THE SOCIETY:
MEMBERSHIP AND SPONSORS

Membership of the Society is open to people in established positions, both academic and industrial, who are pursuing research in the chemistry, biochemistry, or biology of peptides, who have had their names on at least one relevant paper or patent, and who live in a constituent country (i.e. one which is represented on the Council - see the last issue of this Newsletter). There is no subscription. Intending members should write to the Secretary, Dr A Loffet (Propeptide, B.P.12, F-91710 Vert-le-Petit, France). In order to keep administrative costs as low as possible, formalities are minimal and no membership cards are issued. The Newsletter is sent free of charge to all members. Changes of address should be notified to the Secretary; if a Newsletter is returned by the Post Office, then the name concerned is deleted from the mailing list. The Society had (on 15 April 1991) 806 members.

The Society is warmly grateful to its subscribing Sponsors for their support. ESCOM, Leiden, and ABIMED, Langenfeld should be added to the list printed in the last issue of this Newsletter.

The Interim (Founding) Executive Committee of the Society

This photograph was taken at the 21st European Peptide Symposium in Platja d’Aro, and shows, from left to right, (1) Professor Medzihradszky and (2) Dr Young - both of whom were among the small group invited by Professor Josef Rudinger to the First European peptide Symposium in 1958 - with (3) Professor Jung, (4) Dr Loffet and (5) Professor Giralt.
When proposing a vote of thanks to our hosts at the Platja d’Aro Symposium last September, I mentioned that I had organised the 5th Symposium at Oxford in 1962. The gasps of surprise - that someone active at that time could still be about - made me realise that many of the participants were too young to recall the earlier history of our subject, and they may be interested to read something of the origins of our Society.

The “break-through” by Bergmann and Zervas in 1932, when they reported the use of benzoyloxy carbonyl amino-protection, was followed by the 1939-45 war, which caused such research to be set aside. Soon after the end of the war a number of groups began, at first unknown to each other, to work on the chemical synthesis of peptides. Among them was Josef Rudinger, then at the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague. His family had come to England as refugees in 1939; his mother had been active in helping Jews to escape from Czechoslovakia after its occupation in 1938, and it became necessary to leave. Josef completed his schooling in York and then entered King’s College, Newcastle, to read chemistry. From 1942 to 1945 he served in the Czech contingent of the Royal Air Force. He completed his B.Sc. degree in 1947, and continued with research there (with G.R. Clemo, on alkaloids) until 1949. He then returned to Prague as a member of a group which later became the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, headed by F.Šorm, and began to work on peptides.

In 1949 I had published a brief note in Nature on the synthesis of gamma-glutamyl peptides, and Josef wrote to me saying that he was working along similar lines and suggesting that we should correspond. This we did, exchanging information on our research regularly. About 1955 he wrote to say that he was hoping to arrange a small meeting in Prague of those in Europe working on the chemical synthesis of peptides; he had been corresponding similarly with others on the Continent, and the climate for East-West scientific meetings had become more favourable. He was unable to get approval at that time, and I then suggested we should arrange a meeting in England. However, the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences agreed to host a symposium in 1958, and thirteen participants from outside Czechoslovakia accepted an invitation to meet in Prague in September of that year. There was the usual difficulty and delay in obtaining a visa; indeed, mine had not arrived before I had to depart, and I recall Josef phoning me (an unusual event through the “iron curtain” at that time) to assure me that he would be at Prague Airport to meet me with the visa. With much trepidation I flew to Prague, expecting that I should be put on the next plane back to London, and my fears were not helped by a severe thunderstorm as we came in to land. Josef was indeed there, and we met for the first time. Guests from outside Czechoslovakia were M. Brenner, St. Goldschmidt, B. Liberek, K. Medzihradsky, M. Rothe, D.W. Russell, M. Shemyakin, T. Sokolowska, E. Taschner, T. Vajda, Th. Wieland, E. Wünsch and myself. Among the hosts were F.Šorm, who presided, J. Honzl, K. Jost, K. Poduška, O. Wichterle, and M. Zoraal. It is worth noting that because of currency restrictions in several countries the Academy of Sciences met the expenses of participants during the meetings; it was largely this factor which led to the custom, in the early meetings, of costs being borne by the host and hence the limitation of numbers by invitation.

