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Catecholamine Club Chronicle

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From the Office of the Club President

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Palmer W. Taylor to receive the Julius Axelrod Award for 2009

The Julius Axelrod Award was established in 1991 by the Catecholamine Club to recognize outstanding contributions in research and mentoring following in the Axelrod tradition. This year Julie's legacy is honored by the selection of Palmer W. Taylor, Ph.D., for the 2009 Julius Axelrod Award in Pharmacology.

Dr. Taylor is Professor of Pharmacology and the Founding Dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of California San Diego (UCSD). He served as Chair of the Department of Pharmacology at UCSD from 1987 to 2003, and as President of ASPET from 1995 to 1996. Dr Taylor has made pioneering contributions to the study of synaptic pharmacology and neuroscience by providing detailed molecular insights into fundamental aspects of regulation at cholinergic synapses. The autonomic nervous system is comprised of the catecholamine containing noradrenergic neurons studied extensively by Axelrod and colleagues, and of cholinergic neurons that use acetylcholine (ACh) as their transmitter. Cholinergic neurons also serve critical roles in controlling communication between nerve and muscle, and between cells in the brain. The availability of ACh at cholinergic synapses is controlled by the enzyme acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and synaptic

transmission at nerve muscle junctions is regulated through the actions of ACh on nicotinic cholinergic receptors (nAChR). Dr Taylor's laboratory has made innumerable seminal findings informing our understanding of the structure of AChE and nAChR and their function in cholinergic neurotransmission.



AChE plays a critical role in terminating the actions of ACh and is the target for war gases and insecticides as well as for therapies for myasthenia gravis and Alzheimer's disease. Dr Taylor's recent work on neuroligin, a cholinesterase homologous synaptic adhesion

protein associated with autism emphasizes further the biomedical relevance of his research and demonstrates his characteristic use of multifaceted approaches to dissect structure and molecular mechanisms. Dr Taylor's studies of the nAChR underlie much of what we currently know about the structure and pharmacological regulation of this receptor. His recent crystallographic work defined the molecular features of the acetylcholine binding protein (AChBP) as a receptor surrogate and detailed the changes that are induced by ligand binding. This work is paradigmatic of the rigor, impact and insightful use of novel approaches that makes his research so valuable to the scientific research community.

Dr Taylor has recently developed collaborations with Nobel Laureate Barry Sharpless to use AChE and AChBP as prototype targets for "in situ freeze-frame, click chemistry" a novel approach for generating high affinity inhibitors. Given the importance of AChR and AChE as drug targets, the translation of Taylor's basic molecular work in directions critical for discovery of new therapeutic modalities further underscores the continuing impact of his research.

Palmer Taylor, like Julius Axelrod, is remarkable for his humility, his determination and his accomplishments as a mentor. He has trained a multitude of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who have gone on to prominent careers in industry and academia. As director of a large and longstanding NIH funded predoctoral training grant in Pharmacology, and through his dedicated graduate and medical school teaching, he radiates his enthusiasm for Pharmacology to an audience well beyond those he directly mentors. His excitement for science cannot help but motivate others, and the breadth of his knowledge challenges trainees and colleagues alike to work to achieve the degree of scholarship and determination that has been the hallmark of Dr Palmer Taylor's career.

**Contributed by Joan Heller Brown, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Pharmacology, UCSD**

2009 Club Dinner

The Catecholamine Club's 2009 dinner/lecture will be held in conjunction with the meeting of ASPET and Experimental Biology 2009. This meeting will take place in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center from April 18 to 22 (<http://www.eb2009.org>).

The date for the dinner is set for the evening of April 20th (Monday at 7:00 PM) and this year will feature a cruise on the Mississippi.

In keeping with tradition, the recipient of the 2009 Julius Axelrod Award, Dr Palmer Taylor, will be honored at the Club Dinner where he will present an anecdotal recount of his lifetime journey through science.

Details about the dinner — location of the restaurant, cost, procedure and deadlines for payment — are appended to this Newsletter. There is a substantial discount to the cost of the dinner offered, especially to trainees, through a generous subsidy by the Foundation for Catecholamine Research.

Don't miss out on what promises to be an important and fun-filled evening with the accompanying traditional catecholamine club song musical extravaganza.

Catecholamine Club Bylaws

In the background, Catecholamine Club Councilors led by our President, Esther Sabban, have been busy formulating the Bylaws for the Club. This effort has followed two meetings of Councilors over the past year and numerous telephone and email exchanges among members. Establishing these Bylaws represents a crucial step for the Club in obtaining tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization.

A copy of the finalized Bylaws, voted on and approved by the membership, is appended to this issue of the Club Newsletter.

