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December 14th, 1984

Dear colleagues and friends,

just a few days before Christmas I am happy to present you with the latest news about our nice little neurotox association. To be precise, we are thirty-five by now, and we will be more numerous in the future. I am so positive with that respect as most of the founding members (21) have consented on membership being open to everybody. As a consequence, you are free to invite your colleagues or other persons working in the field to join us. For this purpose, you will find an application form enclosed with this letter. It is intended to serve as a specimen which you may use to make photocopies of for new applicants. Other ways of being open to further members are conceivable, of course. Therefore I included some questions into the 2nd questionnaire which comes also along with this letter.

To continue by statistics:

- 34 liked the idea of having a register of members. For the ease of keeping it up to date, I am planning to organize it as a database on an IBM-PC computer. As this machine has found a very wide-spread use in laboratories, I think this would be the best choice to keep the database portable.
- 33 voted in favour of a register of relevant institutions. I am prepared to do this for Germany, but I need your help for other countries and international bodies. Please, send me a list of relevant institutions and authorities in your home country. These lists will not have to be complete. As we have more than one member in several countries, there is a good chance to have complementary information.
- 33 want informal reunions at toxicology meetings. I will come back to this point later.
- 30 desire exchange of hard-to-find articles to be organized. To set an example, I sent slide holders to Kevin Crofton and David Peele. If you need something you cannot find, just drop me a line and I will circulate your call for help with the next newsletter, or, in urgent cases, by cable.
- 26 are ready to advise beginners. As the fields of interest and competence are circulated together with the list of members coming January, you may then turn directly to the expert of your choice.
- 19 are ready to collaborate on the recommendation of standard equipment for testing. With respect to the low score it seems to me that this point should not be our most important pre-occupation. But I will bring this point up again in a year or so to see whether there is a growing interest for this objective. On the other hand, this question is somehow related to the planned book on neurobehavioral toxicology methods. I could imagine that some or all of these 19 methodologists might jump on this bandwagon.

- 16 consider it useful to adapt GLP-rules to neurotoxicity testing. In my view, the relative low score does not preclude any initiative to be taken by those who like the idea. But again, I do not feel urged to do anything about it; except giving you each others name upon demand.

Together with the questionnaires, some comments and suggestions were returned to me. Much to my surprise, nobody suggested "Club 401" as a name for our club. But there were convincing arguments from our american friends riot to use NIG. Somebody suggested NSG (Neurotoxicology. Study Group), somebody else ING (International Neurotoxicology Group). I myself would prefer INA (International Neurotoxicology, Association) , because it sounds like a girls name.

Further proposals were related to the aims of our group. It was proposed to circulate NATO meeting announcements, to stimulate visits to and working with other laboratories, to support the development of basic research and the identification of new research ideas, to organize biennial meetings, and to circulate articles written by members. I think that these ideas are all very attractive and presumably acceptable to everybody. Only in the case of the last proposal there seems to be a problem on the practical side. As our club grows, it will be more and more expensive for the authors to send reprints to all members. By contrast, we could inform each other on our publications, and those terribly interested could obtain a reprint from the author on request. Furthermore, we could perhaps agree on sending one copy of every publication to the secretary of the club in order to have it documented there. At convenient intervals, a list of publications could be issued. You are invited to tell me your opinion by filling in the questionnaire attached to this letter.

A few days ago, I finished reading a review article on behavioral toxicology methods currently being prepared at my institute. Even though it is an enormous compilation covering a large variety of aspects, it necessarily falls somewhat short in authenticity. As some of the authors cited in the review are already members of our club, and as the rest of them will hopefully join us in the near future, I went up to my colleagues and suggested to them to use this review as a basis for a book on behavioral toxicology methods, written and/or revised by members of our club. But even thou my colleagues had had the same idea before, they accepted to offer collaboration on the book to members of our association. This implies that the question of editorial management is as good as settled, and also that we do not have to worry about a publisher. The book is due to be published most probably by Elsevier, and authors will have a share of the royalties in proportion to their contribution. To help you decide whether to join in or not, I included a provisional table of contents with this letter.

