International Society for Serotonin Research
Formerly Serotonin Club

Number 91
2016, issue 2

Newsletter

A word from…

Dear Fellow Serotoninologists

In this, my swan song as the President of the ISSR (Serotonin Club), I reflect fondly upon all the wonderful experiences I have had in this role, and the honor it has been to serve this amazing Society. From my years serving as councilor, to becoming Vice President and establishing the NIDA Travel Awards (which we will do everything in our power to renew), to seeking sponsors to support our meeting, to hosting mixers at SfN, to being a part of the outstanding "Serotonin in Seattle" conference, it has been a completely rewarding experience and an absolute privilege to have had this opportunity to interact with so many spectacular and talented individuals, "Pioneers and Prodigies" alike.

I would like to take this opportunity to, once again, applaud the efforts of Kelly Berg and John Neumaier, for their stellar work in putting together "Serotonin in Seattle". Within this newsletter you will find a post-meeting report from John, as well as comments from our NIDA Travel Awardees, results from the post-meeting survey (to date…there is still time to complete the survey if you have not yet done so) and plenty of photos. While we are now winding down from Seattle, things are already winding up, full steam ahead, for ISSR 2018 in Cork, Ireland. John Cryan and Harriet Schellekens are heading up the local organizing committee, and as you will see within, are already well along with planning this meeting. I welcome our incoming President, Kevin Fone, who will take over the reins on Jan 1, 2017 and will be residing President at the Cork meeting. I also congratulate Trevor Sharp as our newly elected Vice President for Europe, who joins Anne Andrews as our Vice President for North America.

In one of my last official roles as President, I must give a big plug to the rapidly approaching ISSR mixer at the Society for Neuroscience meeting in San Diego. The mixer will be at "The Quad Alehouse" on Monday 14th November (6:00-8:00pm, details within), so mark your calendars and please plan to attend. A big thank you to Anne Andrews and her graduate student, Maureen Sampson, for organizing this event. As always, it is sure to be a lot of fun with plenty of networking opportunities, especially for our more junior members.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank Sebastian Fernandez for his continuing, outstanding job, of putting together this newsletter. It is a job that takes time, is not paid, and like many of us, is done entirely to support the ISSR. I applaud each and every one of you for your continuing support of this exceptional society.

With that, I hope you enjoy the news within and will continue to support and help grow this vibrant society as we get ready to celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2017!!

Cheers to Serotonin!

Lynette C. Daws

President

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Summing up Serotonin in Seattle

A word from John Neumaier, Chair local organizing committee

ISSR 2016, Serotonin in Seattle, was a success! 160 scientific registrants attended and were joined by almost 20 guests. The meeting was held at the Edgewater Hotel on Seattle's downtown waterfront and as we were fortunate to have nice weather, this provided us with ample opportunities to explore Seattle and the vicinity. The scientific program was notable for representing the diversity of serotonin research ranging from CNS to immune, GI, reproductive, and cardiovascular systems with presentations that spanned from basic to clinical data. Plenary lectures by Trevor Sharp, Danny Hoyer, and, most fittingly, the inaugural "Vanhoutte Distinguished Plenary", by Paul Vanhoutte, himself, provided historical perspectives on serotonin research and the professional lives of three renowned investigators. With 18 different symposia, we chose a hybrid model with some plenary and some parallel sessions.

In addition, an open oral session featured 14 individual oral presentations. Some of the 20 NIDA awardees presented during a Pioneers and Prodigies oral session and others were added to Symposia; all were featured at the Poster session which included about 55 posters in total.

In addition to learning about cutting edge serotonin research, we enjoyed a Wine Tasting and the final night featured a cruise on Puget Sound and a Banquet at Tillicum Village on Blake Island that featured the culture and heritage of the native peoples of Northwest coast. During the closing dinner reception at Tillicum, NIDA Travel Awardees were recognized and awards were given for best student and postdoctoral fellow poster presentations. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Lifetime Membership to the ISSR to Sheryl Beck, in recognition of her enduring service and loyalty to the ISSR, including being secretary/treasurer from 2004-2013. In a preliminary look at the conference feedback survey, attending ISSR 2016 encouraged most respondents to develop new collaborations and generated new research ideas these are important outcomes for our all of us serotonologists. Hopefully we gained new members and encouraged those who have been with the Society for many years to continue to participate and attend future meetings (such as ISSR 2016 in Cork, Ireland!). Thanks to the local organizing committee for all of their work in putting this conference together! Also, a special thanks to our sponsors: ACS Chemical Neuroscience, British Pharmacological Society, Janssen, Lundbeck, Metris, Molecular Pharmacology Division of ASPET, NIDA and Servier for financial support that helped to make this meeting possible.

