FOURTH FORUM ON PEPTIDES AND PROTEINS
9 - 14 March 1997, Montpellier

Rather unexpectedly, even for the South of France, Spring came early to Montpellier this year, so participants at the Fourth Forum spent a glorious week in that beautiful area. The mid-week jaunt into the Camargue and its culinary pleasures will remain a vivid memory. But more impressive even than the environmental delights was the amount of peptide research carried out in France, and also the enthusiasm for the subject. Although national meetings are organised annually by the Groupe Français des Peptides et des Protéines, every four years a Forum is organised when international guests are invited to experience and participate in an intensive week’s discussion. This year the programme consisted of 18 plenary lectures, 39 communications and 114 posters. By far the majority of the 350 or so participants were based in France, while 15% of the participants came from abroad.
There were ten sessions in all, and a list of the themes will help convey the flavour of the discussions:

- Peptide and pseudopeptide chemistry; molecular diversity; protein structure and analysis; protein engineering; molecular recognition in immunology; receptors and ligands; peptides and proteins in diseases; prion proteins; interaction of peptides with membranes; peptide delivery; molecular interactions and cell regulation. It seemed very bold of the organisers on Thursday evening to schedule a two and a half hour discussion period starting at 9.00 p.m. However, it turned out to be a great occasion with a full auditorium savouring, and much appreciating, the frontier work on prion proteins by S.B. Prusiner's group in San Francisco and K.Wüthrich's group of nmr experts in Zürich. Conformational changes of proteins will obviously dominate the investigations on BSE, CJD and Alzheimer's diseases up to the millennium. France is not slow either in caressing the benefits of high throughput organic synthesis using robotic systems, as demonstrated in André Tartar's combinatorial libraries presentation, a theme also taken by Wiesmüller (Tübingen). Current developments in molecular genetics (discussed by Vassart and Meunier) are at such an advanced stage that orphan receptors are being genetically developed which await the identification of suitable ligands (inverse pharmacology). Structures of protein domains were expertly covered by Roques's work, and by Van Tilbeurgh. Membrane insertion of polypeptides (de Kruifff) and drug transport through cellular and physiological barriers (Scherman), remain key areas of research for the pharmaceutical industry.

A week's programme is difficult to condense into the few paragraphs of this report, but the contemporary "feel" of the discussions was maintained throughout, from peptides as hosts and guests (Giralt), peptide nucleic acids (Nielsen) and hydrazinopeptide chemistry (Collet), to farnesyl-protein transference inhibitors (Pessi). From peptide hormone receptors (Brandenburg), to examples of cell regulation (Pouysségur and Sassone-Corsi), each contribution was a reminder of the great expanse of knowledge becoming available under the label of "Peptides and Proteins". It was indeed a privilege to participate, as was the opportunity to assess via the posters and the 23 commercial exhibitors present, the healthy state of peptide/protein research in France. Sincere thanks go to Jean Martinez and his enthusiastic organisational colleagues for their tremendous work. This was certainly a successful trial run for what augers to be a great EPS Symposium in 2000!

Contributed by John S. Davies

The second Symposium on Design, Synthesis and Structure of Peptidomimetics took place in Spa (Belgium) at the Sol Cress holiday resort, 27 April-1 May 1997. The Symposium was organised under the auspices of the European Peptide Society and the Société Royale de Chimie. The well confined location and the rainy weather favoured the intensive programme, which was attended assiduously by almost all the 120 or so participants till the last lecture. The programme comprised 13 invited plenary lectures, 15 oral communications and 26 posters. In addition, a lively round-table discussion on "Conformational characterisation of small peptidomimetics" was led by Dale Mierke. The audience was truly international; academic and industrial participants were almost equally represented.

