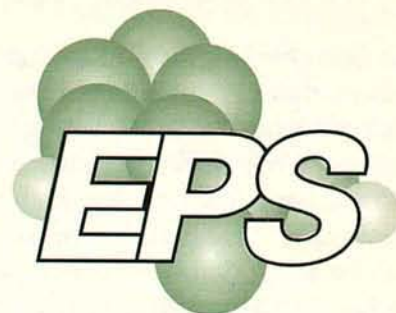

THE EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Issue Number 8, 1 March 1994



THE 23rd EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM BRAGA, SEPTEMBER 1994

The EPS-23 brochure, registration form, abstract form, etc were circulated together some weeks ago. All members should have had this material by now; in case of difficulty, please contact the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Professor HLS Maia, Fax (351) 53-604371, whose address is listed later, in the Calendar of Meetings. There is little to add to what is in the brochure at this stage, apart from the excellent news that Professor Bruce Merrifield has accepted an invitation to attend as a distinguished guest. The deadline for registration and submission of abstracts is 31 March.

A SYMPOSIUM IN RECOGNITION OF DR RC SHEPPARD'S CONTRIBUTION TO PEPTIDE SCIENCE

A one-day symposium in Braga is being planned for 3 September 1994, immediately prior to EPS-23, which opens there on the following day. The speakers will be invited from those who have worked in the peptide group at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge UK, or whose groups have benefitted from the chemistry and technology originating in it. It is also hoped that Dr GT Young (Oxford UK) and Dr G B Fields (Minnesota) will speak. The topics discussed will cover the methodology, applications and extensions of the peptide synthesis techniques developed at the LMB. People interested in attending this event should fill in the application form which was sent out with the EPS-23 material recently, or contact Dr Eric Atherton (Phone *0606 41100; Fax *0606 49366).

THE LEONIDES ZERVAS AWARD 1994

The Secretary invites nominations for this Award, which will be presented at the 23rd European Peptide Symposium, Braga, 1994. The Award was established in 1988, through the generosity of Bachem California, "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 *curriculum vitae*, and a list of publications (with copies of the most important ones): they must be received by the Secretary before 15 May 1991. All the nominations received by the closing date will be circulated to the Council, who will make their decision by a postal vote. A nomination form is enclosed for the convenience of EPS members, but any who prefer to make their nominations by letter are welcome to do so.

THE JOSEF RUDINGER MEMORIAL LECTURE 1994

The Secretary invites nominations for the 1994 Josef Rudinger Memorial Lectureship. The Award will be presented, and the Lecture delivered, at the 23rd European Peptide Symposium, Braga, 1994. The 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 15 May 1994.

All the nominations received by the closing date will be circulated to the Council, who will make their decision by a postal vote. A nomination form is enclosed for the convenience of EPS members, but any who prefer to make their nominations by letter are welcome to do so.

EPS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The membership of the EPS Council at present is as follows:-

B Aleksiev (representing Bulgaria)	A Loffet (co-opted, Secretary)
S Bajusz (representing Hungary)	HLS Maia (representing Portugal)
RH Berg (representing Denmark)	J Martinez (representing France)
D Brandenburg (co-opted, Chairman)	K Medzihradzsky (co-opted)
JS Davies (representing the UK)	A Patchornik (representing Israel)
D Gillessen (co-opted)	U Ragnarsson (representing Sweden)
E Giralt (representing Spain)	R Renschel (representing Austria)
J Hlavacek (representing Czechoslovakia)	R Rocchi (representing Italy)
S Horvat (representing Croatia)	CH Schneider (representing Switzerland)
VT Ivanov (representing Russia)	RC Sheppard (co-opted, Treasurer)
H-D Jakubke (co-opted)	GI Tesser (representing The Netherlands)
JH Johansen (representing Norway)	D Theodoropoulos (representing Greece)
G Jung (representing Germany)	G Van Binst (representing Belgium)
G Kupryszewski (representing Poland)	GT Young (co-opted, Emeritus Chairman)

The initial 4-year terms of the National Representatives will end in 1994; they are all eligible for a second term.

Members are invited to nominate their National Representatives, using the enclosed form or by letter. Nominees must have given their consent in advance; all nominations must be received by the Secretary not later than 31 May 1994. If more than one nomination is received from any Country, the Secretary will organise a postal ballot among the members who are resident in that Country.

THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES TO HIV A BRIEF REVIEW

ESCOM have launched a new review journal, *Perspectives in Drug Discovery and Design* (ISSN 0928-2866). Three issues a year are planned, one focusing on a disease entity, another on techniques, and a third on a therapeutic area. Several distinguished peptide scientists are listed among the Editors and Editorial Board, and it is naturally to be expected that topics of interest to EPS members will be featured quite often. The first issue, which is available separately, is certainly timely and relevant: it is entitled *Therapeutic Approaches to HIV*. After a valuable outline of the *HIV life cycle and genetic approaches* which serves as an introduction, there are five authoritative reviews on HIV-1 protease and the design of inhibitors for it, followed by articles on reverse transcriptase-directed and other rational approaches to preventing the progression from HIV infection to AIDS. All who have enlisted in the army of peptide chemists which is engaged in the assault on HIV-1 protease ought to read this collection of reviews.

23rd EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
4-11 September 1994, Braga, Portugal.
*Prof Dr HLS Maia, Department of Chemistry,
Universidade do Minho, Largo do Paço, P-4700
Braga, Portugal.*

1st AUSTRALIAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
16-21 October 1994, Daydream Island, Great
Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia.
*Dr Ian Smith, Baker Medical Research Institute,
PO Box 348, Prahran, Victoria 3181, Australia
[Fax (03) 521 1362].*

3rd INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
PERSPECTIVES IN PROTEIN ENGINEERING
13-17 September 1994, University of Oxford, UK.
*c/o Perspectives '94 Secretariat, PO Box 13,
Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 0HQ, UK
[Fax +44 384 294463].*

ANTIGEN PRESENTATION AND PROCESSING
A UK Peptide and Protein Group Meeting; part of
the 653rd Biochemical Society Meeting, University
of Sussex, 14-16 December 1994.
Dr Brian Austen, St George's Hospital, London.

PEPTIDES IN IMMUNOLOGY
2-5 April 1995, Interlaken, Switzerland.
*Prof Dr CH Schneider, Inselspital Bern, Institut für
Klinische Immunologie, CH-3010, Bern, Switzerland.*

5th ANNUAL MEETING, EUROPEAN
NEUROPEPTIDE CLUB - NEUROPEPTIDES 95:
IMPLICATIONS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE
4-7 June 1995, Lund University, Sweden.
*Claes Post, Astra Draco AB, PO Box 34, 5-221
00 Lund, Sweden [Fax (46) 46 33 71 90].*

14th AMERICAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
18-23 June 1995, Columbus, Ohio.
*Dr Pravin TP Kaumaya, The Ohio State
University, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Suite
302, 410 West Twelfth Avenue, Columbus, Ohio
43210-1241, USA.*

4th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOLID
PHASE SYNTHESIS
12-16 September 1995, University of Edinburgh,
Scotland.
*Prof Roger Epton, c/o 4th SPS Secretariat, PO
Box 13, Kingswinford, West Midlands, England,
DY6 0HQ, UK [Fax +44 384 294463].*

24th EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
1996.

BOOK AND NEW JOURNAL NOTICES

Information has been received on the following books, journals, and conference proceedings which may be of interest to members. Notices will be repeated in a future issue if it is necessary to correct them or desirable to provide fuller information. 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.

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO PROTEIN AND
PEPTIDE PURIFICATION FOR
MICROSEQUENCING
Ed. P Matsudaira.
xx + 184pp, 1993. Academic Press.
ISBN 0-12-480282-6.

BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE PEPTIDES: DESIGN,
SYNTHESIS AND UTILIZATION
Eds. WV Williams and DB Weiner.
388pp, 1992. Technomic Publishing Co. Inc.,
Pennsylvania.
ISBN 0-87762-935-8.

GROWTH FACTORS PEPTIDES AND
RECEPTORS
[Proceedings 12th Washington International Spring
Symposium on Health Sciences, June 1992].
Ed. TW Moody.
x + 467pp, 1993. Plenum Press.
ISBN 0-306-44484-4.

LETTERS IN PEPTIDE SCIENCE
Eds. F Albericio, J Aldrich, E Atherton, B Dunn, G
Fields and Y Shimonishi.
Vol.1 (6 issues) 1994. ESCOM.
ISSN 0929-5666.

LIFE DURING A GOLDEN AGE OF PEPTIDE
CHEMISTRY
Bruce Merrifield.
An autobiography, sub-titled 'The Concept and
Development of Solid-Phase Peptide
Synthesis'.
xxii + 297pp, 1993. ACS.
ISBN 0-8412-1842-0.

