

ISNV

International Society for NeuroVirology

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3rd International Symposium on NeuroVirology

September 14-16, 2000, Hyatt Regency, San Francisco

LYNN PULLIAM, Ph.D. (SYMPOSIUM CHAIR) • SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA



The 3rd International Symposium on NeuroVirology will take place in San Francisco, September 14-16, 2000. The welcoming reception, scheduled for September 13, beginning at 7:00 PM, and all scientific sessions will be held at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, the official hotel for the meeting.

The symposium series has been established to promote the complementary disciplines of virology and neuroscience as well as basic/clinical neurology and neuropathology relative to the pathogenesis of virus-induced neurologic disorders. The meeting will emphasize relevant areas of neuroimmunology, molecular signaling, and the prevention and treatment of viral neurodegenerative disease.

The symposium will include oral presentations and poster sessions in a number of exciting areas including mononuclear cell trafficking into CNS, molecular/cellular therapeutics for CNS disease, CNS neuro-immune interactions, apoptosis and signal transduction in CNS disease, astrocyte infection and dysfunction, molecular pathogenesis and inflammation, neurotropic viruses, emerging infections, and an investigators-in-training session. Abstracts for poster sessions will be accepted from students, postdoctoral fellows, new investigators, and established scientists in the field. A number of these abstracts will also be selected for oral presentation. The second annual Pioneer of NeuroVirology Award will also be presented at the meeting



SAN FRANCISCO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU PHOTO

with an accompanying overview lecture.

The symposium promises to be an exciting meeting representing cutting-edge research from investigators around the world. Proceedings will be published in the *Journal of NeuroVirology*. For additional information and immediate submission of abstract and registration materials, forms are now available on the ISNV website (<http://www.isnv.org>) and can also be obtained by contacting the ISNV Office. The deadline for abstract submission and early registration is April 18, 2000.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 3rd International Symposium on NeuroVirology. All attendees will receive special reduced hotel rates at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In addition, special meeting registration rates will be available for ISNV Members.

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Neuroscience of HIV Infection 2000

June 22-24, 2000, United Kingdom

JEANNE BELL, Ph.D. • EDINBURGH, UK



This International Meeting is the ninth in a series of conferences devoted to Neuro-AIDS. The scientific program for the Edinburgh meeting will reflect the emerging status of AIDS as a paradigm of chronic viral

infection of the nervous system in the context of partial immune suppression. A number of key topics including the CNS as HIV reservoir, viral proteins as neurotoxins, blood brain barrier and immune CNS response, peripheral neuropathy and neurodegeneration, will be addressed in plenary sessions by invited speakers from the USA, Europe and UK. Dedicated clinical and basic science workshops will focus on other cutting edge problems. Open sessions devoted to free papers and posters will provide opportunities for many delegates to take an active part in the conference. We are very happy to acknowledge the support provided by the

United States National Institutes of Health, the journal "Brain", by industrial sponsors, and by Lothian Enterprise.

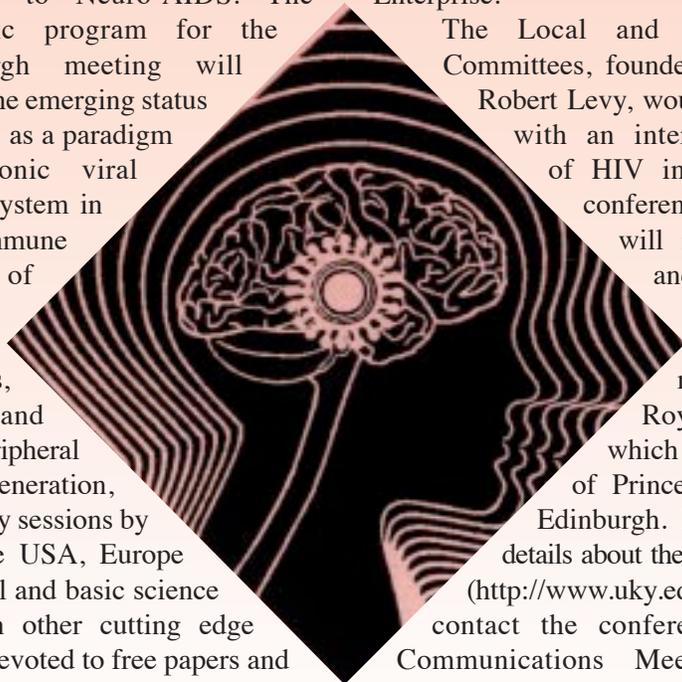
The Local and International Organizing Committees, founded by Drs. Joe Berger and Robert Levy, would like to welcome anyone with an interest in the neuroscience

of HIV infection to the Edinburgh conference. The social programme will reflect Scottish hospitality and will allow delegates to explore this most beautiful and historic city. The meeting is to be held in the

