

# INA Newsletter ..... February 1994

Vol. 15, No. 1

## President's Message:

This year, 1994, is the tenth anniversary of the birth of the idea that led to the formation of INA in 1985. As many of the old-timers know it was a meeting on the *Toxicology of the Nervous System* in Belgirate, Italy, that the first members of the future INA first got together. The prominent role of Dr. Michael Csicsaky, the "founding father" of INA, in this process has been officially acknowledged at the last meeting in Denmark, where he was presented a plaque thanking him for his initial vision and his work in all those years.

Our last meeting in Helsingor, Denmark, in 1993, has been a success, as all others previous to that. Thanks are due again to Dr. Ole Ladefoged and his colleagues for their efforts and the choice of a very nice location. The proceedings of the meeting will be published in the next few months as a special issue of *Neurotoxicology* which will be sent to all participants. Additional copies can be purchased by those who did not attend the meeting.

A lively business meeting led to some important decisions. First the site for the 1995 meeting was selected. *INA V* will be held in Port Ludlow, Washington, June 25-30, 1995 and will be a satellite meeting of IUTOX. Second, it was decided to form a single Programme Committee, instead of the previous Scientific and Local Organising Committees. The Chair of the *INA V* Programme Committee will be Dr. Steve Gilbert. Much of the scientific programme of the meeting derives from suggestions from the membership, and you will find a solicitation for your input in this newsletter. I strongly urge you to send your ideas for symposia, workshops or any other comment or suggestion to Dr. Gilbert.

As mandated by the INA statutes, new elections will also be held. This newsletter is now soliciting nominations for officers (members of the Executive Committee) in INA. If you desire to serve, or would like to suggest a member's name, please write. The next newsletter, in summer 1994, will contain ballots for this vote.

It is important that all members continue to contribute to and participate in INA activities. Only through these interactions can INA maintain its friendly collegiality while ensuring a high level

of scientific content in neurotoxicology. Though slightly more "beurocratized" by its increased size, I believe that INA has maintained the spirit that has been its trademark since its inception. This continues to be our main objective for the coming years.

Best wishes for a fruitful and healthy 1994!

Lucio Costa,

President.i8(25 n-em33(8

1) Focus on neurophysiology, psycho-physiology, and behaviour which is in contrast to which INA-4 was focused mainly on neurochemistry, biochemistry.

2) More workshops and signal-transduction.

3) Behavioural research in solvents/metals focusing on mechanisms of action. Special susceptibility - groups what do they teach us about mechanisms of action. Neurodegenerative diseases vs. exposure disorders.

4) Biological bases of polychlorinated biphenyl-induced neurotoxicity. From biological data to risk assessment. Delayed onset neurotoxicity.

5) A student-run symposium.

Please forward your symposium suggestions to committee members or to myself. Include a brief abstract of the symposium. If possible include a name for the chair of the symposium as well as possible speakers.

The following page lists those that have agreed to be members of the INA-5 Program committee. I have included e-mail addresses when possible. I would like to encourage the use of e-mail for this meeting. I am even hoping that we can have most of the abstracts sent by e-mail so they can be electronically manipulated for the program book.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Steven G.Gilbert  
Chair, Program Committee, INA-5

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### **Reports from the committees: Executive Committee**

The meeting at Helsingor was very successful; 180 participants from 26 countries were present making this a truly international occasion. This success was due to the teamwork and dedication shown by both the local Committee headed by Ole Ladefoged, and the Scientific Committee led by Huw Jones. The hard work put in by these teams is very much appreciated by the rest of us.

The resignation of the Treasurer, Hans Muijser, was announced together with that of John Cavanagh. The Association is grateful for the contributions made by these members and hoped that they will find the time to be present at future meetings. Hans left our finances in good shape and well-accounted for. In brief, our balance before the 1991 meeting was DFI 53,269. Seed money given to this meeting was

returned and passed to the organisers of the 1993 meeting. The balance before the 1993 meeting was DFI 55,356. In addition a small residue of moneys from 1991 remains in Italy. In view of the current relatively healthy financial situation, current membership payments now being solicited will be applied to 1993-1994 rather than 1991-1992 as originally envisioned. The possibility of payment being made by credit card will be investigated after we are incorporated. Beverley Kulig has been co-opted to serve as our new Treasurer. This position requires considerable skill and is rather time consuming and we are glad that she accepted this responsibility.

