



# ACNP Bulletin

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## Liaison Committee Discusses Possible Radiotracer Sharing Clearinghouse

### Dean Wong

Chair, Radiotracer Subcommittee

On April 5, 2006 a subcommittee of the Liaison Committee with Governmental Agencies and the Pharmaceutical Industry met in Bethesda, MD to discuss a radiotracer sharing project. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on problems identified in study groups at the 2004 and 2005 ACNP Annual Meetings that present barriers to sharing and to develop potential solutions to those problems by establishing viable working concepts and initial agreements for the establishment of a radiotracer clearinghouse to facilitate sharing between industry, academia and government. At present, such sharing of CNS PET/SPECT radiotracers is prohibited by proprietary information, intellectual property, and the need for the complete dataset of information for reproduction. Concerns about competitive advantage among organizations also inhibit the sharing of such tools in spite of the potential benefits from sharing.



These radiotracers have been found to be invaluable in drug development for mechanisms of action and drug dosing and brain penetration. Indeed PET centers in both large Pharma and academic settings have become dedicated to developing such imaging biomarkers for practically every new drug. The concept being proposed in this meeting is to develop a clearinghouse to interface between parties within industry or academia who would share radiotracers through the clearinghouse in a fashion that would ensure confidentiality; that would develop trust between the sharing parties and the clearinghouse; and that would ensure minimal loss of competitive advantage while optimizing the use of scarce resources for radiotracers.

The participants included members from prior study groups, plus additional representatives to balance academia, government and Pharma. The group included 5 practicing academic radiochemists, 8 Pharma pharmacologists/psychiatrists/chemists, 2 Pharma and 1 American Association of Medical College (AAMC) attorneys, 3 academic and one tech transfer specialist, 3 senior NIH scientists, Liaison Committee Chair Roger Meyer, subcommittee chair Dean Wong, and ACNP staff.

In the meeting the subcommittee reviewed prior study group accomplishments and examples of NIH and other models of radiotracer sharing. Three hypothetical cases were discussed by both academic and Pharma speakers that address examples where complete secrecy is needed between a requesting party and another party who holds the IP rights of a completely secret radiotracer, or where the radiotracer may have been either partially or fully publicly disclosed. A fourth case in which precompetitive cooperation on entirely novel radiotracers to be developed jointly for specific targets was also discussed.

Much of the conversation focused on the need for pharmaceutical companies to be willing to share and to allow their academic partners to share within the practical bounds of confidentiality versus the benefits of such cooperation. Concepts such as a list of validated radiotracers, even though secret, and methods to share these among the members of the clearinghouse were discussed in the morning. In the afternoon, AAMC attorney Susan Ehringhaus co-moderated a roundtable discussion that focused on the necessary steps to develop such a clearinghouse. (*continued on page 4*)

## Neuropsychopharmacology Reviews: A New Venture for ACNP

### Salvatore Enna

Chair, Publications Committee

Council has approved a recommendation from the Publications Committee to publish a new book series, tentatively titled *Neuropsychopharmacology Reviews*. This publication is intended to be an annual publication of review articles covering the most recent and topical issues in the field. This new series is being planned to replace the Generations of Progress series, begun in 1968 with the publication of *Psychopharmacology: A Review of Progress 1957-1967*, edited by Efron et al and continuing through the publication of *Neuropsychopharmacology: The Fifth Generation of Progress*, edited by Davis et al., in 2002. While the Generations of Progress Series has been a successful endeavor, the time between editions has become shorter because of the acceleration in the pace of developments in the field, and there is increasing pressure to publish more frequently. Because of the time it takes to prepare a volume of 134 chapters involving nearly 300 editors, section editors, authors, and co-authors, some of the information in the volume is out of date by the time the book is published. Therefore, the Publications Committee recommended an annual volume that will contain 12-15 review articles covering the most significant advances in the field.

An annual publication of review articles will allow for the timely coverage of the most topical issues in the field. Timely in the sense that all of the reviews will have been written within a few months of publication, and topical in that it will be possible to publish updates and perspectives on the same subject as often as developments warrant.

