
THE EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 4, 1 May 1992

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By the time this Newsletter reaches members, the Executive Committee will be preparing for its meeting early in July, and one of the main items on the agenda will be a review of the position of the Society, two years after its formation. In particular, we shall ask ourselves whether our present activities are fulfilling, as far as our resources allow, the object of the Society, which according to our Statutes is "to promote, in Europe and certain neighbouring countries, the advancement of education and in particular the scientific study of the chemistry, biochemistry, and biology of peptides". The main biennial symposia are well established and in our hands; we are also supporting a number of smaller, specialised meetings (three in 1992). Proposals for further such meetings will be welcomed by the Scientific Affairs Member of the Executive Committee, Professor Ernest Giralt. We are increasing the number of Newsletters to three this year, giving information concerning meetings and publications in our field, (the third, to appear in November, will contain a report on the Interlaken Symposium) and we hope to circulate a Health and Safety Bulletin drawing attention to hazards encountered in research. If members feel there are further ways in which we could assist them it will be most helpful if they will write to me or to other members of the Executive Committee (their addresses are given elsewhere in this Newsletter) so that their suggestions can be considered by the Executive Committee and subsequently by Council when it convenes in Interlaken in September. I look forward to our meeting there.

Geoffrey Young

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).

There is no subscription. Intending members should write to the Secretary. In order to keep administrative costs as low as possible, formalities are minimal.

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 postal authorities, then the name concerned is deleted from the mailing list. The Society had (on 19 Feb 1992) 881 members.

The Society is warmly grateful to its subscribing Sponsors, a full list of whom (as of 1 March 1992) follows, for their support.

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HN RYDON

[Henry] Norman Rydon was born on 21 March 1912 in London, and died on 12 September 1991 near Exeter. With his death, Peptide Chemistry loses an elder statesman who made important contributions in many fields of Organic Chemistry.

Rydon's undergraduate studies and first research were at Imperial College, London (BSc 1931, PhD 1933, DSc 1938 - all at precocious ages). He was subsequently an 1851 Exhibition Senior Student at Oxford (Oriel College: DPhil 1939) 1937-1940, working with Sir Robert Robinson, on the synthesis of norestrone. At a nearby bench, another outstanding young chemist was also working on 'the synthesis of substances related to sterols'; Friedrich Weygand. They became life-long friends.

He was awarded the Meldola Medal of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and the Society of Maccabees in 1939; and the Harrison Memorial Prize of the Chemical Society in 1941 - both awards are given to outstanding young chemists of promise. The two medals were in his old age among his most treasured possessions. During the War, he worked at the Chemical Defence Experimental Station, Porton Down, mainly on vesicants, and in particular anti-mustard gas agents. He made his first excursion into Peptide Chemistry during this period, studying the capsular substance of *Bacillus anthracis*, concluding that it is a polymer of D-glutamic acid containing both α - and γ -amide bonds.

He returned to academe in 1947, and in 1952 he became Professor of Chemistry at Manchester College of Science and Technology, working largely on potential anti-tumour agents. In 1957, Rydon was translated to the Chair of Chemistry in the University of Exeter, where he remained vigorously active until his retirement twenty years later. During this phase he concentrated his research efforts on Peptide Chemistry - the synthesis and stability of cyclic peptide disulphides with a wide range of ring sizes; the use of bis- σ -phenylene pyrophosphite for forming peptide bonds; investigations related to esterase active sites; the development (built on an observation made at Porton Down) of the methylthioethyl group of carboxy-protection; homopoly-(amino-acids), sequential polypeptides and their conformations; studies of hindered α, α -disubstituted amino-acids; the synthesis of isariin; the cross-linking of proteins with glutaraldehyde; and, in the final years, studies of synthetic models related to the ferredoxins. Although Rydon published mostly in the *Journal of the Chemical Society*, his most quoted and cited paper is undoubtedly the 1952 one in *Nature* entitled "A new method of detecting peptides and similar compounds on paper chromatograms". He was the first to admit that this paper contains the least chemistry of all his papers! Such is the way of the world.

Rydon was a regular attendee at the European Peptide Symposia. He would return from these trips bursting to tell his students the latest tricks of the trade, and he will be remembered by symposium participants as a stimulating and convivial companion with a great fund of chemical stories. He was a past Chairman of the UK Peptide and Protein Group.

His numerous co-workers (he supervised some 75 PhD students during his career) had great respect for his ability, enthusiasm, dedication, and the exacting, scientific standards that he set. They will also remember his irascible temperament if these high standards were not maintained. He had an infuriating habit of being able, at a cursory glance, to pick out the errors in a report over which a student had laboured long and hard, just as if these mistakes had been written in red ink. A particular idiosyncrasy was the use of rhyming couplets in his discussions with his students. The most famous ones are "Any news Hughes?", "Won't it Willett?", and "Bloody hell Snell!".

In the early sixties, a period of University expansion in the UK, the University of Exeter needed strong leadership on the science side. Norman Rydon provided that leadership, and built up the Department of Chemistry from an academic staff establishment of 7 to 22; he also served the University as a whole with distinction in many ways (notably as Dean of the Faculty of Science 1946-1967 and Deputy Vice Chancellor 1973-1975).

