

# INA Newsletter ..... January 1995

Volume 16, No. 1

## **President's Message:**

### **Dear INA members:**

As I am writing this brief note, the year 1994 is coming to an end. Even years, without the meeting, are usually quiet with regard to INA activities. The Proceedings of our last meeting in Helsingor have been published in *Neurotoxicology* in a timely fashion, thanks to the work of Ole Ladefoged, Greta Ostergaard and, of course, Joan Cranmer. Those who attended the meeting should have received a copy, and additional copies are available for purchase.

The Programme Committee, chaired by Steven Gilbert, has been busy preparing for INA-5, which will be held in Port Ludlow, Washington, June 25-30 (see page 4). The preliminary programme and call for abstracts were mailed in November, and from the requests for information that have been received, we should expect a full house.

Please remember that only about 200 people will be able to attend INA-5. This is due to our tradition of keeping the meeting small to facilitate interaction, as well as to the size of the resort, which will not be able to accommodate a larger group. INA members will have priority, so please send your abstract and register by the early deadline.

Finally, a very sad note. Jacob Hooisma, one of the founders of INA and the organiser of the first INA meeting in Lunteren, passed away on November 27, 1994 after a brief illness. The contributions of Jacob to INA have been outstanding (see page 4) and he will be greatly missed. While offering my deep sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues, I would like to propose a way to honour his memory. Upon discussions among the Executive Committee, it has been proposed to establish the "Jacob Hooisma Memorial Lecture" to be held by a distinguished toxicologist during INA meetings. Please submit nominations for this lecture, and any other ideas or comments, directly to me at the Department of Environmental Health, XD-41, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195 USA.

Thank you and best wishes for a successful 1995.

Lucio G. Costa, President, INA.

## **Election candidates for Executive:**

Eighteen hopeful candidates have been nominated for election to the Executive Committee of INA following the ballot in the last Newsletter. They have provided brief biographical details in order to inform

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Research Triangle Park U.S.A., where I also did my postdoctoral research. My bachelors and masters degrees were in Zoology at Miami University. I am a member of the Editorial Board of *Neurotoxicology*. My research interests are in behavioural toxicology, focusing on sensory systems and the toxicity of solvents and organonitriles.

**Prof. Illes Desi**

I was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1931. I graduated as MD from the Budapest University Medical School, and am presently professor and head of the Department of Public Health at the Albert Szent Györgyi University. My field of interest is the study of the mild early signs of neurotoxicity caused by pesticides, in spraymen and on experimental animals. We carry out EEG, evoked potential, single unit cell investigations, and behavioural and learning studies. I have a wife who works in a book publishing house, and two grown-up sons.

**Dr. Ingeborg A. Ivens**

I was trained as a neurobiologist at the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen, Germany, and did my doctoral thesis on invertebrate photoreceptors. My training in toxicology ended with becoming a Diplomat of the American Board of Toxicology in 1990. My main interests are in the electrophysiological and, additionally, the behavioural areas of neurotoxicology with the objective of finding sensitive techniques for detection of early signs of neurotoxicity.

**Dr. Ann-Christin Johnson**

I am at present working as a researcher at the Department of Neuromedicine at the National Institute of Occupational Health in Solna, Sweden, having obtained my doctorate in medical science in 1993. My present work is focused on ototoxic effects of solvents and interactions between chemical and physical agents in their effects on the nervous system and sense organs. I am working with animal models using electrophysiological, an (partly) morphological and histochemical techniques.

**Dr. Huw Bowen Jones**

My interests in neurotoxicology were fostered by John Cavanagh at the Institute of Neurology, London. During and since then I have concentrated on the mechanism of action of neurotoxins *in vivo* and *in vitro*, especially on cell and tissue structure. Currently working in the pharmaceutical industry, I have been involved with the INA since its formation, serving on the scientific committees for all of our meetings. I wish to assist in continuing the INA tradition of positively influencing young neuroscientists by our enthusiasm for good (multidisciplinary) science.

**Dr. Beverly Kulig**

I am head of neurotoxicology, which has recently become a department within TNO Nutrition and Food Research. My research interests are rather varied and range from the development of animal and human methods for identifying neurotoxic hazards to brain-behaviour relationships. As those of you who have paid your INA dues know, I took over as interim treasurer of INA last year. My biggest hopes for INA are that it will become a greater resource for communication among neuroscientists from multiple disciplines, and that it will attract a greater number of new, young neurotoxicologists to its ranks in the years to come.

**Prof. Richard Letz**

Following study at Texas and Harvard, I am now Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at Emory University, USA. My research interests include development, standardisation and application of computerised behavioural methods for assessing both CNS and PNS function. I have performed both human and animal experiments as well as human epidemiological investigations of effects of solvent and heavy metal exposures.

