the Committee proposed a set of six guidelines to regulate the decision-making process. These are as follows:

1. A preliminary budget for use by the Committee will be determined by the Executive Board at the preceding year's annual meeting.

2. Either the sponsor or the student must be an ACChemS member.

3. The maximum award to any lab will be two "units" which may be distributed as one each for travel and housing, or both for housing.

4. Preference will be given to students who are making presentations at the annual meeting.

5. The application deadline will be enforced, a point that will

be reiterated in the Call for Abstracts.

6. Undergraduates who are first authors on ACChemS abstracts are eligible to apply for support.

These guidelines were approved by the Executive Board at its meeting of April 29. Two members raised the question of why the number of students from one laboratory should be a limiting criterion. The response was that this would promote wider distribution of the support. Since this did not resolve the issue, the Councilors offered to take it under consideration in making awards for 1989.

E. Program Committee (Inglis Miller). There were 209 presentations at ACChemS X, divided into 80 talks and 129 posters. With the docket becoming crowded, one option is to extend the annual meeting to four full days. In discussions the previous day, the Executive Board had not endorsed this option for 1989, citing possible competition from ISOT that may limit the growth of ACChemS attendance, our calendar move away from ARVO that will permit us to extend the Sunday morning session a bit later, and the freeing of Saturday night for presentations in the absence of a Freeman Award dinner.

The deadline for submitting abstracts was questioned. It was recognized that a Dec. 30 submission date was inconvenient for some, but constraints on dates were set by the frenzy of closing out the fall semester on the early end, and by the necessity to give the Program Committee time to organize the sessions on the late end. Whatever the date, it was agreed that it should be constant across years so that it takes its place in the circumannual rhythms of the members.

2. Announcements and other business.

- A. Inglis Miller will join Bob O'Connell as one of the two ACChemS-

appointed editors of Chemical Senses. Inglis will replace Bruce Halpern who is completing his term in that position.

B. Max Mozell announced that ISOT X will meet in Oslo during July, 1989, chaired by Kjell Doving.

C. Gordon Birch announced that ECRO VIII will meet July 18-21, 1988 in Warwick, England.

D. The N.I.H. will experiment with a more structured form for the review of proposals. Ten study sections in three Institutes will use the form during the June round of reviews. In October they will return to the old forms while they assess the effectiveness of the streamlined review procedure.

E. There is a proposal before congress to create a new Institute of Hearing Impairment and Other Communicative Disorders, including the chemical senses. Charlotte Mistretta gave a brief history of its progress and cited sources who felt that its likelihood of passage was high. There followed a lengthy discussion, the speculative content of which demonstrated our collective lack of information regarding the proposal. On the previous day, the Executive Board had empowered Charlotte, Gary Beauchamp and Bob O'Connell to gather information and to otherwise help to position the Association to respond appropriately to this initiative. The membership affirmed that charge by a hand vote of 51 in favor, 6 opposed and four abstentions.

F. AChemS XI will be held at the Sarasota Hyatt from April 12-16, 1989.

Charlotte Mistretta passed the legendary AChemS gavel into the capable hands of Gary Beauchamp who

used it to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM.

Prepared and submitted by
Thomas R. Scott

IV. The political revolution in Psychology.

Since I used the spring newsletter to engage you in the fate of what is, for many AChemS members, the parent professional organization (APA), I thought I should follow through with a description of events of the last six months. I have summarized the following information from official publications, from Bart Hoebel's report to members of Division 6, from discussions with APA administrators and from personal involvement. I have limited, but am not certain to have excluded, groundless rumors.

Background.

The American Psychological Association has been occupied with a decision concerning reorganization along the lines proposed by the Group on Restructuring and approved by Council in spring of 1988. It was upon passage of the reorganization plan that scientific psychologists were pinning their hopes for the continuing unity of APA and the attraction of disaffected scientists into its fold.

While prospects were never good, hopes for passage dimmed when Stanley Graham, a private practitioner in New York City and a powerful voice on Council, switched from support to opposition shortly after the Council vote and helped organize a campaign to defeat the plan when it was presented to the full membership. It was further determined that pro and con statements would be distributed, a tactic that tends to produce a 50-50 vote, well short of the 2/3 majority required for ratification. The voting process itself produced balloting

irregularities that might have seemed comic if the issue had been less weighty, but the outcome was clear: 43% in favor, 57% opposed, a result even more negative than most had predicted. To add an exclamation point to this statement by practitioners, Stanley Graham was elected President-elect of the APA.