The opening lecture was presented in masterly style by David Horwell; his title was "The design of non-peptide agonists at neuropeptide receptors starting from the chemical structure of neuropeptides." The topics of the plenary lectures showed the diversity of the peptidomimetics field: "Conformationally constrained opioid peptide analogs with novel activity profiles" by Peter Schiller; "Neuropeptide-mediated cell proliferation: inhibition by broad spectrum antagonists" by Enrique Rozengurt; "Design and bioactivities of melanotropin agonists and antagonists based on a conformationally constrained somatostatin template"
by Victor Hruby; “Third generation protein design; incorporation of β-turn mimics in small proteins’ by Oleg Melnyk; “From a peptide lead to an orally active peptidomimetic fibrinogen receptor antagonist” by Hans Stilz; “Application of conformationally restricted peptidomimetics to modeling the bound conformation of peptide antagonists with the IL-1 receptor” by Gary Flynn; “Design and discovery for peptide receptor ligands: potent selective antagonists for the interleukin-8, chemokine receptor” by Daniel Veber; “Backbone cyclic conformational libraries of peptides (Cyclosan)” by Chaim Gilon; “Lipophilic modification of peptides” by Horst Kessler; “Substituted 1,4-diazepinones as novel molecular scaffolds and dipeptidomimetics” by Michael Chorev; “New approaches to mapping the binding sites of peptide and non-peptide molecules to G protein-coupled receptors” by Andre Chollet; and “Synthesis and application of enantiomerically pure α,α-disubstituted and other unnatural α-amino acids” by Rinus Broxterman.

The Wednesday evening buffet was preceded by a concert performed by the Sine Nomine Orchestra directed by Véronique Flammang, the daughter of two Belgian organic chemist colleagues. She succeeded brightly in converting the smell of chemistry into pleasant sounds. Many companies took the opportunity to advertise or exhibit their products, and by doing so contributed to the sponsoring of the Symposium. The size and the location created a very convivial atmosphere and many discussions continued late at the bar.

The Proceedings of the Symposium will be published as a special issue of Letters in Peptide Science. Subscription for copies is still possible at the Symposium Secretariat address (Bruière Abbée 17, B-1390 Grez-Doliceau, Belgium).

Contributed by Georges Van Binst.

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IT IS NOMINATION TIME AGAIN!

Josef Rudinger Memorial Lecture & Leonides Zervas Award

The Secretary invites nominations for the 1998 Awards, which will be presented at EPS-25.

The Josef Rudinger Memorial Lecture
This Award, kindly sponsored by Ferring SA, is presented “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.” 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 Leonides Zervas Award
The Zervas Award, kindly sponsored by Bachem AG, Switzerland, is presented “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 the regulations give preference 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).

In both cases, nominations and supporting papers must be received by the Secretary (for contact details see later) before 31 January 1998. All nominations and supporting papers received by the closing date will be referred by the Secretary to the Scientific Committee. This Committee will select candidates from the nominations, and can also consider names not proposed by anyone else. After referring the Scientific Committee’s choice to the Executive Committee, the Secretary will organise the Council vote by postal ballot.

John S. Davies.
THE FOUNDATION OF THE SOCIETY
By Geoffrey T Young

As we approach the tenth anniversary of the discussions which resulted in the foundation of our Society it may be of interest, especially to younger members, briefly to recall this early history. A more detailed account has been deposited with the archives.

Josef Rudinger, of the Institute of Chemistry, Czechoslovak Academy of Science, had been in contact for some years with chemists in both Eastern and Western Europe who were developing methods for the chemical synthesis of peptides, and in 1958 he invited about fifteen to a Symposium ("kritische Diskussion") in Prague; thirteen guests attended. These detailed discussions proved to be so valuable that it was agreed to meet regularly (yearly at first). Attendance was by invitation only and the organisation was entirely informal; for simplicity, the host of the next meeting became the temporary Chairman of the group. An account of this period was published in the Society Newsletters nos. 2 and 3 (July 1991 and January 1992).

Steadily the number of workers in the field increased; there was great pressure on places at the Symposia, and their organisation became a major task. By 1988 there were about 500 participants at the meeting in Tübingen; there were now similar informal groups in America and in Japan, and there was a suggestion of forming a single international (world-wide) peptide society. A more effective organisation was urgently required, able to deal quickly with pressing problems.

The informal European Peptide Committee (now having representatives from twenty-one European countries) therefore agreed to elect a Chairman for a period of four years, together with a Standing Sub-Committee (SSC) able to meet at short notice and with power to act between the biennial meetings of the full Committee. The members of the SSC were Professor G. Jung, Professor E. Giralt, Professor K. Medzihradszky, and Dr. A. Loffet, with myself as Chairman. This Sub-Committee was asked urgently to consider in particular the proposal for a single international society.

