

Editorial



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This last issue of the NEL for this year 2001, Volume 22, is in line with the concept of transdisciplinarity of the Neuroendocrinology Letters which we have tried consistently to apply throughout our editorial policy since 1997.

The recent move to include to the Aim and Scope of the NEL besides Psychoneuroimmunology and Chronobiology also Neuropsychopharmacology, Reproductive Medicine and Human Ethology has influenced the content of each issue and significantly broadened the extent of topics and themes published and discussed in this Journal. This expansion also has brought with it a broader and more comprehensive team of peer-reviewers, independent scientists from all the above mentioned fields. At the same time has this enlargement contributed to the integrative philosophy of this Journal and while doing so, there was no “multidisciplinary” split of the main theme but on the contrary, rather an “Inter- and transdisciplinary cross-fertilization” of “individual, different instruments playing in the same orchestra” and conducted by a consistent, coherent and harmonious editorial policy.

This development mirrors also the enlargement and meaningful, purposeful augmentation of the Editorial Board by invited distinguished colleagues from all the fields attached to and affiliated, associated and integrated with the Neuroendocrinology Letters and within the frame of the Integrated Neurosciences.

In the previous issue of the NEL (Vol 22, No 5, October 2001) we included the field of Human Ethology, started publishing scientific papers from this field and invited distinguished scientists from this field to join the Editorial Board.

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you today about the appointment of Professor Dr. Med., Dr. h.c. **Günter Dörner**, Director Emeritus, Inst. for Experimental Endocrinology, Charité, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, as an Honorary Editor of the Neuroendocrinology Letters. Professor Dörner has served as a Member of the Editorial Board of the NEL for many years and has significantly contributed to its scientific profile in various stages of the Journal's development. In this issue we publish his personal portrait, a review article entitled “Genetic and Epigenetic Effects on Sexual Brain Organization Mediated by Sex Hormones” and A Statement on the Status on Homosexuality. I also would like to mention, that Professor Dörner, together with Professor Derek Gupta, the founder and former Editor-in-Chief of the Neuroendocrinology Letters, was a very devoted friend of the International Society of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Medicine (ISPPM). He contributed significantly in two memorable ISPPM congresses: 1986

in Badgastein, Austria, where he contributed his most important paper, entitled “*Significance of Hormone Dependent Brain Development and Pre-and Early Postnatal Psychophysiology for Preventive Medicine*” [1] and in 1989 in Jerusalem, Israel, where his *Declaration on Homosexuality* was approved by the Congress.

Professor Dörner is at the same time appointed Honorary Editor of the International Journal Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Medicine along with Professor **Rudolf Klimek** (who also contributes to this issue of the NEL) and Professor **Vít Unzeitig**, Chair of the Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynecology, of the Medical Faculty at the Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, outstanding authority on perinatology in Europe, Member of the Executive Board of FIGO and the Executive Board of EAGO, and a Past President of the Czech Gynaecological Society, Czech Medical Society J.E. Purkyne.

Another appointments to the Editorial Board of the Neuroendocrinology Letters is that of Professor **Igor Knyazkin**, Director of the Scientific and Clinical Center of Urogenital Diseases, St. Petersburg, Russia, together with Professor RNDr. **Richard Kvetnansky**, Ph.D.,D.Sc., Director of the Institute of Experimental Endocrinology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Centre of Excellence EU, Editor-in-Chief of *Endocrine Regulations*. Both colleagues graciously accepted my invitation to join the Editorial Board of the NEL and their scientific cooperation with the Journal.

In the most recent issue of the NEL, Vol. 22, No 5, October 2001, we had published the Clinical Study (as a Letter to the Editor) by Dr. **Ruediger Lorenz**, Pediatrician from Bad Wildungen, Germany. It is my intention to encourage colleagues from Praxis to contribute to the NEL and I have invited Dr Lorenz to join the Editorial Board in order to furnish this very often neglected field of integration of praxis and science and I call for case studies, clinical reports etc. to be published in the Neuroendocrinology Letter.

