THE EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 24, 1 January 2001

EPS-26

La Fontaine du Cloître, Abbaye de Valmagne.

EPS-26 took place at Le Corum in Montpellier 10-15 September 2000, under the chairmanship of Jean Martinez. English TV news in the days before had painted a dire picture of France in paralysed chaos as a result of fuel price protests, but if the Symposium organisers had any difficulties it did not show: everything proceeded with efficiency and style. Nor did the alleged threat of disruption put people off: there were about a thousand attending, representing some thirty-seven countries, including twelve countries outside Europe.

Montpellier is an historic city, but Le Corum is one of the most up-to-date conference venues in Europe, so delegates had the best of both the ancient and modern worlds. There were over a hundred oral presentations, and about five times as many posters: abstracts were published in advance as a supplement to *J.Peptide Sci.* The Leonides Zervas Lecture (The Role of Peptide Research in Drug Discovery: the Case of Hepatitis C) was given by Antonello Pessi, and the Josef Rudinger Lecture (Insights into Peptide and Protein function) by Bernard Roques. The proceedings will be published by EDK (Editions Médicales et Scientifiques), and it is hoped that the best of the definitive full papers which will in due course arise from the contributors will be submitted to *J.Peptide Sci.* By a special arrangement between the EPS-26 organisers and John Wiley & Sons, publishers of the journal, all fully registered delegates will receive a complimentary subscription for the year 2001.

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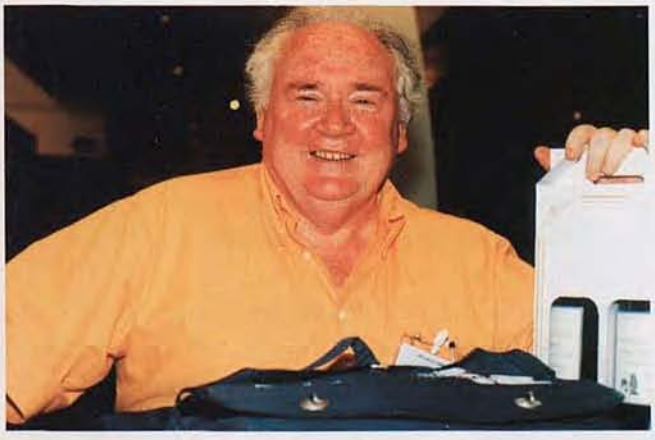
A one-day Pre-Symposium on Monitoring in Combinatorial Chemistry was organised by Jean-Louis Aubagnac on Saturday 9 September: over a hundred attended.

There was generous direct industrial sponsorship, and nearly fifty industrial exhibitors contributed indirectly as well. Further support was given by the local universities and regional authorities, and by the CNRS; and around a hundred younger participants had travel grants provided by the ESCOM Science Foundation, Bachem, the Society, and the Group Français des Peptides et Protéines.

The peptide science presented has spoken for itself already to delegates, and will speak again through the printed word. So we will say nothing of the scientific activities. Perhaps the single most remarkable fact to be drawn to our attention was in any case not scientific: Michael Verlander, quoting some coldly calculating bankers, not scientist-dreamers, pointed out that the world-wide market for peptide pharmaceuticals is currently estimated at 20 billion US$ p.a., with a predicted growth rate of over 10% p.a. We are all, it seems, on a gravy train which will probably run as long as any of us draw breath.

The APS booth: Santa M Pecoraro of the APS talking to Peter Butler of Kluwer, publishers.



Willie Gibbons.
Photograph by Laure di Malta.

Jean Martinez (left), Bernard Roques and Antonello Pessi (right).
Photograph by Laure di Malta.

Murray Goodman.
Photograph by Laure di Malta.

There was a Poster Award generously provided by the ESCOM Foundation and judged by a distinguished committee. Two equal Awards were in fact presented by Anthonie Dalmeijer representing the Foundation, as part of the closing ceremonial. The recipients were Angel Lopez-Mancia (Poster P037) and Judit Reményi (Poster P464). Many individuals were thanked and applauded on the same occasion: especially John Davies, retiring Secretary, for his service to the Society, and Jean-Alain Fehrentz, right-hand man to Jean Martinez and acknowledged by him as indispensable.

The traditional Soccer Match (Europe versus the Rest of the World; Europe lost 6-0) on the Tuesday evening was organised by Professors Manning and Baláspiri, and the 1st EPS Golf Tournament took place on the following afternoon. A hint at the standard of golf expected was given in the announcement –

"Training in the morning for those who want." In the event, six played; the proceedings were informal and the winner remains indeterminate. On the Wednesday evening, a "Languedocian Night" was held at Mas de Saporta, and the Symposium was rounded off with a Banquet at the Abbaye de Valmagne, in the imposing 13th century abbey church which was converted to vineyard use at the time of the French Revolution. It was a terrific end to a terrific week.

Contributed by the Editor

SIGNALLING NEUROPEPTIDES AND CONFORMATION OF MACROMOLECULES

A workshop meeting held at the International Biotechnology Centre, MV Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia, 19-21 September 2000, commemorated 100 years since the discovery of the dipeptide carnosine by WS Gulevitsch in Moscow. The organising committee was chaired by Alexander Boldyrev, and the workshop was supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, the European Peptide Society, Zoetic Neurosciences Ltd (Great Britain), Humari Chemicals Ltd (Japan) and Medtekhnika Ltd (Kazan City, Russia). About 50 delegates attended including some from Japan and UK as well as from Russia.

About half the presentations concerned the distribution of carnosine in living organisms and its possible functions. AA Boldyrev (Moscow State University), presented an overview of carnosine's possible functions including its possible anti-ageing activity, and AR Hipkiss (King's College London, UK) suggested that the reaction of carnosine with protein carbonyl groups could provide an entirely new mechanism by which its anti-senescence activity might be explained. H Abe (University of Tokyo) discussed the distribution of carnosine in mammals and fish and its role as a biological buffer. Carnosine's utility in protecting brain neurones against ischaemic injury was described by SL Stvolinsky (Russian Academy of Neuroscience, Moscow), and T Matsukura (Hamari Chemicals, Japan) described the efficacy of carnosine, when complexed with zinc, towards gastric ulcers. AM Rubstov (Moscow State University) described the influence of carnosine on calcium metabolism in muscle. The role of calcium in oxygen free-radical-mediated cell damage was discussed by YA Vladimirov (Pirogov State Medical University, Moscow).