Political and economic currents now flowed together. The albatross named Psychology Today was formally unwound from APA's shoulders, but the resulting lightness had more to do with APA's balance sheet than with a sense of relief. Moreover both human and computer miscalculations resulted in massive overspending on personnel by the central office. When this was recognized, positions were cut, restructuring proposed and austerity measures enacted. Leonard Goodstein, APA's Chief Executive Officer, resigned effective October 1, 1988. The APA operation took on the aspect of the Marx brothers papering a room, except morale was lower.

Response.

The Association for Scientists and Applied Psychologists had formed in the spring of 1987 to represent science within the APA and to promote passage of reorganization. It was transformed on August 10, 1988 to the American Psychological Society (APS), a group that is officially unrelated to the APA but, considering the circumstances of its birth, difficult to perceive as other than a rival organization. It now has 2000 members (I among them), a meeting planned for Arlington, VA in June of 1989, a dues structure (\$75) an incipient journal (Psychological Science) and the nervous enthusiasm of a teenager finally striking out from an oppressive family. The hope of its organizers is that scientific Psychologists of all subareas will appreciate and affiliate with an organization designed to represent

their attitudes and to satisfy their needs. They recognize, of course, that competition for members is stiffer now than two decades ago, for other organizations (Psychonomics, Neuroscience, etc.) have claimed the experimental psychologist's allegiance. Still, there is hope that APS will quickly reach 10,000 members, and so manage a budget approaching \$1 million. It is a measure of the size of the beast whose rejection gave APS life that the APA controls a budget more than 40 times that size, and ran a deficit of \$5 million this fiscal year.

To join APS, send a check for \$75 or a credit card number to Steven Hayes, Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Nevada-Reno, Reno, Nevada 89557-0062.

Counter-response.

APA governance is displeased. In its initial meeting in Atlanta (August) the Council of Representatives debated whether APS officers should be excluded from holding office in the APA. A resolution to that effect resulted in the predictable split between science division representatives (nay) and state division representatives (largely yea) and was narrowly defeated despite support from both of the next two Presidents of the APA. At their final meeting, members of Council again raised the motion, but an eternal debate ensued, consuming the remainder of the meeting and in effect making the airlines the final arbitrators as adjournment was forced with no resolution.

From the APA's point of view, all is not necessarily lost. Since the August convention, Henry Ellis, an experimental psychologist, has been appointed Acting Executive Director. Other attempts to mollify the disaffected have also been made, including a suggestion that Psychological Science be published using the facilities of the APA. Whether any serious reconciliation

follows from these attempts is an issue worth following.

Epilogue.

Psychology has gone through a rite of passage. The chain of events was quite predictable, being forged as it was by strong-willed people on both sides. Those who sought to mediate, notably APA President Raymond Fowler, found issues painted too starkly black and white for an appreciation of any subtler shades. Psychological science and practice have now divided, as physical science and practice split into physicists and engineers and biological into biologists and physicians before them. The diversion of energy, the loss of a unified voice for the profession, the division of resources that had already become inadequate are all to be regretted. Yet the bildungsroman of Psychology may after 96 years have come to a natural conclusion.

V. Awards.

A. Funding.

Since the spring newsletter the following chemosensory scientists have received Javits Awards: Max Mozell, John Kauer, Sarah Winans Newman and Foteos Macrides. One would expect, based on gross dollar distribution at NINCDS, that AChemS members would have won about 1% of these awards. Instead, we have received about 7%, an impressive statistic that is not lost on NIH administrators.

In addition, Tom Getchell has received a National Research Service Award for Senior Fellows. These awards permit experienced researchers to remove themselves from their regular responsibilities for the purposes of 1) making a major change in research direction, 2) broadening

scientific background, 3) acquiring new research capabilities or 4) enhancing one's command of an allied research field. Tom has taken his award to Frank Margolis' lab at the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology.

The division of communicative and sensory disorders at NINCDS has developed a guide to funding mechanisms and grant preparation that may help investigators select and apply for appropriate funding. The document is available from Dr. Judith A. Cooper, NINCDS, Federal Bldg., Rm. 1C06, 7550 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD 20892.

B. The Don Tucker Memorial Award (by John Caprio).

Graduate students who are first authors of an abstract to be presented at AChemS XI and who would like to be considered for the 1989 Don Tucker Memorial Award please submit a copy of your abstract by March 1 to: Dr. Scott Herness, Don Tucker Memorial Award, Box 275, Rockefeller University, New York, NY 10021.

