



International Society for Neuroethology

Newsletter July 2003

International Society for Neuroethology
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Next International Congress: August 9-13, 2004. Hotel Nyborg Strand, Nyborg, Denmark

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The ISN President's Column

Albert S. Feng, ISN President (afeng1@uiuc.edu)
Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, USA

The summer before a congress year has traditionally been a busy time for us, and this year is no exception. Planning for the 2004 Congress is well underway. The Congress Committee is working feverishly preparing for the Congress, and the deadline for submitting symposium proposals — **August 1, 2003** — is rapidly approaching (see article from the Congress Committee on page 2).

The Executive Committee has additionally been busy handling several other matters:

Management. The final bids from eight management firms are in and the Executive Committee will meet on August 2 to conduct the final screening. Once a firm is selected and the new contract signed, the new firm will work with Panacea Associates immediately to begin the transition.

Website. With a recommendation from the Web Oversight and Education Committee (WEOC),



Albin/Walker Web Design has been selected to be the web design company for the ISN (see article on page 3). Keith Albin will be working with WEOC to jazz up the Society website.

Questionnaire. The membership survey carried out by the Long Range Planning Committee has been concluded. I am delighted by the turnout: the Committee received 291 responses! The Committee did a wonderful job getting members to respond to the questionnaire and appreciates the membership's response. Art Popper, Committee Chair, summarizes the survey results in an article on page 3.

Membership Committee. A new *ad hoc* committee was recently created with the charge to: (1) evaluate and approve membership applications; (2) develop strategies for recruiting new and young members to ISN; and (3) implement new and improved avenues for recruiting new members and connecting with existing members. I am pleased that Don Edwards (Georgia State University, USA) has agreed to chair this Committee; other members of the committee are being selected.

Nominating Committee. Election of new officers will take place in the fall of 2004. I am consulting the ISN Council for membership of the Nominating Committee. Once constituted, the Committee will issue a Call for Nominations for new officers. Please start thinking about whom you would like to nominate.

With best wishes for a pleasant and productive summer! ♦

Update from the Congress Committee: Call for Symposium Proposals

Greetings from Sarah Bottjer and Martin Giurfa, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Congress Committee for the next International Congress of Neuroethology, and Axel Michelsen, Chair of Local Organizing Committee. Other members of the Congress Committee are listed below. The Congress will be held in Nyborg, Denmark, on August 9th through 13th, 2004; mark your calendars now! The purpose of this report is to remind all members that the deadline for submitting a proposal for a symposium is **AUGUST 1, 2003**. The original instructions follow, along with some additional information.

Symposia: All symposia will be two hours in length and will include four speakers (that way, people can switch between talks in different symposia if they wish). Proposals should be e-mailed to Sarah Bottjer (bottjer@usc.edu), with the following information:

- your name and affiliation
- the title of your proposed symposium
- the basic theme or area the symposium would represent
- a list of the proposed speakers and a brief (2-5 sentence) summary of each presentation

- why the symposium topic is timely, interesting, & important
- the overall objectives of the symposium

Diversity guidelines. Symposium organizers should make every effort to include:

- appropriate representation of women and individuals from underrepresented (minority) groups
- a good balance between established and new investigators
- broad international representation
- the Committee may make suggestions for substituting speakers

Answers to FAQ's:

You should obtain a commitment from all four of your speakers that they will attend the meeting if the symposium is approved.

Regarding reimbursement of costs for speakers, at this point in time you can tell people that we may be able to help cover some portion of attendance costs. However, we won't know our exact financial situation until we see how many people register for the Congress and how much funding we obtain from various granting agencies, etc.

People who spoke at the last Congress are ineligible to speak at this one, and in general it is preferable to propose people who have not spoken at the last two Congresses.

The complete membership of the Congress Committee follows. We look forward to seeing you in Denmark next summer!

Sarah Bottjer (Chair), Los Angeles, CA, USA
Martin Giurfa (Vice-Chair), Toulouse, France
Barbara Beltz, Wellesley, MA, USA
Elke Buschbeck, Cincinnati, OH, USA
Ken Catania, Nashville, TN, USA
Heather Eisthen, East Lansing, MI, USA
Wulf Gronenberg, Tucson, AZ, USA
Ron Harris-Warrick, Ithaca, NY, USA
Martin Heisenberg, Würzburg, Germany
Hans Hofmann, Cambridge, MA, USA
Gwen Jacobs, Bozeman, MT, USA
Ryohei Kanzaki, Tsukuba, Japan
Eric Knudsen, Stanford, CA, USA
Hector Maldonado, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Alison Mercer, Dunedin, New Zealand
Cindy Moss, College Park, MD, USA
Axel Michelsen (Chair of Local Organizing Committee), Odense, Denmark
Albert Feng (President of ISN), Urbana, IL, USA ♦



