

Notes and Announcements

Auditory Evoked Potentials. The International Evoked Response Audiometry Study Group will hold its eighth biennial meeting at the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, July 4-8, 1983. The meeting will consist of invited review-lectures, symposia, platform-presentations and poster-displays in all areas of auditory evoked potential research. For information: Dr. T.W. Picton, Division of Neurology, Ottawa General Hospital, 501 Smyth Rd., Ottawa, Canada K1H 8L6. Deadline for abstracts — March 15, 1983.

7th European Congress of Neurosurgery. The 7th European Congress of Neurosurgery will be held in Brussels, Belgium from August 28th to September 2nd, 1983. The Scientific Programme includes several breakfast seminars and sponsored conferences in addition to the following main topics:

- advances in the management of intracranial arteriovenous malformations
- the place of surgery in spontaneous brain haematomas
- intracranial nerve repair
- surgery involving the venous systems
- current status of chemotherapy and radiotherapy for cerebral gliomas in adults
- the choice of surgical approach to pituitary adenomas
- hydrocephalus and its management (with the European Association of Neurosurgical Nurses)
- extra-intracranial vascular anastomosis: Longterm results
- research work by young neurosurgeons

The World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) has its traditional committee meetings during the Congress.

A joint meeting organized by the Neurotraumatology Committee of the WFNS in collaboration with the Panafrican Association of Neurological Sciences, on the theme "Medical Traffic Problems in Africa" will be held on Saturday, September 3rd, 1983.

Among the social events, there will be the first International Art Exhibition of painting, ceramics and sculpture by neurosurgeons. Up to now eighteen neurosurgeons from Europe and the United States have entered their names.

For information:

Secretariat of the 7th European Congress of Neurosurgery,
Brussels International Conference Center,
Parc des Expositions
B - 1020 Brussels (Belgium)
Telephone 32.2 - 478.48.60 or Telex 23643

Tenth In-Service Training and Continuing Self-Assessment Examination. On May 14th, 1983 the 10th In-Service Training and Continuing Self-Assessment Examination in Neurology will be held throughout the United States and Canada. The examination will consist of approximately 480 multiple-choice questions, utilizing the format of the National Board of Medical Examiners, and will cover the following areas: (1) clinical neurology, (2) pediatric neurology, (3) neuroanatomy, (4) neuropathology, (5) neuropharmacology/neurochemistry, (6) neurophysiology

(including EEG and EMG), and (7) neuroradiology. The examination will be given at centers with neurology training programs. The examination is thorough and clinically relevant.

Residents, faculty and practitioners in related fields are invited to take the examination on this date at a designated neurologic training center. Results of the examination will be provided only to the individual taking the examination. Anonymity will be preserved.

An additional feature following this examination will be the provision of the "keyword" report to each individual. The report lists the specific content assessed by each item the individual answered incorrectly.

Cost of the examination will be \$55.00 for residents and \$110.00 for others. A \$5.00 advance registration discount will apply on all applications received on or before March 4th, 1983. Deadline for receipt of applications is March 25th, 1983.

A cancellation fee of \$10.00 will be charged each written cancellation received on or before May 12th, 1983. No other cancellation requests will be honored.

For information (including participating centers).

Mr. Stanley A. Nelson,
Executive Director,
American Academy of Neurology,
2221 University Ave. S.E.,
Suite 335,
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Conference on Hyperbaric Oxygen. The Eighth Annual Conference on Clinical Application of Hyperbaric Oxygen will be held from June 8th to 10th, 1983 at Memorial Hospital Medical Center, Center for Health Education, Long Beach, California.

This clinically oriented conference will discuss the currently accepted uses of hyperbaric oxygen in plenary sessions, and will also include original papers, workshops, sound slides, scientific and commercial exhibits.

For information:

Michael B. Strauss, M.D.,
Program Chairman,
Baromedical Department,
Memorial Hospital Medical Center,
2801 Atlantic Ave.,
Long Beach, CA 90801-1428 (213) 595-3613

Vth International Symposium Sponsored by the Centre de Recherche en Sciences Neurologiques of the Université de Montreal. A conference on "Monamine Innervation of Cerebral Cortex" will be presented from May 16th to 17th, 1983, Montreal. This will cover morphological aspects, receptors, functional properties and significance of biogenic amines in the cortex. The proceedings will be published. The speakers are: L. Descarries, O. Lindvall, P.R. Levitt, A. Beaudet, B. Berger, K. Krnjevic, M. Caron, J.K. Wamsley, J.W. Phillis, J. Glowinski, B.S. Bunney, A.M. Thierry, R. Cespuglio, T.A. Reader, H.H. Jasper, T. Kasamatsu, J.H. Morrison and S.D. Iversen.