John Neumaier
Councilor North-America
Meeting Organizer

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Preliminary "Serotonin in Seattle" Survey Results

Those who attended the Serotonin in Seattle meeting will likely be most interested to know the results of the post-meeting survey. In a word, the overall ratings are "fantastic"! As of October 11, 54% of meeting registrants had responded to the survey. If you haven't yet responded here is still time to participate in this important survey. Your responses are crucial for our ability to continue to organize meetings of the highest scientific quality and appeal. Importantly, results from this survey will be instrumental in renewing NIH funding, which has supported travel awards for the past three meetings, and also, could be useful in our efforts to secure sponsorship for ISSR 2018. But enough of that, here are the numbers…

- 100% responded that the meeting met expectations.
- 66% responded that they would absolutely attend future meetings, and 31% responded they would be likely to attend. This group most often comment that the only deterrent would be not having sufficient funding.
- 87% responded that the meeting was unique among others attended within the last 12 months.
- 28% responded that their research had been moved in new directions as a result of the meeting.
- 76% responded that the meeting had spawned new collaborations.
- 83% responded that new ideas for research had been generated as a result of this meeting

Regarding concurrent (parallel) sessions at future ISSR meetings, 83% voted no, and 17% were in favor. This result is consistent with past surveys, and one that the programming committee will take into serious consideration (as has been done in the past) for the coming 2018 ISSR meeting in Cork.

Ratings for the NIDA Travel Awardees were very high, across the board. NIDA Travel Awardees rated their experience very highly as well. Over 90% of awardees rated their experience in the "outstanding to excellent" range in the categories of 1) interactions with senior investigators; 2) interaction with their mentor; and 3) provision of an environment suited for networking.

In terms of demographics among responders to the survey to date, this is great – 20% graduate students, 15% postdoctoral fellows, 10% junior investigators (Assistant Professors or equivalent), 26% mid-level investigators (Associate Professors or equivalent), 26% senior investigators (Professor or equivalent), 11% academic and 3.5% industry. The latter is an area for concern and we will work toward increasing the presence of industry at future meetings. Finally, 53% of survey responders are female.

	Outstanding	Excellent	Good	Fair
Content	51%	48%	1%	0%
Organization	51%	36%	5%	1%
Participant Involvement	45%	43%	12%	0%
Venue	52%	32%	21%	1%
Breaks and Lunches	61%	25%	11%	5%
Closing Dinner*	48%	24%	11%	2%
Pace	27%	50%	16%	1%

* Note that 11% of attendees who have responded to the survey so far, did not attend the closing dinner. The statistics are not weighted to take this into account. In other words, the percentages above for the closing dinner are lower than in reality. Additionally, 0% rated any category as Poor.

Ratings from NIDA Travel Awardees		
	Outstanding	Excellent
Quality of presentations	49%	41%
Matching of awardees with programmed symposia	47%	43%
Pioneers and Prodigies Session	45%	41%

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2016 NIDA Travel Award for Serotonin in Seattle was a success

Awardees comprised an international group of students, postdoctoral fellows and a junior-stage independent investigator, who were selected based on the quality of their scientific abstracts and their contributions to serotonin research relative to their career stage. Awardees were each assigned a seasoned serotoninologist as a mentor, and had many opportunities to network, including a Travel Awardee breakfast. Awardees either spoke in a programmed symposium or in the Pioneers and Prodigies session. All awardees presented a poster. Every presentation from this talented group of rising stars in the serotonin field was top notch.

From left to right:

Standing: Yanlin He, Caleb Browne, Mariano Soiza-Reilly, Mario de la Fuente Revenga, Sudhakar Selvaraj, Laetitia Laurent, Coralie Berthoux, Matthew Robson, Emily Quentin, Meagan Quinlan, Emily Stephens, Felix Mayer, Nako Nakatsuka, Jessica Babb.
Sitting: Benjamin Okaty, Cornelia Hainer, Alvaro Garcia, Carrie McAllister, Derya Sargin, Rheaclare Fraser-Spears.