And this brings me to my last point. If we should come to collaborate on the methods book, it will be obligatory to have editorial meetings. At the same tirne, we have agreed, on occasional reunions for the sake of keeping in contact. So why not bring the two objectives together? What I would like to suggest to you is to come to the behavioral toxicology conference to be held in Copenhagen next summer, and to travel onwards to

Duesseldorf for a workshop on behavioral toxicology methods, giving an opportunity to do some editorial work on the book. The head of our institute supports this plan and has already reserved money for this event.

This letter goes to all participants of the Belgirate course because I hope that some of those still hesitating might make up their minds and join in.

If you have not yet done it, please fill in the 2nd page of the 1st questionnaire (personal data) and return it to me, not forgetting to mention your telephone and telex numbers,

I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Best regards

(signed Michael Csicsaky)

This is a provisory list of club members, by alphabetical order:

Aas, Pal  
Altenkirch, Holger  
Barret, Luc  
Bogo, Victor  
Bondy, Stephen  
Cavanagh, J.B.  
Costa, Lucio  
Crofton, Kevin  
Csiesaky, Michael  
Del Vecchio, Pranziska  
Flaminlo, Liliana  
Flucke, Winfried  
Hoogendijk, Elisabeth  
Koyuncuoglu, Hilanet  
Krinke, Georg  
Ladefoged, Ole  
Lefauconnier, Jean4Earie  
Lotti, Maroello  
Mejer, Claus  
Naalsund, liv Unni  
Paciorek, Judy  
Peele, David  
Restani, Patrizia  
Rose, Geoffrey  
flothenberg, Steve  
Schaepi, Elrich  
Schoenhuber1 Rudolf  
Shaw, Ian  
Simonsen, Leif  
Souyri, Francoise  
Spencer, Peter  
Stoltenbrng-iidinger, Gisela  
Sunol, Cristina  
Tusell, Josep  
Valenzuela-Garach, Aurora  
van den Bercken, Joep

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION FORM

Full Name  
And Title(s):.....

Address: .....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Telephone .....  
Telex .....

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My fields of special interest are:

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*I am currently working on:*

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*I am planning to work On:*

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*I am looking for collaboration on:*

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*I am able to advise my colleagues on:*

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*My laboratory offers traineeship in:*

Neurobehavioral Toxicology Methods  
(provisional table of contents)

- 1 General outlines (quality assurance, reference substances, provocation techniques, etc)
- 2 Assessment of nonspecific behavior (observational methods, stereotyped behavior rating scale, behavior profile, photographic analysis)
- 3 Motor performance tests (open field activity, photocell activity mechanical and electrical force transducers, stabilimeters, running wheels, rotarod/accelorod swimming performance, maze activity)
- 4 Assessment of sensory function (determination of theshold, perimetry, spatial contrast sensitivity, visual acuity, flicker fusion frequency, nystagm, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX constant stimulus method, tracking method, olfactory discrimination, pain perception, substance discrimination)
- 5 Respondent behavior (repulsive movement to clicks and air puffs, extensor - rigidity, grasp reflex, righting, placing, freezing, visual cliff, effects of brain stimulation with electrodes)
- 6 Learning and Memory (classical conditioning, taste aversion, avoidance learning, water maze, T-maze, reinforcement schedules, autostimulation, self-administration of drugs, discrimination learning, spatial learning, learning transfer, reversal learning)
- 7 Emotion and motivation (biorhythm, eating and drinking behavior, a gresiveness, sexual behavior, maternal behavior, habituation)
- 8 Habituation and addiction (cross-self-application method, goalbox preference oral application, autostimulation)
- 9 Discussion, perspectives, consequences

Literature together with each chapter  
Register(s)

Where applicable, the following scheme could be used for the presentation of individual methods:

- definition and general description
- testing equipment
- testing procedure
- applications (selection of)
- discussion and evaluation

Additional suggestions and better ideas are welcome!