The Official Member Newsletter of the Society for Neuroscience Jan – Feb 2002

SfN Neuroscience Newsletter

President's Message

Fred H. Gage, President, Society for Neuroscience

Fred H. Gage, Ph.D., is a professor of Laboratory Genetics at The Salk Institute for Biological Studies and an adjunct professor in the Department of Neuroscience at the University of California – San Diego. His research focuses on regeneration in the adult brain and spinal cord, functional significance and regulation of neurogenesis in the adult nervous system, fate determination of stem cells derived from the central nervous system, and molecular strategies for the long-term and regulated expression of genes transferred to the adult CNS.

Neuroscience: Making a Difference Every Day

The tragedy of September 11 and the ensuing events still dominate my thoughts. Our lives have been irrevocably altered, yet we must function as we always have. For the neuroscience community, there has never been a more important time for us to work diligently and effectively and to take solace in the fact that, as scientists, we make a difference every day. The Society's recent Annual Meeting in San Diego is a case in point of the neuroscience community's commitment to continuing its important work. Despite world events and concerns about travel and safety, neuroscientists convened in record numbers to present the latest research results with their colleagues from around the world.

Likewise, there has never been a more important time for our Society to be equipped to function on the neuroscience community's behalf as we navigate a changing world landscape, shifting funding priorities due to bioterrorism, and a precarious economy. With the departure of Nancy Beang last spring after 20 years of service to the Society, we have been actively seeking a new executive director to guide Society

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Inside

San Diego Meeting Draws Record Attendance: Participants Undeterred by World Events

Attendance at the Society's 31st Annual Meeting in San Diego, Nov. 10–15, exceeded all projections, with a record-breaking 28,500 attendees. This record showing was particularly welcome in light of world events. There were minimal cancellations, and an upbeat business-as-usual attitude prevailed.

Press attendance also set a new record. Some 120 reporters registered during the course of the meeting. Journalists from *The New York Times, Science, Nature, The Dallas Morning News, The Los Angeles Times*, and *The Associated Press* newswire attended, as well as those from local television and radio stations. Stories published to date include blueberries improving memory, women coping better with stress, Rett Syndrome providing clues to other disabilities, and a brain-based method of detecting deception that might render current lie detector tests obsolete.

For photo highlights of the week's events, including award presentations, see page 6.

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Patricia Goldman-Rakic welcomes Saggese at the Past Presidents' luncheon in San Diego.

New Executive Director Joins Society

Marty Saggese joins the Society for Neuroscience in January as its new executive director. The SFN Council made the appointment after a nationwide search lasting several months.

Saggese succeeds Nancy Beang, who retired last April after 20 years with the Society. For the past six months, a committee of SFN's senior managers has overseen operations at Society headquarters.

"SFN's officers and Councilors are delighted to have Marty come on board as our new ED," said Society Past President Donald Price. "He has a very substantial background in the nonprofit arena, in working with government and public corporations, in fiscal affairs, and, perhaps most importantly, in strategic planning. He will be a real asset in positioning our organization to deal with the many challenges and opportunities that will be encountered over the next decade."

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Presenting the Answers in Orlando

In 2002, for the first time, the Society for Neuroscience will hold its Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. We are delighted to have secured this premier location, one of the world's most popular destinations for leisure and business travelers. From November 2 through 7, join neuroscientists from around the globe for SFN's 32nd Annual Meeting, a thought-provoking week featuring the latest developments in the continuing quest for answers across the spectrum of neuroscience.

We will be bringing you more information on the Orlando meeting in this newsletter and on our Web site at www.sfn.org. See below for abstract submission information.

Abstract Submissions Open in March

The deadline for abstract submissions for SFN's 32nd Annual Meeting in Orlando, November 2–7, 2002, is approaching. The receipt deadline for paper submissions is Monday, April 22. The deadline for online submissions is Monday, May 6, 5:00 pm, your local time.

Watch for Postcard in the Mail

Due to the popularity of online submission (SFN processed only 200 paper abstracts in 2001), members will no longer receive a *Call for Abstracts* booklet in the mail. Instead, we will be sending a postcard reminder in the spring when the Abstract site goes live. The card will provide instructions for accessing the online abstract submission form. It will also provide a phone number for individuals without Internet access to have an abstract submission packet mailed to them.

Abstracts Volume Goes Electronic Only

On a related note, due to the significant cost savings and convenience of the electronic format, Council voted for the elimination of the print *Abstracts* volume. All members will once again receive a free abstracts viewer on CD. Watch this newsletter for more information.

Paper Receipt Deadline
Monday, April 22

Online Submission Deadline
Monday, May 6, 5:00 pm author's local time.

NIH Directors' Column

Report from Acting Director of the National Institutes of Health

Stem Cell Registry, New Neuroscience Research Center among Projects Under Way

Ruth Kirschstein, M.D., Acting Director, National Institutes of Health

I am pleased to have the opportunity to describe some of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) programs and activities of potential interest to the neuroscience community. Neuroscience is a vital part of the research programs funded by NIH. Because of impressive increases in funding for NIH each year since 1999, progress in the medical sciences is advancing at a speed we only dreamed of a short time ago. NIH institutes and centers have strategically invested the resources provided in order to take advantage of the enormous scientific opportunities and to address essential health needs.

Budget Update

Neuroscience usually comprises a large percentage of the overall NIH budget. Funding for neuroscience by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and other institutes with an interest in this area makes up about one sixth of the total budget for NIH.

While the investments in recent years have been of enormous help to progress in biomedical research, it is unlikely that increases of this magnitude will continue beyond 2003. Therefore, we must plan carefully for the days when funding increases are at, or only slightly greater than, the rate of inflation. This will require a clear set of priorities and the ability to make difficult choices.

Stem Cell Research

In no area of medicine is the potential for harnessing human pluripotent embryonic stem cells greater than for degenerative diseases of the nervous system. While enormous scientific and ethical considerations must be addressed, recent advances in stem cell biology offer great hope for repair and recovery of function for many neurological disorders. However, it is clear that there is a critical need to conduct basic research on these embryonic stem cells in order to create a base of knowledge about how the cells function and how they can be manipulated.

President Bush's August 9, 2001, decision on stem cell research allows us to begin providing the stimulus of federal dollars for this promising work. NIH is expeditiously implementing this policy. We hope that as soon as a registry of the cells is posted, federally funded investigators will take full advantage of this new opportunity to conduct research on existing human embryonic stem cells and explore the enormous potential of these unique cells. To that end, NIH has initiated a process to enable researchers to use federal funds to conduct research using human embryonic stem cells that meet the criteria established by the President. NIH also has developed a Web-based Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry to provide information about cell lines that may be used in federally funded research. The Registry, available at http://escr.nih.gov, will be updated regularly.

> ***NIH plans to increase funding for extramural research facilities grants as well as improving intramural lab facilities.***

In addition, the Public Health Service has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WiCell Research Institute, Inc. The MOU permits NIH intramural scientists to conduct research on WiCell's five embryonic stem cell lines that meet the criteria for NIH funding. While NIH does not have authority to negotiate agreements on behalf of grantee institutions or third parties, the existing MOU may serve as a model for other institutions in crafting their own agreements with WiCell and other organizations. More information about this agreement and on other developments concerning NIH stem cell research funding is available on the NIH Stem Cell Information page at www.nih.gov/news/stemcell/index.htm and on the NIH Grants and Funding Opportunities page at http://grants.nih.gov.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy/Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Action Plan

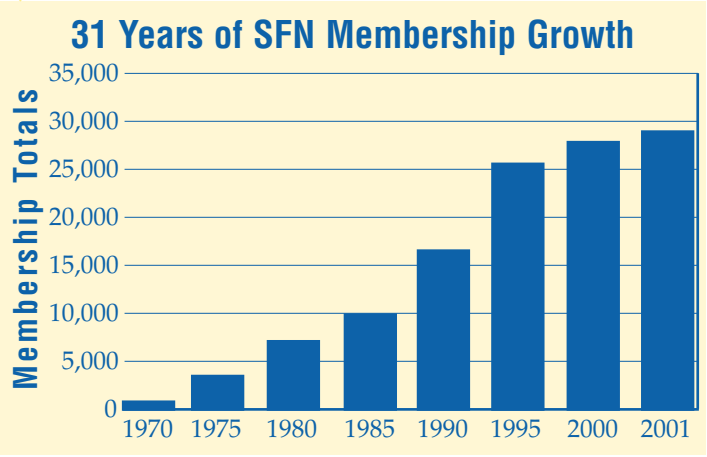
On August 23, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced a department-wide action plan outlining new steps to improve scientific understanding of BSE and related diseases. As part of this plan, NIH will double spending on TSEs (including BSE and vCJD) over the next year, doubling the number of laboratory facilities available for this research over the next two years, and tripling the number of investigators involved over the next five years. More information about this plan is on the Web at www.hhs.gov/news/press/2001pres/20010823.html.

Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering

Biomedical imaging and bioengineering have been vital components of NIH research programs for years. The newly created National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) is now fully functional under the leadership of Acting Director Dr. Donna Dean. The NIBIB will support basic science for the development of new technologies, materials, and diagnostic tools that can be used by other researchers and institutions. It also will train researchers to fully integrate quantitative sciences with biomedical research. Support for organ and disease-specific bioimaging and bioengineering research will remain at the institutes and centers that have historically supported such work.

Infrastructure

Physical infrastructure continues to be important to the vitality of the research enterprise. NIH plans to increase funding for extramural research facilities grants as well as improving intramural lab facilities. One notable project with potentially far-reaching implications is the new John Edward Porter

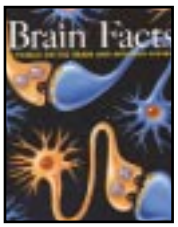


3,000 New Members Join Society

This year, the Society has added 3,000 new members to its ranks, bringing the total to more than 29,000 as this newsletter goes to print. We'd like to welcome these individuals and to thank our entire membership for continued support throughout the years. In order to best serve your interests in the increasingly complex world of biomedical research, we will be polling you in the months ahead on your primary needs as they relate to your professional Society. Watch this newsletter and the Society Web site (www.sfn.org) for more information.

