

Affil.: Medical Institute of Environmental Hygiene

Dr. Michael J. Csicsaky

Auf'm Hennekamp 50, 4000 Duesseldorf-1, W. Germany

SEARCH TRIANGLE PARK NC27711

8th Newsletter

Aug. 3, 1987

Important things have happened since the last newsletter. From May 10-16, we had the first INA meeting. At the business meeting associated with it, the possibilities of having another meeting were discussed, and some switches were thrown for the future development of INA. Many of the participants applied for INA membership, and so the club has almost doubled. For these reasons, this newsletter is focussed on INA internal affairs, and contains an update of the INA database.

The 1st INA meeting:

Concluding from the many positive reactions it elicited, the late meeting in Lunteren (NL) was a big success. I have passed on all the credit, which was falsely given to me, to the brave local organizing committee who did a marvellous job. I also would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution from the chairpersons who put up an **attractive** scientific program and helped editing the abstract book and the proceedings. Not to forget the sponsors, who alleviated substantially the financial burden and, hear, hear, offered grants to young scientists who otherwise could not have attended.

It would be too daring to try to squeeze into a nutshell all the issues brought up by more than 100 active participants during 4 long working days! So, the best piece of advice I can give to you is to turn to Jacob Hooisma for a spare copy of the abstract book, or wait for the proceedings which are due to appear this autumn as a supplement to TOXICOLOGY.

The upcoming 2nd INA meeting:

Already at the end of the first conference day in Lunteren (no kidding), the question was raised if there could be another INA meeting under similar circumstances (except for the pouring rain). Luckily enough, after a while I got two and a half offers from groups who are willing to undergo the stressful task of organizing such an event. Leaving the choice up to the people who answered the questionnaire which was handed out at the meeting, I have now the pleasure to announce that the 2nd INA meeting will be held in Barcelona, Spain, in 1989. Whether or not it will be supplemented by a mini-symposium on the toxicology of primary sensory neurons is currently in the state of discussion.

Another issue touched by the questionnaire was the style of future INA meetings. 82 out of 85 respondents want to see them in different countries, and one participant has even suggested to have it at the north pole. A limitation of the size of these meetings was considered useful by 61/85. The arrangement of the program will be according to topics (68 votes), as opposed to 16 votes for an arrangement by substances. Having initial review lectures for each topic was as uncontroversial as the principle of presenting all the posters continuously throughout the meeting (78/85). By contrast, only half of the respondents were happy with the discussions following each presentation, and want more time sacrificed to oral presentations and poster demonstrations. Last not least, there is even a chance that we might have an INA orchestra at the next meetings, as 12 participants are playing an instrument. What a pity for the only one respondent who will not come again to an INA meeting!

Organizing a meeting starts by putting together a program, and by finding the persons who fit into it with their presentations. Also, a selection among the abstracts sent in by the participants may have to be made. And at the end of the meeting, somebody has to look after the proceedings. These are some of the reasons why INA needs a standing scientific committee. Among the many offers we got, Jakob and I selected 8 names. It was our aim to gather people from different regions of the world, who represent some of the various disciplines INA members work in. One seat was given to Dr. Rodriguez Farre, who is the representative of the local organizing committee in Barcelona. And here is the complete list:

Stephen BONDY, neurochemistry, USA	Beverly KULIG, behav.tox., Holland
Lucio COSTA, neurochemistry, USA	Morcello LOTTI, neurology, Italy
Anders IREGREN, behav.tox., Sweden	Donna MERGLER, occup.health, Can.
Huw Bowen JONES, neuropathology, U.K.	E. RODR. FARRE, neuropharm., Spain

The outcome from the business meeting:

Besides the more important things mentioned before, some humble problems of everyday club-life were also discussed in Lunteren. It was stated, for instance, that INA will not be officially registered within the next 2 years, and that it will not try to become part of a bigger society. Jakob Hooisma will serve as a secretary to the scientific committee, while I will go on issuing newsletters, keeping the INA database, and taking care of the continuation of INA.

As INA asks no regular membership fees, but still has some expenditures like making xeroxes or buying office material and stamps, the question of funds had also to be discussed. As a result, I have opened a special account which is meant to be nourished from the donations I will get from all people who like my newsletters and database. Another source of money will be the initial fee charged from new members, which was set to 30 Deutsche Mark (about 15\$) for the time being. As this decision was only made at the end of the Lunteren meeting, this new rule does not apply to those who applied for membership during the meeting, but only to post-Lunteren applicants. If there is a surplus at the end of the year, it will be transferred to the account in Holland which holds the money for the organisation of the next conference. And here is the account number:

Sonderkonto 4560 13-435
Dr. Michael Csicsaky
Postgiroamt Essen
BLZ 360 100 43
4300 Essen 9, W. Germany

The new INA database:

When filling in the application/update form, many members did not make a distinction between their fields of special interest, their current work and their planned work. Furthermore, a need to be able to mention more than just one agent or method or project became obvious. As a consequence, I restructured the application/update form and the database accordingly. Please, check your address and other database entries, and drop me a note if corrections are necessary.

Before I close, I would like to remind you again that you should keep me current on your travel plans and recent developments in your professional life, so as to allow for a continuous flow of information among members. And here one last thing my kids would be particularly happy if you could use real stamps for the letters you send to me, because they collect them.

Best regards, **Michael**

APPLICATION FORM / UPDATE FORM

Last Name: First Name:

Title: Prof. Dr. Miss Mrs. Mr. (please tick)

Address:
.....
.....
.....
.....

Phone:/.....x..... (area code / number x extension)

Telex:/..... (number / code letters)

I am currently working with the following agents: (30 chars.)

1. 2. 3.

I am currently using the following methods: (30 chars.)

1. 2. 3.

My current work is concerned with the problem of: (30 chars.)

1. 2. 3.

Based on my experience, I am ready to advise my colleagues on: (30 chars.)

agent:

method:

problem:

I am seeking collaboration on (short phrase of up to 52 characters):

.....

My laboratory offers traineeship in (short phrase of up to 52 characters):

.....

KEY EXPLANATION

agent: toxin, toxic agent, or group of congeners, e.g.: lead, drugs, MPTP, hexacarbons, agri-chemicals, food additives, metals, pesticides
method: method, tool, or approach, e.g.: motor performance, electron microscopy, neurochemistry, behavioral methods, clinical neurol.
problem: problem or disease studied / context or objective of your projects, e.g.: mechanism of action, drug safety, methods development, drug abuse, standard setting, occupational health, environm. toxicology