The session devoted to Biological Membranes and Energetic Metabolism of the Cell included presentations by P Quinn (King's College London, UK) on membrane lipid homeostasis and signal processes, and S Ishiwata (Wasewda University, Japan) described his studies on single molecular characterisation of protein motors including the use of molecular tweezers. D Dobrota (Komenius University, Russia) described the use of magnetic resonance spectroscopy in the study of cell energy metabolism. The session on Peptides in Regulation of Cellular Life included a description of the effects of endotheline peptides on cardiovascular pathologies by O Gomazkov (Institute of Medical Biochemistry, Moscow), while A Aruntunyan (Institute of Gerontology, St. Petersburg, Russia) outlined the effects of pineal-derived peptides on free-radical-induced damage and ageing, and I Ashmarin (Moscow State University) described the proposed role of dipeptides and tripeptides containing proline and glycine residues as endo- and exo-regulators. The session devoted to Molecular Basis of Biological Motility contained presentations by D Levitsky (Bach Institute of Biochemistry, Moscow), V Shirinsky (Russian Cardiological Centre, Moscow) and N Gusev (Moscow State University) concerning actin, its genetics and relationship to myosin and other muscle proteins. The session devoted to Biological membranes and Signal Transduction contained presentations by I Severina (Institute of Medical Biochemistry, Moscow) on the relationship of carnosine to nitric oxide and guanidylate cyclase, by E Moskaleva (Moscow City Research Institute of Medical Ecology, Moscow), who discussed the regulation of apoptosis by biologically active compounds, and finally O Lopina described the protein interactions that regulated sodium/potassium ATPase activity. The meeting also included a round table session on the possible clinical use of carnosine. Special awards were made to Olga Lopina and H Abe for their extensive contributions to their research fields. Steven Gallant (Zoetic Neurosciences Ltd UK) announced the SE Severin Scholarship grants. These two awards valued at $10,000 per annum are restricted to younger Russian scientists (under 40 years of age) and will be awarded for the best proposals concerning carnosine's biological activities and therapeutic application.

Overall the workshop was a great success. A number of possible research collaborations between UK and Russia were identified, and proposals for their implementation are expected in the near future.

Contributed by Alan R Hipkiss

SYMPOSIUM ON BIOLOGICAL CHIRALITY SBC 2000

Under the auspices of EPS, the Symposium on Biological Chirality was held 27-31 August 2000 at the Biological Research Center in Szeged, Hungary. The Symposium was organized by the Chiroptical Spectroscopic Laboratory of the Department of Organic Chemistry, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest in collaboration with in Szeged. More than 100 participants from 20 countries attended.

The design and synthesis of enantiomeric drugs, cosmetics, biomaterials, additives etc. and their application in medicine, technology and everyday life are a key issue in the 21st century. The unique feature of the Symposium was its interdisciplinary nature: the main goal of the organizers was to bring together scientists of all disciplines related to chirality.

Following a lecture by Koji Nakanishi, the 45 plenary lectures and the poster session ranged over topics from the origin of homochirality of biomolecules, via chiroptical spectroscopy, asymmetric autocatalysis, enantioselective synthesis and chiral separation, to the evolution of biological symmetry. The variety of chiral issues was enriched by lectures on the role of chirality in drug action, the enantioselectivity of musk odor sensation, and on the "chirality experiment" on board ESA's cometary space craft Rosetta, and the chirons of Saturn's moon Titan.

Original papers and short reviews contributed by participants of SBC 2000 will be published in a special issue of *Chirality* in 2001. The first Symposium related to chirality in biology took place in Serramazzoni (Modena, Italy), in 1998. The third symposium in 2002 will be held at the same venue in Italy or in Orleans (France).

Contributed by Miklós Hollósi
Chairman of the Organizing and Programme Committee

HUNGARIAN PEPTIDE COMMITTEE

HAS Annual Peptide Committeee Meeting, May 2000.

The Annual Meeting of the Peptide Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Science was held 29-31 May 2000 in the Guest House of the Chemical Works of Gedeon Richter Ltd in Balatonszemes at the Lake Balaton. The exceptionally rich programme of the Meeting contained 44 lectures presented by scientists from the 12 research institutions of the country. After the opening greetings by the President, Sándor Bajusz commemorated two members of the Peptide Committee who died since the last Annual meeting. Professor Mária Szekerke (1924-2000) worked in the Research Group of Peptide Chemistry, Hungarian Academy of Sciences at Eötvös L. University and made a pioneering contribution to the fields of anticancer drug-targeting by peptide carrier and tuftsin like immunomodulatory peptides. Dr Imre Mező (1932-1999) was a member of the Research Group of Peptide Biochemistry, Hungarian Academy of Sciences at Semmelweis Medical School and contributed to a large extent to the development of efficient synthetic methods and peptide hormone research.

During the three-day meeting three review lectures summarised the recent advances in signal transduction based drug research/design (György Kéri, Research Group of Peptide Biochemistry, Budapest), in Alzheimer's disease (Botond Penke, Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Albert Szent-Györgyi University, Szeged) and in polymer therapeutics research (Ferenc Hudecz, Research Group of Peptide Chemistry, Budapest). A round-table discussion was initiated about the future perspectives and trends in multidisciplinary peptide science in an evening session moderated by Miklós Lőw (Gedeon Richter Chemical Works Ltd, Budapest). The Meeting also received the Report of the Foundation of Hungarian Peptide and Protein Research established in 1997 by Kálmán Medzihradszky and Sándor Bajusz.

Contributed by Ferenc Hudecz

7th NAPLES WORKSHOP ON BIOACTIVE PEPTIDES and 2ND PEPTIDE ENGINEERING MEETING

Capri Participants, September 2000.

The 7th Naples workshop on Bioactive Peptides was held in Anacapri on the island of Capri 5-8 September 2000, jointly with the 2nd Peptide Engineering Meeting, which was first was held in Japan in 1997. The meeting had an attendance of 130 peptide scientists from all over the world. It was organised by the Centro Interdipartimentale di Ricerca sui Peptidi Bioattivi (CIRPED) of the University of Napoli "Federico II", by the Second University of Napoli, by the Biocrystallography Research Centre and the ICMIB of the NR of Italy, by the Tokyo Institute of Technology and by Kyoto University, under the auspices of the European, American and Japanese Peptide Societies and the Regione Campania, Assessorato Pubblica Istruzione, Cultura e Ricerca Scientifica.