Feb. 15 Spring Application Deadline

The Spring receipt deadline for new member applications and change of membership status applications is Friday, February 15, 2002. This deadline grants applicants membership in time for the submission of abstracts for the Society's 32nd Annual Meeting. Applications may be downloaded from the Web site, www.sfn.org. For more information, contact the Membership Department at membership@sfn.org or 202-462-6688.



Brain Facts Revised

The revised edition of *Brain Facts*, the Society's popular primer on neuroscience for lay audiences, will be available in 2002. The publication is the source of questions for the nationwide Brain Bee competition that takes place each March in conjunction with Brain Awareness Week. The 1997 edition of the book will remain on the Society's Web site at www.sfn.org/baw/bee.shtml until the new edition is available in print. Once available, the new edition can be purchased online at www.sfn.org.

Web Site Renovation

The Society will go live with a new Web site in early 2002. The redesigned site will provide members with a number of interactive features and easy access to resources, including instant access to member information. Members can log on to renew their membership with online payment and update their contact information. The site will also feature an online store where you can buy SFN publications and merchandise. In addition, our popular Online Classifieds will be automated, putting ad submission and payment right at your fingertips.

The Web upgrade is long overdue according to SFN Information Systems Director Christopher Fox. "In addition to better serving the neuroscience community's informational needs, the site has been designed with an eye toward providing a stronger overall presence on the Internet as a resource for the public, the media, and other audiences such as health professionals," he explained.

Call for Nominations

This spring, voting Society members (Regular and Emeritus) will elect a President-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, Secretary, and Councilors. Watch the mail for the Call for Nominations in January. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 1. Shortly after March 1, the Nominating Committee will compose the 2002 Election Ballot. The committee will consider nominations from the voting membership and add any names submitted by petition of one percent or more of voting members. Any Regular or Emeritus member may submit names via the forms in the Call for Nominations for consideration by the Nominating Committee.

Dates *and* Deadlines

Dec. 31
Deadline for 2002 membership dues payments.

Jan. 11
Symposium proposal deadline.

Feb. 15
Receipt deadline for new membership and change of membership status applications.

March 1
Deadline for expressing interest in serving on an SFN committee.

Receipt deadline for nomination of Society officers and councilors.

Application deadline for minority Neuroscience Fellowship Program.

March 25
Nomination deadline for the 2002 Lindsley Prize.

April 22
Paper abstract receipt deadline for 32nd Annual Meeting.

May 6
Online abstract deadline for 32nd Annual Meeting.

June 3
Nomination deadline for Chapter/Eli Lilly Graduate Student Travel Awards.

Application deadline for Minority Program Travel Fellowship.

Nov. 2–7
SFN 32nd Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

Journal "Mini-Reviews" Focus on New Directions in Neuroscience

In November, *The Journal of Neuroscience* launched a new series of online mini-reviews called "New Directions in Neuroscience." Each series will focus on a new technology or new field of research that promises to take neuroscience in significant new directions and will be written with the broad neuroscience audience in mind.

Floyd Bloom, former editor of *Science* and chair of the SFN Publications Committee, hosts the first series with a set of reviews under the title "Genomics and Proteomics." Following a thought-provoking introduction by Dr. Bloom, leading names in this brave new world provide insight on the significance of the human genome project and other breakthroughs in genetics as they relate to neuroscience. The first series and subsequent installments can be found online at www.jneurosci.org.

Referendum on Bylaws Amendments

In January, voting members (Regular and Emeritus) will receive a mail ballot on three proposed changes (eight amendments) to the Society's bylaws: the addition of a Foreign Emeritus membership category; the immediate past treasurer serving a one-year term on Council, ex officio; and the formation of a new standing committee, the Investment Committee, charged with overseeing investment policies, monitoring the performance of SFN's investment managers, and evaluating results. Watch your mail and register your vote by Friday, March 15, 2002.

Guidelines Foster Speaker Diversity at Scientific Meetings

The Council of the Society for Neuroscience has launched an initiative to encourage speaker diversity at neuroscience meetings, conferences, and symposia. Council has adopted some simple guidelines to help organizers achieve diverse representation of the neuroscience community as speakers, with emphasis on the following: (1) appropriate representation of women and minorities as invited speakers in relation to their participation in the specific neuroscience subfield(s) of the conference or meeting; (2) a good balance between established and new investigators on the roster; and (3) attainment of broad geographical representation.

The guidelines are posted on the SFN Web site at www.sfn.org/am_guidelines.html with suggestions for achieving them. For example, meeting organizers might consider opening speaker slots to applicants who submit abstracts, with explicit encouragement to women, minorities, and young investigators to apply for these slots. This will provide opportunities for men and women who are not yet well known or who are not acquaintances of the organizers. If travel stipends are available, some money could be reserved to subsidize the travel of underrepresented students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty who might not have adequate resources to attend the meeting.

All sponsored and non-sponsored events and satellite meetings associated with the SFN Annual Meeting will be encouraged to adhere to these guidelines beginning with the year 2002. Organizers of other meetings and conferences to be sponsored or advertised by SFN on its Web site or in its publications should also follow these guidelines and will be asked to include, when submitting a meeting announcement to SFN, a brief statement indicating how the guidelines have been addressed.

Society Committee Support

The Society for Neuroscience relies on the time and expertise of its committees to assist Council and the Society Office in implementing Society programs and services. Each committee meets at the Annual Meeting and throughout the year as necessary. The contributions of SFN's committees are crucial to the smooth and effective operation of the Society. The names of the 15 standing committees are listed below. Refer to the Society's Web site, www.sfn.org, for additional information.

Committee tenure runs from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting with tenure varying by committee. Election results determine positions held *ex officio*. **If you are interested in serving on a committee, submit a letter (receipt by March 1, 2002) for consideration at the Council Meeting in April.** Please send your letter, noting the committee for which you would like to volunteer, to Committee Volunteers, c/o Katie McCollins Sale, Associate Director, at the Society Office (info@sfn.org).

Current Standing Committees

Chapters Committee
Committee on Animals in Research
Committee for the Development of Women's Careers in Neuroscience
Committee on the History of Neuroscience
Committee on Neuroscience Literacy
Education Committee
Finance Committee
Governmental and Public Affairs Committee
International Affairs Committee
Membership Committee
Minority Education, Training, and Professional Advancement Committee
Program Committee
Public Information Committee
Publications Committee
Social Issues Committee

San Diego 2001

The Society's 31st Annual Meeting, Nov. 10–15, was the largest meeting the city has ever held on a medical or scientific topic, according to the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau. The six-day program drew a record 28,500 attendees from around the globe and featured more than 14,000 scientific sessions, lectures, and symposia.

Cowan Honored with 2001 Gerard Prize

SFN Past President Don Price ushers Gerard Prize honoree Maxwell Cowan to the dais during the award presentation.

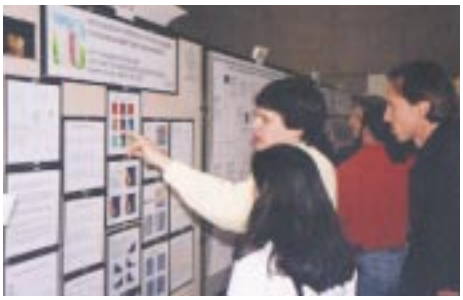
The 2001 Gerard Prize was presented to W. Maxwell Cowan, D.Phil.

Dr. Cowan is one of the pioneers in developmental neurobiology. His research extends from behavior to neural circuits to cell/molecular biology. Dr. Cowan has had an extraordinary influence on the success of the field of neuroscience. He was one of a cadre of scientists who brought together neuroanatomy, neurochemistry, and neurophysiology as an integrated discipline.

Dr. Cowan's distinguished career in neuroscience began in 1953 at his alma mater, Oxford University. Since then, he has imparted his wisdom to countless neurology and biology students at numerous universities in both the U.K. and the U.S. He also directed The Salk Institute's Weingart Laboratory for Developmental Neurobiology and served as Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Dr. Cowan is a past president of the Society for Neuroscience and a former Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Neuroscience.*

The Gerard Prize was established in honor of the late Ralph W. Gerard, who was instrumental in forming the Society for Neuroscience and who served as Honorary President from 1970 until his death in 1974. The award recognizes a long distinguished career marked by numerous contributions to the field of neuroscience.

The architecturally renowned San Diego Convention Center has doubled in space since the Society's last meeting there, in 1995.

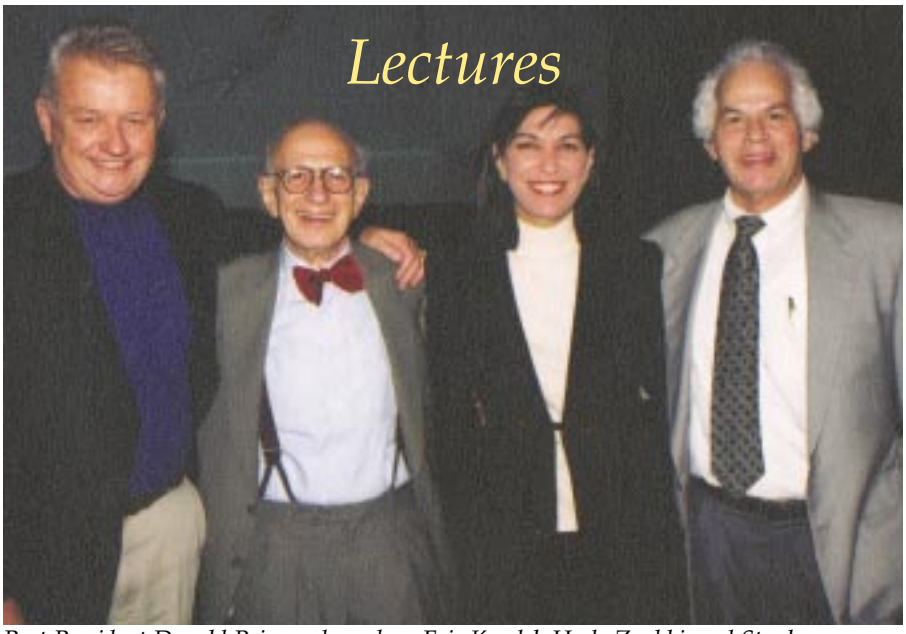


Students of neuroscience were among poster presenters. There were approximately 7,500 student registrants, representing one-fourth of meeting attendees.