During the next three days all the main aspects of the chemical synthesis of peptides were reviewed in considerable detail; I took some of my experimental notebooks with me (and left them on the returning plane, recovering them some two months later). Although sadly I cleared out most of my correspondence with Jo some years later, I have still the Provisional Programme which he sent with a letter dated 24 July, 1958 (the棕色 paper still bears the scent of the laboratory). The headings for the discussion could have been those of many years later: activation of the carboxy-group, racemisation, amino-protection etc. The lengthy discussions were tape-recorded and Jo, with great difficulty and much labour, transcribed them all and they were published in full in the Proceedings (Coll. Czech Chem. Commun., 1959 Special Issue, 24). Papers and the discussions were mainly in German, but Jo (a gifted linguist in German, English, and Russian) interpreted as necessary, for which I was thankful. On the last day we were taken by coach to Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad); alas, the coach broke down, but this gave Mikhail Shemyakin a valuable opportunity for a walk in the country with his future wife, while we awaited a relief coach.

At the symposium dinner, it was generally agreed to have been an invaluable and stimulating exchange of information, and Erich Wünsch proposed that we should meet again, offering to organise a second symposium in Munich the following year. In retrospect, this Prague meeting was a very important meeting indeed, because it was the seed from which sprang not only the European Symposia but also the American and Japanese - and now the new Societies.
CALENDAR OF PEPTIDE MEETINGS AND COURSES

Information has been received about the following scientific meetings and courses which are directly relevant to the interests of members. Organisers are asked to send corrections and updates to the Editor (see the bottom of the last page). It would help if similar information on all relevant meetings could be sent in as a matter of routine in future.

10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IRON AND IRON PROTEINS
Dr TEA Petø, Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU.
AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CALCITONIN GENE-RELATED PEPTIDE
28-31 July 1991, Graz, Austria.
Sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences.
Joyce M Fried, Brain Research Institute, UCLA Centre for the Health Sciences, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1761, USA.
15th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIOCHEMISTRY
4-9 August 1991, Jerusalem.
The programme will include topics of interest to peptide scientists.
15th IUB Congress Secretariat, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 615000, Israel.
2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AMINO ACIDS AND ANALOGUES
5-9 August 1991, Vienna.
Professor Gert Lubec, University of Vienna, Department of Paediatrics, Währinger Gürtel 18, A-1090 Vienna, Austria.

INNOVATION AND PERSPECTIVES IN SOLID PHASE SYNTHESIS: PEPTIDES, POLYPEPTIDES, AND Oligonucleotides
27-31 August 1991, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK.
Professor Roger Epton, School of Applied Sciences, Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SB, UK.
Xth POLISH PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Professor MT Leplawy, Technical University (Politechnica) of Łódź, Institute of Organic Chemistry, 90-924 Łódź, Poland.
A LOCAL PEPTIDE MEETING IN SPAIN
September 1991, Leon.
Details will be announced later.
Professor E Giralt, Facultad de Quimica Organica, Universitat de Barcelona, Marti i Franques, 1-E-08028, Barcelona, Spain.
1ST INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENZYMES IN PEPTIDE SYNTHESIS
Under the auspices of the European Peptide Society.
Professor Dr H D Jakubke, University of Leipzig, Biosciences Division, Department of Biochemistry, Talstr. 33, D-07010, Leipzig, Germany.

THE BAYLISS AND STARLING SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
Gastrin/CCK antagonists and their use in gastrointestinal research.
Professor GJ Dockray, Department of Physiology, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Brownlow Hill Liverpool L69 3BX.
11th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON HPLC OF PROTEINS, PEPTIDES AND POLYNUCLEOTIDES
20-23 October 1991, Washington, DC, USA.
Mrs Janet Cunningham, Barr Enterprises, PO Box 279, Walkersville, MD, USA (Tel 301-898-3772; Fax 301-898-5596).
THE PEPTIDE AND PROTEIN GROUP OF ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY AND THE BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY: 1992 SPRING MEETING
24-26 April 1992, Gregynog, Wales.
Topic yet to be decided. Numbers will be limited.
Professor CNC Drey, King Alfred's College, Winchester, SO22 4NR, UK.