The current plan is to publish one volume of *Neuropsychopharmacology Reviews* annually in hard-cover with the published articles being made available on the website as soon as possible thereafter. The primary audience for the work will be clinical investigators and neuroscientists actively engaged in research related to neuropsychopharmacology. However, authors will be encouraged to prepare the work so as to be informative to practicing physicians and interested lay readers as well. Each article will be a comprehensive review of the topic, containing summary tables, figures, and an extensive list of references.

An effort will be made to provide a mix of articles each year covering topics of importance to clinical and basic neuroscientists. However, emphasis will be placed on recruiting authors to cover subjects that the editors deem of greatest and most immediate interest and importance to the field. While the aim would be to provide coverage of topics on all aspects of clinical and basic neuropsychopharmacology every five to seven years, no limits will be placed on how often a particular subject may be reviewed since selection of material for coverage will be driven, in part, by events and the need to keep the work topical.

The overall publication series will be overseen by two members of the College who will serve as Series Editors, one representing basic science and one representing clinical science. Each volume will be overseen by a Volume Editor selected by the Series Editors. The Series Editors will select Volume Editors for four years in advance to allow for adequate planning and preparation of each volume. The Series Editors and Volume Editors will comprise an Editorial Board. The Editorial Board will ensure that a sense of continuity exists for the series while allowing each volume to focus on the most significant topics for that volume.

The Publications Committee has begun its search for editors as well as a publisher for the new series. Members who are interested in applying for the editor position should respond to the following announcement in this issue of the Bulletin.

## Neuropsychopharmacology Reviews

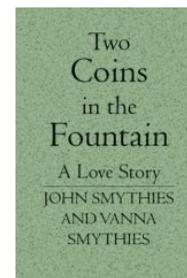
### SEARCH FOR SERIES EDITORS

The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology seeks applicants for Series Editors of *Neuropsychopharmacology Reviews*, a new offering to be published by the College (see accompanying article). Two Series Editors, one representing the clinical sciences and one the basic sciences, will be appointed to oversee the preparation of this work. The Series Editors will be responsible for establishing and enforcing editorial policies, for recruiting Volume Editors, for overseeing the selection of topics for coverage, and, together with the Managing Editor and publisher, the assembly and publication of each volume. Series Editors must be active members of the College. Preference will be given to those with editorial experience, broad recognition among the discipline subspecialties, and prior experience dealing with electronic manuscript submission, tracking and review systems. Series Editors, who will receive a modest honorarium for their efforts, will report to the Publications Committee.

The deadline for applications is July 1, 2006. The letter of intent must be accompanied by a copy of the curriculum vitae, a statement of interest, and a description of relevant experience. This material should be sent electronically or by mail to Ms. Jennifer Mahar at the ACNP Executive office (jmahar@acnp.org). Questions regarding this position should be directed to S.J. Enna, Ph.D. (senna@kumc.edu; 913-588-7533), chair of the Publications Committee.

### Member News

John Smythies (a member of the College) and his wife Vanna have written their joint autobiography entitled "Two Coins in the Fountain." This contains some material that will be of interest to psychopharmacologists and psychiatrists. The book gives an account of the development of research into psychedelic drugs in the 1950's including the inside history of how Aldous Huxley came to write "The Doors of Perception" that triggered the drug revolution. It also includes



an account of how Smythies and Osmond came to develop the first specific biochemical (transmethylation) hypothesis of schizophrenia. Other topics covered are the role that Smythies played in psychopharmacology at the WHO, in the Neurosciences Program at MIT, as C.B. Ireland Professor of Psychiatric Research at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and his later work on redox systems in the brain at UCSD. Vanna contributes a vivid account of the strenuous life of a trainee nurse at Charing Cross Hospital in London in the late 1940's. The book may be obtained from Booksurge Publishing ([www.booksurgepublishing.com](http://www.booksurgepublishing.com)).