Attendees enjoy an interactive exhibit (left) and check out the latest lab technology (above) on the exhibit floor. In all, 523 companies exhibited.

A restructuring of themes and subcategories was instituted to help attendees navigate the wealth of information available on the poster floor and create a sense of meetings within the meeting.

Lectures



Past President Donald Price and speakers Eric Kandel, Huda Zoghbi, and Stanley Prusiner prior to the Presidential Symposium, "Understanding the Mysteries of Elusive Neurological Disorders." Topics addressed were the molecular biology of memory and its disorders, Rett Syndrome, and the biology of neurodegeneration.

Grass Lecturer N. M. Le Douarin, *College de France, presented a talk titled "Developmental Relationships between Floor-Plate, Notochord and Neural Ectoderm during Neurulation in Amniote Vertebrates."*

Christine Holt, *University of Cambridge, delivered the Pfizer Lecture, "Axon Guidance in the Visual System."*

Sangram Sisodia, *University of Chicago, was the featured speaker for the Presidential Special Lecture "Molecular Neurobiology of Alzheimer's Disease."*

Paul Greengard, *Rockefeller University, delivered a Presidential Special Lecture, "The Neurobiology of Dopamine Signaling."*

Thomas Südhof, *Howard Hughes Medical Institute, gave a Presidential Special Lecture titled "Mechanism and Regulation of Synaptic Vesicle Exocytosis: SNAREs, Calcium, and Beyond."*

Public Lecturer Thomas Jessell, *Columbia University, presented "Genes, Neurons and Circuits: Therapeutic Insights from Neural Development."*

Asaad Receives 2001 Lindsley Prize

The 23rd annual Donald B. Lindsley Prize in Behavioral Neuroscience was awarded to Wael Asaad, Ph.D., during the Grass Foundation Lecture. Dr. Asaad received his B.A. in Neuroscience and English from Amherst College in 1993, and in 2000 he completed his Ph.D. in Systems Neuroscience at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Asaad's thesis is titled "Mechanisms for Associative Learning in the Primate Prefrontal Cortex."

The Lindsley Prize, made possible through the generosity of The Grass Foundation, honors Donald B. Lindsley, Ph.D., for his pioneering studies of neural activity. Awardees receive an honorarium and a commemorative plaque. Winners are selected based upon their doctoral theses in behavioral neuroscience. To qualify, the nominee's thesis must have been completed and approved during the previous calendar year and submitted to the Society for Neuroscience as part of a nomination packet.

Meetings of the Minds

Leaders of the successful Brain Awareness Week program take questions during a lively audience discussion with event organizers and other campaign supporters. From left, Eric Chudler, Chair, Committee on Neuroscience Literacy; William Guido, Past Chair, Committee on Neuroscience Literacy; Bruce McEwen, Chair, SFN Brain Awareness Steering Committee; Barbara Gill, Executive Director, The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives; and SFN Councilor Carol Barnes.

The Society's Executive Committee presides over the Society's Business/Members Meeting, where members heard reports on the Society's programs and operations. From left: Past President Donald Price, President Fred Gage, and President-Elect Huda Akil.

Dr. Moses Chao (right), Chair of the Program Committee, leads a discussion of the committee, which is responsible for the scientific content and sessioning of all Annual Meeting presentations.

Past President Donald Price presents award to Joseph Coyle prior to the Public Lecture.

Joseph Coyle Receives Special Achievement Award

Joseph T. Coyle, M.D., was honored with a Special Achievement Award for extraordinary service to the Society for Neuroscience. As chair of SFN's Governmental and Public Affairs Committee since 1997, he has provided critical leadership in the legislative arena, advocating the neuroscience community's interests related to biomedical research funding, animals in research, and other issues affecting neuroscience researchers. His astute grasp of the complex policy implications of many Congressional initiatives has secured the Society's standing on Capitol Hill as a reliable, responsive opinion maker.

He is also credited with the innovation of a rapid response network, known as "Legislative Alerts," which keeps members apprised of important developments on Capitol Hill and enables an expeditious response with letters to policymakers. Also during Dr. Coyle's tenure as GPA chair, the Congressional Meetings Initiative encouraged SFN members to meet with their members of Congress (www.sfn.org/legislative/congress.html). In the area of advocacy outreach, he has fostered more direct communications and alliances with disease advocacy organizations in the pursuit of shared interests.

Dr. Coyle has also been actively involved in the Society's minority programs and has served as Council's liaison on Minority Affairs. As SFN president from 1991 to 1992, he was instrumental in bringing publishing of *The Journal of Neuroscience* in-house, a move that provided greater editorial control and cost savings. Dr. Coyle has also served as Treasurer, Councilor, and chair of the Program Committee, as well as being an active member of the SFN Membership Committee.

Participants of a mentoring luncheon sponsored by Women in Neuroscience respond to a presentation on career paths in neuroscience.

SFN Councilor Kristen Harris congratulates Edwin Salpeter, who accepted the Women In Neuroscience Hall of Honor Award on behalf of his late wife, Mika Salpeter.

Connecting with Colleagues

From left, Paul Greengard, Solomon Snyder, Lawrence Kruger, and Gordon Shepherd pose before the History of Neuroscience Lecture "Forty Years of Neurotransmitters."

Guests enjoy their colleagues at the Presidential Reception. From left, Nancy Wexler, Carla Shatz, Fred Gage, Mary Lynn Gage, and Sangram Sisodia.

From left, Edward A. Kravitz, Edwin J. Furshpan, and David D. Potter were the recipients of this year's ANDP Education Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to education and training in neuroscience. All three recipients are professors in the Department of Neurobiology at Harvard Medical School.

Mentor Levon Parker reviews the week's activities with METPAC fellow Rastafa Geddes.

Allan Tobin, Don Price, and Mahlon Delong share a moment prior to the Presidential Special Lecture on Wednesday.

Ghosh and Reid Receive 2001 Young Investigator Awards

Every year, the Society for Neuroscience honors a promising neuroscientist in the early stages of his or her career with the Young Investigator Award. In 2001, the award committee chose to confer the award upon two outstanding researchers: Anirvan Ghosh, Ph.D., and R. Clay Reid, Ph.D., M.D. Both recipients have remarkable records of accomplishments in their respective fields of research, and the committee felt they both were exceptionally deserving of this recognition.

Carla Shatz, Chair of the Harvard Medical School Department of Neurobiology, congratulates awardees R. Clay Reid (left) and Anirvan Ghosh (right).

Dr. Ghosh earned an undergraduate degree in physics at California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in 1985, then completed a Ph.D. in Neuroscience at Stanford University. He later completed postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Ghosh is now an Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins University. In the lab, his innovative experiments and research have contributed to scientists' understanding of the cellular and molecular interactions underlying neural development.

Dr. Reid received his Ph.D. from Rockefeller University in 1988 and his M.D. from Cornell University Medical College in 1991. He is currently an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School. Through his research, Dr. Reid aims to enhance our understanding of the mammalian visual system, including information processing, color vision, and the functional rules of connectivity. He applies a creative mixture of physics, mathematics, statistics, engineering, and modeling to understand brain function.

Each awardee received a commemorative plaque and an honorarium. The awards were presented at the Grass Foundation Lecture.

Government Affairs Update

Appropriations Update

While the tragic events of September 11 and the anthrax situation caused severe disruption in the activities of Congress, legislative work is slowly getting back to normal. Work continues on the remaining appropriations bills, including the bill that funds the National Institutes of Health.

NIH Funding

Both the House and Senate have approved initial versions of this year's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (L/HHS) Appropriations bill, which funds the National Institutes of Health. The House approved a bill that provides $22.9 billion for NIH, the amount requested by President Bush. The Senate bill has provided $23.7 billion, a 16.5% increase over last year's allocation. This is consistent with the request made by SFN Past President Donald L. Price in his testimony before Congress and keeps NIH on track toward a doubling of its budget over a five-year period.

National Science Foundation

Congress has completed action on the VA–HUD appropriations bill, which funds the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Veterans Administration. NSF funding was increased $363 million over last year's level and $316 million over the budget request, bringing FY02 funding to $4.8 billion. This is a 9% increase over last year's funding level.

Veterans Administration Medical and Prosthetic Research

Funding for the Veterans Medical and Prosthetic Research program was increased by $20 million over FY01, bringing FY02 funding to $371 million. The final funding amount for this program was a disappointment, as the Senate had recommended a $40 million increase.

Presidential Nominations

Marburger Receives Senate Confirmation as Presidential Science Advisor

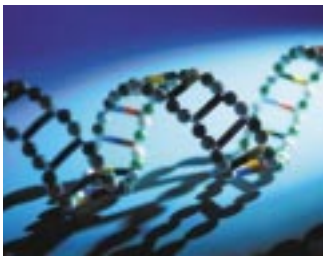
The Senate confirmed Dr. John H. Marburger III as President Bush's science advisor and Director of the Office of Science and Technology. Until this appointment, Dr. Marburger was the Director of the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory and President of Brookhaven Science Associates. He began his career as a professor of physics and electrical engineering at the University of Southern California and was involved in the field of nonlinear optics. It is hoped that Dr. Marburger's appointment will facilitate the selection of a director of the National Institutes of Health, a position that has been vacant for nearly two years.

