

INA International Neurotoxicology Association

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10th Newsletter

Dear colleague:

April 24th, 1988

Almost all of us come from industrialized countries. The practical problems we are used to deal with are mostly related to solvent or heavy metal exposures. However, there are places in the world where heavy intoxications occur with pesticides, often due to malpractice resulting from ignorance about health hazards or lacking protection equipment. WHO estimates the number of acute pesticide poisonings to be at least 500 000 cases; more than 9000 deaths are suspected. The regional office for Europe has addressed this issue by launching an epidemiological study on organophosphorus pesticides. In the pilot phase of this study, a core protocol was developed designed to pick up exposures and neurotoxic disorders under third world real-life conditions. The results from the study have recently been published along with the core protocol and 21 annexes on 58 pages. These latter are of particular interest to occupational or environmental neurotoxicologists confronted with the task to put up an epidemiological study. They cover alternate methods of exposure assessment (administration of questionnaires, environmental monitoring, internal dose estimates from enzyme determinations), health questionnaires, medical examination procedures, neurobehavioral methods (WHO-NCTB-battery), and neurophysiological methods (neurological examination, EEG, EPs, NCV, EMG). The report is entitled "Organophosphorus pesticides: an Epidemiological Study"; it is available from WHO Copenhagen, Environmental Health Service, Scherfigsvej 8, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark.

And here's another advertisement: the proceedings of our "Workshop on Neurobehavioral Methods in Safety Assessment of Chemicals and Drugs" have just been published as a supplement to the Zentralblatt für Bakteriologie Mikrobiologie und Hygiene, Serie B, Vol.185/1-2, pp.1-185 (ISSN 0932-6073).

The forthcoming neurotox meeting in Dusseldorf

The Medical Institute of Environmental Hygiene is currently organising its third neurotox minisymposium. Like its forerunner in 1985, it will be held at Mickeln manor, Dusseldorf. Unlike announced in my last newsletter, it is scheduled for September 6 - 9 this year (and not for 26 - 30). Rescheduling was necessary because our competitor for that particular week did not step back, as we had hoped. The unhappy situation arising from the new (and final) date is that we will have an overlap with the EUROTOX congress in Munich and the 11th ENA meeting in Zurich. I have come to think, however, that people disliking alternatives may find a way of combining a trip to Munich with a stop in Zurich and a visit to Dusseldorf.

Scientific Committee: Stephen Bondy (USA), Lucio Costa (USA), Anders Iregren (Sweden), Huw Jones (UK), Beverly Kulig (The Netherlands), Marcello Lotti (Italy), Donna Mergler (Canada), Eduard Rodriguez Farre (Spain), Jacob Hooisma, secretary (The Netherlands)

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And here is the tentative program of the Mickeln meeting, along with the names of the invited speakers (in brackets):

"Interdisciplinary Aspects of Neurotoxicology"

Tuesday, September 6

- Welcome
- Introduction to occupational neurotoxicology (Konietzko , FRG; Denkhau, FRG)
- Experimental aspects of neurotoxicology
 - Neurochemistry (Regan, Ireland)
 - Neurophysiology (Dreyer, FRG)
 - Neuropathology (Stoltenburg-Didinger, FRG)
 - Neurobehavioral Teratology (Annau, USA)
 - Neurobehavioral Toxicology (Kulig, Netherlands; Larsen, Denmark)
 - Neuropsychologic Toxicology (Gamberale, Sweden)

Wednesday, September 7

- Demonstration I, in viva experiments
 - Behavioristic models (animals): learning & retention, motor activity
 - Psychological performance tests (humans):
NES-battery, Wiener reaction device, electroencephalography
- Papers on neuropsychology (Lilienthal, FRG; Seeber₁ FRG; Winneke, FRG)
- Papers on occupational neurotoxicology (Gilioli, Italy; Triebig, FRO)
- Paper on clinical neurotoxicology (Altenkirch, FRG)
- Postersession related to Demonstration I
 - Summaries of posters
 - Posterdiscussion

Thursday, September 8

- Demonstration II, in vitro experiments
 - Isolated organs
 - Cell cultures
- Paper on synaptosomes (Bondy, USA)
- Paper on cultured neurons (Vijverberg, Netherlands)
- Papers on hippocampal slices (Altmann, FRG; Lohmann, FRG)
- Postersession related to Demonstration II
 - Summaries of posters
 - Posterdiscussion
- Wrap-up, plenary discussion (Chairman: Bondy, USA)

As already mentioned in the 9th INA newsletter, the meeting is open to anybody, the only restriction being limited accommodation facilities (40-60 participants). The participation fee will be of the order of 350 DM, covering all your expenses except drinks. The conference language will be English. The results will be published in an international journal. Anybody wishing to contribute or participate should turn to either Herbert Wiegand or Gerhard Winneke using the address given above.

