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NEWSLETTER – Nr. 1 August 2004

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to update you with the latest news from the ENEA, especially from the Executive Committee. This Newsletter includes:

- I. A word from the new President
- II. Replacement of members on the ENEA Executive Committee
- III. Summary of the General Assembly of the ENEA held in Sorrento on april 26, 2004
- IV. Journal information and membership fees
- V. Report on the 11th ENEA meeting in Sorrento, April 24-27, 2004
- VI. ENEA Website
- VII. Forthcoming ENEA meeting 2006

Looking forward seeing you soon,

Albert Beckers
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I. A word from the new President

As some of you may know, at the recent meeting in Sorrento, described in detail by Annamaria Colao, I was elected as the new President of the ENEA. For those of you who voted for me, many thanks, and for those of you who did not, well, I hope I can prove to you that the ENEA is in good hands. It will be remarkably difficult for Leo Hofland, the new Secretary, and myself to live up to the excellent work carried out by our previous President, Philippe Jaquet, and our Secretary, Sue Webb. Under their careful guidance, and the previous Executive Committee, the ENEA has grown increasingly in size and influence, and you will see from the enclosed letter from Annamaria Colao that the recent meeting in Sorrento was the best attended yet. There was a quite remarkable attendance of members from all over the world, who supported and enjoyed a magnificent programme. In addition, under the ever-careful stewardship of our Treasurer, Rolf Gaillard, our finances are increasingly healthy. It is from this position of strength that we are now making our plans for the next meeting, which is provisionally arranged for October 2006 in Athens. It is never too early to plan these meetings, and already Ezio Ghigo, Chairman of the Programme Organising Committee, has been putting together a provisional programme with the POC, and Nick Thalassinou and Stelianos Tsagarakis have been arranging conference facilities and hotel accommodation. It will certainly be difficult to surpass our best ever meeting, but I am sure that the ENEA will become even more important in world neuroendocrinology. With the accession of the new states to the European Union in June 2004, Europe is set to be a large and potent force in international science and clinical medicine, and the ENEA wishes to be part of this.

Enough with triumphalism, I would just like to stress to you that both I and the whole of the Executive Committee are still fundamentally the servants of our membership, and hope to reflect your views and aspirations. We seek to represent the very best of basic science and clinical neuroendocrinology, throughout Europe and beyond. Indeed, it was recently suggested that we should incorporate on the Executive Committee a member for International Relations, bearing in mind the large number of people outside of mainland Europe who have attended our recent meetings. We do indeed welcome membership from anyone, anywhere in the world, and I would be very pleased to receive your views on this innovation. It cannot occur without a change to our Constitution, voted on at our AGM, but I would appreciate hearing any of your own views on this subject. I would also emphasise that we hope to work well and harmoniously with all of our sister organisations, including the International Society of Neuroendocrinology, the Pituitary Society, and the European Federation of Endocrine Societies. The latter is now set to move momentarily to a formal society itself, with individual membership and annual meetings. I believe that this will drastically change the perspective of endocrinology in Europe, and I personally greatly welcome this innovation. **However, it provides a new challenge for us to decide whether we wish to continue with our own biennial meetings in collaboration with, but separate in time and place from, the fledgling European Endocrine Association, or whether our**



meeting should be specifically combined with them. There are certainly arguments for both, and I would again appreciate any views that you may wish to send to me, by post or e-mail, which we can use to inform our discussions.

Finally, I would like to emphasise that you can read this Newsletter either directly by post or on our improved website, which is now in the capable hands of Yona Greenman.

Wishing you all the best for a happy and successful year.

ASHLEY GROSSMAN

II. Replacement of members of the ENEA Executive Committee

At the General Assembly of the ENEA held in Sorrento, april 26th, 2004, four members have ended their term of office (Philippe Jaquet-President, Susan Webb-Secretary, Eva-Marie Erfurth and Michael Buchfelder-Officers.) We thank Philippe, Susan, Eva-Marie and Michael for their excellent work.

Ashley Grossman and Leo Hofland have been elected as the new President and Secretary, respectively. Yona Greenman, Anton Luger, Alain Enjalbert and Christian Strasburger have been elected as new Officers.

III. Summary of the General Assembly of the ENEA held in Sorrento on april 26, 2004

President's report: P. Jaquet mentions this has been the largest ever ENEA meeting. He thanks S. Webb, R. Gaillard, A. Beckers for hard work over the last years. He also informs us that the legal seat of ENEA is now in Switzerland, which is necessary to guarantee tax reimbursement from scientific meetings, and that in addition to the main ENEA sponsors up to now (Novartis and Ipsen), Pfizer has now joined as a main sponsors of the Association.