**Prof. Ole Ladefoged**

I am Associate Professor at the Department of Animal Feeding and Nutrition, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen. I trained in veterinary science, pharmacology and toxicology. in Copenhagen. My research work has been on the neurotoxicity of organic solvents and neuropathology. Since 1986 I have been a member of the European Commission Scientific Advisory Committee to examine the toxicity and ecotoxicity of chemicals, and have worked on E.E.C. documents on solvent toxicity.

**Dr. Kiti Müller**

I am married with two children, and work as the senior neurologist of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences at the Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, Finland. My clinical work focuses on neurological examination of people occupationally exposed to various neurotoxicants and with clinical symptoms suggestive of organic brain disease, and the effects of ageing and various neurologic conditions (e.g. traumatic brain damage, neurodegenerative disease, vascular encephalopathy) on working capacity.

**Dr. David Ray**

I am head of neurotoxicology at the U.K. Medical Research Council Toxicology Unit. My main interest is mechanistic, physiological level investigation of the neurotoxicology of pesticides and industrial chemicals. I am currently a member of the INA board, serving as General Secretary and editing this newsletter. I wish to preserve the INA as a forum for free and informal exchange of scientific ideas, and also to develop it so

as to enhance the scientific standing of neurotoxicology within neuroscience.

#### **Dr. Deborah Rice**

I am a research scientist in the Toxicology Research Division, Health Protection Branch, Health Canada and trained in toxicology at Rochester, USA. I serve on the editorial boards of *Neurotoxicology* and *Neurotoxicology and Teratology*, was President of the Neurotoxicology speciality section of the U.S.A. Society of Toxicology in 1993, and the Program Committee (1994-6). My research interests include developmental behavioural toxicity of low levels of neurotoxicants such as heavy metals, including assessment of cognitive and sensory system function.

#### **Dr. Gisela Stoltenburg-Didinger**

I am a faculty member of the University of Berlin, where I am responsible for diagnosis of neurosurgical specimens, autopsies and teaching. I trained in medicine and neuropathology, and became interested in experimental toxicology via work on glue-sniffers in the 1970s. My current work is on morphological effects of prenatal methylmercury, postnatal pyrethroids, developing *in vitro* models of neuronal and glial toxicity, and most recently chronic prenatal low-level lead.

#### **Dr. Mineke K. Viaene**

I was born in 1961 in Leuven, Belgium, and was a Resident in neurology at the University Hospital of Leuven and the University Hospital of Maastricht, The Netherlands (licensed in 1991). In was licensed in Occupational Health in 1992. My special interests are chronic and delayed solvent neurotoxicity and the role of detoxification enzyme phenotypes.

#### **Prof. Dr. H. Weigand**

After my pregraduate medical education I specialised as a physician in pharmacology and toxicology, especially in neurotoxicology, using mainly neurophysiological methods. For approximately 8 years I worked on the actions of clostridial toxins and then switched over to the persistent environmental substances which impede nervous system functions. Beginning this education with mainly *in vivo* experiments, for about 10 years I concentrated on different *in vitro* methodologies, including slices and different cell culture systems.

#### **Prof. Gerhard Winneke**

I am head of the department of Psychophysiology and Professor of Medical Psychology at Düsseldorf, and trained in experimental and physiological psychology and toxicology. My interests include the developmental and behavioural neurotoxicology of lead, solvents and PCBs, the neuroepidemiology of lead and PCBs in children, and odorants/irritants. I belong to the German Society of Pharmacology & Toxicology and

the Society of Neurophysiology. I also served 4 years on the INA Scientific Committee.

## **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity**

Michael Csicsaky writes to ask INA members to help his colleague, Birger Heinzow, collect information about Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (chemical hypersensitivity, or low level chemical sensitivity).

Birger, together with Nicholas Ashford (MIT) and Lars Molhave (Aarhus) wish to screen for scientific evidence of this ill-defined but apparently growing phenomenon; to bring people working in the field together; and to attempt to understand the underlying mechanisms. They would like INA members to provide information about their experiences of, or attitude to the idea of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity. If you are able to help, please contact Dr. Birger Heinzow Untersuchungsstelle Für Umwelttoxikologie, Fleckenst. 2-4, D-24105 Kiel, Germany (Fax +49 431 597 3539).

This is a phenomenon which may or may not fall into the province of neurotoxicology, and is certainly one which many experimental scientists would not find easy to evaluate. However it is certainly something which interests the non-toxicological public, and any attempt to make a rational scientific examination of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity should attract our support.

## **Drugs of abuse**

An international conference on drugs of abuse - recent advances in clinical and experimental research - will be held in Madera on April 29 - May 3 1995. The meeting is being organised by INA members. Please contact Dr. M.A.Tavaren, (Instituto de Anatomia Faculdade de Medicina do Porto, Alameda Herasal Monteio, 4200 Porto, Portugal) or Dr. S.F. Ali, Arkansas (Fax. +1 501 543 7745) for further details.