It is my great pleasure and privilege to announce the appointment to the Editorial Board of the NEL of the very distinguished French Colleague, Professor **Salzet**, who very kindly accepted my invitation and who contributed to this issue of the NEL an Original Paper entitled “*Cellular Localization of a Renin-like Enzyme in Leeches*” (together with Martine Verger-Bocquet) and a Review Paper entitled “*Immune Response Modulation by Opioids in Mammals and Invertebrates*”. Both papers are of great significance and relevance in the development on our scientific fields. I am very confident, that we will continue to work on a very creative basis with Professor Salzet in developing new aspects in the related fields of the NEL and especially to amplify an ongoing active cooperation between French Colleagues, Universities and Scientific Institutions and the Neuroendocrinology Letters.

It is with great sadness that we have been notified about the death of one of founders and most significant, leading personalities in the field of Psychoneuroimmunology, Professor George Freeman **Solomon**. My last time with him was in Lugano at the Congress of ISNIM, where he in his eloquent manner and elegancy moderated a Symposium. It was also where he and I started a project of Cooperation between the Society of Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) and the Neuroendocrinology Letters. In coming issues we will commemorate him by publishing some of his recent scientific work and philosophical thoughts. He was a great scientist, an outstanding personality and a good friend. We will miss him deeply.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Jon RG Turner for his most friendly and generous help and with his invaluable advice concerning the English Language of this Journal.

In this issue of the NEL I would like to introduce you some new and some “old” authors who have contributed their most distinguished scientific work.

Abdel-Raheim M.A. **Meki**, Ph.D, et al, contributed a noteworthy paper which investigates melatonin's protective effects against aflatoxin B1. This has not been studied previously and the paper summarizes an important series of studies.

Professor Dr. Haluk **Kelestimur** with his colleagues from the Firat University, Elazig, Turkey, in their paper “*Effects of Pinealectomy on the Circadian Release Pattern of Leptin in Male Rat*” describes the relationship of the pineal gland and melatonin with leptin, which is currently a very “hot” topic. Several scientific teams are working on these associations and the results are most promising. These authors have previously published several papers in this area and their findings have been duplicated by others.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to our Associate Editor Professor **Russel Reiter**, Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Pineal Research* for reviewing the two above mentioned papers.

Professor Vladimir **Anisimov** with his colleagues, investigated the effect of melatonin on the prevention of breast cancer and the authors describe in their most elegant study the influence of the light/dark regimen and melatonin treatment in the development of spontaneous mammary tumors in HER-2/neu mice suggesting a melatonin-dependent modulation of HER-2/neu gene expression in mammary adenocarcinoma.

In this issue we continue with publication of the work by the *Recipients of Zdenek Klein Award for Human Ethology*, from the Ludwig-Boltzmann-Institute for Urban Ethology, University of Vienna (Bernhard **Fink**, Karl **Grammer**), together with their colleagues Frank **Muscarella** from the Barry University, USA and Michael **Kirk-Smith** from the University of Ulster, UK, entitled “*Homosexual Orientation in Males: Evolutionary and Ethological Aspects*”.

This paper along with the publications by Prof. Dörner in this issue demonstrate explicitly the very complex, current and tangible problem in the field of human sexuality and its impact on the individual's continuum with all genetic, psychological and environmental influences.

Papers from this and related fields of Human Ethology by the above mentioned authors and other distinguished international scientists will be published in the NEL on a continuous basis.

The Invited Review by Professor Rudolf **Klimek** entitled “*Biology of Cancer: Thermodynamic Answers to Some Questions*” is a reflexion to the Review Article by Professor Trimbak **Chapekar** “*Biology of Cancer: Some Question to Answer*”, which appeared in the *Neuroendocrinology Letters* Vol. 22 No. 5, Oct. 2001.

Here I would like to mention that my first meeting with Professor Klimek (which developed to life-long deep friendship) was at occasion of Prof. Klimek's greatly appreciated guest lecture about the thermodynamic theory of cancer in Stockholm in 1985.

I also would like to express my deep gratitude to Dr. Alina **Gajewska** and Professor Kazimierz **Kochman** for their very elegant review paper on GnRH pulsatility and LH subunit genes expression; as well as to our most distinguished colleagues:

Oswaldo J. **Ponzo**, Berta **Szwarcfarb**, Dora **Rondina**, Silvia **Carbone**, Roxana **Reynoso**, Pablo **Scacchi** & Jaime A. **Moguilevsky**;

Sergiu-Bogdan **Catrina**, Elena **Curca**, Anca Irinel **Catrina**, Corina **Radu** & Mihai **Coculescu**;
Günther **Flämig**, Jürgen **Engеле**, Irmlind **Geerling**, Gita **Pezeshki**, Guido **Adler** &
Max **Reinshagen**;
for their invaluable contribution in this issue of the Neuroendocrinology Letters.