Emily Stephens
Geisel School of Medicine, USA
"I was floored by the clarity and effectiveness of speakers presenting their work focusing on aspects of serotonin research that I knew very little about"

Dr Alvaro Garcia
Columbia University, USA
"This meeting was an incredible opportunity to share my work, not only in a poster session but also in an oral presentation"

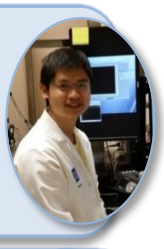
Dr Mariano Soiza-Reilly
INSERM, Paris
"I had the chance to present and discuss my latest results with experts and pioneers in the serotonin field, and also get invaluable career advice from more experienced researchers"

Dr Rheaclare Fraser-Spears
UTHSC-San Antonio, TX USA
"The ISSR conference is one of the premier scientific meetings for this field of research and has been on my list of must 'go-to' meetings since my postdoctoral training"

Dr Laetitia Laurent
Université du Québec, Canada
"The meeting organization encouraged the network among students, postdocs and professors and I appreciated especially the time I spent with my mentor, Professor Vanhoutte"

Dr Matthew Robson
Vanderbilt University, USA
"It was a fantastic conference that highlighted the current state of the art in serotonin research from labs scattered across the globe"

Dr Yanlin He
Baylor College of Medicine, USA
"This meeting provided me an excellent opportunity to learn from a lot of other scientists in serotonin field. My mentor Dr. Compan helped me a lot during the preparation of my talk"



Dr Derya Sargin
University of Toronto, Canada
"It also gave us travel awardees a chance to present our work and have rewarding discussions with the prominent scientists in the field"

Dr Jessica Babb
Children's Hospital, Boston, USA
"Some of the highlights of the meeting for me were having a personal mentor for the meeting, very inspiring talks, and all the opportunities for networking"

Felix Mayer
Medical University of Vienna, Austria
"It gave me the opportunity to present our current data to some of the leading experts in the field. The fruitful discussions and the insightful feedback will help to shape, direct and improve our current study"

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Call for Nominations: Councilor and Associate Councilors

We have one Councilor position open for the North America region and one position open for the Rest of World region. Members who are mid-career or senior investigators are eligible to be nominated for a Councilor position.

In addition, we have one Associate Councilor position open for each of our three regions (Europe, North America and Rest of World). Members who are new investigators with less than 10 years experience after obtaining their advanced degree (i.e., PhD, MD, etc) are eligible to be nominated for the Associate Councilor position.

Councilor and Associate Councilors are elected to 4 year terms by the membership of the region they will represent. Terms will begin January 1, 2017.

Please send nominations to Dr. Kelly Berg (berg@uthscsa.edu). When nominating someone, please provide confirmation that the member is willing to serve. Self-nominations are very welcome. Please remember, the nominee must be a current member (i.e., current in dues payment) of the Society.

Deadline for nominations is December 1, 2016.

Major duties of a Councilor/Associate Councilor include:

1. Involvement in the overall operation of the Society including planning of biennial meetings (e.g., selection of program content and travel award recipients), discussions regarding membership development and participation in membership recruitment.
2. Chair or participate in sub-committees formed to oversee various functions of the Society, e.g., raising money/obtaining sponsorship for the biennial international meetings, planning of receptions, increasing registration/attendance at events, and increasing the visibility of the Society.
3. Attend Society events including the biennial meetings, society mixers (SfN) and dinner (FENS), etc
4. Provide information for the Spring and Fall newsletters regarding upcoming and past events, and general information of interest to the Society.

Call for Nominations: Student Representatives

In an effort to increase the visibility and presence of the Society on social media, the ISSR Executive Committee will appoint one student member (i.e., PhD, MD, DDS etc trainee) from each region to serve a 2-year term as a non-voting member on ISSR council. The duties of the student representative will include playing a major role in enhancing our presence on Facebook, LinkedIn,Twitter, et al and advise the Council sub-committee that has been charged with updating our Society website to have more appeal to young investigators. Please send nominations to Dr. Kelly Berg (berg@uthscsa.edu). Self-nominations are welcome. To be eligible, the nominee must be a current member of the Society (i.e., current in dues payment).

Deadline for nominations is December 1, 2016.

