



June 2008

**From the Office of the
Club President**

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Catecholamine Club

Chronicle

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2008 Club Dinner and Axelrod Award

The 40th Anniversary dinner held on Sunday April 6th at Bertrand at Mister A's was a gala event. This dinner was one of the most successful, if not the most successful. It was well attended by senior Catecholaminologists, including Norman Weiner (Axelrod Medalist 1993) and his wife, mid level and also a very good representation of young scientists. We were pleased that we were able to encourage support of trainees and to offer them a discount rate including a one year membership, possible in part by the assistance of the Foundation for

Catecholamine Research and efforts by Irv Kopin and colleagues.

A short taxi ride from the Convention Center found us in an elegant relaxed setting of one of the premier restaurants in San Diego. The cocktail hour was held on a balcony, which, due to the slope of the terrain and the low housing around us, made us feel at the top of the world on the 12th floor. The terrace had a spectacular view of San Diego Harbor and the airport. We were able to munch on delightful elegant hor'dourves, sip wine or other drinks and watch the airplanes land below us.



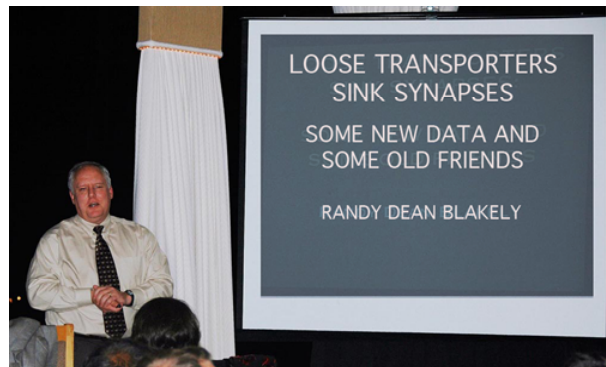
We were then ushered into a private room, with the stunning view of the San Diego skyline. The program began with a short business meeting in which the sponsors were thanked. The generous support of Johnson and Johnson San Diego, Wyeth Research, Lundbeck USA and Merck Research Laboratories were acknowledged. A special thanks was given to the Foundation for Catecholamine Research for the support of young investigators and the participation of the Kopin travel fellow, Habibeh Khoshbouei. The leadership of the Club was transferred from Dave Sibley to Esther Sabban as president, and Courtney Holmes was installed as the new Secretary/Treasurer.



This introduction was followed by the gastronomical program which began with a choice of Traditional Lobster Bisque or Local Market Mixed Lettuce Salad. On the place setting we were each provided with a copy of the article in TIPS on the history of the Catecholamine Club, a brief summary of Julius Axelrod's accomplishment and the lyrics of the Catecholamine Club song. The next course was a choice of Duck Confit or Cheese Ravvulinis accompanied by very pleasant conversations (to the attuned ear) at elegant tables for eight and attentive waiters with plentiful wine or the like. The main course entailed a choice of beef

tenderloin, sea bass, chicken breast or a vegetarian offering. This was followed by coffee/tea and desert which consisted of either chocolate foundant or crème brulee.

With a stuffed and satisfied palettes and dopamine transporters of our mesocorticolimbic reward systems supersaturated, our appetite was whetted for the lecture by the 2008 Axelrod awardee, Randy Blakely, Allan Bass Professor of Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University Medical School. As Dr. Blakely was introduced, as if on cue, fireworks were observed from the area of the harbor, quite a feat, which Dave Sibley must have accomplished! Randy presented a most interesting and stimulating lecture. He presented some translational aspects of specific variants of the dopamine transporter, connecting beautifully the basic and clinical aspects. He then went on to show how he arrived at this mastery stage of accomplishments, going back beyond his training with Susan Amara (Axelrod medalist 2006) and cloning of catecholamine transporters, to important influences in his schooling and to his family.



Subsequently, Chip Rutledge led the singing of the Catecholamine Club song, which also has an anniversary this year, its 30th. He presented some of the history of his composition, and led us through the English, and the French versions of the Catecholamine Club Song (Le Chanson du Club des Catecholamines). With that the Club dinner was officially adjourned until next year in New Orleans. We are grateful to Dona Wong for recording the event photographically.

— Contributed by Esther, our new Club President —

The 2008 Julius Axelrod Symposium

One of the major symposia at the Centennial Celebration of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), and one of three symposia slated for podcasting by the Society was The Julius Axelrod Symposium: Celebrating a Pioneer Pharmacologist and His Legacy-“Revealing Mechanisms of Drug Action on Fundamental Biological Processes”.

David Sibley, ASPET Neuropharmacology Division Past Chair, introduced Dr. Randy Blakely, the 2008 Axelrod Award winner. Lee Eiden, chaired the Axelrod symposium consisting in lectures by past Axelrod Award winners Richard Weinshilboum, Susam Amara, and Marc Caron. Lee reminded the large audience of Julie's contributions not only in neuropharmacology and drug metabolism, but in the legacy of his students and colleagues, and lauded the work of the Catecholamine Club in making the Axelrod Award and Medal a continuing and vivid reminder of Julie's legacy into the 21st Century.