(Contributed by Brian Ridge)



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, Zürich 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 Symposium is open, not only to all members of the Society, but also to others. Registration forms may still be obtained from:

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

or

Verkehrsverein Interlaken
Convention Department
22nd EPS Secretariat
CH-3800 Interlaken
Switzerland
Fax: 036 225221

THE JOSEF RUDINGER MEMORIAL LECTURE 1992

The Council is pleased to announce that the Josef Rudinger Memorial Lecture for 1992 will be delivered by Professor Viktor Mutt of the Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm), at the Interlaken Symposium.

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. Allocations will be announced to the successful applicants directly. Payment will be made at the Symposium.

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. Meetings which are under the auspices of the Society have their titles printed in green. Organisers are asked to send corrections and updates to the Editor (see the bottom of the last page). It would be helpful if similar information on all relevant meetings could be sent in as a matter of routine in future.

**PEPTIDE MODELS AND IMMUNOLOGICAL
RECOGNITION: CONCEPTS AND METHODS**
20-22 May 1992, La Grande Motte, France.
*Mr. J-P Hors, 1st International PMIR Meeting, CCIPE,
rue de la Cardonille, F-34094 Montpellier Cedex 2,
France.*

22nd EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM.
13-18 September 1992, Interlaken, Switzerland.
For further details and contact information, see above.

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

**9th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON METHODS
IN PROTEIN SEQUENCE ANALYSIS**
20-24 September 1992, Otsu, Japan.
*Secretariat of MPSA 1992, c/o JTB Communications
Inc., New Kyoto Center Bldg, 5F, Shiokoji-Shinmachi,
Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto 600, Japan.*

**PREDICTION AND RECOGNITION OF ANTIGENIC
DETERMINANTS**
29-31 August 1992, Budapest, Hungary.
Part of the 8th International Congress of Immunology,
Budapest, 23-29 August 1992.
*Ágnes V Rubányi, Intercongress Dósa György ut 84/a,
Budapest H-1068, Hungary.*

THE CHINESE PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM 1992
3-6 November 1992, Hangzhou, China.
*Dr Yu-cang Du, Chairman, International Chinese
Peptide Symposium (CPS-92), Shanghai Institute of
Biochemistry, 320 Yue-yang Road, Shanghai 200031,
Peoples' Republic of China.*

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-Aignan, France.*

**2nd INTERNATIONAL JAPANESE PEPTIDE
SYMPOSIUM.**
9-13 November 1992, Shizuoka, Japan.
The language will be English.
*Professor S Sakakibara, Japanese Peptide Society,
c/o Protein Research Foundation, Ina 4-1-2,
Minoh-shi, Osaka 562, Japan.*

FORUM ON PEPTIDES AND PROTEINS
22-26 March 1993, Biarritz, France.
*Dr S Lavielle, Laboratoire de Chimie Organique CNRS
URA 493, Paris VI, Place Jussieu,
75005 Paris, France.*

13th AMERICAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
20-25 June 1993, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
*Dr R S Hodges, Department of Biochemistry,
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta,
Canada, T6G 2H7.*

3rd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON AMINO ACIDS
AND ANALOGUES
23-27 August 1993, Crete.
*Professor Dr G Lubec, University of Vienna,
Department of Paediatrics, Währinger Gürtel 18,
A 1090 Vienna, Austria.*

3rd INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOLID
PHASE SYNTHESIS
31 August - 4 September 1993, Oxford University, UK
*Professor R Epton, School of Applied Sciences,
Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Wolverhampton,
W1V 1SB.*

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY RESIDENTIAL
SCHOOL : PEPTIDE SYNTHESIS.
6-10 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 0BN.*

23rd EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM.
September 1994, Braga, Portugal.

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.

BIOLOGICAL SIGNALS
Editors-in-Chief SF Pang, T Fujita and PA Ward.
Vol. 1, No.1, Jan.-Feb. 1992 (released Oct. 1991).
1 volume in 6 parts p.a. ISSN 1016-0922.

NISIN AND NOVEL LANTIBIOTICS
Eds. G Jung and H-G Sahl.
Proceedings of the Workshop on Lantibiotics held
at Bonn, 15-18 April 1991, under the auspices of
the Society.
ca. 500pp, 1991, ESCOM. ISBN 90-72199-11-1.

POLYPEPTIDE AND PROTEIN DRUGS:
PRODUCTION CHARACTERIZATION AND
FORMULATION
RC Hider and D Barlow.
281pp., 1991. Ellis Horwood, Chichester.
ISBN 0-13-677253-6.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL
WORKSHOP ON ENZYMES IN PEPTIDE SYNTHESIS
Biomedica Biochimica Acta, 1991, Vol. 50, No. 10/11.
This meeting was held under the auspices of the Society
at Bogensee, Germany, 2-6 Sept. 1991.

SYNTHETIC PEPTIDES
Ed. G Grant.
ca 288pp., 1992, Wll Freeman & Co Ltd, Oxford.
ISBN 0-7167-7009-1.

REMINDER - LOGO COMPETITION

Logo competition (see Newsletter 3) entries should be sent to the Secretary (address below), from whom entry forms etc may be obtained, before 31 July 1992.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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117871 GSP-7
Moscow V-437
Russia

FUTURE ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER

It is the intention to publish this Newsletter three times in 1992. Number 5 will have a nominal publication date of 1 November 1992. The Editor will welcome suggestions of any kind about the content and style of the Newsletter.

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