Bush Nominates Key Health Officials

In October, President Bush announced his intention to nominate two individuals for key health positions. Dr. Eve Slater was nominated as Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. Currently, Dr. Slater is Senior Vice President for Clinical and Regulatory Development of Merck Research Laboratories. She held a number of positions with Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories from 1986 to 1994. Previously, she was Chief of the Hypertension Unit at Massachusetts General.

Robert H. Roswell is Bush's nominee for the position of Undersecretary of Health at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Roswell is a colonel in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve and is currently Network Director of the Florida and Puerto Rico Veterans Integrated Service Network of the Veterans Health Administration. Additionally, he has been a professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of South Florida's College of Public Health; Executive Director of the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board; and Chief of Staff of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama.

Drs. Slater and Roswell will need to gain Senate approval before they are appointed to office. We will keep you apprised as details develop.



New Resources To Assist with Gene Transfer Clinical Studies

The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a division of NIH, announced the award of cooperative agreements in the amount of $2.65 million to establish National Gene Vector Laboratories (NGVLs) at five locations: Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, Texas); City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute (Duarte, California); Indiana University (Indianapolis, Indiana); Southern Research Institute (Birmingham, Alabama); and University of Florida (Gainesville, Florida).

NCRR established an NGVL network in 1995 to help clinical researchers obtain adequate quantities of clinical-grade vectors. With this announcement, the NGVLs will have not only the capability to produce and distribute a variety of human gene vectors, but also the capacity to provide toxicology studies at no cost to investigators for Phase I and Phase II human gene transfer clinical trials.

Toxicology data are frequently required by the Food and Drug Administration to minimize the likelihood of adverse events occurring during clinical research. This aspect of the NIH support is critical since many investigators' project grants do not provide funds for such studies. Because toxicology data are frequently considered proprietary and therefore are not shared, toxicology studies are often repeated at great cost to the research community and funding entities. These new awards will help to eliminate these problems.

Seven other NIH components will participate in the NGVL cooperative agreements, in addition to NCRR: the National Cancer Institute; National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Clinic to Give Embryos to Harvard for Stem Cell Research

Boston IVF, the nation's largest organization of fertility clinics, based in Waltham, Massachusetts, has agreed to give thousands of embryos—remaining after fertility treatments—to Harvard University so that researchers can extract stem cells. The arrangement will be funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a private medical foundation. Harvard plans to offer the new stem cells to interested scientists at no cost, without commercial restrictions.

The Howard Hughes Institute funds a number of stem cell scientists, but until now, it did not fund the extraction of stem cells. The Institute consulted clergy, ethicists, and researchers for more than two years before agreeing to fund the arrangement between Boston IVF and Harvard University.

According to the policy announced by President Bush in early August, scientists who use stem cells drawn from this supply are not eligible for federal funding of their research. Harvard does not cover the costs for research once the cells have been extracted.

Embryonic Stem Cell Registry

NIH has posted the Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry. The Registry lists the 72 human embryonic stem cell lines—at varying stages of development—that meet the eligibility criteria set by President Bush in August 2001. Some of the lines listed are subclones of previously announced lines. The registry is available at http://escr.nih.gov.

New Award Program Promotes Protection of Human Research Subjects

The Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has awarded a contract to the Health Improvement Institute to create a national awards program recognizing excellence in protection of human research subjects. The awards will become part of a public–private partnership that will encourage ongoing improvement in the nation's system for protection of human research subjects by giving visibility to best practices and by rewarding institutions, investigators, sponsors, and review boards for their commitment to responsible conduct of human studies.

The Health Improvement Institute (HII) of Bethesda, Maryland—a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization that promotes improving the quality and productivity of America's health care—created this new series of awards. An advisory board comprising representatives from government, industry, the scientific community, and advocacy groups will recommend awards that recognize best practices, innovations in protecting research volunteers, and lifetime achievement for outstanding human research protection activities. A call for entries and nominations will be announced later this year.

The Office of Human Research Protections—together with the Food and Drug Administration—oversees programs for the protections of human subjects at more than 4,000 HHS-funded universities, hospitals, and other medical and behavioral research institutions and private research sites in the United States and abroad.

For more information about the awards competition or becoming a sponsor of the awards program, contact Kristin Hollingsworth at 301-652-1818 or by e-mail at kjh@mcman.com.

VA Human Research Protection Accreditation Program

The accreditation standards for the Veterans Affairs Human Research Protection Accreditation Program have been posted on the Web at www.ncqa.org/Programs/QSG/VAHRPAP/vahrpap.htm. These criteria will be used by the National Committee for Quality Assurance as the basis of their accreditation reviews of VA human subjects protection programs.

People on the Move

Alan Leshner (NIDA), Steven E. Hyman (NIMH), and Enoch Gordis (NIAAA)

National Institutes of Health Directors

Five institute directorships (NCI, NINDS, NIMH, NIDA, and NIAAA) have experienced turnover in the past year, with all but the NCI post vacant as this newsletter goes to press. The lack of a permanent NIH director may delay recruitment of their successors. Watch this newsletter for further information.

Dr. Alan Leshner departed from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in December to begin his tenure as the Chief Executive Officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In this new position, Leshner will direct AAAS's activities and serve as the publisher of its peer-reviewed journal, *Science*. Dr. Leshner has served as the director of NIDA since 1994. During his time as NIDA director, Dr. Leshner increased public awareness and aimed to destigmatize the perception of drug abuse and addiction by providing a scientific explanation of the disease.

Dr. Steven Hyman, director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), was named the new provost at Harvard University. The provost, the second-highest administrative post, is chosen by the Harvard Corporation, which is the university's governing board. Dr. Hyman became NIMH director in 1996. During his time at NIMH, he oversaw more than 1,000 scientists and a $1.2 billion budget. Under Dr. Hyman's directorship, NIMH worked with the White House and Surgeon General on reports and conferences pertaining to the nation's mental health and children. The Institute also raised public awareness and acceptance of mental illness.

At the end of 2001, **Dr. Enoch Gordis** retired from his position as director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Dr. Gordis had been the NIAAA director since 1986. The scientific work at NIAAA during Dr. Gordis's tenure has illuminated a number of issues such as identifying

President's Message *continued from cover*

operations and work with the Society's Council and membership in framing and achieving the our goals. Throughout this period of transition, the staff at Society headquarters has demonstrated great professionalism in keeping the wheels of the Society turning. I would also like to thank Don Price for his tireless and steadfast leadership during his year as president and to thank the Council for their dedication to fairness and their commitment to the Society.

During our search, we were very fortunate to have been able to attract an outstanding list of candidates, many of whom had the characteristics and background to function extremely well in the position. We are pleased to have hired Marty Saggese of the American International Health Alliance. Marty is a visionary with an impressive track record in nonprofit operations, who, along with SFN's very capable staff, will provide a Central Office solidly poised to meet the challenges ahead.

The past decade, the "Decade of the Brain," brought national attention to neuroscience as a discipline. The next decade will likely be the decade in which startling new discoveries will change the way we think about ourselves and our discipline.

Challenges and Opportunities

There are several major issues we will be addressing in the next year. One of the challenges facing the Society is the impact of electronic publishing on *The Journal of Neuroscience*. Do we desire—and are we ready for—an exclusively electronic journal? In addition, we need to analyze an apparent plateau in SFN membership. Though the neuroscience community's numbers have leveled off since its explosive growth in past decades, it is likely that we are not reaching all potential members in the field of neuroscience and related disciplines. One way to address this issue is to redefine and strengthen our relationship with the many Society chapters that represent neuroscience in the local communities. In addition, I believe that we should reassess our relationship with university neuroscience departments and graduate programs through the Association of Neuroscience Departments and Programs. This process could result in a reinvigoration of a strong and synergistic relationship between these complementary organizations. The Society also continues to secure and redefine our relationships with our sister societies outside North America as well as related clinical and basic science societies.

The Annual Meeting presents another challenge. Concerns have been voiced that the meeting is getting too large and unmanageable. The Program Committee has acknowledged this challenge and has restructured the meeting and revised the program to make a more user-friendly event with "meetings within the meeting." To this end, the themes have been condensed and restructured with subcategories to make it easier to assign abstracts to specific topics and to help the Program Committee session the abstracts. In addition, the list of key words has been updated to better represent the current interests of the Society. The initial response to this year's revised program at the Annual Meeting in San Diego has been very positive.

Financial issues will continue to be important, especially in these times of economic uncertainty. Council voted in San Diego to establish an SFN investment committee, bringing to bear financial expertise from both within and outside the membership. This new standing committee will work closely with Council and the Finance Committee and will be charged with overseeing the Society's investment policies, monitoring SFN's investment manager, and monitoring and evaluating investment results.

So how do we address these and other important issues before us in an organized and coherent manner? We have initiated and will, in the course of this year, complete a formal process of establishing short- and long-term goals and objectives, setting clear priorities for these goals, and moving forward. We will be getting advice and suggestions from many quarters inside and outside the Society and will certainly be aiming for consensus as we proceed. This will be an exciting process and, with the help of the new Executive Director and the continued commitment of the membership and staff, we will establish a framework for the future of the Society.

On the Cutting Edge of the Future

In addition to the changes, challenges, and opportunities discussed above, I will share some personal observations and hopes for the immediate future. The success and vibrancy of the Society are partially attributable to the fact that our members are engaged in one of the most exciting and promising fields of study. Not only are the ways in which the brain functions becoming clearer, but the tools used to reveal the answers are being developed and refined at an impressive rate. Knowledge about the function of the normal brain is leading to a clearer understanding of the damaged and diseased brain and the development of strategies to diagnose and treat human neural disease. Impressively, studies in the molecular and cellular bases of neural disease are also revealing important information about the normal, intact nervous system.