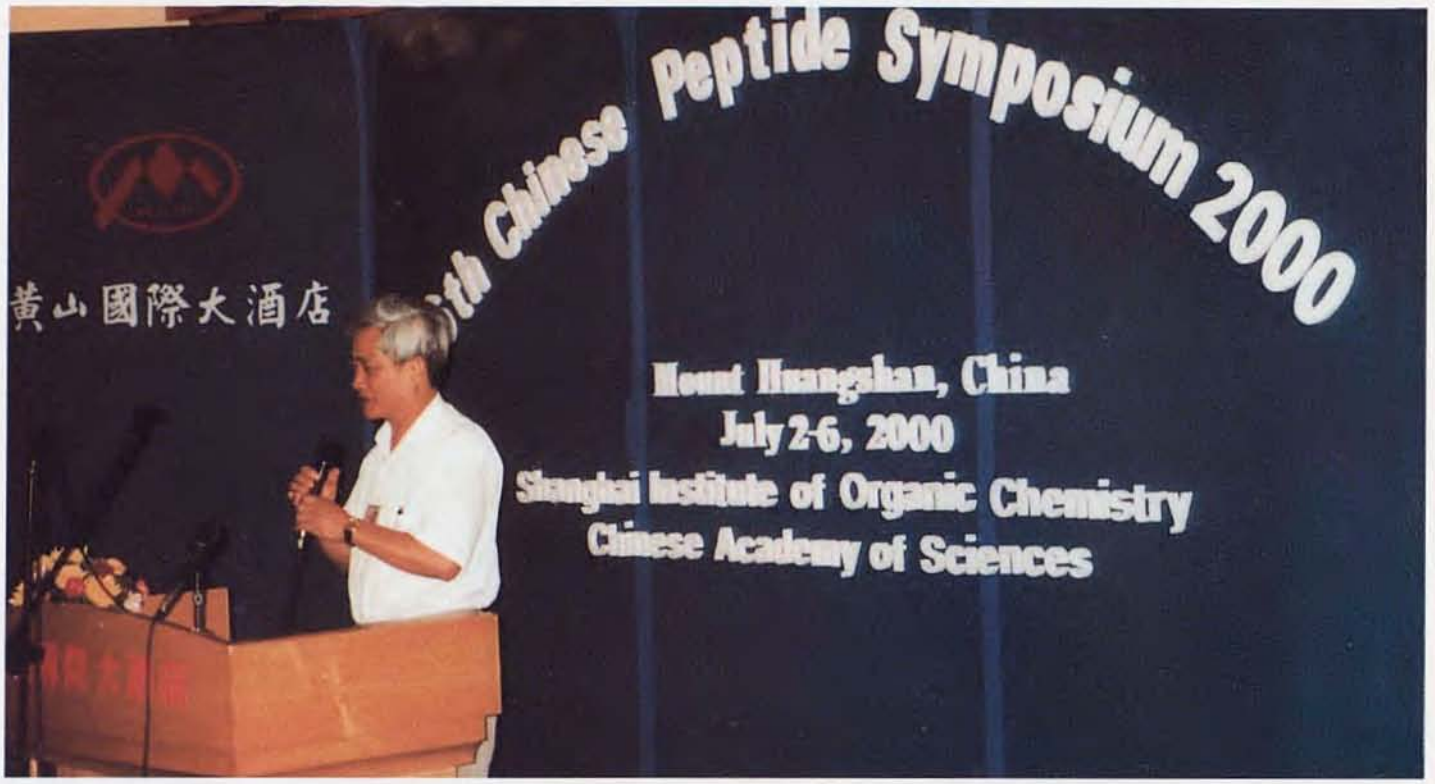
The programme was divided into three topics: 1, "Peptides as Templates, Artificial Receptors and Spacers"; 2, "Membrane Active Peptides/New Foldamers"; and 3, "Peptides in Materials Science". Main Lectures were given by LJ Regan (USA) on "The α-helix as a mediator of protein-protein interactions", by SH Gellman (USA) on "Foldamers frontiers: creation and application of unnatural oligomers with well-defined conformational propensities" and by DA Tirrell (USA) on "Peptides and proteins in material science and engineering", respectively. Lectures on topic 1 were given by N Vojer (Canada), G Tuchscherer (Switzerland), Y Kobayashi (Japan), B Pispisa (Italy), I Hamachi (Japan), T Tanaka (Japan), G Morelli (Italy), and C Corvaja (Italy). Topic 2 was covered by lectures given by P Scrimin (Italy), T Hitz (Switzerland), R Epand (Canada), JM Ruysschaert (Belgium), N Sugimoto (Japan), JS Nowick (USA), GL Millhauser (USA) and P Nielsen (Denmark). Finally, lectures on topic 3 were delivered by M Prato (Italy), S Kimura (Japan), L Addadi (Israel), BD Moore (UK), H Ishida (Japan), and B Brodsky (USA).

In addition, three round tables were also included in the programme on "Molecular Recognition", "Membrane Based Systems – Chemical Signalling" and "Peptide Synthesis and Structure in Material Science". In each round table short oral presentations of posters selected by the Scientific Committee among the presenters of the 53 posters accepted were given.

The Meeting proved to be once again a highly successful forum for the exchange of ideas on new subjects and trends in peptide chemistry, and an important and decisive stimulus for future work in the area.

Contributed by Ettore Benedetti

6th CHINESE PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM



Jie-Cheng Xu, Chairman of CPS-6.

The Huangshan International Hotel at the old trading town of Tunxi (Huangshan shi) in the Anhui Province was the venue of the 6th Chinese Peptide Symposium, 2-6 July 2000. The town is ideally located, some miles from Mount Huangshan (Yellow Mountain) which, along with Guilin, is probably the most renowned landscape attraction in China. The conference was attended by close to 200 delegates from all parts of China and from overseas. Under the excellent chairmanship of Professor Jie-Chen Xu of the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, who was ably supported by a strong local committee, there was a stimulating programme of nine scientific sessions and two special award presentation sessions.

The following is a short selection of the many excellent keynote addresses that were presented during each session. Victor Hruby (USA) and Takashi Takahashi (Japan) reviewed their recent work in peptide mimetics. James Tam (USA) and Jaw-Kang Chang (USA) spoke on their efforts to design novel biologically active peptides. Claudio Vita (France) described the use of rational protein engineering to produce a mini-protein inhibitor of HIV infection. A stimulating overview of the application of combinatorial chemistry to proteomics via chemical microarrays was given by Kit Lam (USA), and Ed Nice (Australia) showed how micropreparative HPLC purification coupled with biosensors could provide another tool for studying proteomics. Signal transduction was a key theme and Jerry Wang (Hong Kong) spoke of the structure and function of neuronal Cdk5 activator while Hélène Gras-Masse (France) described efforts to produce new, stable glycomimetic ligands for the mannose receptor. The presentations were complemented by many fine local presentations that showed that peptide research in China continues to be of a gratifyingly high standard.

During the award ceremonies, Garland Marshall (USA) and Gui-Shen Lu (China) were each presented with the Cathay Prize for their outstanding scientific contributions as well as their support of Chinese peptide research over many years.

Throughout the week, the warm hospitality of the hosts, fine programme and weather and splendid food made for a memorable visit. A highlight was the excursion past charming countryside containing traditional villages and patchwork paddy fields to the Yellow Mountain. This misnomer actually comprises no less than 72 peaks each having exotic names such as Taoist Priest, Ox Nose, and Nine Dragons. After a splendid chairlift ride to the base of the Western Step, a long and often arduous trek along an occasionally precarious route hewn out of the sheer rock cliff was undertaken, past truly magnificent scenery. A fine reviving lunch was had at a mid-peak restaurant before completing the last leg of the trek. Despite the intermittent cloud cover and warm conditions, the hardiest (fittest?) of the walkers declared the view from the final destination at the highest peak, the Lotus Flower Peak (1,864m!), to be well worth the numerous bottles of water and the aching legs that were encountered the following day.