The 1989 INA meeting in Spain

As promised in the last newsletter, here is an outline of the scientific programme currently being worked out between the invited speakers and our scientific committee:

1. Neurotoxic agents as - (co)factors in the aetiology of neurological diseases
- tools for studying neurological diseases
Subtopics under discussion: Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, mental ageing, neurological autoimmune disease induction
2. Mechanisms and clinical symptoms of solvent poisoning
Subtopics under discussion: Toxicokinetics, neurochemistry, animal studies, clinical symptoms and reversibility
3. Sensory systems as targets for neurotoxic agents: the visual, auditory, and mechano-receptive system
Subtopics under discussion: Neurochemistry of primary and secondary sensory systems, neuropathology of receptors and sensory pathways, neurophysiology of sensory systems, evoked potentials
4. Monitoring effects of neurotoxic agents on exposed workers
Subtopics under discussion: Risk evaluation of industrial chemicals, measurement of sensory processes, measurement of mood and symptoms, behavioral performance measurement

Even though it is too early yet to register, this preliminary program might give you an idea of what to expect. If your field of interest is included in the above list, why don't you start considering what you could contribute?

Our local organising committee in Barcelona has found a marvelous place to hold the meeting. It's a hotel in Sitges, a small town 15 km outside of Barcelona. The hotel is close to the beach and can accommodate 100-200 participants. With a little luck regarding weather conditions, there is a fair chance that by the end of the meeting, we will not only suffer from sensory overload and obstipation, but also from a sunburn.

Further meetings in 1988:

- May 5-21: 7th International Training Course in Toxicology.
Subjects: Toxicol. of heavy metals, occup. safety and health in mining and metalurgy. Place: delgrad
Registration: Inst. of Occupational & Radialogical Health.
Clinical Center of the Medical Faculty.
11000 Belgrad, Deligradska 29, Yugoslavia.

- Sept. 4-8: 11th Annual Meeting of the European Neuroscience Association.
(Sept.7-8: joint meeting with the annual meeting of the
European Brain and Behaviour Society)
Place: Zuerich. Deadline for Abstracts: March ~5
Registration: University of Zuerich-Irchel, Switzerland
- Sept. 19-22: German Society for Pharmacology and Toxicology, Autumn Meeting.
Place: Hamburg. Fee: 150.-DM
Registration: CPO Hanser Service, P.O.Box 1221,
D-2000 Hamburg-Barsbuettel

And here is a warm welcome to a couple of new members:

- William BOYES, U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park (USA)
- Akio OHNISHI, Univ. of Occup. & Environ. Health, Kitakyushu (Japan)
- Robert SCHATZ, Northeastern University, Boston (USA)
- George STRAIN, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge (USA)
- Richard THAM, Linkoping University, Linkoping (Sweden)

If you want to know about their professional interests, just take a look at the abstracts attached to this newsletter.

Anders IREGREN, developer of behavioral tests for humans, has changed his affiliation. He is now with the National Institute of Occupational Health, Division of Psychophysiology, S-171 84 SOLNA (Sweden).

Are you ready for a beautiful career? On behalf of our member W.K. Anger, I would like to draw your attention to the NRC Resident Research Associateships, including postdoc and senior research awards. The work conducted at NIOSH comprises both animal and human neurobehavioral research on industrial chemicals. There is a broad range of demanding tasks waiting for you: dosimetry, electrophysiological methods, behavioral methods including behavioral teratology, field studies in exposed populations, application of test batteries, methods development, and, last not least, risk assessment and exposure limit validation. If interested, contact W. Kent Anger at NIOSH, 4676 Columbia Pkwy., Cincinnati, OH 45226.

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.

Kind regards,

Michael