The SSC met in Jesus College, Oxford, on December 18, 1988. It was agreed that the size and international character of the meetings now necessitated a formal organisation. There was a unanimous wish to preserve the European character and traditions of our meetings, and two possible structures for a formal society were considered; a federal society, which would link national peptide societies, and a society with individual European members. The latter proposal involved difficulties in the transfer of subscriptions, particularly from members in Eastern Europe, but it was suggested that admission to membership might be without fee but by qualifications such as published papers in the field, and the Society could be financed from a portion of the registration fees of Symposia and from industrial sponsorship. This structure was preferred by the Sub-Committee; possible Statutes for such a society were drafted, and in January 1989 were sent to members of the main Committee for their views, together with a statement of the main features of the proposal. It may be noted here that although the group originally founded by Josef Rudinger was primarily concerned with the chemistry of peptide synthesis the draft Statutes specified the "chemistry, biochemistry, and biology of peptides", reflecting the broadening of the field as chemical problems were solved.

The initial reactions of the members of the Committee were uniformly favourable. The SSC, meeting again in Jesus College on April 12, 1989, asked Dr. Loffet to act as temporary Secretary, notices announcing the formation of the Society were placed in national journals, and Professor Jung approached industrial companies offering sponsoring membership. By April 30th the recommendations had received the unanimous approval of the Committee, and Dr. Loffet sent out invitations to those who had attended recent Symposia to join the new society. Enrolment began on June 1st. The SSC was appointed as an Interim Executive Committee. The list of initial members was to be closed on September 30th, when nominations for representatives on Council would then be invited, one representative from each constituent country. The first meeting of the elected Council would then be invited, one representative from each constituent country. The first meeting of the elected Council would be held during the Symposium in Spain in September 1990, when an Executive Committee would be elected by Council.

The first cheque from a sponsor (Bachem Switzerland) arrived in October 1989; until then, essential expenses had been met from a loan from Propeptide (Paris). Professor Jung agreed to act as Interim Treasurer. Legal advice on the status of the Society, an "unincorporated Association", confirmed that we should not be liable for U.K. tax on our income from subscriptions, but only on the interest on bank balances, and the account of the Society was therefore held in a U.K. (Oxford) bank.
In August 1989, the presence in Oxford of Dr. Loffet and Professors Giralt, Hruby, Stewart, and Rivier provided an opportunity for a discussion of American plans for the formation of an American Peptide Society, and there was a useful and cordial exchange of information. Throughout these international discussions Professor Sakakibara, of the Protein Research Foundation, Osaka, was kept fully informed, and it was clear that there was active consideration of the formation of a Japanese Peptide Society.

It appeared to be important that the Society should be in touch with its members in the long periods between Symposia, and we approached Dr. J.H. Jones to see whether he would be willing to produce a Newsletter. We were delighted when he agreed and in February 1990 an Introductory Newsletter was circulated to all members so far registered (about 700). This gave the Society’s plans, together with the composition of the Interim Executive Committee and of the newly elected Council.

The third meeting of the SSC was held in Budapest on May 12, 1990. Action taken since the last meeting was reported. With the approval of Professor Giralt it was agreed that the 21st Symposium at Platja d’Aro in Spain would be deemed to be the first to be held under the auspices of the Society. A suggestion (from Professor Brunfeldt) that the accounts should be audited professionally was accepted, and this and other minor amendments were incorporated in the final proposed Statutes, to be submitted for approval at the first meeting of Council. Dr. Loffet reported that there were now 711 members.

The first meeting of the Council of the Society was held in Platja d’Aro on September 3rd, 1990, during the Symposium there. The actions of the Interim Executive Committee were reported and approved; the amended Statutes were approved, together with the qualifications for the admission of members and the privileges of sponsoring members. The following elections were made: Chairman, G.T. Young (2 years); Secretary, Dr. A. Loffet (4 years); Treasurer, Professor G. Jung (4 years). Audited accounts for the partial year November 7th, 1989, to May 31st, 1990, were accepted and a budget for the financial year June 1st, 1990 to May 31st, 1991 was agreed. Copies of the Statutes as amended were signed by all members of the Council as legal evidence of their approval. The Society was now fully established.

I would like to record my warm and sincere thanks to the colleagues who collaborated so well and so enthusiastically to form our Society. It was a great pleasure and privilege to work with such good friends.

**APS-15**

The 15th American Peptide Symposium took place as scheduled at Nashville, 14-19 June, 1997. We understand that the Proceedings will be published by Kluwer Academic Publishers, from whom those not able to attend may order copies: Kluwer Academic Publishers, Order Department, PO Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, The Netherlands. Full bibliographic details are not yet available, but it is anticipated that publication will take place about February 1998.

