



# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR NEUROETHOLOGY

Newsletter  
November 1998

## Contents

### Section 1

- [A few words from your new President](#)
- [The La Jolla meeting](#)
- [Elections](#)
- [Year 2001 Congress](#)
- [Tribute to Ted Bullock at ISN Congress](#)
- [Membership Directory](#)

### Section 2

- [John G. Hildebrand Elected Member of German Academy of Sciences](#)
- [RESEARCH GROUP REPORT~Cornell's Section of Neurobiology and the Roots of Neuroethology](#)
- [AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH~Dr. Zvi Wollberg](#)
- [AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH~Dr. Michael Land](#)
- [Courses, Meetings, and Workshops](#)
- [Positions](#)

### A few words from your new President, Malcolm Burrows

John Hildebrand is a hard act to follow. He has done so much in the last three years to set the society on a firm footing, high amongst which must rank the professionalism that he has brought to the society and the establishment of a web site. Much of the day to day business of the society is now in the capable hands of Panacea Associates. I hope that I will be able to continue to lead the society in the direction he has set and that you, its members, would wish. Please let me know your thoughts on the things you feel we should be doing. Should we be organizing more meetings? Should we expand the newsletter still further? Should we be sponsoring lectures? There may be many more things that you would like to see done to promote our subject.

[Return to top of page](#)

### The La Jolla meeting

I hope that you all were energized as much as I was by our Fifth congress held in La Jolla, California. We are greatly indebted to Bill Kristan for bearing the enormous burden of organizing the meeting, and to the program committee under the chairmanship of Jochen Pflüger for putting together such an exciting scientific program. On behalf of the society I thank them for all their hard work.

As judged by the questionnaire the meeting was widely enjoyed as illustrated by the flavor of these comments: "*splendid mixture of plenary speakers;*" "*interesting symposia and a great group of people;*" "*excellent talks, excellent format, excellent informal discussions;*" "*small enough to meet people and have lengthy discussions;*" "*the diversity of subjects and the consistently high quality of the talks;*" "*participation of so many young people.*"

Generally you were very satisfied with the meeting. You felt that: both the size and the format of the meeting were about right; the presentations by the young investigators were innovative and should be expanded; more time should be devoted to the posters, with different ways of arranging these sessions, and allocation of specific times for presenters to be at their posters; the experiment of *ad hoc* talks was not

deemed to be successful.

You all believe that the Congresses have a special feel that results from their size and from the unique relationship between neuroscience and behavior. This a relationship that I wish to foster because of the extraordinary insights into mechanisms that can result. Maintaining the essential flavor of our discipline while pushing into new areas will present a continuing challenge for the planners of our meetings.

Despite the great scientific success of the La Jolla meeting, it made a financial loss to the society of about \$25,000. Fortunately it will be possible to meet this loss from our reserves. We do, however, need to ensure that our meetings are financially viable, and keep the registration fee as low as possible while still maintaining the high standard of the talks. One way these aims could be met would be by increasing our membership. Please spread the word about the meetings that you so obviously enjoy and encourage your colleagues to join us. Membership application details are on our web site.

[Return to top of page](#)

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## Elections

The results of the postal ballot for the election of officers and councillors of the society are announced below. As you will see some of the results were very close in an election where about 41% of members cast their votes. I would like to welcome those who have been elected to the administration of the society and also thank those who were not elected and hope that they will continue to be active members of the society. We need you all. Can I also thank the officers and councillors whose term of office has expired. Your help has been much appreciated.

## ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the ballot for election of officers are as follows (winners are in bold font):

| <i>President</i>            | Votes     | Position |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| <b>Albert Feng</b>          | 128       | 1        |
| Hans-Joachim Pflüger        | 74        | 2        |
| <i>Treasurer</i>            |           |          |
| Christopher Comer           | 95        | 2        |
| <b>Sheryl Coombs</b>        | 100       | 1        |
| <i>Secretary</i>            |           |          |
| <b>Arthur Popper</b>        | unopposed |          |
| <i>Council</i>              |           |          |
| <b>Catherine Carr</b>       | 158       | 1        |
| <b>Martin Heisenberg</b>    | 110       | 2        |
| <b>Ian M. Meinertzhagen</b> | 108       | 3        |
| <b>Gwen A. Jacobs</b>       | 105       | 4        |
| <b>Alison Mercer</b>        | 105       | 4        |
| <b>Harald Wolf</b>          | 94        | 6        |
| <b>Michael O'Shea</b>       | 92        | 7        |

Robyn Hudson (86); Dorothy Hayman Paul (63); Masaki Sakai (84); Barbara Schmitz (79 ); Andrea Megela Simmons (63); Peter Simmons (70); Annemarie Surlykke (85)

Total number of ballots returned 208.

The ballots were counted on the 22nd October in the presence of Thomas Matheson, Berthold Hedwig, Michael Gebhardt, Chris Graham, Jeremy Niven and Malcolm Burrows. There were 208 valid ballot returns

from the 501 papers that were distributed.

Could I welcome the new officers and council members aboard. I hope that together we can continue to make this an exciting Society that meets the needs of its membership. I am sure you will join with me in thanking the retiring officers and the retiring members of council for their contribution to the Society.

I have set up an E-mail nickname for all the officers and council members of the Society and if you would like a copy of this I would be very happy to send it to you.

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[Return to top of page](#)

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## YEAR 2001 CONGRESS

At the La Jolla meeting, presentations were given advocating either Amsterdam or Bonn as the venue of the next meeting. A close vote resulted in the selection of Bonn, Germany where Prof Horst Bleckmann has kindly agreed to be the next local organizer. Bonn should provide an ideal setting, with the meeting site in the middle of the old town, and close to the Rhine, and the Beethoven concert hall. We anticipate that the meeting will take place July 29 - August 5, 2001. Horst can be reached at the following address (E-mail; unb306@ibm.rhrz.uni-bonn.de). A program committee will soon be set up to start planning the scientific content of the meeting. In the meantime please let me know your ideas.

I anticipate that the next three years will be exciting in the evolution of our society and its activities.

[Return to top of page](#)

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## TRIBUTE TO TED BULLOCK AT ISN CONGRESS

One of the highlights of the 1998 Congress was the first Founder's Talk. Appropriately, this first talk was given by Ted Bullock. An "anonymous" reporter provided the following account of the talk. We hear that the full version of the talk is likely to appear in *Journal of Comparative Physiology A*.

Under the declarative title "Neuroethology Has Pregnant Agendas," Ted held forth on some themes he said were interesting to him and seemed promising. Granting that most of the advances are likely to be at the molecular and cellular levels, he chose examples of opportune but relatively neglected approaches from more integrative levels and became quite specific, posing two classes of questions.

(1) First, what cells or assemblies of cells and what patterns of activity are sufficient to accomplish recognition of ethologically important stimulus configurations and initiation of behavioral action? He urged the use of gentle microstimulation of loci in the brain where cells have been found to be responsive to complex, natural stimuli (e.g., faces, worms, bugs, songs) under conditions conducive to the performance of tell-tale behavior. By extension, microinjection of modulatory substances into regions with such complex recognition cells as well as recording wide-band electrical activity from cells and populations of cells in behaving animals with multiple electrode arrays were included.

(2) Second, he turned to evolution and highlighted the "what" question: what brain and behavior differences has evolution produced between major taxa at distinct grades of complexity? A long list of detailed questions illustrated the opportunities. For example, how many nuclei and subdivisions, by all criteria, or pallial areas or one-way or reciprocal connections are there in each major region comparing, say, advanced teleosts and reptiles? What features of hodological or modulator and receptor laminar specificity are different between classes or grades of complexity? And the same for ongoing brain waves, "cognitive" waves, synchrony, augmenting, kindling, and other responses. He emphasized our relative ignorance of basic aspects of connectivity, physiology, and cognitive capacities in the major grades and the probability of surprises from new studies that employ comparison.