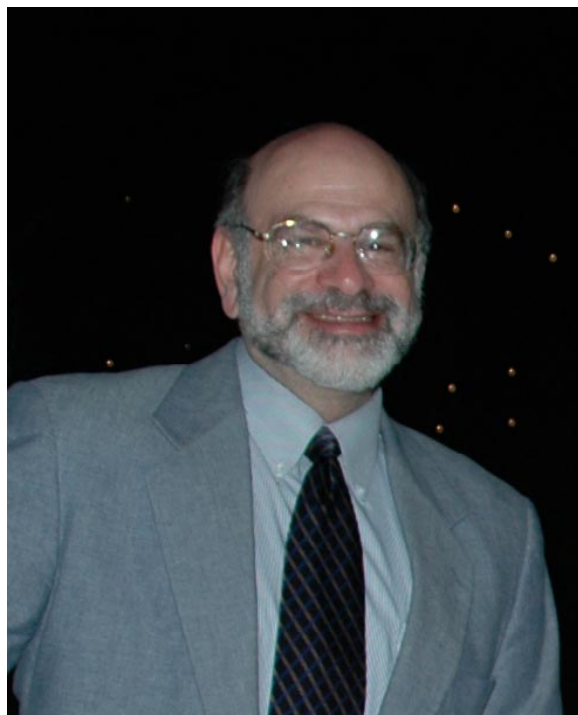
Julius Axelrod Symposium: Celebrating a Pioneer Pharmacologist and His Legacy – “Revealing Mechanisms of Drug Action on Fundamental Biological Processes” April 6, 2008

Chair: Lee E. Eiden

- 9:00 A brief history of ASPET's Julius Axelrod Award and Introduction of Randy Blakely, Vanderbilt University, the 2008 Julius Axelrod Awardee. David Sibley, Chair, ASPET Julius Axelrod Award Committee, NINDS, NIH
- 9:10 Julie Axelrod: A legacy of fundamental research for drug discovery. Lee E. Eiden, NIMH, NIH
- 9:30 Methylation pharmacogenomics: Neurotransmitters to drug response. Richard M. Weinshilboum, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
- 10:10 Neurotransmitter transporters: New views of form and function. Susan G. Amara, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- 10:50 Biochemical and behavioral actions of monoamines in genetic animal models. Marc G. Caron, Duke University

News and Events

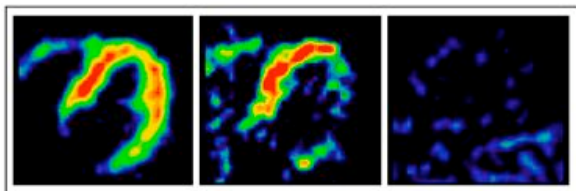
Dr. David S. Goldstein Receives the Bakken Heart-Brain Pioneer Award: The Bakken Heart-Brain Pioneer Award is given in recognition of contributions fundamental to the development of heart-brain medicine. Pioneer recipients are recognized senior healthcare professionals who have had a major impact on the understanding of heart-brain pathophysiology, the consequences of heart-brain interactions for the health of humankind, and the innovative treatment of heart-brain disorders. Dr. David Goldstein received the award at the Bakken Heart-Brain Summit, held in Cleveland June 4-5, 2008.



Second International Symposium on Pheochromocytoma: The 2nd International Symposium on Pheochromocytoma (ISP2008) will be held at Queens' college in Cambridge, England from 17th - 20th September 2008. This Symposia series is organized by members of the Pheochromocytoma Research Support Organization (PRESSOR <http://www.pressor.org>), a consortium of scientists and clinicians formed as an outcome of a meeting at Cold Spring Harbor in

2003, held at the behest of Drs. James Watson and William Manger. This year the meeting is being co-chaired by Professors Morris J. Brown and Ashley B. Grossman. Further details can be found at the Symposium website: <http://www.isp2008.ukevents.org/>

The First International Symposium on Cardiac Sympathetic Neuroimaging: This Symposium, organized David S. Goldstein (NINDS, Bethesda, MD USA) and Satoshi Orimo (Kanto Central Hospital, Tokyo, Japan) is being held October 29, 2008 in conjunction with the 19th International Symposium of the American Autonomic Society (AAS) at the Marriott Kauai Resort Hotel, Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii. The meeting will bring together clinical and preclinical researchers evaluating autonomic and neurocardiologic disorders by cardiac sympathetic neuroimaging. Invited lectures will cover uses of cardiac sympathetic neuroimaging in diagnosis, prognosis, and monitoring effects of treatments. The Organizers will tour a poster session based on Abstracts submitted to the AAS on this topic. A roundtable will review advantages and disadvantages of different imaging techniques and agents and discuss how to expand availability of cardiac sympathetic neuroimaging in the U.S. For information contact Dr. David S. Goldstein (<mailto:goldsteind@ninds.nih.gov>)



Progress in Research on Neurotransmitter Transporters: This "Mini-Symposium", will be held in Bonn, Germany, on August 23 to celebrate the retirement of **Professor Heinz Bönisch**. As a former student of the late Professor Ullrich Trendelenburg (*see the January 2007 issue of the Club Newsletter*), Heinz' early studies on the neuronal and extraneuronal uptake and metabolism of catecholamines were carried out in the

Department of Pharmacology at the University of Würzburg. There together with other pre-eminent catecholaminogists, including Karl-Heinz Graefe and Edgar Schömig, Heinz' seminal contributions brought focus into the field of catecholamine pharmacology.