*Sándor Bajusz (left), Chairman of EPS-25, with James P Tam (right), Chairman of APS-15*

Kluwer Academic Publishers has acquired ESCOM Science Publishers B.V., who have been Society Sponsors from the outset.

ESCOM's publication program consists of 6 journals and several book series. Journal titles include the high ISI impact factor journals Journal of Computer-Aided Molecular Design and Journal of Biomolecular NMR and the recently established journals Molecular Diversity, Journal of Computer-Aided Materials Design and Letters in Peptide Science. Important other publications are Perspectives in Drug Discovery and Design and the Annual Reports in Combinatorial Chemistry & Molecular Diversity. ESCOM has an ongoing relationship with all Peptide Societies: its publishing activities will be integrated into the Biosciences Division of Kluwer Academic Publishers and continued under the KLUWER/ESCOM imprint.

Kluwer Academic Publishers (a wholly owned subsidiary of the Netherlands multidomestic publishing company Wolters Kluwer NV), is an international scientific publisher with offices in Dordrecht, London, and Boston. It publishes approximately 300 journals and 600 new book titles each year in the areas of biosciences, medical sciences, sciences & technology, electrical engineering & computer sciences, and social sciences: see http://www/wkap.nl


NEWS FROM THE JULY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

• The Society supported the recent Peptidomimetics Symposium, Spa, Belgium, and will be supporting the 6th Naples Workshop, Capri, Italy, in both cases from the Small Meetings Fund.

• Organisers of small meetings are reminded that a modest Fund is available to assist with the costs of small meetings and workshops. Purely national meetings are excluded, but this is under review. A typical sponsorship would be up to £1000, towards the travelling expenses of speakers and the overall organisation of the meeting. Initially, what is required for a meeting to be considered is an informal letter to the Scientific Affairs Officer (for contact details, see later), 3-6 months in advance, giving an outline of the programme envisaged.

• There is still room for further subscription support of the Journal of Peptide Science by Society Members.

• The Treasurer reported a satisfactory financial year, although extra effort still needs to be made to secure sponsorship for the Society. A donation to the Society from the Royal Society of Chemistry, who ably provided the secretariat to the Edinburgh Meeting was gratefully acknowledged by the Committee. Currency fluctuations are currently a great concern to the Executive Committee.

• Preparations for EPS-25 (Budapest, 1998) were reported to be well in hand. Details will be made available in the Second Circular, which is almost ready to be printed. Bachem Travel Awards to assist young scientists to attend the Symposium have again been made available through the generosity of Bachem AG, Switzerland. Applications for these Awards should accompany the registration forms for the meeting, the details of which will be in the Second Circular.

• The Executive Committee has now unanimously accepted France’s offer to host EPS-26 at Montpellier in the year 2000.

• The Executive Committee also accepted the proposal from colleagues in Italy that they would be willing to organise EPS-27 in 2002.

John S. Davies
The Mayflower web site, which is updated regularly, is under development as a communications channel for chemical, biological and biomedical aspects of peptide, protein and nucleic acid science. It is well worth a monthly visit.

PEPTIDE SYNTHESIS DATABASE

This database was introduced in the last Newsletter. Dr Yasuo Konishi e-mailed the Editor with further information as follows on 5 July 1997:-

It is our pleasure to announce that the database for peptide synthesis is also available on CD (for Mac and PC), which is readable for any CD-ROM drivers except the old single speed ones. The price $40 (Canada) is to cover the cost of the CD and the handling charge. The database lists ~2600 residues with a new feature of 3D display. Please visit our Internet site http://aminoacid.bri.nrc.ca:1125/ to review this new version.

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Fax (514)496-5143
e-mail Yasuo.Konishi@nrc.ca

KYOTO DECEMBER 97

As everyone should know, the First International Peptide Symposium (IPS) will be held 30 November - 5 December, 1997, in Kyoto.

Immediately after the IPS, a meeting entitled “International Conference on Protease Inhibitors 97” will be held in the Miyako Hotel, Kyoto on December 6 (Sat), 1997. This conference will have a small number of attendees with a relaxed atmosphere and, hopefully, fruitful discussions like the Gordon Research Conferences.