Royal College of Physicians which is within five minutes walk of Princess Street in the centre of Edinburgh. For further information or

details about the conference, visit our website (<http://www.uky.edu/SMRT/neurosci.html>) or

contact the conference organisers at Index Communications Meeting Services Ltd, 32 Queen's Crescent, Edinburgh, EH9 2BA, Kate McIntosh, Telephone/Fax: 0131 667 9887, email: scotland.icms@dial.pipex.com



Message from the President

BRIAN WIGDAHL, Ph.D. • HERSHEY, PA



The society has now completed the first complete year of operation since its foundation in mid-1998. Based on our initial membership drive during 1998/99, the Founding Membership reached a total of 210 with members representing more than 20 countries. A complete list of Founding Members is

available on the ISNV website. We are now in the midst of our membership renewal drive for the year 2000 (for active membership list, please consult the web site). To continue our efforts to establish an international forum for the field of neurovirology, we would like to invite you to renew your ISNV membership that automatically includes a subscription for the Journal of NeuroVirology for the year 2000. This has proven to be a winning combination for research scientists and clinicians working toward the understanding, treatment, and prevention of viral diseases of the human nervous system. We want to emphasize the importance of your membership renewal as we head into the third year of

society activities. We would also like to request that you continue your efforts to encourage other scientists and investigators in training to become ISNV Members. Your assistance in this regard is critical to the long-term success of the Society. The Journal of NeuroVirology (JNV) continues to be the flagship of ISNV with an ever-expanding presence in the scientific community. Based on the overwhelming success of JNV under the direction of Dr. Kamel Khalili, the Journal will work toward assembling an on-line collection of reviews in the area of neurovirology and related disciplines that have been previously published in JNV. The on-line reviews will appear as JNV's Reviews in NeuroVirology and will be conveniently accessed through the ISNV website. The first 18 months has been an exciting start. Many objectives have been realized in 1999 that have placed the Society on a firm foundation. With the help of the ISNV Board of Directors and Society membership, the year 2000 will lead to further accomplishments, culminating in the 3rd International Symposium for NeuroVirology.

Of Birds & Man

ISNV Highlights Dr. Ian Lipkin & The Emerging Disease Laboratory, University of California, Irvine

STEVEN JACOBSON, Ph.D. • BETHESDA, MD



In the fall of 1999, an outbreak of what was thought to be St. Louis encephalitis virus was initially claimed to be responsible for the deaths of 3 people in New York City with 15 others suspected of being sick and infected. At the same time, wildlife observers noticed an increased mortality of avian species, including crows and exotic birds housed at the Bronx zoo, inconsistent with St. Louis encephalitis virus. In fact, the virus was not St. Louis encephalitis but rather Kunjin/West Nile-like flavivirus, which had never been detected in the Western Hemisphere. The search and rapid identification of this agent, performed by Dr. Ian Lipkin and colleagues at the Emerging Disease Laboratory, University of California, Irvine, serves to highlight neurovirology in the news and the exploits of one of our leading neurovirologists.

As Director of The Emerging Diseases Laboratory, Dr. Lipkin is devoted to exploring the role of infectious and immune factors in human central nervous system (CNS) diseases, establishing small animal models for neuropsychiatric diseases, and exploiting neurotropic viruses as vectors for targeted gene therapy in the CNS.

He has a longstanding interest in the use of molecular methods such as subtractive cloning and differential gene expression for studies in neuropathogenesis. Dr. Lipkin was

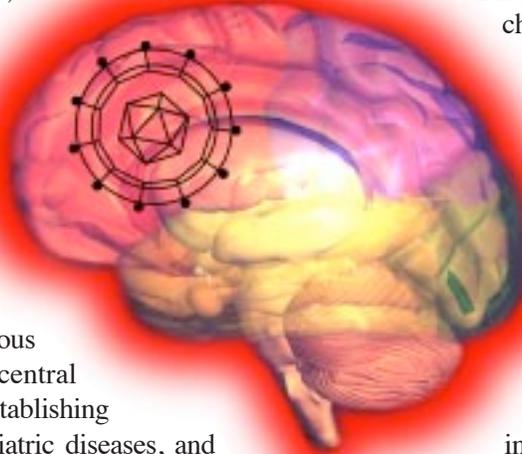
The "Featured Brief" section of the newsletter will highlight an area of international importance that the editors feel deserves special attention. An update of current activity and information on a "featured" topic should help keep members aware of fast paced studies and new results. The Editors are always interested in your ideas for future articles and brief comments on its topics.