After moving to the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Bonn (headed by Professor Manfred Göthert), Heinz directed his research to studies of the pharmacology and molecular biology of neurotransmitter transporters. The meeting, organized by Heinz' colleagues at the University of Bonn, promises to be a fitting send-off for an exceptional investigator.

Catecholamine Club Information, Positions and Membership

Club Dinner for 2009: The next Catecholamine Club dinner is scheduled for the evening of Monday April 21, 2009, during the Experimental Biology meeting in New Orleans. Please reserve the date. We look forward to an excellent turnout. Details will follow.

Minutes of the 2008 Executive Committee Meeting:

The Executive Committee of the Catecholamine Club held its annual meeting on April 5, 2008 at the time of Experimental Biology 2008 in San Diego. Present were Dave Sibley, Esther Sabban, Dona Wong, Chip Rutledge, Dan O'Connor, Lee Eiden, Dave Goldstein, Courtney Holmes, Walter Dixon, Laurent Taupenot, and Margita Dubcovich. Apologies were received from Graeme Eisenhofer.

Dave Sibley started the meeting with a discussion of details of the organization and arrangements of the 2008 Catecholamine Club Dinner. Contributions came from five sources (Lundbeck, Wyeth, Merck, the Foundation for Catecholamine Research, and Johnson & Johnson) to keep the cost down for participants.

Esther Sabban then presented the financial report. The report was handed out and approved. Being able to pay on-line and preparing tax-exempt status for the Club were discussed. Finances of the Club are being transferred to the new secretary-treasurer, Courtney Holmes.

The 3rd item was the discussion of having by-laws for the Catecholamine Club. Discussion was also held on the possibility of merging with the Foundation for Catecholamine Research. Copies of the by-laws for the Serotonin Club were handed out, which may be used as a template for the CC's by-laws. A by-law committee was formed (comprized of Dave Goldstein, Courtney Holmes, Dave Sibley and Dona Wong) to construct a draft which would be edited by the Executive Committee and passed around for comments and further input from dues paying members. A time frame of 3 months was proposed for this task, with a due date July 5, 2008 for the first draft.

The next item was a discussion as to whether the Catecholamine Club and Foundation for Catecholamine Club should be merged. Pros and cons were discussed extensively. No final decision was agreed on. There was also a discussion on whether to and how to increase membership. Questions were raised as to whether to increase membership fees or have

senior people pay more, with the understanding that that the extra money would go to subsidize younger investigators' dinner.

Lee Eiden discussed the fact that the Axelrod Symposium is now funded by ASPET. There was some concern that with the Axelrod Symposium being connected to ASPET, an Axelrod recipient might be involved in a field unrelated to catecholamines, in which case it might not be appropriate for that person to speak at the CC dinner.

The next item discussed was the possibility of another International Catecholamine Symposium. The 9th Symposium was held in Japan in 2000. Discussions were made as to whether to have the Symposium in conjunction with another meeting. Concerns about the amount of work, scope, resources, and general format related to organizing the next meeting were discussed. The proposal was eventually tabled. The meeting was then adjourned.

— contributed by Courtney Holmes, Club Secretary —

Executive Committee: The Catecholamine Club Executive Committee for the 2008/2009 program year consists of the following members:

- Esther Sabban, President
- Courtney Holmes, Secretary/Treasurer
- Irv Kopin, Membership Secretary
- Graeme Eisenhofer, CCC Editor
- Susan Amara
- Walter Dixon
- Margarita Dubcovich
- Lee Eiden
- David Goldstein
- Daniel O'Connor
- Charles Rutledge
- David Sibley
- Laurent Taupenot
- Gonzalo Torres
- Dona Wong

Membership: Membership fees are \$20 per annum or may also be paid at the reduced rate of \$50.00 for three years. Membership runs from the date of one annual dinner to the next. Please visit the Catecholamine Club Website (<http://www.catecholamineclub.org>) for details on methods of payment (including on-line payment), whether you wish to join the club or renew your membership.

Benefits of Membership: What are the benefits of membership in the catecholamine club — what is the incentive to paying the membership fee?

1. Eligibility for the subsidy towards

Contributions to the Newsletter: This newsletter is produced biannually (usually January and June of each year). Contributions from club members — including notices of events, news about club members, and other information of interest to the membership — are welcome and should be sent to the editor (Email: graeme.eisenhofer@uniklinikum-dresden.de).

Catecholamine Club Dinners.

2. Eligibility to nominate investigators for Foundation for Catecholamine Research I.J. Kopin young investigator travel fellowships (Note: the nominator and mentor supporting the application must belong to the Club).
3. Eligibility of members to nominate candidates for the Julius Axelrod Award.
4. Continued receipt of Club Newsletters and ability to contribute to the News and Events forum.
5. Certain web site privileges - posting lab links, job advertisements, etc.