International Conference on Protease Inhibitors ‘97 (ICPI’97)
December 6, 1997, Miyako Hotel, Kyoto, Japan
Contact: Professor Yoshiaki Kiso
Kyoto Pharmaceutical University, Kyoto 607, Japan
e-mail kiso@mb.kyoto-phu.ac.jp
Fax 81-75-591-9900
Hans-Dieter Jakubke, *Peptide, Chemie and Biologie*. Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, 1996. ISBN 3-8274-0000-7. EPS Members of riper years will remember *Aminosäuren, Peptide and Protein, Eine Einführung* (H-D Jakubke and H Jeschke 1968), which went to a third edition (1982) and was also published in English translation (1977). Hans Jeschke sadly died prematurely, but Hans-Dieter Jakubke flourishes. He has now produced a veritable magnum opus: *Peptide, Chemie and Biologie*. It is an entirely new book, but one which is recognisably an updated, expanded, and improved work founded on the peptide core of that which went before.

After a concise introductory survey of the chemical and structural basics, there is a valuable wide-ranging review of the diverse peptides which occur naturally and their biological roles. Then follows the heart of the book (which could have been a monograph in its own right, as it is some 250 pages in extent), an authoritative account of peptide synthesis, taking in not only the traditional approaches but also multiple, combinatorial, and biochemical synthesis. The main text concludes with an overview of the applications to which synthetic peptides have been put, drug design, and so on. Appended after the main text we find not only bibliographic information, references, an exhaustive list of abbreviations, and an index, but also nearly 80 pages presenting a Kurzlexikon Peptide. This is also valuable in its own right: the essential facts about some 400 important peptides and proteins are summarised in a compressed but conveniently accessible manner.

In his preface the author modestly warns *Ein von nur einem Author verfaßtes Buch dieser Breite ist nicht frei von Mängeln und Unzulänglichkeiten*. He is too cautious: this is a reliable and up-to-date monograph. There are of course a few typos, but only nit-pickers will notice them, and there are one to two matters of judgement and balance we could quibble over (Hmb backbone-protection is only mentioned in passing, and not indexed, for example). But there is only one danger: the "uronium" coupling reagents are formulated as such. Actually, as was first reported at Braga in 1994, in HBTU at least the [Me₂N]₂C⁺-group is directly attached to a triazole nitrogen, not through an oxygen atom. However, others—including your reviewer—were also slow to pick up on this point. We are in good (albeit somewhat red-faced) company, because the 97/98 edition of Novabiochem’s generally excellent and informative *Catalogue and Peptide Synthesis Handbook* lists and depicts HBTU incorrectly too. In any case, the unexpected structure is a mere curiosity which has no effect on the overall chemistry of coupling. The failure to notice it does not detract significantly from the overall merit of Hans-Dieter Jakubke’s important book. It deserves a place on every peptide chemist’s bookshelf: even those with only rudimentary German at their command will find it useful.

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This is the first advanced book in English concerned solely with chemical peptide synthesis for more than five years. Since there are in an average year now two major international Symposia, and getting on for a thousand papers appear in the journals, any new book which sets out to stand back from the tumult and present a considered digest is very welcome. As the title implies, the authors do not include what one might term biological methods of peptide synthesis, and peptidomimetics, cyclopeptides, conjugated peptides etc. are excluded, as are technical and practical detail. The main concern of the book is with peptides which are assembled from the usual protein building blocks, and proteins themselves. All three authors take equal responsibility for the whole book, which gives it a cohesive appearance and style which is lacking in many multi-author works. There are six chapters: Introduction (17pp, 41 refs.); Solid-Phase Peptide Synthesis (72pp, 457 refs.); Peptide Synthesis in Solution (142pp, 273 refs.); Convergent Approaches to the Synthesis of Large Peptides and Proteins (68pp, 298 refs.); Formation of Disulfide Bridges (25pp, 183 refs.); and Peptide Libraries (43pp, 91 refs.). The coverage throughout is clear, authoritative and up-to-date; there a good number of appropriate 1996 citations. The chapter on Convergent Approaches to the synthesis of Large Peptides and Proteins is an updated distillate of a review with the same title by the same authors which appeared four years ago in Tetrahedron, and is the nucleus of the book: its treatment of ligation procedures is especially valuable. Overall, the main thrust of the book's four central chapters seems to be towards big molecule synthesis, and it is an important contribution to the literature of an increasingly ambitious subject.