Secretary's report: S. Webb mentions that there has been a 20% increase in the number of ENEA members over the last 4 years.

Treasurer's report: R. Gaillard reviews the ENEA assets, expenses and incomes, with a balance at the end of 2003 of 170'023,19 Sfrs. The 174 paying members in 2003 represent 53% of the members on the ENEA list and he proposes to delete those who have not paid for 2 years after repeated reminders.



A. Colao proposes that if they pay for 2004, they will be considered members as from 2004.

A. Beckers has confirmed that the Newsletters goes out twice a year.

N. Thalassinos presented a video on the venue for ENEA 2006 in Athens, probably at the beginning of October.

Votes from the Executive committee of ENEA: 69 votes in total:

- President A. Grossman 64 votes
- Secretary L. Hofland 58 votes
- Officers: A. Enjalbert 59 votes, Y. Greenman 56 votes, A. Luger 56 votes, C. Strasburger 59 votes

Future venues: L. Hofland presented a video on Rotterdam as a venue for the 2008 ENEA meeting, while Istanbul presented another one for future venues. The final decisions on these venues must be taken by the new Executive Committee of the ENEA.

IV. Journal information and membership fees

As a subscription for a journal is not mandatory anymore, the number of subscriptions in 2003 has decreased significantly. Rolf Gaillard informs us that S.Karger AG, Basel has accepted a proposal for a special offer (Euro 33.-/year) to the members of the ENEA for an *online-only* subscription to ***Neuroendocrinology***. Application for this offer should be made through the ENEA Treasurer's office.



V. Report on the 11th ENEA meeting in Sorrento, April 24-27, 2004

From the April 24 to 27, 2004 the 11th Meeting of the ENEA took place in Sorrento (Naples, Italy) under the presidency of Professor Gaetano Lombardi (Department of Molecular and Clinical Endocrinology and Oncology, “Federico II” University, Naples, Italy).

The aim of the ENEA, which was founded in 1984 in Switzerland, is to support and to integrate pre-clinical and clinical studies in Neuroendocrinology in Europe. In order to further this aim, a biennial ENEA meeting takes place in different European cities. The ENEA meeting of Sorrento in 2004 was the most successful ENEA meeting yet, and the best attended ENEA meeting, representing a highlight in the history of the ENEA. Indeed, the ENEA meeting was attended by around 1150 participants, including 1000 physicians and 150 co-workers in the pharmaceutical and bio-technical industries from around 50 different countries. During the ENEA meeting, around 400 scientific abstracts and contributions from 40 different countries were presented in terms of 5 plenary lectures, 11 symposia, 12 Meet the Expert, 7 Oral Communications Sessions, including 42 different communications, and 14 Poster Sessions, and 2 satellite workshops.

The major clinical topics of the meeting included the introduction of new generation of somatostatin analogues and the potential synergy of somatostatin analogs and dopamine agonists in the treatment of endocrine and neuroendocrine tumors, innovations in growth hormone therapy, new potential treatments in acromegaly and Cushing’s disease, and the recent studies on cortistatin and ghrelin. In particular, **Dr. A. Saveanu** reported important data suggesting that bipotent or tripotent somatostatin-dopamine drugs may control GH secretion more effectively than currently available sst₂ analogs in somatotroph pituitary tumors; **Prof. P. Trainer** reported the results of treatment with pegvisomant, while **Prof. A.J. van der Lely** described the potential usefulness and reported preliminary data on treatment with the universal somatostatin ligand SOM 230 in acromegaly. Moreover, **Dr. R. Pivonello** reported that long-term treatment with the dopamine agonist cabergoline was effecting in controlling cortisol hypersecretion in 40% of patients with Cushing’s disease, while **Dr. F. Pecori Giraldi** reported that the PPAR agonist rosiglitazone was only able to induce an occasional and transitory control of cortisol hypersecretion in Cushing’s disease.

The 5 plenary lectures of the meeting included the lecture of the Foundation IPSEN price and 4 plenary lectures on relevant issue in Neuroendocrinology.

The lecture of Prof. Steve Bloom (London, UK) was focused on the role of gastrointestinal hormones in the brain; he described the different effects that the gastrointestinal hormones exert on the brain and the sophisticated relationship between the central nervous system and the gastrointestinal functions in physiological and pathological conditions.

The lecture of Prof. Luis Manuel Garcia-Segura (Madrid, Spain) was focused on the role of oestrogens in the regulation of brain development and plasticity; he reported some relevant studies demonstrating that in addition to the classical targets represented by the endocrine and reproductive areas, oestrogens affect learning and cognition, prevent neuronal death and may affect the onset and progression of several neurodegenerative and affective disorders, as well as the recovery from traumatic neurological injury.