It probably comes as no surprise to some of you that I am particularly optimistic about the impact of the current focus on stem cells. While it can be argued that there is significant hype about the potential immediate applications to cure diseases, it cannot be denied that an understanding of the origins, functions, and fates of stem cells as they relate to the developing, adult, and aged brain will be significant both for normal, healthy living and for understanding the causes of and finding treatments for human nervous system-related diseases.

With the sequencing of the human genome, and possibly those of our close primate relatives (chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans), neuroscience has the potential to participate in the growing international effort to renew the investigation of the origins of humans, using our new and improved tools

continued on page 22

Government Affairs *continued from page 11*

the possible locations for alcoholism-related genes and the neurological effects of alcohol. During his tenure, the Institute's budget grew from $66 million to $382 million today. Grants also rose from 312 in 1986 to 815 in 2001.

The top position at NINDS has been vacant since December 2000, when **Dr. Gerald Fischbach** vacated the position to become Columbia University's Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He was the director of NINDS from 1998 to 2000. Dr. Fischbach was president of the Society for Neuroscience from 1983 to 1984.

Dr. Richard Klausner, director of NCI since 1995, recently resigned from his post to serve as a liason between the U.S. National Academies and the government's antiterrorism efforts. Dr. Klausner remains at NCI as an intramural researcher, reporting to the director of NCI's Center for Cancer Research. **Dr. Al Rabson,** NCI's deputy director, served as acting director until President Bush announced the appointment of **Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach** to the post in December.

The remaining four positions are being temporarily filled with acting directors: Dr. Glen R. Hanson, NIDA; Dr. Richard Nakamura, NIMH; and Dr. Audrey S. Penn, NINDS. At press time, an acting director had not been named for NIAAA.

Anthony Hayward Named New NCRR Associate Director

The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), part of the National Institutes of Health, has named Anthony R. Hayward, M.D., Ph.D., the new Associate Director of Clinical Research. Dr. Hayward received his M.D. from the University College, London, and his Ph.D. from the University of London. Previously, he was a Professor of Pediatrics, Microbiology, and Immunology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Associate Director of the University's Pediatric General Clinical Research Center. Dr. Hayward has received a number of NIH grants, served on NIH Initial Review Groups, and been published in many peer-reviewed journals.

The Associate Director of Clinical Research oversees many national clinical research programs, including the General Clinical Research Centers, the National Gene Vector Laboratories, the Human Islet Cell Resource Centers, and many clinical research career development programs for physicians and dentists.

Ungerleider Elected to IOM

Leslie Ungerleider, Ph.D., a former Society for Neuroscience Council member and Program Committee Chair, was recently elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM), a part of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). IOM engages in crucial health policy studies and election to IOM is a tremendous honor. Dr. Ungerleider is the chief of the National Institute of Mental Health's Laboratory of Brain and Cognition. Last year, she was elected to the NAS.

PBS Series Explores Revolutionary Discoveries in Neuroscience

The Secret Life of the Brain, a five-part television series debuting Tuesday, January 22, 2002, at 9 p.m. on PBS, will explore the startling new map of the brain that has emerged from the past decade of neuroscience research. The series will provide the viewing public with a look at dramatic advances in the areas of addiction, depression, learning disorders, Alzheimer's Disease, and schizophrenia.

The Secret Life of the Brain is a co-production of David Grubin Productions and Thirteen/WNET New York. Narrated by actress Blair Brown, the series is a mix of personal histories, cutting-edge animation, and commentary by experts in the field, including several members of the Society for Neuroscience. SFN members who contributed their expertise throughout production of the documentary—both in front of the camera and behind the scenes—include Carl W. Cotman, Ph.D., Director, Institute for Brain Aging and Dementia at the University of California, Irvine; Patricia Goldman-Rakic, Ph.D., Eugene Higgins Professor of Neurobiology, Yale University School of Medicine, Section of Neurobiology; Bernice Grafstein, Ph.D., Department of Physiology, Weill Medical College, Cornell University; Steven E. Hyman, M.D., former Director, National Institute of Mental Health; Story Landis, Ph.D., Scientific Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; Bruce S. McEwen, Ph.D., Alfred E. Mirsky Professor, Head of the Harold and Margaret Milliken Hatch Laboratory of Neuroendocrinology, The Rockefeller University; J. Anthony Movshon, Ph.D., Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Presidential Professor, Center for Neural Science, New York University; and Steven Petersen, Ph.D., James S. McDonnell Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience, Department of Neurology, Washington University.

The series takes a chronological approach over its five-hour span. Each of the individual programs explores a specific stage of human development—infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age—from fundamental neural development and innovative medical treatments to behavioral therapies, new brain-based educational techniques, and the characteristics of the older brain that may form the basis of wisdom.

A companion book, also titled *The Secret Life of the Brain*, has been released in concert with the television series. Additionally, Thirteen/WNET will implement an extensive national education and community outreach campaign. Print and online resources will make it possible for teens and adults to learn more about the lifelong development of the brain and to implement lifestyle choices that can help to ensure a healthy brain. These materials will be the building blocks of educational activities in communities across the country and will also be used as support to science curricula in formal and informal educational settings. The Society for Neuroscience will be distributing resource materials to members in conjunction with the upcoming Brain Awareness Week campaign.

A Web site has been established to help viewers further their learning about the brain. For more information, see www.pbs.org/wnet/brain.

Major funding for The Secret Life of the Brain is provided by the National Science Foundation. Corporate support is provided by Pfizer Inc and The Medtronic Foundation on behalf of Medtronic, Inc. Funding is also provided by Park Foundation, PBS, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Dana Foundation, and The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives.

All Eyes on the Brain

Brain Awareness Week
March 11–17, 2002

All eyes will be on the brain March 11–17, as Society members organize neuroscience outreach events in their home cities to mark Brain Awareness Week 2002. From schoolchildren getting their first glimpse of the human brain, to lecture hall audiences learning about the latest treatments for neurological disorders, neuroscience will be the topic of discussion for a full seven days. For information on how you can help to put neuroscience in to the public eye during Brain Awareness Week and beyond, visit our Web site at www.sfn.org/BAW.

brain
OCTOBER 2001 BRIEFINGS

THE MOST COMMON DRUGS USED TODAY TO TREAT DEPRESSION FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON THE BRAIN CHEMICALS, SEROTONIN AND NOREPINEPHRINE. INCREASING EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, NOW INDICATES THAT ANOTHER PLAYER IN THE BRAIN, CORTICOTROPIN-RELEASING FACTOR, SHOULD SHARE THE SPOTLIGHT. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT ABNORMALLY HIGH ACTIVITY OF THIS STRESS HORMONE IS PRESENT IN MANY CASES OF DEPRESSION. FURTHERMORE, RESEARCH SHOWS THAT DRUGS THAT BLOCK THE ACTION OF CORTICOTROPIN-RELEASING FACTOR HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO LIFT THE DISMALLY LOW SPIRITS OF THE DEPRESSED. THE NEW INSIGHTS HELP EXPLAIN HOW DEPRESSION ARISES AND MAY LEAD TO NEW OPTIONS FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

DEPRESSION AND STRESS HORMONES

Depression, with its feelings of intense sadness, worthlessness, pessimism and reduced emotional well-being, afflicts more than 18 million Americans.

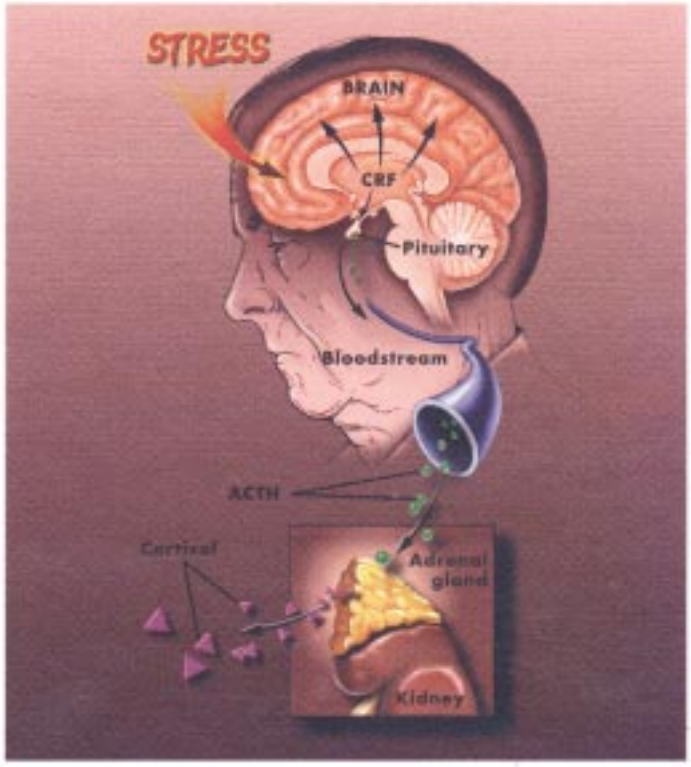
On a cheerier note, drug therapies can help some sufferers regain a zest for life. The drugs most commonly used today to treat the illness target the brain chemicals, serotonin and norepinephrine. Increasing evidence now indicates that targeting another player in the brain, corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF), also may aid people. Research finds that this hormone, known for its involvement in the brain's response to stress, may be an important factor in the development of depression.

The discovery is leading to:

- A greater appreciation for the ability of the brain's stress system to influence health.
- New and possibly better options to treat depression as well as other related illnesses like anxiety.
- An improved understanding of the factors that may influence the stress system and trigger depression.

Under normal circumstances, CRF production in the brain helps manage your internal response to daily stressful situations (see illustration). Many believe that it puts your guard up. You may feel extra vigilant, fearful or anxious. It also sets off a sequence of events that includes the release of two other stress hormones, adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) and cortisol. These hormones arouse various body systems and prepare them to cope with a challenge. They also facilitate the body's return to a normal state.