The 1988 recipient of the Don Tucker Memorial Award was Joel White of Florida State University, a graduate student in the laboratory of Mike Meredith. Joel's presentation entitled, "In vitro pharmacological studies on the elasmobranch nervus terminalis: Evidence for cholinergic and catecholaminergic suppression of ganglion cell activity" (AChemS-X abstract #38), was selected as being outstanding research performed by a graduate student in the chemical senses. Joel's name and university affiliation joins those of previous recipients of the award (Gerlinda Hermann, Celeste Wirsig, Jonathon Pevsner and David Wellis) on a plaque which hangs permanently in the Don Tucker Memorial Conference Room at Florida State University. Joel was also the recipient of a \$200 cash award.

VI. Meetings.

A. Chemical Senses Day VI.

Seventy-five people attended the sixth annual conference on the chemical senses, organized and hosted by Vivienne Drimmer and Sharlene Vite at the National Food processors Association, in Dublin, CA on Saturday, October 8, 1988. There were 13 oral presentations and five posters that ranged in subject matter from molecular structure to tomatoes. The meetings concluded with a tasting of cheese and wines hosted by Ann Noble and Vivienne Drimmer. Chemical Senses Day VII will be hosted by Dr. Herbert Stone, Tragon Corp., at the Palo Alto Holiday Inn, Saturday, October 14, 1989. Information available from Prof. R. M. Pangborn, Food Science & Technology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, U.S.A.

B. ISOT X.

The Tenth International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste will be held from 16-20 July, 1989 in Oslo. The organizer is Professor Kjell Doving (Dept. Biology, P.O. Box 1051, 0316 Oslo 3, Norway) who may be contacted for additional information. The Honorary President will be Professor Dietrich Schneider. The Symposium will be divided into four sections:

1. Chemical signals and orientation: A comparative approach.
2. Primary processing of chemical signals.
3. Central processing of chemical signals.
4. Development of chemosensory systems.

The first three sections will be structured by the Organizing

Committee, while the last will be arranged by Drs. Gail Burd and Leslie Tolbert.

In addition, Professor Gary Lynch of U.C. Irvine will present a special lecture on Olfaction and Memory.

Invitations will be sent to all AChemS members before Christmas.

C. The next Gordon Conference on "Chemical Senses: Taste and Smell" will be held in Summer 1990. The chairperson and vice chairperson for this meeting, Bruce P. Halpern and David L. Hill, would appreciate your recommendations concerning possible session topics, conference foci, and other relevant matters.

VII. Openings.

A. Tenure Track Assistant Professor.

Applications are invited for a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Department of Zoology & Physiology, Louisiana State University. The Department is seeking an individual with research competence in one of the following areas to complement its existing strengths in comparative physiology: neuroendocrine/neuro-sensory physiology, comparative biochemistry and membrane biophysics. The successful candidate will be expected to establish a strong research program and contribute to graduate and undergraduate teaching, primarily in vertebrate systems physiology. Candidates must have the Ph.D. degree and postdoctoral training is preferred. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, a statement of research and teaching interests, and names of three references by 15 January, 1989 to: Dr. Albert H. Meier, Department of Zoology & Physiology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

B. Two tenure-track faculty positions for cognitive and neuroscientists. Cognitive science specialty area and rank are open. Neuroscience research focus preferred to be on CNS neural plasticity. Assistant professorships are anticipated, though senior appointments are possible for exceptional candidates. Send CV, three letters of recommendation, no more than three reprints and a statement of research goals to J. E. Hoffman (cognitive) or L. C. Skeen (neuroscience), Dept. Psychology, Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716 by January 1, 1989. Women and members of minority groups are especially encouraged to apply.

C. Post-doctoral position.

Initial appointment of 1-2 years, with possible continuation. Background or interest in animal olfactory electrophysiology and quantitative behavioral measurements required. The successful candidate will join ongoing programs focussing on both basic and applied aspects of odor detection and enhancement as well as on assessment and improvement of field performance in odor detecting dogs. Salary: \$26,000. Contact D. A. Marshall, Dept. Physiology, School of Medicine, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6085 or at (215) 898-7504 (office); 273-2495 (lab).

VIII. Chemical Senses.

Our journal continues to receive strong support from IRL Press. The frequency of publication will go from quarterly to bimonthly in 1989, with a total of 726 pages budgeted (121 per issue). the subscription rate for AChemS members has been held to \$60., and this does not require a library subscription from the member's institution. In addition, first-time subscribers will enjoy a

further 25% discount for one year (\$45). Chemical Senses, now with 452 subscribers, is listed in Current Contents/Life Sciences. To continue to prosper, Chemical Senses needs your money and your mind. Subscribe yourself and recommend that your library do likewise. Think of Chemical Senses as the primary outlet for the results of your research.

IX. Notice to all authors of poster presentations at AChemS XI (1989).

Posterboard dimensions are 4' x 6' (122 x 183 cm). This information was not included in the Call for Abstracts.



"Too sweet. Use less revenge."