The week concluded with the conference dinner, at which a performance of local song and dance accompanied the fine cuisine and considerable good cheer. During the closing remarks, it was announced that a decision has been made to stage the 7th Chinese Peptide Symposium at the northern port city of Dalian (Liaoning Province) in late June or early July 2002. It will be organized by the Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry, and the chairman will be Professor Yu-Cang Du. The exact dates will be announced later this year.

Contributed by John Wade

VICTOR BRUCKNER 1900-1980

FOUNDER OF HUNGARIAN PEPTIDE CHEMISTRY

On the 2nd of November this year, the Institute of Organic Chemistry, Eötvös Loránd University, the Research Group of Peptide Chemistry of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the peptide community of Hungary commemorated Professor V. Bruckner, former leader of the above mentioned institutions. He is regarded the founder of peptide chemistry in his native land, owing to his pioneering work on the discovery of natural poly-γ-D-glutamic acid, the capsular substance of Bacillus anthracis, in 1937, followed by the structure determination and chemical synthesis of this polypeptide in the early fifties.

As the beginning his university career he was qualified in 1933 for honorary lecturer by the University of Szeged, in the theme: Methodology of Organic Chemistry. In 1938 he was appointed assistant professor to Albert Szent-Györgyi, and three years later, in recognition of his scientific work and educational activity, became university professor and at the same time Head of the Institute of Organic Chemistry at the same University. In 1951 he was invited by the Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, as Head of the Department of Organic Chemistry, and he remained the leader of this Department for twenty years. In 1946 Victor Bruckner was elected a Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. His scientific merits were held in high esteem both in foreign countries and by the Hungarian Government, as testified by the Scheele Medal of the Chemical Society of Stockholm, two National Prizes in Hungary and the membership of the Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina (Halle).

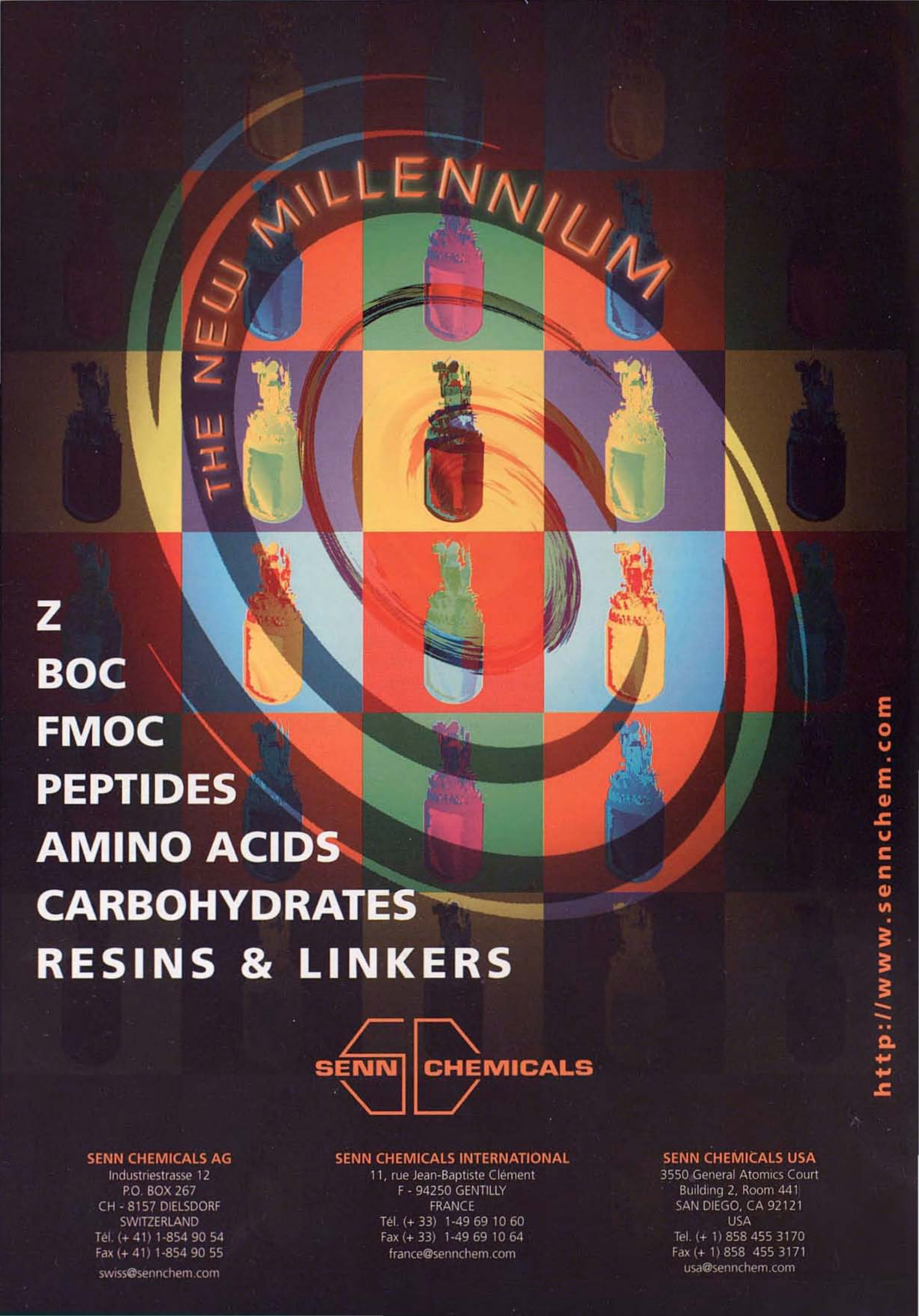
The most remarkable peptide work of the Bruckner school was without a doubt the total synthesis of human ACTH launched in 1959 as a joint enterprise by the researchers of the Pharmaceutical Research Institute (S Bajusz), the Chemical Works of Gedeon Richter and the Department of Organic Chemistry of the University. In this project Bruckner did not participate actively in the experiments; his role was the co-ordination of the research groups performing the syntheses. His great experience in the synthetic work, his profound knowledge of theoretical organic chemistry and his stereochemical intuition considerably facilitated the task of his co-workers doing the actual synthesis.

He was the main organiser, along with the writer of these lines, of EPS-7, held in Budapest, in 1964. Almost unbelievable today, there were no posters, only oral presentations, and, owing to the generosity of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the pharmaceutical industry in Budapest, all the 120 participants were guests of the Symposium, so that no registration fee or hotel expenses had to be paid.

In addition to saluting Bruckner the researcher, tribute should be paid to Bruckner the teacher, the pedagogue professor. He himself declared that he appreciated his task of educating the youth even more than research activity. Accordingly one of the important objects of his scientific research work was to contribute to the development of organic chemistry, and to impart this lively, fresh material of knowledge to the students.

Bruckner's personality radiated peace and harmony, and this was also a source of harmony for the whole community surrounding him. We commemorate his hundredth birthday with thanks for the three decades we spent with him.