New Members of the ISN Team: *Albin/Walker Web Design*

In February, 2003, The Executive Committee and the Web Oversight and Education Committee (WEOC) developed and disseminated a request for proposals for a web designer to work with the Society webmaster and WEOC to redesign the Society website. The goal is to create a new content-rich Society website that serves as a focal point for promoting research and education in neuroethology. The new website should help foster a sense of community among current ISN members and serve as an educational outreach tool for communicating the importance and excitement of this work to scientists and non-scientists outside of the field.

After analyzing bids from six firms, *Albin/Walker Web Design* was selected for the job. Keith Albin and Wanda Walker of Eugene, Oregon, USA, have a combined experience of 10 years in web design and maintenance. Their additional 20 years of experience in graphic arts, desktop publishing and print design assures clients that their sites will be visually pleasing.

We welcome Keith and Wanda to the ISN team and look forward to exciting changes at our website. ♦



Keith Albin and Wanda Walker of Albin/Walker Web Design, Eugene, Oregon, USA.

Call for Applications: ISN Young Investigator Awards

As has been done for previous Congresses, the ISN will present up to three Young Investigator Awards to neuroethologists who will participate in the 2004 Congress. To be eligible for an award, an individual must: (1) have completed his/her doctoral dissertation and received a doctoral degree in the period 2001-2003; (2) have published a paper based on the dissertation

research (or have had a paper manuscript accepted for publication) by the time of application; and (3) be committed to attending the 2004 Congress in Denmark. Each awardee will receive a waiver of the Congress registration fee, a monetary prize of \$1,000 (which may be used toward the costs of participating in the Congress), and an invitation to give a short research talk in the program at one of the symposia at the Congress.

Each candidate should submit (five copies of each item) a letter of application, a published paper or manuscript that has been accepted for publication, and his/her Curriculum vitae. In addition, he/she should arrange for two letters of recommendation to be sent directly by scientists who know him/her well. These materials must be received, no later than the deadline date of **1 November 2003**, by the President of the ISN: Dr. Albert S. Feng, Beckman Institute, University of Illinois, 405 N. Mathews Avenue, Urbana, Illinois, 61801, USA.

Applications will be evaluated by a Selection Committee appointed by the President and the Chair of the Congress Committee. The three top-rated candidates will be notified as soon as possible, and no later than 1 February, 2004.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply for these awards. Questions may be directed to Albert Feng via e-mail at: afeng1@uiuc.edu. ♦

What do Neuroethologists Want? Summary of the ISN Membership Survey

Arthur N. Popper (apopper@umd.edu)
Univ. of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA

As many of you may recall, the Long Range Planning (LRP) Committee asked members to respond to a questionnaire about the Society and its activities. I am pleased to report that we received 291 responses out of a total membership of 531, a truly excellent response. Of those responding, 69% were from North America and 69% hold tenured or tenure track positions. (These percentages fairly accurately represent the demographics of ISN, suggesting that the responses are a good representation of our membership.) Of those responding, 77% were male and the age distribution was pretty evenly distributed except at the higher ages (over 65).

We touched on several areas of interest to the leadership of ISN. The first issue concerned the newsletter and our recent attempts to move it to a PDF format for downloading by members. Of the respondees, 79% like PDF and only 9% did not like it (the remainder had no preference). Again, 70% of the members prefer getting the newsletter as a PDF file, while 15% prefer HTML, and 15% prefer hard copy. In written comments, a number of people noted that they had, for some reason, trouble downloading the PDF

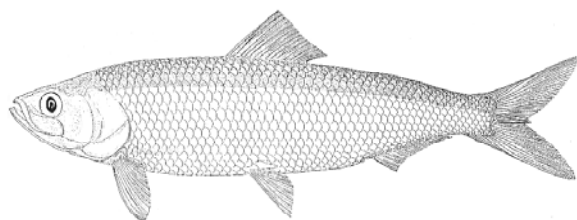
files, but the results indicate that this is only about 9% of the membership. These people can have hard copies of the newsletter sent to them if they request this from our management firm. One-third of members print out the PDF to read off-line, 33% do not, and the remainder print it out from time to time.