MECHANISMS OF PROTEIN FOLDING
Ed. R Pain.
1994. IRL Press.
ISBN 0-19-963396-7.

RUSSIA : A PEPTIDE PROFILE

BY VADIM T IVANOV

The active development of peptide chemistry in Russia began in 1959, with the organisation by Mikhail M Shemyakin of the Institute for Natural product Chemistry in Moscow, as part of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The chemistry of depsipeptides, cyclic peptides and cyclols were fruitful research areas there during the following decade. In 1960, Yuri A Ovchinnikov joined the team. He soon became one of the driving forces in both peptide and protein studies, and also, as the Academy Vice-President, in the development of Russia science in general. The Institute, which is now called The Shemyakin & Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, is still the number one place for peptide chemistry in our country. There are half a dozen laboratories and groups, dealing with a broad spectrum of peptide chemistry and biology, including the discovery of novel active peptides from various animal tissues (VT Ivanov, II Mikhaleva, AA Karelin, RV Petrov, AA Mikhailova, LA Fonina); structure-function studies of known neuropeptides and immunoregulators (II Mikhaleva, TM Andronova, VA Nesmeyanov); synthetic peptide antiviral vaccines (OM Volpina); and conformations of peptides in solution, in membranes and in receptor complexes (AS Arseniev, VS Pashkov, SV Sychev). Together with other medical institutes and hospitals, the Institute is carrying out clinical studies of two novel peptide drugs, and two more are at the earlier, preclinical, stages of

development. In the branch of the Institute located at Pushchino (a small town 100km south of Moscow with six major biological institutions belonging to the Russian Academy of Sciences, RAS), IL Rodionov and MB Baru have developed an original, so-called "swellographic" approach to monitoring solid phase peptide synthesis; an instrument is commercially available for those who wish to use that method.

An informal group of participants at the USSR-Israel meeting on the chemistry of peptides and proteins, Moscow, June 1992.



There are a number of peptide groups in other institutions. AL Zhuke heads such a group at the institute of Molecular Biology (RAS, Moscow); VP Vlasov is at the Institute of High Molecular Compounds (RAS, St. Petersburg); VA Shibnev is at the Institute of Virology and JD Besselova at the Institute of Cardiology (both belonging to the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, and located in Moscow). VM Stepanov (Department of Chemistry, Moscow State University) and Yu. V Mitin (Institute of Protein Research, Puschino) have developed new approaches to the enzymatic synthesis of peptides. VP Zav'yalov (Institute of Immunology, "Biopreparat", Lyubuchany, Moscow region) has discovered that several peptide-segments of immunoglobulins and interferons display immunomodulatory

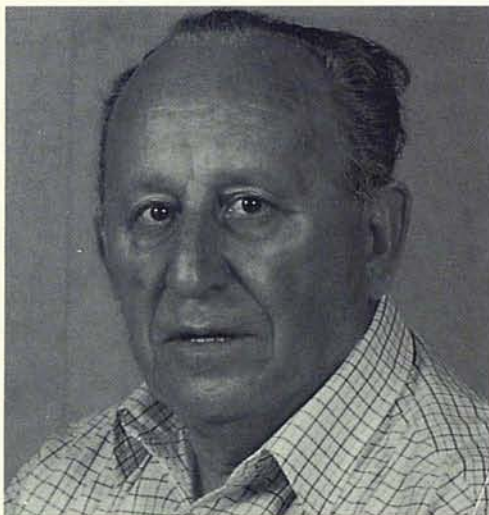


President of The Russian Academy of Sciences Yury Osipov (on the left) presenting the first Ovchinnikov Medal to Vadim Ivanov, for achievements in the study of biologically active peptides, 1992.

activity not present in the parent molecules which are considered prohormones.

The picture would be incomplete without mentioning the severe economic crisis now raging in Russia. Very limited funds are available for research in general, and peptide research is no exception. Although ongoing projects survive, new projects which require significant investment are being stifled. Moreover, the traditional links with the peptide groups in Latvia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, etc. have been disrupted by the disintegration of the Soviet Union. In spite of these difficulties, the scientific community remains devoted to the work it is doing, hoping for improvements in the situation. Beginning in 1994, grants from international foundations will support selected projects on former Soviet Union territory, which will certainly help. In any case, we are going to continue our participation in the traditional international and bilateral meetings, and will strive to maintain the personal and institutional contacts which have proved so productive and enjoyable in the past.