W. Ian Lipkin

the first to successfully apply these methods for identification of novel infectious agents (Borna disease virus; Lipkin et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci, 1990). Current projects with human materials include: analysis of differentially expressed mRNAs from peripheral blood white cells (PBMC) and tissues (domain-specific differential display, expression chips) in subjects with encephalitis (brain), autism (brain; PBMC from monozygotic twins discordant for disease), schizophrenia (PBMC from monozygotic twins discordant for disease), Parkinsons Disease (brain), or an "acute" variant of chronic fatigue syndrome (epidemic in Alingsas, Sweden, PBMC). The most recent application of these methods was detection of the West Nile-like flavivirus in postmortem brain samples of subjects succumbing to the outbreak of encephalitis in New York city (Briese et al. Lancet, 1999). Projects focused on characterizing cellular RNA response repertoires in rodent models of human diseases include studies of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (identify cellular genes affected by prion protein infection), learned helplessness (model for major depressive disorder), and neonatal

see Birds & man



Nominations for 2nd Pioneer in NeuroVirology Award

ISNV AWARDS COMMITTEE

The first Pioneer of NeuroVirology Award was presented to Richard T. Johnson, M.D. at the Gordon Conference focused on neurovirology which was held at Colby-Sawyer College, New London, New Hampshire (June 6-10, 1999). The selection of Dr. Johnson as the first recipient of this award sets a high standard of achievement that the Society expects to maintain in the future as we move forward to recognize other deserving scientists working in the area of neurovirology, neurodegenerative disease, and related disciplines. We would like to take this opportunity to call for nominations for the Second Pioneer in NeuroVirology Award to be presented at the 3rd International Symposium on NeuroVirology to be held at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco (September 14-16, 2000). To nominate a candidate for this prestigious award, please send a nominating letter to: Awards Committee, International Society for NeuroVirology, Temple University, Biology Life Sciences Building, 1900 N. 12th Street, Room 203, Philadelphia, PA 19122. The deadline for nominations has been extended from April 1 to May 1, 2000.

European NeuroVirology 1999

THOMAS WEBER, M.D. • HAMBURG, GERMANY



BSE continues to be a topic in the news. In Great Britain over 175,000 cases of BSE have been identified so far. With 50 cases of vCJD identified so far and a second French case awaiting neuropathological confirmation, it remains still unclear what to expect from the vCJD epidemic. The uncertainties have led to a political dispute between France and Great Britain. France has banned the import of British beef as has Germany. This is in contrast to the European Union decision to lift the export ban on British beef and will lead to a lawsuit at the European Court of Justice. On the scientific side, transmission of the BSE agent or the agent of new variant CJD to transgenic mice expressing bovine prion protein causes an identical disease, thus providing compelling evidence for the transmission of the BSE agent to humans. The group led by Kurt Wuehrich in Zuerich has resolved the three dimensional structure of human PrPSc by NMR spectroscopy. This should help in the design of drugs interfering with PrPSc formation and replication. Among the factors determining PrPSc conformation, the group directed by John Collinge in London has identified the binding of copper and zinc ions as playing an important role in the generation of multiple prion strains. The widespread application of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has led to a decrease in the incidence of opportunistic viral infections of the central nervous system such as those caused by CMV and EBV. Whether HAART will reduce the incidence of PML in AIDS patients has not yet been shown. HAART, however, definitely prolongs survival from a few months to more than a year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

16th Annual Clinical Virology Symposium
Clearwater Beach, FL, USA • April 30-May 3

Neuroscience of HIV Infection 2000 • Edinburgh, UK • June 22-24, 2000

American Society for Virology • Fort Collins, CO, USA • July 8-12

International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases 2000
Atlanta, GA, USA • July 16-19

3rd International Symposium on NeuroVirology
San Francisco, CA, USA • September 14-16, 2000

Stephen E. Straus, M.D., takes on new responsibilities at NIH

EUGENE O. MAJOR, Ph.D. • BETHESDA, MD

Last October, United States Health & Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and National Institutes of Health Director Harold Varmus announced the appointment of Stephen E. Straus, M.D. as the first permanent Director of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) at the National Institutes of Health. Steve has conducted wide-ranging studies of herpesvirus pathogenesis, treatment and prevention for 20 years as a senior member of the Laboratory of Clinical Investigations in NIAID. Nine years ago he became the Laboratory Chief. He will continue to conduct his laboratory research as he takes on the role of directing a new Center at NIH. Previously established as the Office of Alternative Medicine, NCCAM was enlarged to a Center in 1998. The purpose of the center is to conduct basic and applied research, research training, and dissemination of health information with respect to the identification and investigation of complementary and alternative medical treatments and prevention modalities. Currently NCCAM funds nine national research centers dedicated to programs involving Addictions, Aging, Cardiovascular disease with emphasis on African Americans, Arthritis, Craniofacial disorders, as well as Chiropractic, Neurological, and Pediatric diseases. NCCAM also co-supports in conjunction with the NIH Office of Dietary Supplements two Centers for Botanical Research. It is Steve's aim to markedly expand the investigator-initiated research portfolio of the new Center and to hold the work to a rigorous standard.

from Birds & Man

hippocampal lesions (model for schizophrenia). Dr. Lipkin also has established novel methods for characterizing targets of humoral immunity that may be useful for identifying cryptic infection and/or the molecular basis of autoimmunity. These methods are now employed in studies of children with obsessive compulsive disorders responsive to plasmapheresis (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infection, PANDAS), Kawasaki Disease, and Landau-Kleffner Syndrome (an autism spectrum disorder characterized by later onset and responsiveness to steroid therapy).

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