Researchers have long suspected that this complex



A THE HORMONE, CRF, HELPS YOU ADAPT TO A WIDE RANGE OF STRESSFUL SITUATIONS. WHEN A SHARK SWIMS NEAR YOU, THE BRAIN RELEASES CRF AND ITS EFFECTS MAKE YOUR GUARD GO UP. MANY BELIEVE ITS DIRECT ACTIONS IN THE BRAIN CAN MAKE YOU FEEL EXTRA VIGILANT, FEARFUL OR ANXIOUS. THE HORMONE ALSO TRAVELS TO THE PITUITARY GLAND AT THE BASE OF THE BRAIN. THERE IT TRIGGERS THE RELEASE OF ACTH. THIS SECOND HORMONE TRAVELS IN THE BLOOD TO THE ADRENAL GLANDS, WHICH SIT ON TOP OF EACH KIDNEY, AND INSTRUCTS THEM TO RELEASE A THIRD HORMONE, CORTISOL. TOGETHER THE HORMONES RALLY THE BODY SYSTEMS TO PREPARE YOU TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION. YOU'RE READY TO DO BATTLE OR FLEE. THEN THEY HELP THE BODY RETURN TO A NORMAL STATE. A NUMBER OF RESEARCHERS CONTEND THAT MALFUNCTIONS IN THE CRF SYSTEM OFTEN UNDERLIE DEPRESSION.

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PAST ISSUES
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stress system may be overactive in people with depression. For example, some 30 years ago research found that a high proportion of depressed people had elevated levels of cortisol in their circulation.

Since that time, more specific investigations have suggested that the problem stems from abnormally high CRF activity. Researchers have found that some depressed people have increased concentrations of CRF in their spinal fluid compared with healthy individuals and those with other psychiatric disorders. Another study found that a small sample of depressed patients had an increase in their number of CRF-producing brain cells. Furthermore, studies determined that injecting CRF into the brains of animals produced the behavioral features reminiscent of those observed in depressed humans, such as anxiety, decreased appetite and a decreased sex drive.

Most recently, researchers determined that a drug that counteracts the effects of CRF improved the symptoms of depression in a small group of patients. Unfortunately the studies were stopped because the drug caused some mild, reversible liver problems. A variety of other CRF-blocking drugs, however, are in development. Scientists plan to test them in depressed people in the very near future.

Some researchers believe that CRF blockers may help more depressed people than the standard antidepressant treatments that target serotonin. Research indicates that as a byproduct of their effect on serotonin, the standard treatments may lower CRF. Possibly the CRF drugs, which directly target CRF, could help more people, cause fewer side effects and work faster than the serotonin antidepressants.

In another line of work, scientists are uncovering what makes the CRF system go awry. One contributor may be excessive stress. For example, severe stress in early life increases the production of CRF in adult animals. Other studies link a history of childhood abuse to depression in humans. Recently, researchers also found that compared with their healthy counterparts, depressed women with a history of abuse experienced a six-fold increase in ACTH levels following a mild stressful situation, which they believe signals CRF problems.

Continued study of CRF may lead to new prevention methods as well as even more effective depression treatments that produce fewer unwanted side effects.

NOVEMBER 2001

brain BRIEFINGS

THE AXON IS VITAL FOR CELLULAR COMMUNICATION. YET, IN THE ADULT SPINAL CORD AND BRAIN THESE THIN PROCESSES THAT JUT OUT FROM NERVE CELLS HAVE TROUBLE REGENERATING AFTER AN INJURY. THE RESULT IS PERMANENT IMPAIRMENTS, SUCH AS A LOSS OF MOVEMENT. FOR YEARS, SCIENTISTS HAVE SEARCHED TO UNDERSTAND WHY AXONS REFUSE TO REBUILD. NOW INCREASING RESEARCH FINDS THAT A COVERING ON THE AXON, TERMED MYELIN, IS AT LEAST PARTLY TO BLAME. THE DISCOVERY IS HELPING RESEARCHERS GET CLOSER TO DEVELOPING HUMAN TREATMENTS THAT COULD REPAIR DAMAGE AND RESTORE FUNCTION.

MYELIN AND SPINAL CORD REPAIR

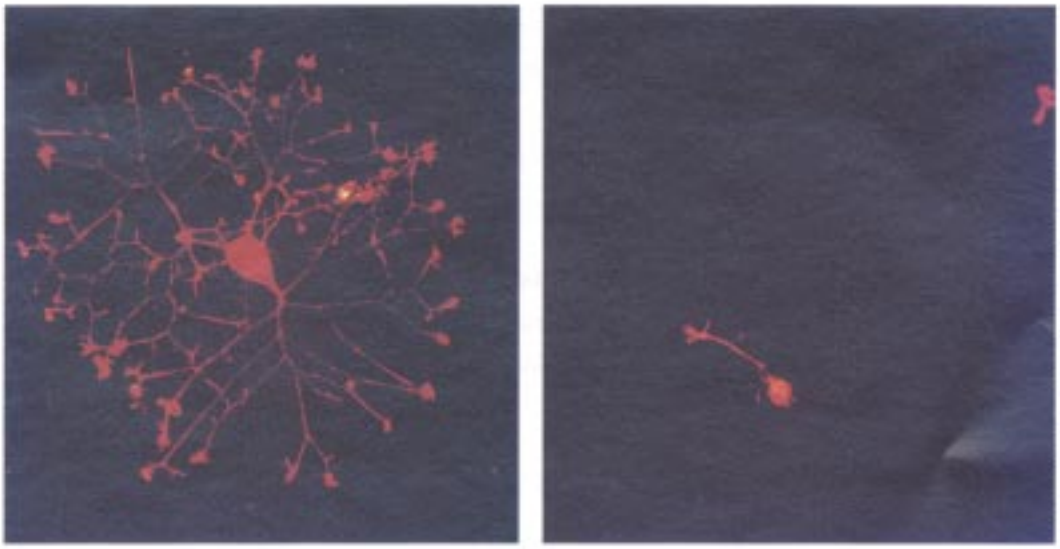
After an unexpected detour on Saturday's bike ride, the gouged skin on your knee easily repairs itself. No such luck for your damaged spinal cord.

In the cord, thin fibers, called axons, extend from nerve cells and normally act as connecting cables, carrying messages from one nerve cell to another. Your ability to function stems from this communication circuit that transfers signals back and forth between the brain and spinal cord to the rest of the body. Once injured, however, unlike many other body components, axons in the adult spinal cord and brain cannot adequately repair themselves. Communication becomes permanently impaired and problems erupt. For some 250,000 Americans with spinal cord injuries this typically means permanent paralysis, the inability to move or a loss of sensation.

For years, scientists have searched to understand why these axons refuse to regrow. Now, increasing research finds that a fatty sheath, termed myelin, which wraps around axons, is at least partly to blame. The new data is leading to:

- Clearer insight into the complex biology of axon regeneration.
- New ideas on how to prompt axons to regenerate after an injury.

In the past, myelin was known solely for its positive attributes, such as its ability to speed up the transmission of messages along the axon. But then in the 1980s, researchers found that myelin in the brain and spinal cord also gets in the way of axon regeneration. First, scientists prompted some axons to regrow in a culture dish by tinkering around with their environment. When they added



▲ THESE IMAGES OF NERVE CELLS PROVIDE PROOF THAT THE MYELIN MOLECULE, NOGO, IS AT LEAST PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INABILITY OF DAMAGED AXON FIBERS TO REPAIR. NOTICE THAT A BURST OF AXONS CAPS THE CELL ON THE LEFT. SCIENTISTS TREATED THE NERVE CELL ON THE RIGHT WITH SYNTHESIZED NOGO AND FOUND THAT IT GREATLY STUNTED THE CELL'S GROWTH. THEIR WORK AND OTHER RESEARCH INDICATES THAT DEACTIVATING NOGO MAY BE ABLE TO HELP INJURED NERVE CELLS IN THE SPINAL CORD REGROW THEIR AXONS, REINSTALL CELL-TO-CELL COMMUNICATION AND RESTORE FUNCTION.

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myelin to the picture, however, the growth stopped.

Since that time, research has confirmed myelin's blocking role by showing that interfering with its effects can aid axon repair and restore some function in rodents with spinal cord injuries. For example, a vaccine that initiated a multi-pronged attack against myelin prompted axons to regrow over the animals' injuries. Furthermore, treated animals regained some movement in their hind legs, which indicates that the myelin attack reestablished the nerve cells' severed communication lines.

This method, however, may have a downside. Possibly it could wipe out too much myelin and trigger nasty side effects. In fact, multiple sclerosis, a disease marked by movement problems, is thought to stem from an internal attack against myelin. Researchers are currently refining the vaccine and testing it on a group of rodents prone to multiple sclerosis to ensure that it does not cause the disease. They also have identified specific molecules that can signal cells called macrophages to ingest and remove myelin from the damaged spinal cord. By finding ways to solely activate these molecules, they may be able to create a more controlled myelin onslaught.

Other groups are investigating ways to target specific components of myelin, instead of the entire sheath. In recent years, work identified a clutch of molecules in myelin that contribute to its growth-inhibiting effects. One of these, cutely named Nogo, is under intense investigation (see images). Researchers have developed proteins known as antibodies that appear to deactivate Nogo and modestly aid axon regrowth and movement in spinal cord-injured rodents. Currently they are refining this antibody approach and will soon test it in monkeys.

Scientists also are looking for other ways to block Nogo's inhibiting effects. One group found an area on the nerve cell, known as a receptor, which detects Nogo and helps it carry out its inhibiting actions. Then recently they identified some proteins that they think may be able to interrupt this mechanism and allow axons to grow.

While scientists are a long way off from helping those with paralysis ride their bike or even walk again, the study of myelin is spurring many new ideas on how to repair the damaged spinal cord and restore at least some function.