DOV BEN-ISHAI



Dov Ben-Ishai, who died on 2 November 1993, was born in Tel-Aviv in 1923. He studied chemistry at the Hebrew University, and took an MSc degree in 1947. He did his PhD at the Weizman Institute under the supervision of Professor Ephraim Katchlaski. He received his PhD in 1951, and stayed on at the Weizman Institute until 1957 as a research chemist. During that period, his work with Professor Arieh Berger showed that the benzyloxycarbonyl group, in addition to cleavage by reduction, can also be cleaved by strong acids in anhydrous media. This finding opened a new era in peptide chemistry, and led eventually to the development of acid-labile protecting groups. In 1957 Professor Ben-Ishai, together with others, founded the Faculty of Chemistry at the Technion in Haifa. He retired in 1991, having been the Dean of the Faculty 1962-1963. His research interests were in the chemistry of nitrogen heterocycles, the synthesis of amino acids, conformationally

constrained peptides, and acylimine chemistry: he was an advisor to many chemical and pharmaceutical companies. His death is a great loss to his family and to all his students and colleagues.

Let his memory be blessed.

(Contributed by Chaim Gilon)

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.

4th ANNUAL MEETING, EUROPEAN NEUROPEPTIDE CLUB

13-15 April 1994, Strasbourg, France.
*Dominique Muller, 7 rue de Boulogne, 67000
Strasbourg, France [Fax (33) 88 79 18 56].*

CURRENT TECHNIQUES IN POLYPEPTIDE STRUCTURE AND SYNTHESIS

A UK Peptide and Protein Group Meeting.
15-17 April 1994, Gregynog, Wales.
*Bonnie Wallace, Dept. of Crystallography,
Birkbeck College, St, London, W1CE 7HX.*

4th NAPLES WORKSHOP ON BIOACTIVE PEPTIDES

22-25 May 1994, Capri.
*Professor Ettore Benedetti, Dipartimento di
Chimica, Via Mezzocannone, 4, 80134, Napoli,
Italy.*

MOLECULAR MODELLING IN GENETICS AND PROTEIN ENGINEERING

15-17 June 1994, Sopron, Hungary.
*Hungarian Chemical Society, Fö u 68, 1027
Budapest, Hungary.*

NATURE STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY
From January 1994, monthly. Macmillan
Magazines Ltd.

PEPTIDE SCIENCE
Ed.-in-Chief M Goodman.
A quarterly review journal: intended date of first
issue not clear. John Wiley & Sons Inc.
ISSN 1069-2630.

PEPTIDES: BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY
[Proceedings, 1992 Chinese Peptide Symposium].
Eds. Yu-cang Du, JP Tam and You-shang Zhang.
xxviii + 324pp, 1993. ESCOM.
ISBN 90-72199-18-19.

PROTEIN AND PEPTIDE LETTERS
Ed.-in-Chief LH Pearl.
Vol.1 (6 issues) 1994. Bentham Science Publishers.
ISSN 0929-8665.

THE MELANOTROPIC PEPTIDES
[Proceedings of a conference of the New York
Academy of Sciences, Rouen, September 1992].
Eds. H Vaudry and AN Eberle.
Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences,
Vol.680.
xvi + 687pp, 1993.
ISBN 0-89766-781-6.

SPONSORS

The Society is warmly grateful to its subscribing Sponsors, of whom there are now some fifty, including practically all the firms with an interest in the area. It was intended to print a Register in this issue, but as the list is still growing its publication has been postponed to the next issue.

THE EPS EXCHANGE GRANTS, SPONSORED BY DEBIOPHARM

The Society has established the EPS Exchange Grants Fund, sponsored by Debiopharm, which is a private institute involved in peptide research. The object of the Fund is to assist junior members of the EPS who wish to extend their experience by spending a period in a foreign laboratory, but who are unable to obtain adequate financial support from other sources, by contributing to their travel and subsistence expenses. Grants will be awarded for visits of about three months, and will be in the range 4000-6000 SF; they will be paid only to the junior scientist concerned, and not to any institution. Applications for 1994 (which should include a *curriculum vitae*, an outline of the proposed research, and the agreements of the present and inviting laboratories) should be sent in triplicate to the Secretary (Dr A Loffet, Propeptide, B.P.12, F-91710 Vert-le-Petit, France), before 31 March 1994. Please note that the same date is also the application deadline for the Debiopeptides Prize.

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