10th International Catecholamine Symposium in the Early Planning Stage

Several members of the Executive Committee of the Catecholamine Club and others interested in the possibility of having a 10th International Catecholamine Symposium (10th ICS) met on November 18 during the 2008 Neuroscience Meeting in Washington, D.C. These included David Goldstein, Dave Sibley, Irv Kopin, Richard Kvetnansky, Bill Tank, Kwan-Soo Kim, Dona Wong, Susan Amara, Adrian Dunn, Lee Eiden, Juan Saavedra, Courtney Holmes and Esther Sabban.

The meeting opened with a historical discussion of previous Symposia. The last Symposium was in Kyoto, Japan in 2001. It was organized as a satellite meeting of an international symposium on Parkinson's/Alzheimer's Disease. After the Kyoto Symposium there were plans for a meeting in Berlin or Prague, which for various reasons did not materialize.

The initial discussion centered on the type of meeting and where the next Symposium should be. Should the meeting be a smaller meeting, piggybacked onto another meeting? Should it be a satellite meeting or a separate retreat with its own venue? The consensus was to preferably keep it separate, since it will enable us to emphasize the diverse aspects of catecholamine research, and their broad clinical applications, some of which could not be easily encompassed as a satellite meeting.

Next, possible locations were considered. Should it be in the United States or Europe? With the uncertain economy, a centrally located meeting would have the best attendance, and it was agreed that the US would be most appropriate. The venue of Asilomar was agreed to have been successful partly because it was relatively isolated, keeping participants engaged at the Symposium and facilitating interactions and potential collaborations. Several venues were discussed, with both pros and cons. Options were Asilomar, San Diego, Nashville, New Jersey area, New England boarding schools, or Colonial Williamsburg. Eventually it

was agreed that an independent meeting on the East Coast of the United States would be best.

An important concern in these difficult economic times is the financing of the meeting. Writing and securing a conference grant for funding was discussed. From prior experience, it would likely be approved, but the process would be lengthy. Esther Sabban said she had received some preliminary information from Olga Tjurmina on NIH conference grant submissions.

The most likely time frame would be in approximately 2.5 years, which would allow for grant submission and acceptance.

Initial concerns are getting start-up money. Dave Goldstein said that the NINDS sponsored the First International Symposium on Cardiac Sympathetic Neuroimaging, which he co-chaired in Hawaii. There will definitely be a need for an NIH conference grant for the 10th ICS, as well as substantial intramural NIH support. The Organizing Committee would be best with scientists of varied backgrounds.

Dave Goldstein agreed to head the organization of the next ICS together with Esther Sabban and Courtney Holmes. It seems that 2011 would be the likely year, but with a date that takes into consideration other possible related meetings for that year: 1. Richard Kvetnansky's Smolenice meeting in June of 2011; 2. the Gordon Conference on Catecholamines in the summer of 2011; and 3. the International Society for Chromaffin Biology meeting.

The meeting was adjourned, with considerable enthusiasm for a long overdue 10th ICS; however, substantial "homework" would need to be done, to decide on a venue, time, travel, place, and funding. It was agreed that the initial exploratory Committee, comprised of Esther Sabban, Dave Goldstein, Courtney Holmes, and Irv Kopin, will begin to plan the 10th International Catecholamine Symposium.

**Contributed by Courtney Holmes,
Secretary/Treasurer, Catecholamine Club**

News and Events

15th International Symposium on Chromaffin Cell Biology: The 15th International Symposium on Chromaffin Cell Biology (ISCCB) will be held in the city of Mérida, México, from November 12th to the 16th, 2009. The highly successful ISCCB meetings are held every 2 years, almost always in beautiful and interesting locations. Further details about the meeting can be obtained from Arturo Hernández Cruz (Email: ahernan@ifc.unam.mx).



Gordon Research Conference on Catecholamines: The next Gordon Research Conference on Catecholamines will be held August 9-14, 2009 at the University of New England Biddeford, ME. For information about this meeting contact Patricio O'Donnell (Email: podon002@umaryland.edu)

Progress in Research on Neurotransmitter Transporters: This "Mini-Symposium" was held in Bonn, Germany, on August 23, 2008 to celebrate the retirement of Professor Heinz Bönisch. As promised, the meeting which included family and colleagues from as far away as Australia (Leslie Bryan-Lluka) and the US (Susan Amara), turned out to be a fitting send-off for an exceptional investigator.



Second International Symposium on Pheochromocytoma: The 2nd International Symposium on Pheochromocytoma (ISP2008) was held at Queens' college in Cambridge, England from 17th - 20th September 2008. This meeting organized by Professors Morris J. Brown and Ashley B. Grossman turned out an exceptional success with a turnout of close to 200 participants.



Catecholamine Club Information, Positions and Membership

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 Dubocovich
- Lee Eiden
- David Goldstein
- Daniel O'Connor
- Charles Rutledge
- David Sibley
- Laurent Taupenot
- Dona Wong
- Gonzalo Torres

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

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.