The lecture of **Prof. Eve van Cauter (Chicago, Illinois, USA)** was focused on the relationship between sleep and neuroendocrine regulation; she described the strict association between sleep and sleep deprivation and the changes in the endocrine and neuroendocrine systems demonstrating that the disturbances in sleep may cause a variety of disturbances of hormonal secretion and metabolism which may have significant clinical implications. The consequences of these findings are that strategies to improve sleep duration and quality could have beneficial hormonal and metabolic effects.

The lecture of **Prof. Paul Kelly (Paris, France)** related to his findings on GH and PRL receptor structure and function obtained by the studies on GH and PRL receptor knock-out mice. This model helps us understand the different roles of GH and PRL throughout the body in rodents. The research group of Prof. Paul Kelly found that PRL is fundamental in reproduction and metabolism whereas GH is most relevant to reproduction and skeletal structure and function in rodents.

The topics of the symposia were: neuroendocrine-immunology, neurohormone regulation of neoplastic cell growth, hypothalamic control of feeding and reproduction, transcription factors and gene expression, GH deficiency and GH excess, Cushing's disease, somatostatin analogues, cortistatin and neurosurgery. The oral communications and poster sessions cover all the important issues in neuroendocrinology.

In association with the ENEA meeting 2004, a meeting of the **International Society of Pituitary Neurosurgeons** took place as ENEA satellite Meeting in Capri on April 22-24, 2004. The meeting focused on all the relevant aspects in the technical advances of pituitary neurosurgery and pituitary pathology.

In summary, The 11th ENEA Meeting provided a state of the art overview of the full field of neuroendocrinology and an excellent occasion for informative discussions and debates with colleagues from all over the world.

The next ENEA Meeting will take place in **Athens (Greece)** in 2006.

Awards

The second Foundation Ipsen price was awarded to **Prof. Robert J. Lefkowitz (Chevy Chase, Maryland, USA)** for his research on "Seven membrane spanning receptors and their regulation". Robert J. Lefkowitz is Professor of Medicine and Professor of Biochemistry at the Duke University Medical Center. His scientific work centred on the regulation of seven membrane spanning receptors. He has published extensively on the molecular mechanisms of the regulation of expression and function of seven membrane spanning receptors. His discoveries have been fundamental in the endocrinology research field and are at the basis of important clinical developments.

At the ENEA Meeting the best oral communication in clinical and basic research and the 5 best posters were awarded to:

Oral Communications:

Clinical: Hernan Valdes-Socin (Belgium)

Male hypogonadism caused by isolated LH deficiency: from pathology to gene, from gene to physiology

Basic: Manuel Tena Sempere (Spain)

Orexin 1 receptor messenger ribonucleic acid expression and stimulation of testosterone secretion by orexin-A in rat testis.

Posters:

1) Luigi Maria Cavallo (Italy)

Endoscopic transnasal approach to the laterosellar compartment (LSC) versus transcranial route. Anatomical study.

2) Diego Ferone (Italy)

Effect of somatostatin, somatostatin analogues, cabergoline and the chimeric somatostatin-dopamine molecule BIM 23-A370 on pituitary adenoma cell proliferation.

3) Anna Gruszka (Poland)

The effect of selective sst₁, sst₂, sst₅ somatostatin receptors agonists and a somatostatin/dopamine (SST/DA) chimera on the "clinically non functioning" pituitary adenomas in vitro.

4) Christina Maier (Austria)

Specific glucocorticoid binding sites on the cell membrane of the AtT-20 cell line

5) Dania Russo (Italy)

Growth hormone directly inhibits apoptosis in a human colonic cell lines (CACO2): antagonistic effects of peroxisome proliferation activated receptor-ligands.

Annamaria Colao

VI. ENEA Website

Yona Greenman is in charge of the ENEA website (www.eneassoc.org). Please visit the site, where you can find the membership and subscription forms and links to other Societies and Journals. A list of members is also available from the Membership page of the website as a password-protected Acrobat file. On request, the password can be provided by the Secretary (L. Hofland: secretary.enea@erasmusmc.nl). If you detect any error in your address, please inform the Secretary, preferably by e-mail. A pdf file of the Newsletter can be found on the website as well.

VII. Forthcoming ENEA meeting in 2006

The next Meeting of the European Neuroendocrine Association will be held in Athens, Greece, from October 21-23, 2006. The venue of the Meeting is the International Conference Centre, Megaron, The Athens Concert Hall. As indicated in the note from the President, N. Thalassinou and S. Tsagarakis are the local Organizers of the 2006 ENEA Meeting in Athens. E. Ghigo is chairman of the Program Organizing Committee.