Elections for the six positions on the Executive Committee are to be held. Nomination will be solicited in the autumn of 1993 and the election will be held by newsletter ballot in the spring of 1994. The new committee will take office in 1995 at the INA meeting. This will allow time for a smooth transition so that key information can be passed to the next generation. The spring newsletter will also present supporting and opposing views on the question of affiliation of INA with IUTOX (International Union of Toxicology) and IBRO (International Brain Research Organisation), and members will be able to vote on that issue.

David Ray announced that the incorporation of INA in the United Kingdom, as a non-profit organisation, is well under way and will be completed shortly. The by-laws will be presented in the next newsletter. [Subsequent to this we have found that it would be simpler for financial reasons to make similar legal arrangements in the Netherlands - see also next newsletter].

A need to improve communications between future committees has led to the merging of the Scientific and Local Committees for the 1995 INA meeting. The newly constituted Program Committee will have half its members (including the chair) from the local hosts, and half from the rest of the membership. This will ensure the maintenance of scientific quality combined with respect for the trends proposed by our hosts.

One of the missions of INA is to act as a forum for the attraction of younger members into our discipline and in order to promote the development. For these reasons Marcello Lotti has proposed a student symposium at the next meeting. Participants will be fully supported financially. Mechanisms for their selection remain to be developed. Student memberships in INA will continue to be free. In addition it is planned to offer more fellowships for junior members. These extra costs require that travel expenses for INA members who are symposium speakers will no longer be available. All members are expected to make every effort to attend meetings, and since symposium speakers are relatively senior, they should in most circumstances be able to be self-supporting. Flexibility will however be maintained since third world participants may have distinctive funding problems. Other means of keeping the association in good financial condition will involve

more vigorous attempts to obtain support from pharmaceutical companies.

### **Local Committee:**

Ole Ladefoged described some of the complexities of the interactions between Local and Scientific Committees. Since the Local group has to invest a great deal of time to assembling the meeting, they should be allowed significant input as to the content of the meeting. However, their suggestions as to speakers were not taken up by the Scientific Committee. It was felt that several symposium speakers were "recycled" from previous meetings and not enough new directions were taken. The local group do not feel that it is fair that their contribution is limited to acting as hard-working travel booking agents.

Ole suggested that the next meeting start on a Saturday in order to allow participants to take advantage of cheap air-fares. Ole announced that in order for manuscripts to be published in a special edition of *Neurotoxicology*, they must be in the correct format and evaluated by two reviewers, prior to being given to Joan Cranmer. In addition, only papers by authors who had attended the meeting and who had paid the registration fee, would be accepted.

### **Scientific Committee:**

Huw Jones said that he had several recommendations to make as a result of his experience in chairing this committee for the 1993 meeting.

- a) The program should reflect state of the art concepts from each of the disciplines representing the composition of the membership.
- b) More balance was needed in that women were rather under-represented in the symposia, and neurochemistry was somewhat over-represented. Future organisers should be sensitive to such issues.
- c) Workshops should not be mini-symposia or an extension of posters presented, as they often seem to have been, but should be true interactive sessions.
- d) The format of symposia in the morning only, with posters and poster discussions in the afternoon, may be optimal.

### **General membership meeting:**

The comments of Huw Jones led to a discussion by the membership. Posters were perceived as being too scattered, problems of finding common themes for grouping posters existed. The best style for poster presentations may be to have a chair build a debate around a set of posters. Prizes for best posters were proposed.

Other discussions following Huw's comments were to the effect that symposium themes should come directly from the members.

The site of the 1995 meeting was also discussed by the membership. It was felt in 1991 that the U.S. should be the site as the previous four meetings have been in Europe. Steven Gilbert has provisionally booked a site at Port Ludlow, Washington on June 25-

30, 1995. This would be in juxtaposition to the IUTOX meeting in nearby Seattle. Since our meeting is officially recognised and given satellite status by IUTOX, this seems very convenient. However, Professor Illes Desi described some excellent facilities at the University of Szeged, Hungary which would be available for the next meeting. The possibility of an INA satellite meeting in Hungary in 1995 was raised, as well as the consideration of Hungary for 1997. It is increasingly clear that two years advance notice is not enough, so extensive further discussion was held on the site of the 1997 meeting. Tampere, Finland was proposed as a good site by Kai Savolainen. The Finnish Ministry of Education and the Nordic Council of Ministers were described as possible sources of support. David Ray stated that Leicester, England had very good new and inexpensive student accommodation that would be suitable for the 1997 meeting. However, he expressed a willingness to defer to Elles Desi who had already proposed a Hungarian site in 1991.