Contributed by Kálmán Medzihradszky



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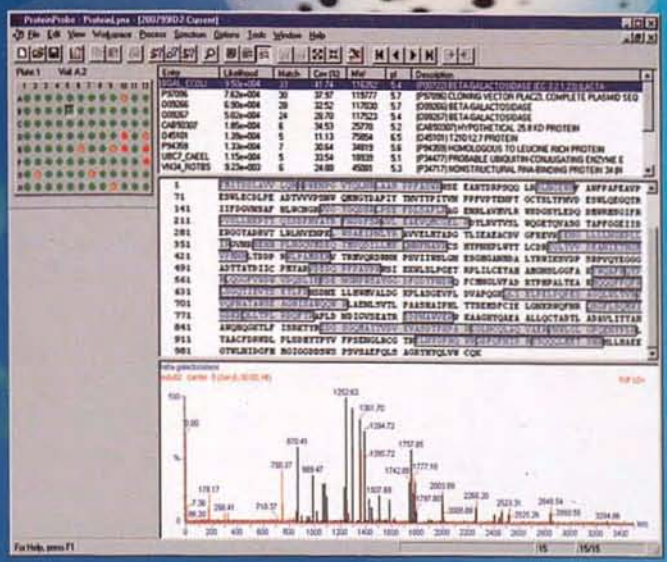

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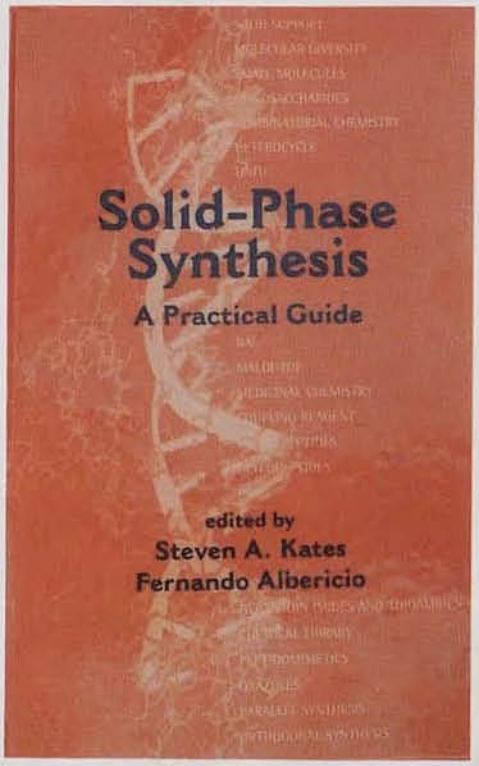
BRIEF BOOK REVIEWS

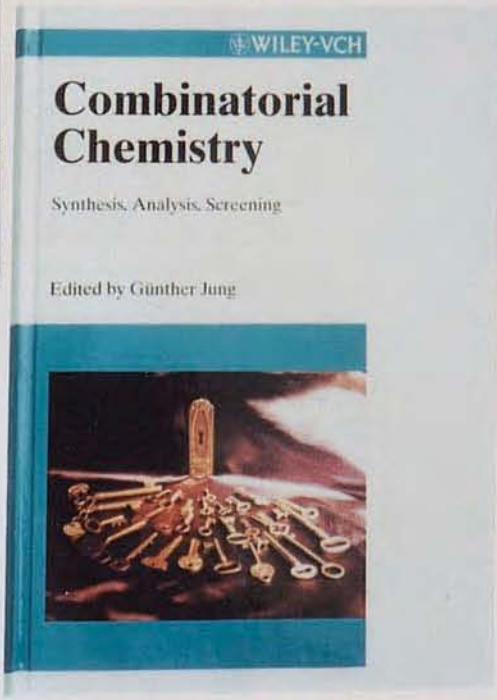
G Jung (Ed.). *Combinatorial Chemistry.* Synthesis, Analysis, Screening. Wiley-VCH. 1999. ISBN 3-527-29869-X.

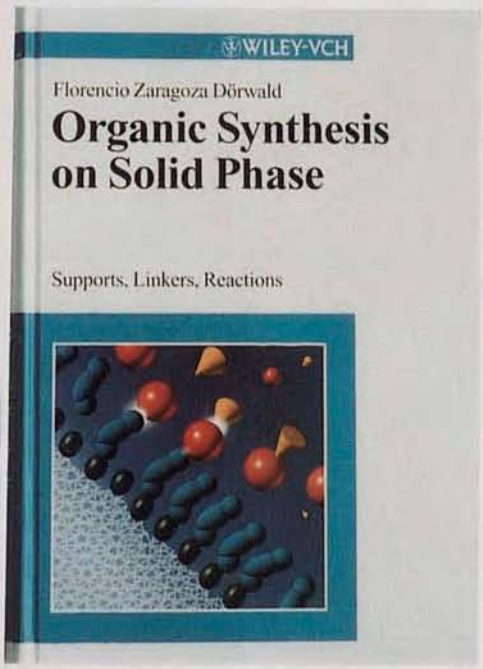
FZ Dörwald. *Organic Synthesis on Solid Phase.* Wiley-VCH. 2000. ISBN 3-527-29950-5.

P Seneci. *Solid-Phase Synthesis and Combinatorial Technologies.* Wiley-Interscience. 2000. ISBN 0-471-33195-3.

SA Kates and F Albericio (Eds.). *Solid-Phase Synthesis. A Practical Guide.* Marcel Dekker. ISBN 0-8247-0359-6.







Note that none of the above titles contain the keyword *peptide*. Solid-phase synthesis was invented for peptide synthesis, and the combinatorial revolution was kindled in peptide science too. It was some years before these two linked concepts were taken up in other areas of organic chemistry. But now the boot begins to be on the other foot, and peptide scientists need to keep an eye on innovations outwith their

usual territory, lest they miss advances which might be absorbed into peptide science. So all four books are very relevant, and ought to be in any departmental library which serves groups doing solid phase peptide synthesis or combinatorial work. The compilation by Kates and Albericio is perhaps the most explicitly relevant, its primary thrusts being on peptides of various sorts. There are 36 contributors listed, with 20 chapters citing over 2400 references, and giving much practical detail. RB Merrifield contributed a handsome and complimentary foreword; he says he has already found the book useful and will keep it at hand, recommending that "every peptide chemist and many classical organic chemists do the same", beside which anything I can say would be an inconsequential impertinence.

Contributed by the Editor

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K Gundertofte and FS Jørgensen (Eds). *Molecular Modelling and Prediction of Bioactivity.* Kluwer Academic Publishers. 1999. ISBN 0-306-46217-6.

Any subject which holds a major meeting every second year and reaches its twelfth symposium is clearly a solid topic here to stay. This is certainly true of Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationships. The topic is given a more appealing title by describing it as 'Molecular Modelling and Prediction of Bioactivity', but the bulk of the volume is taken up by sections which include QSAR in the titles.

The individual authors include a high percentage of the leading figures in the field, so the symposium held in Copenhagen in August 1998 must have been an excellent way of keeping up with the topic. The collection of papers by representatives of industry as well as academia will similarly serve as a definitive view of the state of the art at the time.