## ACNP Annual Meeting Invitation Bank

Did you know that in a typical year as many as half of ACNP members do not invite anyone to the meeting? Council, responding to recommendations from various committees to provide a way to bring more young scientists to the meeting, has devised a plan to take advantage of some of those unused invitations.

The ACNP Executive Office staff will develop and manage an invitation bank this year. Members who are not using their invited guest privilege may donate their meeting invitation to the invitation bank. Other members, who may be looking for an invitation for a young colleague, may then use one of those donated invitations. In order to qualify for an invitation from the bank, the invitee must be no more than fifteen (15) years beyond his/her most recent degree (M.D., Ph.D., or comparable).

Members will be provided with details regarding how to donate their invitation when they receive registration packets this year, and additional reminders will be sent out as well. The process will not be difficult. If you want to donate your invitation you may return your invited guest card indicating your donation, send an email to [acnp@acnp.org](mailto:acnp@acnp.org), or call the Executive Office at (615) 324-2360. After donating an invitation, if the member then decides to invite someone, the Executive Office staff will simply pull that invitation from the bank. The total number of extra invitations will not be allowed to exceed the number in the bank.

## Dates to Remember

Mid-May 2006 — Registration and poster materials will be mailed

May 19, 2006 — Nominations for Honorary Awards deadline

August 1, 2006 – Membership applications deadline

September 1, 2006 — Poster Deadline

## Upcoming Meetings

### Society of Biological Psychiatry 61st Annual Scientific Convention & Program

Toronto, Canada

May 18-20, 2006

[www.sobp.org](http://www.sobp.org)

[maggie@mayo.edu](mailto:maggie@mayo.edu)



### Serotonin club

Sixth IUPHR satellite meeting on serotonin

Official satellite of the 2006 World Congress of IUPHAR in Beijing China

Sapporo Japan, Hokkaido University

June 27-30, 2006

[www.serotoninclub.org/](http://www.serotoninclub.org/)

[jp-sht06@med.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:jp-sht06@med.hokudai.ac.jp)

### CINP 25th Congress

Chicago, IL

July 9-13, 2006

<http://www.cinp2006.com/>

[cinp2006@cinp.org](mailto:cinp2006@cinp.org)

### International Society for Bipolar Disorders

2nd Biennial Regional Group Conference

Edinburgh, Scotland, August 2-4, 2006

<http://www.kenes.com/isbd/>

### ACNP 45th Annual Meeting

Hollywood, FL

The Westin Diplomat

December 3-7, 2006

[www.acnp.org](http://www.acnp.org)

[acnp@acnp.org](mailto:acnp@acnp.org)

### 8th International Conference on AD/PD

Salzburg, Austria

March 14 - 18, 2007

Secretariat:

Kenes International

Tel: +41 22 908 0488

Fax: +41 22 732 2850

[www.kenes.com/adpd](http://www.kenes.com/adpd)

[adpd@kenes.com](mailto:adpd@kenes.com)

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To list an event or make a comment regarding the Bulletin please email Jennifer Mahar at [jmahar@acnp.org](mailto:jmahar@acnp.org)



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### **Liaison Committee...**

Subcommittees were assigned to work on membership criteria for the clearinghouse, a mission statement, a business model, confidentiality and intellectual property issues, and future directions for cooperation. The subcommittees were charged with completing their initial assignments by the time of the CINP meeting in July. They will then be compiled into a comprehensive report for consideration by the Liaison Committee and by Council. The Society of Noninvasive Imaging in Drug Development (SNIDD), represented at the meeting by their incoming President, Dr. Henry Van Brocklin, UCSF UCF Radiochemist, may become a partner in this project with the ACNP.

While a complex and daunting task, the general tone of the conversation at the meeting indicated that many members of Pharma and academia agree that there are common areas where cooperation can be developed, and that this effort represents a meaningful beginning to the development of a clearinghouse. Such sharing of radiotracers managed by a neutral, independent party could provide a model for agreement in other areas for biomarker sharing for drug development.