American Chronic Pain Association To Launch National Pain Awareness Campaign

Joseph Baim, Ph.D. President, Board of Directors, American Chronic Pain Association

In 1980, Penney Cowan founded the American Chronic Pain Association (ACPA), comprising two small groups which met weekly in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Neither Penney nor the original members of the Board of Directors—some of whom are still with the organization—imagined that ACPA would grow to more than 400 chapters in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, India, Jordan, and Russia.

A nonprofit, tax exempt organization, ACPA offers a support system for people with chronic pain through education in pain management skills and self-help group activities. ACPA provides assistance in starting and maintaining support groups, workbooks that provide step-by-step help in learning to live more fully with chronic pain, and other resources for people with chronic pain and for their families.

> ***The goals of the campaign are to create greater understanding of the impact of pain on our economy, our social structure, and on the lives of individuals.***

For more than 20 years, ACPA has stayed true to its mission: to help individuals to live more fully in spite of chronic pain and to raise awareness and understanding of the impact of pain in modern society. ACPA is about to take our efforts to a new level, by working to build a consortium of partner organizations and a broad funding base for a national Pain Education and Awareness Campaign. The goals of the campaign, which will roll out in late 2002, are to create greater understanding of the impact of pain on our economy, our social structure, and on the lives of individuals and to promote informed public and professional dialog on a spectrum of pain management issues. Funding for initial campaign planning has been provided through a generous grant from Purdue Pharma.

Chronic pain is defined as pain that continues a month or more beyond the usual recovery period for an injury or illness or that goes on for months or years due to a chronic condition. The pain is usually not constant but can interfere with daily life at all levels. Chronic pain is the number one cause of adult disability in the U.S. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the cost of chronic pain in the United States is $100 billion each year in lost workdays and medical expenses. The best evidence suggests that one in three Americans—approximately 86 million—suffers from some sort of chronic pain, including migraine headaches, arthritis, back injuries, or other ills.

In spite of significant advances in treatment options, at some point, most people with chronic pain are told to "learn to live with it." Until science and medicine can consistently overcome chronic pain, the sound pain management principles ACPA teaches can help people with chronic pain learn how to live with their pain. With guidance, they can regain control of their lives and lessen their sense of suffering by blending physical, emotional, intellectual, and social skills.

ACPA does not seek to take the place of traditional medical treatment. Membership is an addition to, not a substitute for, medical and other professional services. The organization offers no medical advice and advocates no specific therapeutic interventions. Instead, ACPA works with the medical community to encourage group members to take more responsibility for their own recovery. Our goal is to help the individual become a full partner on the treatment team.

To learn more about the American Chronic Pain Association, please visit our Web site at www.theacpa.org or call the National Office at 916-632-0922.

Ruth Kirschstein *continued from page 3*

Neuroscience Research Center, to be built on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland, over the next five years. This center, which will integrate basic and clinical neuroscience research conducted by NIH scientists, is designed to promote collaboration and interdisciplinary research.

Clinical Research and Health Disparities

NIH will continue to expand its emphasis on clinical research, the medium by which basic science is translated into better human health. In support of this goal, NIH is establishing several new loan repayment programs in response to a congressional authorization. We regard these initiatives as vitally important in recruiting new clinical researchers. More information on these programs is available at http://grants.nih.gov.

NIH also is continuing to expand its commitment to programs focusing on the health needs of minorities and the medically underserved and to programs designed to increase the number of minority scientists. The new National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD), established in late 2000, is leading NIH's efforts to plan and coordinate research focused on racial and ethnic disparities and on medically underserved populations. The Center is led by Dr. John Ruffin.

In conclusion, the increased investment in medical research in recent years has already expanded our knowledge, enabling us to see further than ever before. These advances have given us the leverage to move medical science farther and faster than we imagined possible just a few years ago. I have every hope that our pace will continue to increase in the years ahead.

Canadian Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction Promotes Transdiciplinary Research

Rémi Quirion, Ph.D., Scientific Director, The Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction of Canada

Last year, Vincent Castellucci, Ph.D., President of the Canadian Association of Neurosciences, summarized the recent creation of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA) is one of the 13 "virtual" Institutes of CIHR. As its first Scientific Director, I will review here the first few months of INMHA's existence.

A Broad Scope

INMHA is unique. True to the CIHR model, the institute aims to support transdisciplinary, internationally competitive research ranging from biomedical and clinical research to health services and population health research—the so-called four pillars of CIHR. Thus, many of our strategic initiatives will aim to promote genuine collaboration between experts not only from all disciplines of medical research but from engineering and natural sciences, law and ethics, social sciences, and other relevant areas. Another key feature of INMHA is a deliberate attempt to promote interaction between neuroscientists and mental health and addiction experts.

With the amazing developments that have occurred in brain research over the past decade (imaging, cognitive psychology, neurogenetics, neurostem cells, for example), we are betting that our integrated model will break barriers between these specialists. For example, a better understanding of the functional organization of the dopaminergic synapse improves our knowledge of not only neurological disorders like Parkinson's Disease and mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, but also of mechanisms leading to various forms of addiction. Societal and environmental processes also directly affect the functioning of dopaminergic neurons. By promoting truly transdisciplinary research approaches, and by including all themes and topics relevant to the brain and the mind in one institute, we are confident that we will increase the worldwide impact of Canadian research.

Making It Work

INMHA is a major challenge, considering its sheer size and the broad nature of its unique mandate. At NIH, by contrast, at least seven distinct institutes would have to be brought together to cover a similar range of topics—although the two models are clearly different. Moreover, the burden of disease and societal costs associated with disorders covered under the umbrella of INMHA are staggering with an estimated eight out of the ten highest figures related to brain and mental illnesses and addiction. To thrive, INMHA must have the genuine support of all concerned partners including scientists coming from all interested disciplines, various governmental agencies, other CIHR Institutes, the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry and—very importantly—nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), as well as the general public. As a means to attain this ambitious objective, the Institute Advisory Board (IAB), chaired by Professor Anthony Philips, a psychologist from the University of British Columbia, is composed of Canadian scientists with complementary expertise covering the mandate of the Institute, as well as two lay members and an international neuroscientist, Professor Bruce McEwen from Rockefeller University. See www.cihr.ca and click on INMHA for details.

Looking to the Future

Our first initiative focuses on the next generation of scientists. In collaboration with all CIHR institutes and various NGOs, CIHR recently launched a novel training grant initiative aimed at insuring the training of the very best transdisciplinary scientists. At the INMHA, we are hoping that these six-year training grants will create a new brand of scientists interested in both basic and clinical aspects of brain functions but with a strong knowledge and appreciation for law and ethics, social sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

By promoting truly transdisciplinary research approaches, and by including all themes and topics relevant to the brain and the mind in one institute, we are confident that we will increase the worldwide impact of Canadian research.

The creation of the BrainStar Program is also aimed at recognizing the unique contribution of students and trainees to the life of the Institute and to science in general. Accordingly, every other week, an award is given to a young trainee who recently first-authored an article in a peer-reviewed journal. The award consists of $1,000 Canadian currency plus a photo and a mention on our Web site of the relevance of the publication for INMHA. We hope that this friendly competition will stimulate the participation of trainees in the development of our institute by highlighting the key role played by stellar young scientists in Canada. For details on the BrainStar Program and a list of recent awardees, see www.cihr.ca/institutes/inmha/whatsnew/brainstar_e.shtml.

Another early initiative of INMHA relates to a new CIHR program known as the "New Emerging Team" or NET Program. This innovative program aims to build capacity in areas where gaps have been identified or for which unique opportunities have just emerged. This is a five-year nonrenewable grant that must involve one or two established investigators and a comparable number of junior, recently recruited, independent faculty members.

Following consultation with the IAB and various potential partners, prioritized topics for this year include:

- Neurodevelopment and Early Life Events: Impact on Normal Brain Function Later in Life
- Understanding the Placebo Effect
- Computational Neuroscience and Artificial Intelligence
- Discrimination and Stigma

Details can be found on the CIHR Web site. All four topics offer great challenges to all kinds of scientists, and technology is now available to critically investigate, for example, the mechanisms involved in placebo responses, often a key issue in the treatment of pain, mental illnesses, and addictions. In that regard, a paper published recently in *Science* (293:1164-66), in which Canadian researchers used PET imaging to study placebo responses in Parkinson's Disease, is a prototypical example of the type of research envisioned by the NET Program.

Similarly, there is growing evidence that early life events may have long-term influence on the incidences of various brain illnesses and addictive behaviors (*Ann. Rev. Neurosci.* 24:1161-92); INMHA wishes to foster research on this topic. For persons suffering from mental illnesses, neurological disorders, blindness, and various addictions, discrimination is still too often a part of daily life. Our Institute must support research on best practices aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination against these too often less-favored members of our community. A recent NIH–Fogarty International workshop also highlighted the need for more research in this area. (See www.stigmaconference.nih.gov for details.)

Long–Term Research Targets

Regarding multiyear major strategic initiatives, INMHA is in the process of finalizing its choices. It is likely that five broad themes will be targeted (not listed in order of priority):

- Nicotine Addiction and Tobacco Abuse
- Regenerative Medicine: Brain and Spinal Cord Repair, and Vision and Hearing Losses
- First Episodes in Neurological and Mental Illnesses and in Addiction
- Co-occurrence of Brain Disorders with Other Health Problems

These topics were tentatively chosen based on criteria that included the number of internationally recognized Canadian scientists in the field, disease prevalence, burden of disease and societal costs, opportunities for true transdisciplinary research, partnerships with other institutes and NGOs, potential for building and training capacity, and unique Canadian niche. Brain and spinal cord repair (e.g., spinal cord regeneration, neurostem cells, neurotrophins) is a research domain in which many Canadian neuroscientists are recognized as world leaders. In the next decade, much progress can be expected to lead to the development of truly effective cures for spinal cord injuries, head trauma, and various neurodegenerative disorders. One of the first initiatives of the Institute was, in fact, to support, in collaboration with three other CIHR Institutes (Cancer Research; Human Development, Child and Youth Health; and Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis) and two NGOs (Neuroscience Canada Partnership and Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada), a five-year multidisciplinary grant on gene therapy applied to one type of neuroblastoma and two hereditary neuromuscular disorders. This research is led by Dr. George Karpati of McGill University and included basic, clinical, and social scientists from six Canadian institutions and three international partners.