In my capacity as the Editor-in-Chief of the Neuroendocrinology Letters, I am extremely happy and proud to have the privilege to inform you that the following distinguished colleagues, all of them repeatedly authors in the NEL and some of them members of the Editorial Board, namely:

Prof. Vladimir **Anisimov**, Prof. Igor **Kvetnoy**, Prof. Fedor **Komarov**, Dr. Nadezhda **Malinovskaia** and Prof. Semen **Rapoport**, have been awarded the **Vasilenko Prize** of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences for the monography “*Melatonin in Gut Physiology and Pathology*”, Moscow, Sovetsky Sport Publishing House, 2000, 184 pp.

The **Vasilenko Prize** is one of the most famous professional awards in Biomedicine in Russia, and is awarded once in each two years for the most important research in general therapy and gastroenterology.

Much data from this monography have been published as separate articles from those authors in the Neuroendocrinology Letters. Many cordial congratulations!

I also would like to announce, that beginning with 2002 the **International Journal of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Medicine** will be published with the subtitle “**The Integrated Prenatal and Perinatal Sciences**” by Neuroendocrinology Letters and the Foundation of Integrated Sciences (FIS). The Journal will appear as now, quarterly and will remain the official journal of the International Society of the Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Medicine, Editor-in-Chief Peter G. Fedor-Freybergh; Associate Editor: Ludwig Janus, Consulting Publisher: Kurt Mattes. Papers in English and German language are welcomed for submission to the Editor-in-Chief.

The Art-and Advetising Director of the Neuroendocrinology Letters, Lili Maas M.A. was on November 1, 2001 appointed the Director of the Editorial Offices of both Neuroendocrinology Letters and International Journal of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Medicine (Integrated Prenatal and Perinatal Sciences).

I also would like to take this opportunity to announce broad interest in creating the **European Society of Neuroimmunomodulation (ESNIM)** among European Colleagues involved with research in this field.

The idea is to emphasize the European identity and specific characteristics of European needs and defined programs and projects as well as to organize European Congresses.

There have been suggestions from some of the leading scientists in the field of Neuroimmunomodulation, based in different European Countries to have the Neuroendocrinology Letters as the official organ of ESNIM. I, in my capacity as the Editor-in-Chief welcome this role for the NEL very positively.

In this context it is important to state, that there is no intention to create any kind of competition, rivalry or any conflicting situation between the new **ESNIM** and the **ISNIM**; quite the contrary, there would be a possibility for a good partnership, completing each other on a complementary and integrative basis.

The membership in one Society would not exclude the membership in the other Society and there could be made a consensus on joint membership with beneficial membership fee and also a joint subscription of the ISNIM's and **ESNIM**'s official Journals. On behalf of the Neuroendocrinology Letters we would welcome this development as constructive and supportive for the independent research and publication possibilities throughout the European Countries and Institutions.

The NEL is especially dedicated to supporting the research and rapid publication possibilities of young promising postgraduate students in European countries.

In order to facilitate the procedures, I would like to ask interested colleagues in **ESNIM** to contact me at editor@nel.edu or Professor Dr. Ario Conti at ario@bluewin.ch to express your interest and commitment to joining the **ESNIM**. Your response is welcome before **January 30, 2002**.

From December 14, 2001, you will find additional information about **ESNIM** on the PRESS ROOM Neuroendocrinology Letters website at www.nel.edu and in the NEL NEWS (upon request) at info@nel.edu.

I would very much appreciate to hear from you in the nearest future.

I conclude with my most cordial Seasons Greetings and very best wishes for the New Year 2002, yours

Peter G. Fedor-Freybergh
Editor-in-Chief

REFERENCE

- 1 Dörner G. Significance of hormone-dependent brain development and pre- and early postnatal psychophysiology for preventive medicine. In: Fedor-Freybergh and Vogel MLV, editors. Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Medicine: Encounter with the Unborn. Lancs New Jersey: The Parthenon Publishing Group; 1988. pp. 419–430.