A framed certificate of appreciation was presented to our founding member, Michael Csiscaky, and this took him completely by surprise. We all owe a great debt to Michael as our Association was once merely a daydream of his. It is due to his energy and persistence that his idea became a reality. Things are often started by small groups but our Association has a genuine Founder. It was the original intent of Michael, to have an association wherein neurotoxicologists could exchange information and become friends in an informal and relaxed setting. The four INA meetings that we have held so far, have attempted to maintain this tradition and remain true to the vision of their progenitor.

Stephen C. Bondy  
Executive Secretary.

## An impure science?

It is remarkable how few of us start our scientific lives as toxicologists. Perhaps it is the idealism of youth, but I suspect that most of us started off with questions more akin to - how does it work? - rather than - why did it die? In my case a healthy interest in the physiology of deep sea diving mutated to a morbid fascination with the neuro-vascular toxicity of oxygen. From then on I was lost - now I even enjoy pathology.

Perhaps we all share this personality disorder. If a car broke down a physician might try to mend it, a scientist might try to redesign it, but I fear that a toxicologist would be writing it up for the *Journal of Automotive Research*. Fortunately in my experience toxicologists are a gregarious lot, and there would soon be a crowd of us around the car, measuring the composition of the interesting bubbles coming from the battery and analysing the pool of oil gathering underneath.

The shock comes when one meets up with "normal" scientists - (these are the ones in a little

group at the back wondering what the car did when it was alive). I had the recent experience of working out a list of speakers for a meeting on neurotoxicology with some "normal" neuroscientists. They became genuinely interested in the problem and quickly devised a programme - which however included no toxicology. When I queried this they pointed out that although X had done good biochemical work on the toxic agents, A was a better biochemist. Y had some good behavioural observations, but B had a much better track record in behavioural science. Z had looked at the electrophysiology, but - as an electrophysiologist myself surely I could see that he was not quite... at the centre of things. I suppose that we have all had experiences like this, and will have realised that X, Y & Z are good toxicologists, and A & B would not know a poison if it bit them - and would not wish to either!

What do we do about this? I would suggest that either we take out a bulk INA discount for psychoanalysis, or we go out and infect others with a liking for things toxicological. I recommend the latter! Some of my best friends *used* to be pure scientists - now the survivors belong to the INA.

David Ray  
(written to encourage others to submit something better)

## Newsletter information

Send your contributions to the next newsletter to David Ray: By post: MRC Toxicology Unit, University of Leicester, Lancaster Road, Leicester, LE1 9HN, U.K. By Fax: -44-533-525616. By EMAIL: DER2@le.ac.UK. By telephone: -44-533-525585. All contributions on INA matters, neurotoxicology, forthcoming events, or anything of general interest will be most welcome.

## Reminder!

If you wish to be a voting member of INA please do not forget to pay your annual membership fee of 60 Guilders. Outside the U.S.A. the best way is by direct bank transfer to:

ABN-AMRO Bank, Delft, The Netherlands,  
Account no. 51.88.99.896  
B.Kulig, inz INA.

As banks do not always send us *your* name please send a copy of the transfer to Beverley Kulig, TNO Medical Biological Laboratory, P.O. Box 5815, 2280 HV Rijswijk, The Netherlands.

In the U.S.A. a cheque made out to INA for \$30 can be sent to:

Dr. Kevin Crofton,  
Neurotoxicology Division,  
MD-7B, US EPA,  
Research Triangle Park,  
NC 27711.

The account number is 6351-011606.

# INA ballot form:

Following the 1993 scientific meeting, nominations are solicited for the Executive Committee of the International Neurotoxicology Association:

I wish to nominate the following INA member for membership of the Executive Committee.

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(date) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return (by the end of February) to the Executive Secretary:

Professor Stephen Bondy,  
College of Medicine and Environmental Medicine,  
Irvine,  
California,  
U.S.A.