For information:

Helene Auzat,
Centre de recherche en sciences neurologiques,
Université de Montréal,
C.P. 6128, Succ. "A",
Montréal, Québec. H3C 3J7 (514) 343-6366

15th Epilepsy International Symposium. The 15th Epilepsy International Symposium will be held from the 26th of September to the 30th of September, 1983 in Washington, D.C. This is co-hosted by the American Epilepsy Society and the Epilepsy Foundation of America. Program themes include "Relationships of Epilepsy with Pregnancy, Surgery, PET scanning, Neurotransmitters and Peptides, and Binding of Antiepileptic Drugs".

For information:

Driscoll and Associates,
1925 N. Lynn Street,
Suite 1002,
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 533-5202

International Register of Familial Brain Tumours. An International Register of Familial Brain Tumours (IRFBT) has been established at the Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Leyden, The Netherlands, following the publication of an initial register (Tijssen et al., 1982). The IRFBT is engaged in the active search for new cases of familial brain tumours and would like to invite clinicians worldwide to submit cases, either published or unpublished to this register. Care will be taken to update the register at appropriate times.

Reference: Tijssen CC, Halprin MR, Endtz LJ 1982. Familial Brain Tumours, a commented register. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, The Hague, Netherlands.

For information:

IRFBT
Comprehensive Cancer Centre
Vondellaan 47, 2332 AA Leyden, The Netherlands

Centennial Neurosciences Symposium. The Department of Anatomy, University of Manitoba is sponsoring a Centennial Neurosciences Symposium to be held in Winnipeg, May 6, 1983. The programme will include platform presentations and posters on a variety of topics in the neurosciences. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Albert Aguayo from McGill University speaking on "A Potential for Regeneration in the Mammalian Central Nervous System", and Dr. Karl Knigge from the University of Rochester Medical Center discussing "The Immunocytochemistry of Brain Peptides".

For information:

C.N.S. Committee
Dept. of Anatomy
University of Manitoba
Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 0W3

March 5, 1983. New York Neuropsychology Group 4th Annual Conference. 'Brains Within the Brain: Role of Lower Brain Centers in Higher Mental Function'. New York, N.Y. Contact: Dr. F. Frank LeFever, Neuropsychology Laboratory, Helen Hayes Hospital, West Havershaw, NY 10993, U.S.A.

March 21-25, 1983. Neuroradiology at Vail. Kiandra Lodge, Vail, Colorado. Contact: Janice Ford, Continuing Education Coordinator, Dept. of Radiology, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, 3400 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

March 21-25, 1983. 14th Annual American Society for Neurochemistry Meeting. Honolulu, Hawaii. Contact: Dr. Gary R. Dutton, Dept. of Pharmacology, College of Medicine, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.

April 24-30, 1983. 35th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology. Towne and Country Hotel, San Diego, California.

April 29-May 1, 1983. The American Stereotactic Society Annual Meeting. Governors Inn, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Contact: Dr. Blaine S. Nashold, Division of Neurosurgery, Duke University Medical Centre, Durham, N.C. 27710.

June 5-8, 1983. Second International Symposium on Brain-Heart Relationship. Jerusalem, Israel. Contact: Prof. S. Stern, P.O.B. 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel.

June 20-23, 1983. Third Annual International Conference on Computed Tomography of the Head and Spine. La Napoule, France. Contact: Janice Ford, Continuing Education Coordinator, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, 3400 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

June 22-25, 1983. XVIII Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences. St. John's, Nfld. Contact: Wm. Pryse-Phillips, Division of Neurology, Health Sciences Complex, St. John's, Nfld. A1B 3V6.

June 30-July 1, 1983. 2nd Satellite Symposium of the Society of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism. 'Effects of Aging on Regulation of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism'. Deadline for Abstracts is January 31, 1983. Contact: Organizing Secretariat c/o GIBI s.a.s. Mrs. Maria Paola Gerini, 7 via Olona 00198 Roma.

July 1-7, 1983. Seventh International Congress of Endocrinology. Satellite Symposium on the Pineal in association with the Seventh International Congress of Endocrinology in Quebec City. Contact: G.M. Brown, Dept. of Neurosciences, McMaster University, 1200 Main St., W., Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3Z5.

July 6-16, 1983. International Society of Chemistry Meeting, Vancouver, B.C. Contact: Dr. P.L. McGeer, University of British Columbia, Division of Neurological Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, 2255 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5.

July 10-15, 1983. International Society of Neurochemistry. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. Contact: Dr. P.L. McGeer, University of British Columbia, Div. of Neurological Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, 2255 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5.

August 31-September 5, 1983. Fourth World Congress on Pain. Seattle, Wash. Contact: L. Jones, Executive Secretary, IASP, 1309 Summit Ave., Room 101, Seattle, WA 98101.