Sheryl Beck Awarded Lifetime Membership to the ISSR

Sheryl Beck was awarded lifetime membership to the ISSR at the closing "Serotonin in Seattle" dinner reception. Sheryl has been a member of the ISSR (Serotonin Club) since 1987 and a pillar for the Society serving as councilor from 2000-2004 and then as secretary/treasurer from 2004-2013. Sheryl's enduring research interests hold serotonin at the core. She has published numerous seminal articles describing how substrates of the stress response are involved in regulating serotonin neurotransmission. In particular her research has focused on the long term impact of stress for neuronal function; developmental regulation of the serotonin limbic system; circuitry linking stress substrates to serotonin and other monoamine systems; stress substrates as targets for psychotherapeutic agents, as well as the interaction among serotonin, GABA, glutamate and corticotropin-releasing factor-like peptides. Sheryl retired in June 2014, and while she will always embrace serotonin and the ISSR, she is now able to spend more time enjoying some of her other passions, primary among them, golf, which like serotonin, is known to make you feel good. Congratulations to Sheryl on this most prestigious award of lifetime membership.

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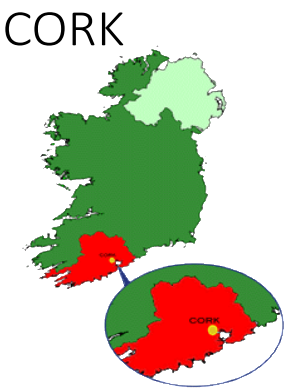
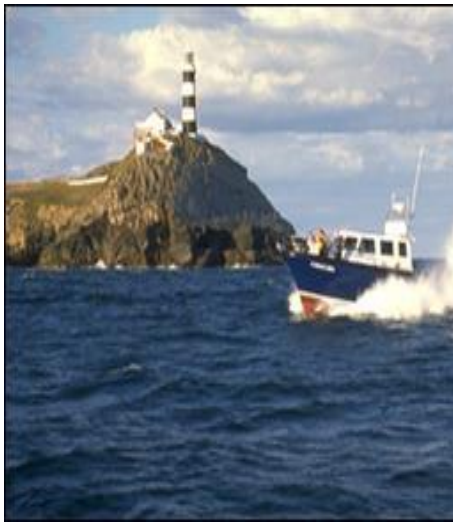
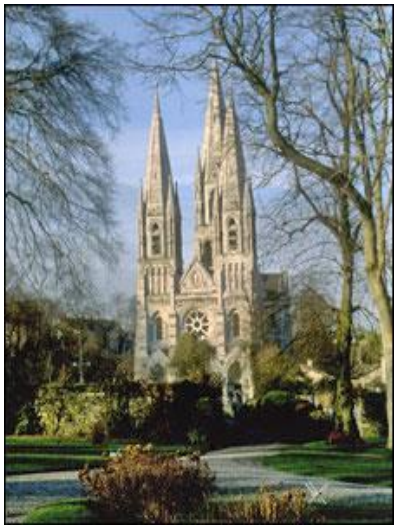
The 13th Meeting of the International Society for Serotonin Research
University College Cork, Ireland
July, 2018

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our next biennial meeting in Cork, Ireland, July 2018 (specific dates TBD). Planning is now well underway by the local organizing committee, chaired by Professor John Cryan. Cork is the second largest city in the Republic of Ireland and was the European Capital of Culture in 2005. It is one of the oldest cities in Ireland and now is a modern, bustling port city playing host to the World's second largest natural harbour, after Sydney, Australia. The city's unique character derives from a combination of the people, topography, built fabric and its location on the River Lee at a point where it formed a number of waterways. Specific details will be forthcoming in the next ISSR newsletter.

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh







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5th Annual ISSR Mixer Annual Society for Neuroscience meeting

Monday, November 14
6PM -8PM
The Quad Alehouse
868 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, CA
(7 blocks from the Convention Center)

Please join us for great food, drink and lively discourse about our favorite neurotransmitter "serotonin". All are welcome, members and non-members alike! The cost is $10 per person (payable in cash at the door) and includes appetizers and two drink tickets.
Space is limited, to reserve your spot please RSVP by email to:
Dr. Kelly Berg (berg@uthscsa.edu) by November 7th.