We asked about various features of the newsletter. In asking for information about which newsletter features we should increase or decrease, every question got about 50% saying they want more of something and 50% saying that we had the right amount of the same material. At the same time, over 80% of the membership liked each of the specific features we include (Society news, long articles, book reviews, etc.). The only topic that generated a resounding request for increases in content was for articles about young investigators. Over 90% of the membership approves of the newsletter as it is now set up.

We also asked about our international conferences. We were curious to see if members would like to have conferences alternate between North America and other places and 47% of the members supported this idea. As for the 2007 conference, 38% wanted it in North America, 35% wanted it in Australia-New Zealand, 18% preferred Europe and 11% preferred Asia.

As for the meeting itself, 64% wanted posters to remain in place overnight, a majority wanted no increase in the number of plenary talks (and there was no support to decrease the number), 68% wanted a half-day break in the middle of the meeting, and 83% wanted evening sessions only some nights of the meeting rather than every night. There was a strong degree of support (78%) for having special interest group get-togethers of some sort but without a formal agenda, and 67% of members wanted to continue the triennial meetings. It is important to note that fully 85% of members wanted smaller, but many more, scholarships to support attendance at the meeting by younger members.

Additional questions were asked about the web site and these have been shared with the appropriate committees. Finally, since the next Congress will take place in Denmark, we asked about the frequency at which herring should be served at meals. I grant that the question was biased, but that is because I have a strong personal preference for serving my favorite experimental animal at meetings. Interestingly, 55% of members indicated that they supported having herring at every meal, whereas 40% wanted it only as snacks.



The Pacific herring, Clupea pallasii. Illustration courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA.

On behalf of the ISN leadership and the Long Range Planning Committee, our thanks for your active participation in our survey. ♦

Book Review: *Behavior and its Neural Control in Gastropod Molluscs*, by Ronald Chase

Paul Benjamin (P.R.Benjamin@sussex.ac.uk)
Univ. of Sussex, UK

This is not a 'big questions' book but a compendium of interesting information about the neuroethology of gastropod molluscs. The book provides an authoritative account of the wide behavioral repertoire and its neural control in a group of animals that have been attractive to neurobiologists because of the relative ease of identifying neurons and investigating neural circuitry in the CNS. The book is carefully researched and has a lively style. I liked the dry humor of much of the writing. The author shows that the behavior of gastropod molluscs is not as dull and insignificant as many of you may have thought. Gastropods can be cannibalistic, show aggressive behaviour towards conspecifics, home to your beloved vegetable patch after displacement into your neighbor's garden and shoot love darts at sexual partners (the inaccuracy of their aim in this sexual behaviour may have given rise to the phrase 'shooting yourself in the foot,' page 190).

The structure of the book is quite traditional. Starting with general features of gastropod morphology and systematics (chapter 1), it goes on to describe the organization of the CNS (2), Sensory Systems (3), Muscles and PNS (4), Regulation of the Internal Environment (4) and Locomotion (5). Perhaps most important for the non-molluscan specialist are the subsequent chapters (7-10) on Feeding, Reproduction, Defence and the Temporal Organization of Behaviour. These chapters review information that has become of general importance to neuroethologists, such as the neural mechanisms underlying learning and memory, feeding central pattern generators and modulation and the hormonal control of reproductive behaviour by neuropeptides. Each chapter starts with an overview of the topic and then concentrates on giving further information on those systems where the neural mechanisms are best understood. This is a sensible approach and one most appropriate for such a large topic.

The examples are well chosen and accurately described, with no obvious species chauvinism. The bibliography is a carefully selected list of the most important papers/reviews and will allow access to the more detailed literature. The 'neuron index' will be particularly useful for aging gastropod enthusiasts (like me) who can never remember the names of their colleagues' favorite cells. I would recommend this book to both first time and

experienced molluscan researchers (the latter can leave out the early chapters) but it should also appeal to a more general audience interested in comparative neuroethology.

Behavior and its Neural Control in Gastropod Molluscs, by Ronald Chase, is published by Oxford University Press, New York, 2002. ISBN 0-19-511314-4.



2002 ISN Annual Financial Report

Prepared by Sheryl Coombs, ISN Treasurer
(scoombs@luc.edu).

As of 12/31/02

Total Assets as of 12/31/01:	\$262,350.09
Cash Assets:	\$40,314.88
Investment Assets:	\$222,035.21

Cash Revenues in 2002:	\$25,810.62
Membership Dues:	\$22,031.00
Investment Income (Net)	\$3,289.85
Savings Interest	\$304.77
Donations:	\$185.00
Congress	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00

Investment Portfolio: Gain/Loss (market value)	
Year to Date	(\$3,368.68)
Cumulative Since Inception (1994)	\$73,584.56

Expenses in 2002:	(\$19,773.43)
Operating Expenses	(\$19,773.43)
Congress Expenses	\$0.00

Revenues minus Expenses:	\$6,037.19
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Total Assets as of 12/31/02:	\$261,728.76
Cash Assets:	\$26,353.44
Investment Assets:	\$235,375.32

Thanks to our Donors!