I only spotted one outright mistake, and it is more mortifying for me to point it out than it should be for the authors to have it drawn to their attention. They make credulous reference to the observation, reported from my group in 1980, of an O-acylisourea, when ZValOH was mixed 1:1 with DIC in CDCl₃. In the normal course of events this would be gratifying; a citation generally bolsters one's ego. But in this case we were, as Benoiton and Chen were swift to point out, completely deluded (my words, not theirs!) in our interpretation of what we saw, which was actually a 1:1:1 mixture of DIC, DICU and (ZVal)₂O. We were misled because we observed the slow smooth formation of N-acylurea from our mixture, and relied on the then prevalent view that N-acylurea formation was the outcome of an intramolecular transformation of an O-acylisourea. As far as I am aware it is still the case that nobody has observed a simple O-acylisourea directly.


The last Newsletter carried a report on the 34th Symposium on Peptide Chemistry of Japan, which was held in Tsukuba City 16-18 October last year, under the Chairmanship of Dr Chieko Kitada of Takeda Chemical Industries Ltd. The Proceedings, edited by her, and published by the Protein Research Foundation of Osaka as usual, appeared also as usual-with amazing speed and efficiency, several months ago. Any library serving a peptide chemistry group ought to get it. The next Symposium on Peptide Chemistry of Japan is of course the first International Peptide Symposium, which is due to take place at Kyoto shortly (30 November-5 December 1997), under the Chairmanship of Professor Shimonishi.
Solid Phase Synthesis Supports for Combinatorial Chemistry, Molecular Diversity & Peptide Synthesis...... batch to batch reproducibility and high purity with accurately-controlled particle sizes.

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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.

CHEMICAL APPROACHES TO THE SYNTHESIS OF PEPTIDES AND PROTEINS
P Lloyd-Williams, F Albericio and E Giralt.
For details and a review see above.

COMBINATORIAL CHEMISTRY. SYNTHESIS AND APPLICATION
S Wilson and AW Czarnik.
ISBN 0471 12687 X.

CYTOKINES IN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM
Ed. NJ Rothwell.
ISBN 3-540-61971-2

ELECTROSpray IONIZATION MASS SPECTROMETRY
B Cole.

GLYCOPEPTIDES AND RELATED COMPOUNDS
Eds. DG Large and CD Warren.

GROWTH FACTORS AND CYTOKINES IN HEALTH AND DISEASE
Eds. D Leroith and C Bondy.
The second and third vols. of a 3-vol. treatise.
600pp approx. each vol., 1997. JAI Press.

PEPTIDE. CHEMIE UND BIOLOGIE
H-D Jakubke.
For details and a review see above.
CALENDAR OF RELEVANT MEETINGS

Information has been collected about the following meetings 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. It would be helpful if similar information on all relevant meetings could be sent in as a matter of routine, at the earliest possible moment.

2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INSECTS: CHEMICAL, PHYSIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS
14-18 September 1997, Ladek-Zdrój, Poland.
Over half of the programme will be devoted to insect neuropeptides and insectotoxic peptides.
Professor Danuta Konopinska, Faculty of Chemistry, University of Wroclaw, ul.F.Joliot-Curie 14, 50-383 Wroclaw, Poland
[Fax +48 71 222348].

3rd INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON VIP, PACAP AND RELATED PEPTIDES
17-21 September 1997, Freiburg, Germany.
Lower Saxony Institute for Peptide Research, Feodor-Lynen-Str. 31, 30 625 Hanover, Germany.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ANGIOTENSIN II
Secretariat, Hampton Medical Conferences Ltd, Hofer House, 185 Uxbridge Road, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 1BN, UK
[Fax +44 181 7830292].

4th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INSULIN-LIKE GROWTH FACTORS
21-24 October 1997, Tokyo.
Professor K Takano, Department of Medicine, Institute of Clinical Endocrinology, Tokyo Women’s Medical College, 8-1 Kawada-Cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162, Japan
[Fax: +81 3-3350 5929].

13th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF COMPARATIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY
16-21 November 1997, Yokohama, Japan.
Secretariat of the 13th ICCE
[Fax +81-3-3207-9694].

188th MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR ENDOCRINOLOGY WITH THE ENDOCRINE SECTION OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE
Julie Cragg, Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS12 4NQ
[Tel +44 1454 619036, Fax +44 1454 616071].