3rd NAPLES WORKSHOP ON BIOACTIVE PEPTIDES
24-27 May 1992, Capri.
Conf ormation activity relationships.
Dr T Toccedi, Istituto Chimica MIB del CNR, Via Toiano, 6, 1-80072 ARCO FELICE (NA), ITALY.

THE MELANOTROPIC PEPTIDES
6-9 September 1992, Rouen, France.
A Conference of the New York Academy of Sciences.
Dr H Vaudry, Laboratory of Molecular Endocrinology, University of Rouen, BP 118, 76134 Mont-Saint-Aign, France.

22nd EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
13-18 September 1992, Interlaken, Switzerland.
For further details and contact information, see above.
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PEPTIDE CHEMISTRY
8-12 November 1992, Shizuoka, Japan.
The language will be English.
Professor S Sakakibara, Protein Research Foundation, 4-1-2 Ina, Minoh-shi, Osaka 562, Japan.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL PEPTIDE SYNTHESIS
September 1993, Oxford Polytechnic, UK.
An introduction to all kinds of methodology in peptide synthesis, aimed at newcomers to the field.
Ms LA Hart, Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1V OBN.
23rd EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Location and exact date are yet to be decided.

BOOK AND NEW JOURNAL NOTICES

Information has been received on the following new books, journals, and conference proceedings which may be of interest to members. Suggestions for future entries in this section should be sent to the Editor (see below): full data should be provided, including the ISBN or ISSN.

AMINO ACIDS
Editors-in-Chief G Lubec and GC Barrett.
First issue expected about mid-1991.
Springer-Verlag.
JOURNAL OF BIOMOLECULAR NMR
Editor-in-Chief K Wütrich.
Vol 1, 1991 (4 issues).
METHODS IN PROTEIN SEQUENCE ANALYSIS
Eds H Jörnvall, J-O Höög, and A-M Gustavsson.

NEUROPEPTIDES AND THEIR RECEPTORS
Alfred Benzon Symposium 29
Eds. TW Schwartz, LM Hilstved, and JF Rehfeld.

PEPTIDES 1990
[Proceedings of the Twenty-First European Peptide Symposium]
Eds. E Giralt and D Andreu.
In subsequent years, Jo visited Oxford regularly; often he stayed in the Fellows' (Staff) Guest Room in Jesus College. In those days the College gates were locked at an early hour of the night, and it was common practice for students to climb into the College after the gate was locked, rather than disturb the porter and incur a fine. One night Jo had stayed out late and was about to climb over the wall when he was accosted by a policeman. Jo readily convinced him that he was a distinguished visitor and the policeman then helped him over the wall.

The Proceedings of the 2nd Symposium at Munich in 1959 were published only in abstract (Angewandte Chemie, 1959, 71, 741); the programme lists 41 participants, with representatives of the Swiss pharmaceutical firms Sandoz (A.R. Boissonnas, St. Guttman), Ciba (B. Iselin, B. Riniker, W. Rittel, R. Schwyzer, P. Sieber, G. Zuber - an impressive array!), Geigy (A. Jöhl), and Hoffmann-La Roche (R. Studer), present for the first time - strong indication of the growing industrial interest. Helmut Zahn described progress in the synthesis of the B-chain of insulin, and for the first time also a "Europäisches Peptid-Komitee" is listed with representatives from Czechoslovakia, B.R.D., D.D.R., Poland, Switzerland, U.K., and U.S.S.R.

The 3rd Symposium was organised at Basel by Max Brenner in 1960; abstracts of the papers were published in Chimia (1960, 14, 366 and 393). By then, Austria, France, Greece (L. Zervas), Hungary and The Netherlands and Austria had joined the informal Committee. The custom of relaxing during one day of the meeting was continued and I have vivid memories of this excursion. At 06.45 we boarded a special train, the "Roten Pfeil", at Basel station and we proceeded via Lucerne to the Tessin. There the party was met by a brass band which led us to an open-air restaurant, where there was a buffet and dancing. My recollection is that we arrived back in Basel near midnight, the return journey being enlivened by duets from two distinguished German peptide chemists; Theodor Wieland has aptly referred to this as "a jolly ride back with much wine" (Peptides 1978, ed. I.Z. Siemion and G. Kupryszewski, Wrocław University Press, 1979, xxxvii).