Global Connections

The presence of INMHA on the international scene is essential, and we intend to promote exchanges of personnel and to develop joint research initiatives with various countries. As a first step—and taking advantage of a Japan–Canada Neuroscience initiative developed in the mid-1990s—INMHA has already agreed to support a few postdoctoral positions for young Japanese scientists interested in training in Canada, and our Japanese colleagues are in the process of offering similar opportunities to Canadian trainees, broadening topics to include mental health and addiction. We have visited various sister institutes at NIH recently, and we certainly wish to develop strong links and joint funding initiatives with our American colleagues as well. Discussion is also underway with various other countries.

An Effective Model

In summary, the first few months of INMHA existence have been both exciting and challenging. With the support of Canadian neuroscientists, I am confident of our success and of the appropriateness of the chosen model. It is most humbling to serve as the first Scientific Director of the integrated Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction, especially considering Canada's long tradition of excellence in brain research, with pioneers such as W. Penfield, D. Hebb, H. Jasper, and H. Lehmann, to name a few. As an active, committed neuroscientist, I truly want the Canadian experiment to be a success and possibly even a model for others.

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President's Message *continued from page 12*

to analyze samples from our hominid predecessors (Neanderthal and earlier). In many ways, the recent advances of molecular genetics should go a long way to rekindle our fascination with comparative neuroscience, which is one of the original— and most provocative—themes in neuroscience.

Enriching Our Knowledge Base and Broadening Our Scope

In a very general sense, the growth and expansion of neuroscience as a discipline can be traced not so much to the addition of new scientists as to the merger of other whole areas of investigation with the study of the nervous system. The result is a discipline that is based on ideas, not techniques. When individuals with other tools and skills become interested in neuroscience, they bring to this discipline innovative ideas, fresh perspectives, and new tools, that can enrich the broader community. It is my belief and hope that the continued growth and positive impact of the Society for Neuroscience will require us to reach out and incorporate other disciplines to both refine and broaden the scope of the questions important to the present and future of neuroscience.

I am confident that the Society is ready to represent the neuroscience community's interests as we build upon our impressive past and look toward a future with abundant opportunities.

The Best in Neuroscience Will Begin with a Card in the Mail

The abstract submission process for the Society's 32nd Annual Meeting in Orlando will begin with a postcard reminder in the mail. The postcard, which will arrive this Spring, replaces the *Call for Abstracts* Booklet of previous years. It will direct you to the Web site for the convenience of online submission and provide instructions for paper submission if you do not have access to the Internet.

Watch your mailbox this spring and let the abstract submissions begin!

New Director *continued from cover*

A resident of Chevy Chase, Maryland, Saggese has served since 1995 as the Deputy Executive Director and CFO of the American International Health Alliance (AIHA), a Washington, DC-based nonprofit with five overseas offices that manages $90 million in healthcare partnership programs in 21 countries in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. A native of Brooklyn, New York, he previously served as Vice President for Management and Financial Services at the Long Island Rail Road and as Deputy Commissioner for Management and Administrative Services at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. He holds an MPA from New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, and a BA from Wesleyan University.

Saggese noted that now is a very dynamic time in the scientific professions, and SFN and its members are leading players in some of the most exciting areas of scientific research today. "I am grateful for the confidence the SFN Council has shown in selecting me for this position," he said. "I look forward to working with the Council, the staff, and the members to help shape the future of the Society and build on its record of growth, intellectual vitality, and member service in the coming years."

Price expressed his gratitude for the team of senior managers who have served as interim leaders: Joe Carey, Public Information Director; Judy Hittman, Director of Communications and Marketing; Susan Levine, Accounting Director; Katie McCollins Sale, Associate Director; and BJ Plantz, Annual Meeting Director. "These individuals, along with the rest of staff, have done an outstanding job of maintaining all of the critical functions of the SFN," said Price. "We are confident that their efforts will help to provide a seamless transition to the Society's new leadership."

Levi Montalcini Foundation To Fund Fellowships for Women Scientists in Africa

The Levi Montalcini Foundation, established by Rita Levi Montalcini (who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for her work on growth factors in 1968) and her late sister Paola, has made IBRO a generous donation to fund fellowships for young African women. Two fellowships will be awarded: one to a researcher wanting to train at a university abroad and another to a researcher to work at an African university.

The training awards will, says IBRO Secretary General Albert Aguayo, "have a very important impact in Africa and throughout the IBRO world community. Focusing support on young women neuroscientists in Africa carries also a very powerful message that will be heard everywhere." IBRO's President, Nobel Laureate Torsten Wiesel, will chair the Awards Committee for the Levi Montalcini fellowships.

The Levi Montalcini Foundation is committed to the education of African girls and young women, based on the strong belief that women play a key role in the future of the African continent.

Fellowships and Awards Call for Submissions

Nominations Sought for 2002 Lindsley Prize

Through the generosity of The Grass Foundation, a prize was established in 1979 in the name of Donald B. Lindsley, Ph.D., for meritorious research in the area of behavioral neuroscience. The prize is awarded each year at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting for the most outstanding doctoral thesis in the general area of behavioral neuroscience (submitted and approved during the previous calendar year). For purposes of the prize, behavioral neuroscience is defined as neuroscience research involving behavioral variables or oriented toward the solution of behavioral problems. The $1,000 prize is accompanied by an engraved plaque and, when necessary, the travel expenses the recipient incurs to attend the Annual Meeting.

Nomination Instructions

Nominations for the 2002 prize should be received by Monday, March 25, 2002. Please send nominations to the Society for Neuroscience, Attn: 2002 Lindsley Prize, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC, 20036. Nominations must include eight copies of each of the following:

- Four- to six-page thesis abstract (typed, double-spaced) with names and departmental affiliations of thesis committee members.
- Sponsor's letter commenting on the significance of the work.
- Candidate's CV with current professional address.

Only theses submitted and approved between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2001, are eligible for consideration. A nomination may be made by any member of the Society for Neuroscience; this is normally the thesis sponsor or advisor, but may be a member of the Thesis Doctoral Committee or another scientist who is a Society member. The nominations will be evaluated by a committee of established behavioral neuroscientists who will make the final selection after carefully examining the theses. Copies of theses will be solicited by the committee from the nominees to determine a finalist. No other theses will be considered by the Selection Committee, nor should any be submitted, at the time of the initial nominations. The recipient of the prize will be notified in late summer, and the prize will be presented on the evening of the 2002 Grass Foundation Lecture, held during the Society's Annual Meeting in Orlando this fall. (See page 7 for details on the 2001 recipient.)

WIN Travel Awards

Women in Neuroscience (WIN) awarded 11 student travel awards in 2001. WIN chose the awardees from 182 applications, and each awardee received $750 to help defray the costs of travel to the Society for Neuroscience 31st Annual Meeting in San Diego. Awards were based on the scientific quality of the applicant's SFN abstract, curriculum vitae, a letter of recommendation from the applicant's advisor, and financial need. Young scientists from five countries—Australia, Canada, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States—were selected for the stipends. The awards were funded by generous support from Eli Lilly and Company and proceeds from the sales of WIN merchandise.

For information on the 2001 award WINners, including links to their entry essays, visit www.womeninneuroscience.org.

IBRO Fellowships Available for 2003

Research Fellowships

IBRO Research Fellowships are available for neuroscientists under the age of 45 from developing countries to work one month to one year abroad. Also available is one INSERM/IBRO Research Fellowship for a neuroscientist under the age of 45 to work one year in France in one of the laboratories sponsored by INSERM.

Applications for these fellowships should be submitted to the IBRO Secretariat (51 Bd de Montmorency, 75016 Paris, France) no later than April 1, 2002. Application packets should include the following documents (no application form is required): a short curriculum vitae, a short research synopsis, a list of the applicant's five most important publications, and a letter of acceptance from the receiving institute.

SFN Graduate Student Travel Awards Enter Third Year

Watch for Call for Nominations in January

2001 Graduate Student Travel Awardees in San Diego.

The Society for Neuroscience Chapters/Eli Lilly Graduate Student Travel Awards provide $500 in travel expenses plus meeting registration fees to honor outstanding graduate students nominated by their local chapters. Each chapter may submit a single nomination to the SFN Chapters/Eli Lilly Committee. The nominee must be a graduate student, advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D., who is first author on an abstract to be presented at the Annual Meeting. The Chapters Committee will make the final selection for awards based on the scientific merit of abstracts and letters from the student's advisors and nominating committees of the local chapters. **Application details and forms will be sent to all members in a mailing with the annual Call for Nominations in January.** Application forms and detailed instructions are available at www.sfn.org/chaps/ calof.pdf. Nominations from the chapters must be received by the Society office no later than Monday, June 3, 2002. Winners will be notified prior to September 1, 2002.

Annual Meeting *continued from cover*

Behind the scenes, SFN's Council and committees met to discuss SFN programs and operations. Council, joined by new Executive Director Marty Saggese, covered an ambitious agenda, including the Society's growing international presence, maintaining *The Journal of Neuroscience*'s preeminence as electronic publishing takes precedence over print, and buttressing the Society's strong finances against the current downturn in the economy.

Also under discussion was the turnover in leadership at NIH and how the nation's shifting priorities surrounding the war in Afghanistan and bioterrorism will affect biomedical research funding. See the front cover for SFN President Fred Gage's perspective on how the Society will position itself to deal with these challenges. Also see Government Affairs Update, page 10.

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The Society for Neuroscience gratefully acknowledges the generous support of its Sustaining Associate Members:

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