## **Reminder!**

Do not forget that if you wish to be a voting member of INA please 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-5

Now is your last chance to register for the next INA meeting (June 25-30, 1995). The deadline for abstracts and registration is February 1 (non-members of INA have an extra month). Accommodation will be allocated on a first come first served basis. In order to encourage student participation up to 10 awards will be made to graduate and post-graduate students to cover the cost of registration but not travel. Associated meetings are *IUTOX* (July 2-6), *Evaluation of Butadiene & Isoprene Health Risks* (June 27-29), *COMTOX - Toxicology & Clinical Chemistry of Metals* (July 10-13) and *Computerised Behavioural Testing of Humans in Neurotoxicology Research* (June 21-23). For further details contact Steven Gilbert (Fax +1 206 685 4696).

## ***In memoriam:*** **Jacob Hooisma 1945-1994**

It is with deep regret that we announce the tragic loss of our friend and colleague, Dr. Jacob Hooisma. Jacob died at his home in Schipluiden on November 27, several months after falling ill with an untreatable form of cancer.

Jacob studied biology at the University of Groningen and received his bachelor's and master's degree in biophysics in 1972. Shortly thereafter, he came to work as a research scientist at the TNO Medical Biological Laboratory. His early research on the morphological and electrophysiological properties of neurones and muscle cells in tissue culture formed the basis of his doctorate which was awarded by the University of Utrecht in 1977. From his background in basic neuroscience, he became increasingly interested in the application of *in vitro* techniques in the study of the adverse effects of chemicals on the nervous system which, at the time, was a very new topic in neurotoxicology research. He published a

number of articles and book chapters in that area, and organised the first in a series of European workshops on tissue culture techniques.

As his knowledge and experience in different aspects of neurotoxicology grew, so did his concern for worker safety. As a result, he became increasingly interested in the possible development and application of methods for monitoring the health effects of neurotoxic exposures in the workplace. Following a sabbatical with Helena Hanninen at the Institute of Occupational Health in Helsinki in the early 1980's he returned to the laboratory and initiated the line of research for which he is best known - the use of neurobehavioural methods for evaluating the effects of neurotoxic exposures in working populations.

Jacob was a keen scientist and adept organiser who used his talents to further the field of neurotoxicology. He believed that co-operation and collaboration among scientists were the best means for advancing neurotoxicology as a basic and applied science, and he worked tirelessly to develop forums which would help neurotoxicologists from around the world better communicate with each other.

Jacob was one of the first INA members and will always hold a special place in the history of this society. He was a driving force in the organisation of the first INA meeting in 1987. Without start-up money or a membership list, he managed to bring us all together in rainy Lunteren and his efforts served as an inspiration for the organisers of subsequent meetings. At the time of his death, he was busy writing the draft constitution for the incorporation of INA as an official international scientific society, a task which he knew he would be unable to finish.

We miss Jacob's scientific contribution, his combination of northern sobriety and wry humour, and his level-headedness. We share our grief with many of the readers of this newsletter who knew and respected Jacob as a scientist and as a person. As his friends, we are deeply grateful to those of you who contacted him in the last weeks of his life. Your concern meant a great deal to him, to his family, and to us.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife Teunie and his children Adriaan and Esther. We wish them strength in bearing their loss.

Beverly Kulig, Hans Muijser, Harry Emmen,  
Liesbeth Hoogendijk, Kor v.d.Berg, Jan Lammers.

# INA voting form:

Your votes are requested for **five** of the following candidates for the Executive Committee of the International Neurotoxicology Association:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Prof. Mohamed Abou-Donia</b>        | [ ] |
| <b>Prof. Stephen C. Bondy</b>          | [ ] |
| <b>Prof. Lucio G. Costa</b>            | [ ] |
| <b>Dr. Kevin Crofton</b>               | [ ] |
| <b>Prof. Illes Desi</b>                | [ ] |
| <b>Dr. Ingeborg A. Ivens</b>           | [ ] |
| <b>Dr. Ann-Christin Johnson</b>        | [ ] |
| <b>Dr. Huw Bowen Jones</b>             | [ ] |
| <b>Dr. Beverly Kulig</b>               | [ ] |
| <b>Prof. Richard Letz</b>              | [ ] |
| <b>Prof. Ole Ladefoged</b>             | [ ] |
| <b>Dr. Kiti Müller</b>                 | [ ] |
| <b>Dr. David Ray</b>                   | [ ] |
| <b>Dr. Deborah Rice</b>                | [ ] |
| <b>Dr. Gisela Stoltenburg-Didinger</b> | [ ] |
| <b>Dr. Mineke K. Viaene</b>            | [ ] |
| <b>Prof. Dr. H. Weigand</b>            | [ ] |
| <b>Prof. Gerhard Winneke</b>           | [ ] |

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

Professor Stephen Bondy,  
College of Medicine and Environmental Medicine,  
Irvine,  
California CA92717,  
U.S.A.

[Please mark your name on the envelope so that we can that all balots are genuine]