Sponsored by

ACS Chemical Neuroscience

Frontiers of Serotonin Beyond the Brain

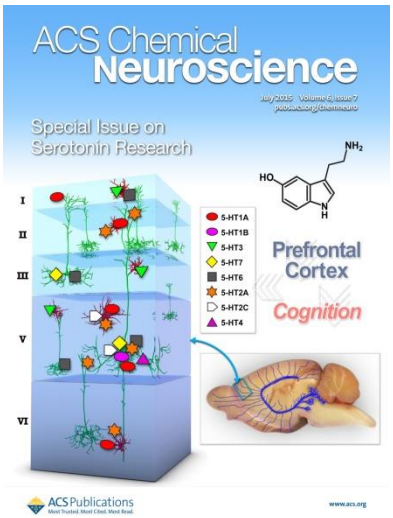
KEYSTONE SYMPOSIA on Molecular and Cellular Biology November 12-15, 2017

ISSR member Luc Maroteaux is part of the organising committee of this exciting meeting to be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel - The Yarrow • Park City, Utah, USA next month.
Don't miss out the chance to see scientific talks by ISSR members such as Randy D. Blakely, Luc Maroteaux, Alexandre Bonnin, Francine Côté and more.

More details HERE!

Call for Papers for a Special Issue on Serotonin Research

Dr. Anne Andrews is planning a special issue arising from the recent 2016 Serotonin in Seattle meeting to be published in ACS Chemical Neuroscience (http://pubs.acs.org/journal/acncdm), Impact Factor: 4.34.
Dr. Andrews, who will serve as the chief editor for the issue, would like to invite you personally to contribute to this edition. This issue, scheduled for publication in April 2017, will receive high visibility via several ACS planned initiatives. Additionally, there are no page, color, or publication charges to publish in ACS Chemical Neuroscience. We are looking for high-quality submissions for peer-review in short Letter, full-length Article, Review, or Viewpoint formats. **The submission deadline is December 1, 2016;** we welcome your submissions at https://acs.manuscriptcentral.com/acs in advance of the deadline. During the submission process, please select the "Serotonin Research" tag in the Special Issue dropdown menu to ensure that your manuscript is expeditiously processed in time for publication in the appropriate issue.



The special issues arising from the 2012 & 2014 meetings in Montpellier, France and Hermanus, South Africa, respectively, were blockbusters (see: http://pubs.acs.org/toc/acncdm/4/1& http://pubs.acs.org/toc/acncdm/6/7). These issues included several timely and informative papers associated with the previous meetings including some outstanding reviews and Viewpoints. The special issue, and in particular, the Viewpoint format is an excellent opportunity for ISSR members to chart advances in knowledge of the neurophysiology of serotonin.

For further information or pre-submission inquiries regarding ideas for article content please contact Dr. Andrews (aandrews@mednet.ucla.edu).

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International Society for Serotonin Research (ISSR) Membership

NOTICE: Change in the Membership Renewal Cycle

Beginning January, 2017, **Membership renewals** will be on a 2 year cycle (see rates and payment instructions below). Members will be notified by email when membership is up for renewal and payment due.

Please remember that membership dues are currently the only source of revenue for the ISSR. Your dues payments provide the support needed to maintain viability of our Society.

Thank you for your support!!!!

The biennial dues rates are as follows:

Regular Members (e.g., faculty or equivalent): $100 USD /2-year

Trainees (Graduate Students/Post-docs): $60 USD/2-year

Retired Members: $60 USD/2-year

Please note that we require email confirmation of student or post-doc status from the mentor.

Payment by credit card can be made at our ISSR website (http://serotoninclub.org/). In some cases, we are able to accept bank wire transfers for dues, please contact Kelly (berg@uthscsa.edu) to make arrangements. Alternatively, you may send a check or money order payable to the "International Society for Serotonin Research" to Kelly at the address below.

Kelly A. Berg, Ph.D.
Department of Pharmacology-mc 7764
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San Antonio, TX 78229-3900
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ISSR Serotonin in Seattle Meeting 2016

JOIN US

Address change? All communications with members are carried out via the internet so if we do not have your current e-mail address you risk losing all contact with the Society.
If you have changed your address send it now while you are thinking about it. Kelly Berg (Secretary/Treasurer) BERG@uthscsa.edu

Find Us

LinkedIn http://www.linkedin.com/groups/International-Society-Serotonin-Research-Serotonin-4541265?trk=my_groups-b-grp-v

Remember, we now have a Facebook page as well. Make sure you visit the site at www.facebook.com/pages/SerotoninClub/170600399644105 and "like" the Club to join.

Newsletter All Society members can send their contributions to the Newsletter, including article highlights, meetings/workshops details, job ads and any other relevant information.
Send your contribution to the editor (Fernandez@ipmc.cnrs.fr)