For researchers with a specific interest in peptides there are not many contributions of particular rather than general interest. The focus is in part on the design of lead discovery libraries on one hand and upon rational drug design on the other: the extremes in a sense, either making thousands of molecules and screening them, or designing a small number of compounds which have high predicted binding energies. Both approaches have been and are used for peptides; libraries or specific design. The edited volume provides an insight into the alternatives and numerous examples. It makes useful rather than essential reading.

Contributed by WG Richards

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JR Chapman (Ed.). *Mass Spectrometry of Proteins and Peptides.* [Methods in Molecular Biology Vol. 146]. Humana Press 2000. ISBN 0-89603-609-X.

The complimentary techniques of electrospray ionisation (ESI) and matrix assisted laser desorption ionisation (MALDI) mass spectrometry are now well established as standard techniques in the biochemists and molecular biologists armory for the investigation of peptides and proteins whether they be from natural origin, recombinant engineering or the results of enzymatic digests. Indeed systems are now commercially available which will automatically excise proteins from 2D gels, perform an in gel digest and analyse the products by both MALDI and high resolution nano-flow HPLC-MS and MS-MS techniques with subsequent protein identification by automated data base searching. John Chapman has followed on from his excellent earlier volume 'Protein and Peptide Analysis by Mass Spectrometry' by bringing together in this both very readable and informative volume 27 individual chapters from acknowledged practitioners of the application of mass spectrometry to peptides and proteins. Each chapter is packed with real information both for the biologist and mass spectroscopist and contains a wealth of detail on sample preparation and the subsequent interpretation of the MS results, in most cases in a step-by-step manner, through the complications of apparently straightforward techniques. The 'hot' topics of the investigation of non-covalent complexes, protein-protein interactions and higher order protein structures by mass spectrometry are addressed in separate chapters. Any laboratory working on peptides and proteins whether they use MS or not should have access to this book. It is a goldmine.

Contributed by Robin T Aplin

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS IN BRIEF

- Advanced ChemTech Europe are (as of 1st September 2000) at 7 St George's Tower, Hatley St George, Sandy, Cambridgeshire, SG19 3HP. Tel: +44(0)1767 651166; Fax: 44(0)1767 651177.
- As of 1st August 2000, Peninsula Laboratories was absorbed by Bachem: Peninsula services continue under the Bachem name at Bachem (UK) Ltd, PO Box 62, 17K Westside Industrial Estate, Jackson Street, St Helens, Merseyside, WA9 3AJ.
- Günther Jung is to be congratulated on being the first recipient of the JPS Akabori Memorial Award, presented at JPS-37, Nagoya, October 2000. The regulations for this prestigious Award (as printed in *Peptide Newsletter Japan* No. 35) are: "This award, the fund of which was kindly donated by Rao Makineni, is presented 'in commemoration of the role of Professor Shiro Akabori as the founder of the Japanese Symposia on Peptide Chemistry'. The award is initiated from 2000 once every two years. 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. The winner should give a lecture on the Japanese Peptide Symposia in the year he or she is awarded.
- The September 2000 issue of *J.Peptide Sci.* is a Special Issue comprising papers presented at "Proteinase Inhibitors and Activators: Strategic Targets for Therapeutic Intervention" (Oxford, April 2000)."We are grateful to others of the organising committee, Brian Austen, Roger Epton, Robin Leatherbarrow and Christopher Southan for organising this meeting. The meeting was organised by the U.K. Biochemical Society/Royal Society of Chemistry Joint Protein and Peptide Science Group and was sponsored by the European Peptide Society."
- Cambridge Research Biochemicals, founded in 1980 and acquired by ICI in 1989, has now emerged with its original name and complete independence.
- The first impact factor for *J.Peptide Sci.* has been reported. At 1.31, we are told that this is not bad for a fledgling journal which is definitely on a rising curve with an increasing flow of good solid papers.
- The Australian company EPS members will first have encountered as "Chiron Mimotopes", which then became known as "Chiron Technologies", is now called simply "Mimotopes".
- It is just over 40 years since the publication of the proceedings of EPS-1 (1958), which was organised by Josef Rudinger in Prague, in a special issue (**24**, 1-160) of *Coll.Czech.Chem.Comm.* In 1999, on the anniversary of Rudinger's 75th birthday, the VIth National (Czech and Slovak) Conference took place in Prague, and the contributions have been published in English in a volume (see the New Publications Notices) dedicated to the memory of Rudinger and other distinguished Czech peptide scientists (K Bláha, K Poduška, K Jošt and I Frič).

In Memoriam
ISTVÁN SCHŐN

István Schőn, scientific consultant to the Chemical Works of Gedeon Richter Ltd in Budapest, Hungary, passed away suddenly on 18 June this year, after a short but serious illness.

He was born in Budapest on 24 April 1942. In 1962, he became a chemistry student at the Faculty of Science of Eötvös Loránd University. On completion of his university studies in 1967, István joined the Chemical Works of Gedeon Richter and spent his full working career there. First he was a member of the peptide production team, and then from 1971 he worked as scientist in the peptide research laboratory. In 1975 he gained an external PhD degree from the Technical University, Budapest which was followed by the CSc degree from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1978. In the same year he accepted an invitation from Erhard Gross and spent a year in his laboratory at the NIH (Bethesda, Maryland). In 1989 István was appointed head of the Kisfaludy Laboratory at Gedeon Richter, and his scientific achievements were recognised by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences with a DSc degree in 1991.

His early work in the field of peptide chemistry was on the development of improved and/or large-scale synthesis of ACTH, oxytocin and pentagastrin. Later, in close collaboration with L Kisfaludy he made significant contribution to the preparation and application of Fmoc amino acid pentafluorophenyl esters in peptide synthesis (L Kisfaludy and I Schőn, *Synthesis,* 1983, 325-327; I Schőn and L Kisfaludy, *Synthesis,* 1986, 303-305). Among his main achievements were the understanding of the reductive transformations in liquid ammonia in the presence of sodium (I Schőn, *Chem.Rev.* **84,** 287-297) and of the side-reactions of Asp in acidic or alkaline conditions (I Schőn *et al., J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans I,* 1991, 3213-3223; I Schőn and O Nyéki, *J.Chem.Soc. Chem.Commun.,* 1994, 393-394).

He had a strong interest in developing new and reliable methodologies and procedures as well as studying structure-function relationship of hormones and immunomodulatory peptides as drug candidates. Most of the 100 or so articles he wrote were concerned with peptides. His contribution to pharmaceutical research and development is further attested by more than 40 patents and the large number of lectures at national and international meetings. In addition he published a well-received series of newspaper articles in the Hungarian daily press in the 1990s on science policy.

Since 1988 he gave courses on "Peptide Research in the Pharmaceutical Industry" as an invited guest lecturer at the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Albert Szent-Györgyi University, Szeged, and in 1993 he was elected an Honorary Professor of there. He was also a member of the Chemistry PhD Programme Board at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest.