A special thanks to ISN members who donated funds this year for several of our new initiatives, including the student travel award. Initiatives like these will be funded by donations and revenues from other sources (e.g., net cash flow, investment income etc). If you donated money this year and we somehow missed your name, please contact ISN Treasurer Sheryl Coombs (scoombs@luc.edu) and your name will be included in the next newsletter. Donations are welcome at any time and can be sent to ISN in care of Panacea Associates (see address on page 1).

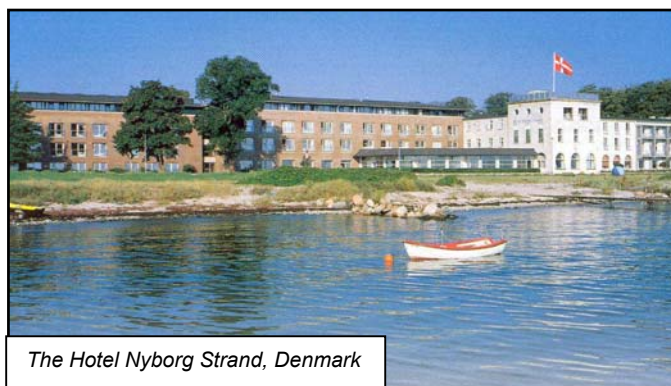
Anne Bekoff
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Jaap Dubbeldamn
Danial Eberl
Peggy Edds-Walton
Al Feng
Franz Huber
Ed Kravitz
Hans-Joachim Pflüger
Susan Volman
Eric Warrant
Konrad Wiese◆

Hotel Nyborg Strand: the 2004 ISN Congress Venue

Axel Michelsen (A.Michelsen@biology.sdu.dk)
Univ. of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

The 7th International Congress of Neuroethology will take place at Hotel Nyborg Strand in Denmark from August 9 to 13, 2004. The local organizing committee consists of professors Annemarie Surlykke, Lee A. Miller, Ole Naesbye Larsen, Jakob Christensen-Dalsgaard, and Axel Michelsen (chair) of the Neurobiology Research Group at the Institute of Biology, University of Southern Denmark, in Odense. Nyborg ("Newcastle" in Danish) is a town on the island Funen. The hotel (see below) is beautifully located at the beach of the Great Belt. It houses several conference rooms, a large restaurant and 264 single and double rooms. Most participants will stay at the hotel, but cheaper accommodation in nearby hotels will also be available. We plan to issue the First Announcement to the members in September, 2003. ◆



The Hotel Nyborg Strand, Denmark

Meetings and Courses

New Gordon Conference on *Genes and Behavior*

There is a new Gordon Conference series called "Genes and Behavior." The goal is to foster a broad approach to this topic by bringing together scientists who primarily use model genetic systems to study behavior, with scientists who primarily use model behavioral sys-

tems to study behavior. The conference series seeks to help foster a synthesis that involves molecular biology, neuroscience, behavior, ecology and evolutionary biology; lab and field studies; and both mechanistic and evolutionary perspectives. Sessions for the first conference will be devoted to the following topics: social structure; foraging and ingestive behavior; sensory systems and communication; behavior analysis in model genetic systems; nature/nurture; theoretical approaches to genes & behavior; and reproductive behavior. The first Gordon Conference on Genes and Behavior will be held 8-13 February, 2004, in Ventura, California, USA. For information on registration please check <http://www.grc.org/>. Gene Robinson, Conference Chair; Bob Hitzeman, Vice-Chair; Chris Boake, Felix Breden and Allen Moore, Program Committee. ♦

Positions available

Postdoctoral position in genetics and neurobiology of *Drosophila* behavior, at the California Institute of Technology (USA). The research will focus on the sensory-motor integration of flight and foraging, with the goal of understanding the neural basis of higher order behaviors such as choice, sensory fusion, or learning and memory. The laboratory emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to the study of behavior that incorporates aspects of biology, engineering, and mathematics. The goal of future research is to integrate these approaches with molecular genetic techniques. Candidates must have completed a Ph.D. in Biology, with an emphasis in the genetics and molecular biology of *Drosophila*. The initial appointment is for one year, with possibility of renewal. Caltech is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer; women, minorities, veterans, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply. Please send a letter of interest, CV and the names of three references to: Michael Dickinson, Professor of Bioengineering, Caltech, Mail Code 138-78, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA. ♦