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 *An international society of biomedical scientists*

CONSTITUTION OF THE CATECHOLAMINE CLUB

Adopted and Approved by the Membership Nov. 10, 2008

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization is the Catecholamine Club

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Club is to promote scientific and social communications among individuals interested in catecholamines and related compounds, specifically by sponsoring and conducting related scientific activities. Regular meetings will be held as yearly dinner meetings during the Experimental Biology Meetings of the Federation of the American Societies for Experimental Biology or other scientific meeting as chosen by the Executive Committee.

The nature and organization of scientific meetings shall be planned and organized by the current Catecholamine Club President with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Catecholamine Club.

The income and property of the Club shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the purposes of the Club as set out in this Article, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or by any other way of profit or pecuniary gain to members of the Club. In the event that the Club is dissolved, any surplus property will be vested with the Foundation for Catecholamine Research, a non-profit organization with similar scientific objectives to those of the Catecholamine Club.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership is on an annual or triennial basis and will be conferred upon any interested individual who pays the membership fee. If a member is two years in arrears with his/her membership dues, his/her name will be removed from the membership and mailing list of the Club.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1:

The Executive Committee consists of officers named below in Section 2.

Section 2:

Officers of the Club are the President, Immediate Past-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and twelve Councilors

- (a) The President shall be elected for a term of one or two years, with no re-election to that position, and shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee. On completion of his/her term of office, the President will serve as Immediate past-President for a term of two years, unless he/she is elected to another officer position in the Club, in which case the position of office of Immediate Past-President will remain vacant for that term.
- (b) The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected for a term of up to four years, with the possibility of one re-election to that position. His/her duties consist of maintaining the records of the Club and its membership and handling the overall financial affairs of the Club. Furthermore, he/she will actively encourage persons interested in catecholamine research to become members of the Club.

- (c) Councilors shall serve for a term of four years, with the possibility of re-election to that position. Their duties consist of serving on the Executive Committee, and assisting the President in the organization of the dinner meetings of the Club and in such other activities as are necessary for the operation of the Club. One of the councilors will serve as the Editor of the Catecholamine Club Chronicle and one will be responsible for maintaining the web site.

ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS

Section 1:

- (a) The President and the Secretary/Treasurer shall each be elected by and from the Catecholamine Club membership.
- (b) A member may be nominated for more than one position at any election. The order in which offices will be filled by election is President, Secretary/Treasurer, then Councilor, and if a member is elected to one of these offices, any nominations for other offices due to be filled subsequently will automatically lapse.
- (c) The President may appoint additional councilors at his/her discretion, when the positions become vacant, if there are not sufficient nominations from the membership.

Section 2

Elections shall take place yearly, as necessary. If any office becomes vacant between elections, the Executive Committee may elect an interim replacement to the office to serve for the remaining term.

Section 3

The Secretary/Treasurer shall send notices to all members, requesting nominations for each office due to become vacant. If the number of nominations for any office exceeds the number of vacancies an email ballot shall be held. Normally, the President shall act as the returning officer for an election by ballot of Secretary/Treasurer, and the Secretary/Treasurer shall act as the returning office for an election by ballot of all the other officers.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCES

Section 1

The Secretary/Treasurer is empowered to establish the price of the tickets to the dinner meetings, with the advice of the President, who determines the venue. He/she will also determine the annual and triennial membership fee and the process for payment, with the advice of the Executive Committee. Finally he/she will engage in the financial transactions necessary for the operation of the Club.

Section 2

Voluntary contributions may be solicited by the Club, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section 3

The Secretary/Treasurer shall report the financial status of the Club to the Executive Committee annually.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended, or Bylaws may be added, following approved suggestions brought forward to the membership by the Executive Committee, by a majority decision of those members voting at annual dinner meetings or by an email ballot of the entire membership.

JOIN us at the
2009 CATECHOLAMINE CLUB
DINNER / LECTURE CRUISE
on the Mississippi River
Monday April 20, 2009



The Catecholamine Club Dinner Cruise on the Mississippi River
will be held in the
Private King's Room of the
Paddlewheeler Creole Queen River Boat

A pre-dinner reception with an open bar will begin at 7 PM
Cruising from 8 PM to 10 PM
With New Orleans Style Dinner

After dinner we will enjoy a lecture by
Palmer W. Taylor,
the 2009 recipient of the ASPET Julius Axelrod Award
Boarding is at the foot of Canal Street at Poydas St.
at the end of the Riverwalk (300 feet west of ferry)



Dinner Cruise and Lecture

- Current Club Members \$65.00
- Non members \$100.00
(annual membership is \$20*)
- Trainees \$50.00
(includes 1 yr free club membership)

Register and pay www.catecholamineclub.org
Or mail check to CA Club Treasurer:
Courtney Holmes
Clinical Neurocardiology Section, NINDS, NIH
Building 10, Room 6N250
10 Center Drive, MSC 1620
Bethesda, MD 20892-1620

*Take advantage of 3 yr membership
for \$50 as dues are going up next year

Payment for the dinner is required by:
Thurs April 9, 2009