The talk was followed by several tributes to Ted from John Edwards, Nick Strausfeld, Glenn Northcutt, Jim Enright, Ted Melnechuk, and Don Kennedy (in abstentia). While space precludes presenting all of these tributes, with the permission of the authors, and of Ted, we are including two of these special odes.

### **You are old, Father Bullock**

by Nick Strausfeld

(with acknowledgment to Lewis Carroll, who  
satirized, with no apology, the poem of its original crafter Robert Southey)

You are old Father Bullock, the postdoc said,

With callowness typifying youth,  
And yet you incessantly give good advice,  
At your age, is it rather uncouth?

In my youth, said the Ted, raising bushy eyebrow,  
I listened to sages and peers,  
Now I'm wiser, and older (and please do kowtow)  
For there is dew yet behind your young ears.

You are old, said the youth, I'll say this again  
Yet, your studies are still up to snuff,  
You compare, you contrast, your work is our gain,  
How do you come up with this stuff?

In my youth, said sage Ted, his laughter was rife,  
I learned by trial and mistake;  
I showed infrared was essential to life,  
Allow me to give you a snake.

You are old, said the youth, yet you have survived  
Composing a tome with young Horridge,  
Was ATP used? How much was imbibed?  
Did you both consume too much porridge?

In my halcyon days, not yet over, for sure  
I learned to collaborate freely,  
For this is the way that ideas mature  
Instead of being mean and quite mealy.

I don't mean to offend, said the youth with compliance,  
I am curious to know how you rise  
To so much, so diverse, fundamental to science,  
Do you think that is awfully wise?

As a lad, old Ted said with patience anew,  
I fished and I porpoised, and whaled,  
While others free loved in ungodly stew  
I neither took drinks nor inhaled.

Now, I've answered four questions, none of them clever,  
Said Ted Bullock, with forbearance afresh;  
Here's one word of advice, and that is to never  
With rhetoric your young mind enmesh.

So admire the sea shore, the depths of the ocean,  
Cherish this Planet's delight.  
And when you do this, you'll come up with a notion  
And your mind will surely take flight.

### **For Ted Bullock**

by John Edwards

(sung to the tune of *the British Grenadiers*)

Some talk of Lorenzini and some of i.p.s.ps,  
Of Eccles, Hubel, Sperry, And such great scientists as these.  
But of all the world's great neuro's, theres none who can compare

With a ra ra ra ra for our Ted Bullock here!

From Sherrington to Wiersma, from Lucas to Denny Brown and Co,  
From electric fish to giants, he knows all there is to know.  
And of all the world's great neuro's theres none who can compare  
With a tra ra ra ra ra for our Ted Bullock here.

Some talk of Aphrodite and some of Eunices  
Of Nereis and Polynoe, and such great worms as these  
But of all the world's giant axons, Ted Bullock is the master  
With a ra ra ra ra ra for our Ted Bullock here!

Some talk of *Eigenmannia*, and some of Torpedo,  
Of *Raja* and *Gymnotus*, and all the ones you know  
But of all the world's electric fish, Ted Bullock is the master  
With a ra ra ra ra ra for our Ted Bullock here!

Some talk of higher functions and some of sea anemones,  
Of snakes and snails and nematodes, of owls and manatees  
But of all the world's great neuro's there's none who can compare  
With a ra ra ra ra ra for our Ted Bullock here!

[Return to top of page](#)

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## Membership Directory

Please check your entry in the Membership Directory at the ISN's Website and notify Panacea Associates  
<ISN@panassoc.com> of any changes to be made. The Website URL is:  
<http://www.neurobio.arizona.edu/isn/>

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[Return to top of page](#) | [Section 2](#)

[Bylaws](#) | [Officers](#) | [Membership Information](#) | [Membership Directory](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Links](#) | [Main](#)

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