I was unfortunately unable to attend the 4th Symposium in Moscow. The next, in 1962, was held in Oxford and participants stayed in my own college, Jesus College. There were 55 scientific participants. I would note particularly the first appearance of Yuri Ouchinnikov, in place of Mikhail Shemyakin. I recall that we gathered for our usual Committee meeting in the Old Bursary (Senior Common Room) of the College; all were there except the U.S.S.R. representative. I feared that we had in some way offended the Russians, and after a short wait I went to Yuri's room and knocked. Eventually he came to the door, somewhat dishevelled; he had fallen asleep and was full of apologies. This was also the first meeting attended by Karel Bláha; we mourn both of these colleagues. By now our friends in the U.S.A. had become interested in our meetings and I was happy to invite Joseph Fruton - the first colleague from outside Europe to attend. We decided to publish the Proceedings in full (Peptides, ed. G.T. Young, Pergamon Press 1963) and we included contributions to the discussions which had been put in writing before the end of the meeting. At the end of the Basel Symposium a committee had been appointed to make recommendations on the abbreviations and symbols to be used in the peptide field (Robert Schwyzer, chairman, Josef Rudinger, Erich Wünsch, and myself); we reported at the Oxford Symposium, and the Report was published in the Proceedings. I.U.P.A.C. had at the same time made tentative proposals (Appendix B to Information Bulletin No.12); we made some changes and extended the scope, and this became the basis of the rules now used. Theodor Wieland (op.cit.) has made some kind observations about the Oxford meeting, including the comment that the photograph of all the participants is the clearest of those taken at symposia, at least up to the time he wrote; this was due, I think, to the use by the photographer of a full-size glass plate in an elderly camera.

The Oxford Symposium, 1962
THE 22nd EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
INTERLAKEN, SEPTEMBER 1992

The twenty-second European Peptide Symposium will be held 13 - 19 September 1992 at Interlaken in Switzerland. Interlaken is a famous tourist centre in the Swiss Alps with excellent facilities; it is connected by direct train services to the main airports, Zurich and Geneva.

The Symposium will be under the auspices of the European Peptide Society and the University of Bern, and will provide a forum for scientists from varied disciplines to exchange results and ideas in peptide research. The main scientific topics will include:

- Peptide synthesis and analysis
- Structural and conformational aspects
- New biologically active peptides
- Peptide hormones; Neuropeptides; Peptides in immunology
- Peptide mimetics; Heterodetic peptides

The programme committee will consider original contributions in these and related areas for oral or poster presentation.

The Symposium is open, not only to all members of the Society, but also to others. Registration and abstract forms will be sent to pre-registrants at the end of the year; the deadline for abstracts will be 15 February 1992. Those interested in attending the Symposium should complete the enclosed pre-registration form and send it to the Chairman of the Organising Committee as soon as possible. Anyone unable to get hold of a pre-registration form may write to the Chairman, including a full address, asking for registration and abstract forms.

Address for pre-registration:
Professor Dr C. H. Schneider
Chairman, 22nd EPS
Institute of Clinical Immunology
Inselspital
CH-3010 Bern
Switzerland

THE BACHEM TRAVEL FUND

Bachem Feinchemikalien A.G., Switzerland, has generously agreed to provide funds to assist those members of the European Peptide Society who wish to attend the European Peptide Symposium, but are unable to obtain adequate financial support for their travel costs from sources in their own countries.

The Awards will be allocated by the Bachem Travel Fund Committee to members in the following groups:

(a) Young participants below 35 years of age;
(b) Participants who have to travel long distances.

More than two participants per country will be supported only if sufficient funds remain after allocations according to (a) and (b).

Members of the Society who wish to apply for a Bachem Travel Fund Award should send their applications to their national representatives, who were listed in the last issue of the Newsletter. Allocations will be announced to the successful applicant directly. Payment will be made at the Symposium.

THE JOSEF RUDINGER MEMORIAL LECTURE 1992

AND

THE LEONIDES ZERVAS AWARD 1992

The Secretary invites nominations for these two awards, which are administered by the Society and which are to be presented at the European Peptide Symposium at Interlaken in 1992.