He was a member of the Peptide Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 1981, and of the European Peptide Society from the very beginning. Among other peptide-related activities he was involved in setting up the Lajos Kisfaludy Foundation and served as its first Secretary from 1995; he was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Hungarian Peptide and Protein Research; and he was a key figure on the Organising Committee of EPS-25.

István Schőn was a man of passionate attachments: to his subject, his work, his company, his family and his friends. He leaves his wife Irén, whom he married in 1968, and a son, Attila and a daughter, Barbara. We have lost not only a talented and dedicated peptide chemist, but also a wonderful person and a beloved friend, and we know that colleagues all over the peptide world will long remember him.

Contributed by Lajos Baláspiri, a friend,
on behalf of the Hungarian Peptide Committee

NEW PUBLICATION NOTICES

Information has been received on the following new books, journals, conference proceedings etc. 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, who will welcome them: full data should be provided, including the ISBN or ISSN. Listing here does not preclude a subsequent review in the Newsletter or *J.Peptide Sci.*

AMINO ACID ANALYSIS PROTOCOLS
Methods in Molecular Biology, 146.
Ed. C Cooper, N Parker and K Williams.
276pp, 2000. Humana Press.
ISBN 0-89603-656-1

BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE PEPTIDES
Ed. J Slaninová and T Barth.
Contributions presented at the VIth Conference, Prague, Czech Republic, April 1999
Collection Symposium Series, 3, 1999.
Obtainable from Sanbar Ltd, Vancurova 635, 15600 Prague 5.
ISBN 80-86241-06-8.

COMBINATORIAL CHEMISTRY – SYNTHESIS, ANALYSIS, SCREENING
Ed. G Jung.
1999. Wiley-VCH.
ISBN 3-527-29869-X

CURRENT PROTEIN AND PEPTIDE SCIENCE
Editor-in-Chief BM Dunn.
Volume 1, number 1 July 2000 (4 issues, 2000)
Bentham Science Publishers.
ISSN 1389-2037

DRUG STABILITY: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES
Third edition, revised and expanded.
Ed. CT Rhodes and JT Carstensen.
688pp, 2000. Dekker.
ISBN 0-8247-0376-6

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CONTROLLED DRUG DELIVERY
Ed. E Mathiowitz.
Two vols. Wiley.
ISBN 0-471-14828-8

ENZYMES – A PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION TO STRUCTURE, MECHANISM, AND DATA ANALYSIS
Second edition.
R A Copeland.
400pp, 2000.
Information from Intercept Ltd
(intercept@andover.co.uk)

HANDBOOK OF ANIMAL TOXINS – PEPTIDES AND PROTEINS
Ed. R Stocklin, J Maier and A Menez.
600pp approx, Oct 2000. Wiley.
ISBN 0-471-86690-3

THE IMMUNOASSAY HANDBOOK
Second edition.
Ed. D Wild.
800pp, 2000. Macmillan.
ISBN 0-333-72306-6

MASS SPECTROMETRY OF PROTEINS AND PEPTIDES
Methods in Molecular Biology, 159.
Ed. JR Chapman.
550pp, 2000. Humana Press.
ISBN 0-89603-609-X

METHODS IN NON-AQUEOUS ENZYMOLOGY.
Ed. MN Gupta.
232pp, 2000. Birkhäuser.
Information from Intercept Ltd
(intercept@andover.co.uk)

MOLECULAR MODELLING AND PREDICTION OF BIOACTIVITY
Proceedings of the 12th European Symposium on Quantitative Structure Activity Relationships
Ed. K Gundertofte and FS Jørgensen.
512pp, 1999. Kluwer Academic Publishers.
ISBN 0-306-46217-6

ORGANIC SYNTHESIS ON SOLID PHASE-SUPPORTS, LINKERS, REACTIONS
FZ Dörwald.
2000. Wiley-VCH.
ISBN 3-527-29950-5

PEPTIDES FOR THE NEW MILLENIUM
Proceedings of APS-16
Ed. GB Fields, JP Tam and G Barany.
1000pp, 2000. Kluwer Academic Publishers.
ISBN 0-7923-6445-7

PHARMACEUTICALS-CLASSES, THERAPEUTIC AGENTS, AREAS OF APPLICATION
Ed. JL Maguire.
2130pp approx, Sep 2000. Johnson & Johnson.

PROTEIN SEQUENCING AND IDENTIFICATION USING TANDEM MASS SPECTROMETRY
M Kinter.
320pp approx, Nov 2000. Wiley.
ISBN 0-471-32249-0

SOLID-PHASE SYNTHESIS AND COMBINATORIAL TECHNOLOGIES
P Seneci.
650pp approx, 2000. Wiley.
ISBN 0-471-33195-3

SOLID-PHASE SYNTHESIS – A PRACTICAL GUIDE
Ed. SA Kates and F Albericio.
848pp, 2000. Dekker.
ISBN 0-8247-0359-6

THE BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER AND DRUG DELIVERY TO THE CNS
Ed. DJ Begley, MW Bradbury, and J Kreuter.
264pp, 2000. Dekker.
ISBN 0-8247-0394-4

THE BACHEM PRACTICE OF SPPS: TIPS AND TRICKS FROM THE EXPERTS AT BACHEM
M Mergler and JP Durieux.
83pp, 2000. Bachem, *gratis.*

THE IMMUNOASSAY HANDBOOK
Second edition.
Ed. D Wild.
800pp, 2000. Macmillan.
ISBN 0-333-72306-6

THERAPEUTIC PROTEINS – SELECTED CASE STUDIES
Ed. K Dembowsky and P Stadler.
320pp approx, Nov 2000. Wiley-VCH.
ISBN 3527-30270-0

CALENDAR OF SOCIETY MEETINGS

An exhaustive list of meetings relevant to the interests of members used to be given under this heading, but as from January 1999 this list, updated every month, has been printed in the *J.Peptide Sci.* It was felt that this would be much more useful to the Peptide Community because of the greater frequency of publication. Organisers of Meetings are asked to continue feeding the Editor with information, however. The Newsletter Calendar now only lists Society Symposia and Small Meetings being arranged under its auspices.

2nd INTERNATIONAL PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
(17th AMERICAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM)
9-14 June 2001, San Diego, California
Donna M Freher-Lyons
[e-mail dlyons@tpims.org]

4th PEPTIDOMIMETICS AND PROTEINOMIMETICS SYMPOSIUM
9-14 September, 2001,
Sol Cress Holiday Resort, Spa, Belgium
Professor G Van Binst
[e-mail georges.van.binst@skynet.be]

7th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM, SOLID PHASE SYNTHESIS
18-22 September 2001,
Southampton, UK
Professor Roger Epton
[e-mail r.epton@mayflower.demon.co.uk]

27th EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
31 August - 6 September 2002, Sorrento, Italy.
Professor E Benedetti
[e-mail benedett@unina.it].