October 1-4, 1983. Rossiter Research Conference. "Structure and Function of Biological Membranes". Contact: Rossiter Research Conference, c/o Mrs. Betty Hatch, University Hospital, P.O. Box 5339, Stn. A, London, Ontario, N6A 5A5.

October 9-13, 1983. VIIIth International Congress of Electromyography, Munich. Contact: A. Struppler, Neurologische Klinika der Technischen, Universitat, Mohlstrasse 28, 8000 Munchen, 80, FRG.

October 10-15, 1983. VI Pan American Congress of Neurology. Buenos Aires, Argentina. Contact: Dr. Tomas Inausti, Avda Sante Fe 1145 (1059), Buenos Aires, Argentina.

November 6-11, 1983. 13th Annual Meeting, Society for Neuroscience, Boston, MA. Deadline for receipt of abstracts is May 13, 1983. Contact Nancy Beang, Executive Secretary, Society for Neuroscience, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MA 20814.

Book Review

"Neural Aging and Its Implications in Human Neurological Pathology", (Aging, Volume 18), 1982. Edited by R.D. Terry, C.L. Bolis and G. Toffano. Published by Raven Press, New York. 270 pages \$31.00 U.S.

This most recent addition to the Raven Press series of monographs on Aging is based on a symposium sponsored by the World Health Organization in 1980. Its 26 chapters suffer from the frequently patchy quality which plagues many such multi-authored compilations. With only 10 of its 52 authors from North America, contributions include papers from such diverse sources as Nairobi, Dakar, Sao Paulo and Moscow.

Chapters of a mere 2 or 3 pages, such as those by Fieschi and Di Piero (Rome) or Pepeu (Florence) are so scanty that any comments seem excessive. Papers dealing largely with psychosocial factors, such as that by Nakamura (Tokyo) in which we are informed "It seems necessary to give the old a social role and let them participate in social activities", appear misplaced in a text devoted to implications of aging in neurological pathobiology. In a study of inflammatory processes in the nervous system of the aged by Levy and Mion (Brazil), more than half of their 652 patients were only in the 3rd and 4th decades of life. Difficulty with the English language might explain some of the deficiencies, such as Orlovskaya's comment, "In clinical practice, the autonomy of the brain appears as a dissociation between somatic and mental aging changes", or the opinion of Constantinidis (Geneva) that Alzheimer's disease is clinically characterized by "instrumental aphasopractognosis disorders". The unavoidable time lag until publication also permits certain statements which already require updating. For example Terry (New York), acknowledging that confirmation is still lacking, suggests the use of the fetal neuron tissue culture model for inducing paired helical filaments described by de Boni and Crapper has "implications . . . of great importance"; yet nearly 5 years later, neither those original authors nor any other investigators have been able to reproduce the experiment. A few contributors appear strained to have made any connection with the aging theme; in the paper on neuron-glia interactions and aging, Bolis

(Switzerland) provided 9 pages about glial cells, and then only 1 page dealing with their changes in aging.

On the other hand, some chapters are very germane to the field. Gottfries (Goteborg) offers a good summary of the sometimes conflicting evidence on changes in the monoamines in aging and the organic dementias. The discussion of dementia as a primarily subcortical disease by Amaducci and co-workers provides data consistent with the possibility that a common biochemical deficit — diminished levels of choline acetyltransferase — underlies several forms of dementia having very different histopathology. That paper also contains ample reference to the increasingly popular suggestion that massive nerve cell loss from the basal nucleus of Meynert within the substantia innominata may explain the neocortical cholinergic defect in senile dementia Alzheimer type. A brief discussion of neurosurgically treatable age-related disorders by Escobedo and Ruben (Mexico), while reminding us that recognition and treatment of patients with normal pressure hydrocephalus are of great importance in providing a "cure" of a clinical condition resembling senile dementia, regrettably adds no new knowledge to the dilemma of deciding which patients belong to that minority who will, in fact, improve after shunting. The longest chapter with the greatest number of references, by Roth (Cambridge), is a thorough overview for those who have yet to hear Sir Martin expound on organic dementias. Occasional nuggets can be discovered, such as his statement that no psychiatric or neurological deficits are associated with the huge numbers of neurofibrillary tangles present in the cerebral cortex of mentally well-preserved Chamorros, who develop this lesion at a much earlier age than Caucasians on the same island of Guam.

While tighter editing might have produced more even quality, the editors admit to having provided "only minimal changes . . . in preparation for publication". Following a symposium designed to provide an international effort to attack a universal health problem, it is probably difficult to envisage how they might have done otherwise. Nonetheless, it behooves neuroscientists pursuing the biology of the aging nervous system to add this monograph to their collection.

M.J. Ball, London, Ontario