The Josef Rudinger Memorial Lecture was established in 1984, through the generosity of Ferring Pharmaceuticals, "in commemoration of Josef Rudinger's role in the foundation of the European Peptide Symposia and of the diverse contributions he made to peptide chemistry, both by his own work and indirectly through the stimulation of others in many countries". There is no restriction as to the nationality, age, or position of those nominated. Nominations must be supported by evidence of the distinction of the candidate in research on the chemistry, biochemistry, or biology of peptides, and must be received by the Secretary before 1 November 1991.

The Leonides Zervas Award was established in 1988, through the generosity of Beecham Fine Chemicals Inc, USA, "in recognition of the important contributions made by Leonides Zervas to peptide chemistry. The award is to be given "to the scientist who has in the opinion of members of the Council of the Society made the most outstanding contribution to the chemistry, biochemistry, or biology of peptides in the five years preceding the date of selection". There is no restriction as to the nationality or position of the candidate, but preference is given to younger candidates. Nominations must be supported by evidence of the suitability of the candidate, including a list of publications, and must be received by the Secretary before 1 November 1991.

All the nominations received by the closing date will be circulated to the Council, who will make the decision by postal vote.
PEPTIDE PHARMACEUTICALS: APPROACHES TO THE DESIGN OF NOVEL DRUGS
Ed. DJ Ward.

PROTEINS: STRUCTURE, DYNAMICS AND DESIGN
Eds. V Renugopalakrishnan, PR Carey, ICP Smith, S-G Huang, and AC Storer.

SPECIALIST PERIODICAL REPORTS ON AMINO ACIDS AND PEPTIDES, VOL 22
"Covering the literature of 1989"
Ed. JH Jones.

THE CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS OF PEPTIDES
International Series of Monographs on Chemistry No. 25.
John Jones

PEPTIDE INFORMATION
A REVIEW, BY ERNEST GIRALT

Peptide Information is a monthly current awareness journal which contains bibliographic data and minimal abstracts of articles related to peptide research. It is published by the Peptide Institute, Protein Research Foundation, Osaka; Yasuhiro Seto is the Editor-in-Chief. The journal is published both in hardcopy and in magnetic diskette versions. Although more than a thousand periodicals are examined, it is really based on a detailed analysis of 120 selected key journals. The result is in general very useful: a narrow selection of articles published in American and European journals and a rather exhaustive coverage of Japanese journals. Speed is a key factor in such a publication, and this is a goal that in this case is particularly well achieved: there is for most of the cases less than two months between publication in a primary information journal and appearance in the pages of Peptide Information.

The distinction between peptides and proteins is perhaps controversial, but appropriate. The journal covers “all the peptides with less than 100 amino acid residues and a selection of larger peptides (proteins) with significant information related to primary and/or higher structures, chemical synthesis, and important biological activities”.

The information provided for each of the selected articles includes, in addition to the journal title, author’s name and article title, a very useful “telegraphic” abstract which highlights the contents of the article in a few sentences, addressing each of the following points in turn: substance, material, method, purpose, and result. Each issue contains a complete Author Index, a selected Compound Index, and a selected General Term Index. A minor criticism is the reduced number of entries in this General Term Index, which limits its usefulness. One month after the publication of each volume, a Comprehensive Index for Compounds and also one for General Terms are published but, for most issues, too late to fulfill the alerting function for which the journal was devised.

In summary, Peptide Information provides a very useful means for scientists active in the peptide field to be made aware promptly of scientific novelties appearing in the literature; this is in general very difficult due to the dynamism and interdisciplinarity of our field.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor will be very glad to receive letters for publication on points of interest to members, reserving of course the right to use his editorial discretion. Specialist safety warnings (the possibility of collating these for publication is being considered), matters of history, appeals for collaboration, controversial speculation, and so on, are the sort of thing which would be welcomed. For example, we have received confidential intelligence of three serious cases of hypersensitivity to (apparently) DCCI in one laboratory - a very appropriate subject for this section.

FUTURE ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER.

It is the intention to continue to publish this Newsletter twice a year. Number 3 will be circulated in January 1992, with a nominal publication date of 1 January 1992, and a deadline for material of 1 November 1991. The Editor will welcome suggestions of any kind about the content and style of the Newsletter.

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Published for the European Peptide Society by the Editor. Printed by Thomas Leach Ltd., Abingdon.