28th EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
5-10 September 2004, Jerusalem
(3rd INTERNATIONAL PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM)
The Secretariat
[e-mail peptide@kenes.com]

SOCIETY NEWS

- A new era for the EPS commenced at the end of the 26th Symposium at Montpellier, in that the Secretaryship has now moved to Budapest. Council at its Montpellier meeting unanimously supported the nomination of Ferenc Hudecz to be Secretary for the next 4 years, with the possibility of a further 2 years of office. At the closing ceremony at the Symposium, the Chairman thanked John Davies for his services as Secretary over the last 6 years. Professor Hudecz's full address and contact details are given below.
- Twelve years since the inauguration of the Society, a list of Bye-laws, compiled by Geoffrey Young, have been accepted by the Council, and serve as guidelines for the activities of most aspects of the Society. However procedures are constantly evolving, as for example in a new assessment of the guidelines for Grants for Small Meetings, currently being developed by Hélène Gras-Masse and the Scientific Sub-Committee. Details will be made available on the Website in due course.
- Council have accepted the resignation of Anand Dutta from the Scientific Sub-Committee. Anand had contributed greatly over many years to this Committee. Morten Meldal has been appointed as the new member on this Committee.
- The Council Meeting confirmed the dates of EPS-27 and EPS-28 (the Third International Peptide Symposium): see the Calendar of Society Meetings.

A BRIEF PROFILE OF THE NEW SECRETARY

The new Secretary of the Society, who took office at the Montpellier meeting of the Council, is Ferenc Hudecz. He is probably already well known to many members, not least because he took a leading part in the organisation of the Budapest EPS-25 in 1998. He is 48 years old, and was educated at the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, where he has been, with frequent visits and short-term appointments abroad, all his career. He gained his Habilitation in 1996 and has been a full Professor in the Research Group for Peptide Chemistry of the HAS since 1993. His research interests are in the design of synthetic antigens using peptide and non-peptide epitopes for vaccine and diagnostics development; prediction, synthesis, conformation, and conjugation of viral (herpes simplex virus), bacterial *(M. tuberculosis)* and tumor-associated (mucin) antigenic determinants to synthetic macromolecular carriers; design of drug delivery systems using macromolecular carriers including monoclonal antibodies. He has recently been appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of the *J.Peptide Sci.*

Contributed by the Editor

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW SECRETARY

It is a pleasure and a challenge to accept the invitation by the Executive Committee and Council of the Society to act as the Secretary for four years from the EPS-26 in Montpellier. It is a pleasure to serve fellow scientists in the field of peptide science and the members of the Society from more than 30 countries mostly from Europe; and it is a challenge to provide high quality service after experiencing the fine job done by Albert Loffet (1990-1994) and John Davies (1994-2000).

It is our common goal to attract and involve young, talented scientists to work in this intellectually demanding branch of science, which amalgamates peptide/protein-related discoveries at molecular level to understand better our living world, as well as to develop new bioactive compounds as drug candidates for the benefit of the mankind.

To achieve these ends we need not only to work in the lab at the bench and/or in front of a PC, but also to exchange ideas, to discuss experiences and to outline novel avenues for new projects. Organisations like our Society and meetings like our recent EPS-26 must therefore function properly. I will try to do my best to help the Chairman and Executive Committee in running the Society and to stimulate the formation of new links among members, both young and experienced, from the whole of Europe. For this I certainly need advice, comments, feedback and support from all readers of the Newsletter.

Ferenc Hudecz

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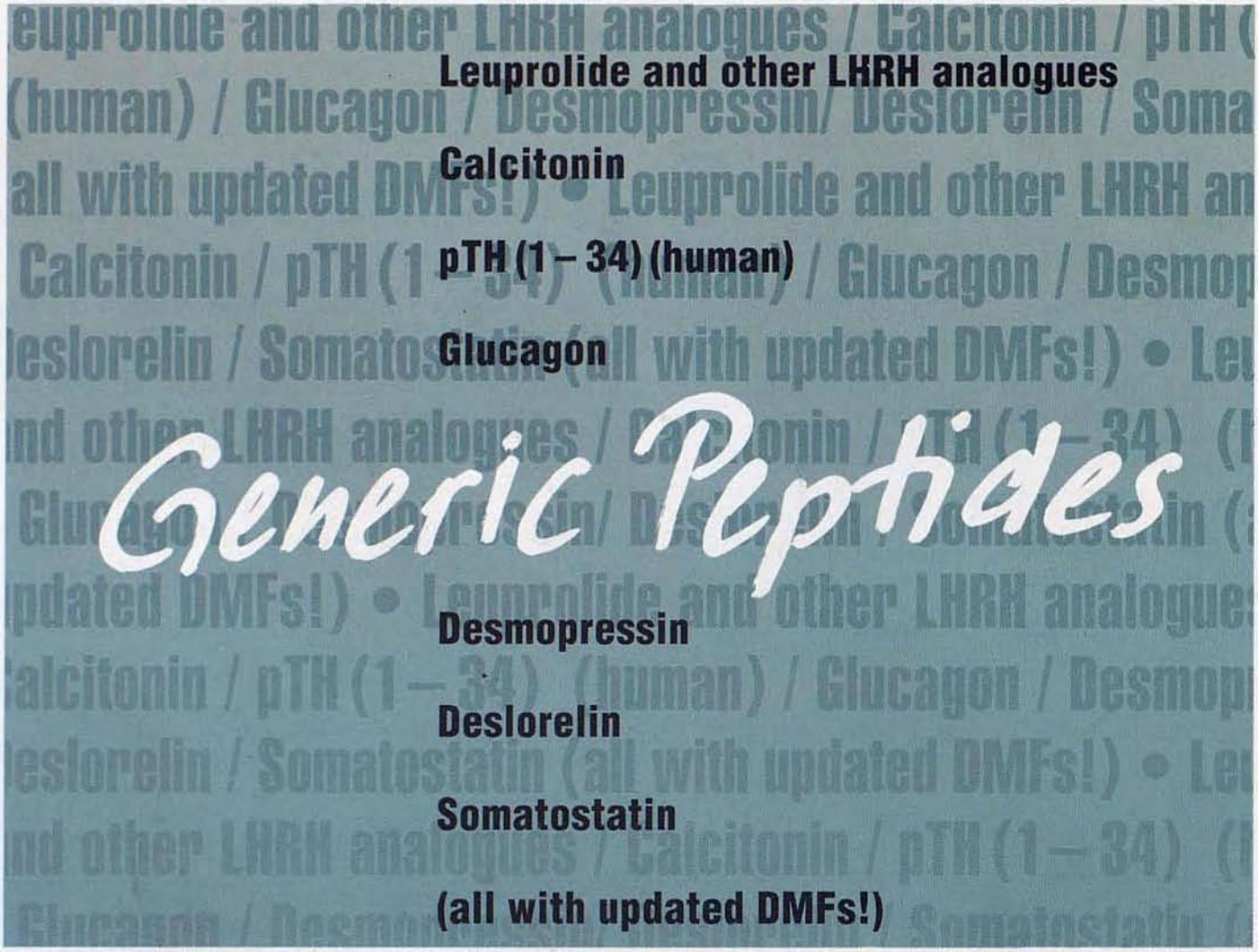

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