Postdoctoral position in auditory development. A postdoctoral research associate position is available to study the development of auditory and vestibular systems across metamorphosis in anuran amphibians. Our laboratory uses electrophysiological, immunohistochemical, and molecular genetic techniques to examine development and maturation of middle ear, inner ear, and central nuclei during the behavioral transition from an aquatic lifestyle to an amphibious one. Requirements include a Ph.D. in systems neuroscience, biological psychology, or related field; and expertise in either single neuron electrophysiology or neuroanatomy. Salary is commensurate with NIH guidelines. We are part of the Brain Science Program at Brown (www.brainscience.brown.edu), a highly interactive group comprising 75 faculty from 10 different departments, emphasizing research in experimental and theoretical neuroscience. Interested individuals should send CV, statement of

research interests, copies of publications, and names of 2 referees to A.M. Simmons, Dept. of Psychology, Brown University, Box 1853, Providence RI, 02912, USA. Preferred starting date: Fall 2003. E-mail: Andrea_Simmons@brown.edu. AA/EEO. ♦

Postdoctoral position available in nonhuman primate communication and cognition. Three years' of funding is available for a post-doc interested in working on (1) the natural vocal communication of both cotton-top tamarins and common marmosets and (2) the perceptual and computational mechanisms that nonhuman primates share with humans *vis a vis* our capacity for language. Interested candidates should have a strong background in acoustics and expertise in at least one or more of the following areas: psycholinguistics, animal communication, neuroethology, animal cognition. Applicants should both look at our web site for recent publications on these topics (www.wjh.harvard.edu/~mnkylab) and also contact Marc Hauser by e-mail at mdhauser@wjh.harvard.edu. Marc Hauser, Department of Psychology, Primate Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, Program in Neurosciences, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 02138, USA. ♦

Applications are invited from **potential graduate students** utilizing insect flight as a model neuroethological system. Current projects in the lab focusing on the neuronal basis of behaviour include visually-evoked flight manoeuvres in locusts and odour-guided flight of moths. Facilities available include standard and high speed video recording in conjunction with 3-dimensional analysis of flight tracks and body/wing kinematics, a wind tunnel to study free or tethered flight, a virtual reality-based flight simulator to study flight manoeuvres along with flight muscle and/or neuronal activity and a multichannel recording system to study patterns of multi-neuronal activity during flight manoeuvres. A detailed description of these facilities can be found at www.usask.ca/biology/gray. For further information on application, and scholarship and teaching assistantships, contact: Dr. Jack Gray, Assistant Professor Department of Biology, 112 Science Place, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E2, Canada. e-mail: jack.gray@usask.ca. ♦

Material for Future ISN Newsletters

We welcome material for future newsletters in a number of categories. Advertisements for positions are limited to 150 words. Announcements of new books (copyright 2003) *written or edited by ISN members* should include the full citation information (including ISBN) plus a 40-50 word description of the book (note: if an ISN member contributes only a chapter to a book it is not appropriate for inclusion in the newsletter).

We also welcome announcements of future meetings, reports on recent meetings, discussions of research areas or topics of interest to neuroethologists, laboratory profiles, editorials, and obituaries. Word limits depend on the type of article. Have an idea for an article that you or someone else would write? Contact the Secretary!

All material must be submitted electronically, preferably as a file attached to an e-mail message. Send queries or submissions to Janis Weeks (weeks@uoneuro.uoregon.edu). The deadline for the November issue is **October 15, 2003**. ♦

- Natural resources: petroleum, natural gas, fish, salt, limestone, stone, gravel and sand
- Total fertility rate: 1.73 children born/woman (2002 est.)
- Ethnic groups: Scandinavian, Inuit, Faroese, German, Turkish, Iranian, Somali

From *The World Factbook*, 2002 ♦



Did you know.....?

Facts about Denmark, site of our 2004 Congress

- Geographic coordinates: 56 00 N, 10 00 E
- Lowest point: Lammefjord -7 m
- Highest point: Yding Skovhoej 173 m
- Population: 5,368,854 (July 2002 est.)
- Literacy rate: (*i.e.*, those age 15 and over who can read and write) 100%
- Languages: Danish, Faroese, Greenlandic (an Inuit dialect), German (small minority). English is the predominant second language
- Government type: constitutional monarchy

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