1st INTERNATIONAL PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
30 November-5 December 1997, Kyoto.
Language: English.
Professor Y Shimomushi, Institute for Protein Research, Osaka University, 3-2, Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565, Japan
[Fax +81 6 8798603; e-mail simomushi@protein.osaka-u.ac.jp].

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PROTEASE INHIBITORS ’97
6 December 1997, Kyoto.
Professor Y Kiso, Kyoto Pharmaceutical University, Kyoto 607, Japan
[Fax 81-75-591-9900; e-mail kiso@mb.kyoto-phu.ac.jp].
Molecular Aspects of Cytokine-Receptor Interaction and Signal Transduction
RP Revoltella
[Fax +39 50 576661].

Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function
8-13 February 1998, Lorne, Australia.
Dr RJ Simpson, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, PO Royal Melbourne Hospital, Victoria 3050, Australia
[Fax +61 3 9340 1928].

6th Iberian Peptide Meeting
Dr Rosario González-Muñiz, Instituto de Química Médica, Juan de la Cierva 3, E-28006 Madrid, Spain
[Fax: +34 1 5644853].

17th Joint Meeting of British Endocrine Societies
Julie Cragg, Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS12 4NQ
[Tel +44 1454 619036, Fax +44 1454 616071].

Suspect Proteins in Neurodegeneration
31 March - 2 April 1998, Southampton, UK.
A Biochem. Soc./R.Soc. Chem. Protein & Peptide Science Group Meeting. Professor B Austin, c/o Dept. of Surgery, St George’s Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 ORF
[Fax 0181-7253594].

Ion Channels - Peptide/Protein Ligand Structure Aspects - Pharmacology
Dr J Harris, c/o Biofocus plc, 130 Abbott Drive, Sittingbourne Research Centre, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8AG
[Fax 01795 471123].

80th Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society
Cathy Huck, Director of Meetings, The Endocrine Society, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 500, Bethesda, MD 20814-4410, USA
[Fax +1 301 9410259].

Chinese Peptide Symposium
Details will be published in due course.

6th Naples Workshop on Bioactive Peptides
Prof. Ettore Benedetti, Dipartimento di Chimica, Via Mezzocannone 4, 80134 Napoli, Italy
[Fax +39 81 5514305 or 5527771; e-mail benedetti@chemna.dichi.unina.it].

12th Annual Symposium of the Protein Society
Robin Roth, Protein Society Symposium Management Office, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3998, USA.

25th European Peptide Symposium
30 August-4 September 1998, Budapest.
The Chairman will be Dr Sándor Bajusz, but requests for information etc., should be addressed to: Professor Dr Ferenc Hudecz, Res. Group of Peptide Chemistry, Eötvös Loránd University, PO Box 32, Budapest 112, H-1518 Hungary.
[Tel +36 1 209 0555; Fax +36 1 209 0602; e-mail fhudecz@ludens.elte.hu].

19th Conference of European Comparative Endocrinologists
Prof. Dr. EW Roubos, Dept. of Animal Physiology, Nijmegen Institute for Neurosciences, University of Nijmegen, Toernooiveld 1, 6525 ED Nijmegen, The Netherlands
[Fax +31 (0) 243652714].

XVth European Federation of Medicinal Chemistry International Symposium
6-10 September 1998, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Dr JF Gibson, XVth EFMC ISM, The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London, W1V OBN.
[Fax +44 171 734 1227].
15th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

12th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON REGULATORY PEPTIDES
16-20 September 1998, Mackinac Island, Michigan, USA.
Lois Ennis, c/o Univ. of Michigan Medical Center, 4301 Medical Science Research Building I, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0638, USA
[Fax (313) 763-2535].

3rd AUSTRALIAN PEPTIDE CONFERENCE
Details will be published in due course.

GRS '98
3-7 September 1998, San Francisco.
Information from the Secretary of the Growth Hormone Research Society: Dr Jens Sandhal Christansen, Medical Department M, Aarhus Kommunehospital, DK-8000, Aarhus C, Denmark.

16th AMERICAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Mid-1999, Minneapolis.
Details will be published in due course.

18th JOINT MEETING OF BRITISH ENDOCRINE SOCIETIES
12-15 April 1999, Bournemouth, UK.
Julie Cragg, Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS12 4NQ
[Tel +44 1454 619036; Fax +44 1454 616071].

13th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE PROTEIN SOCIETY
24-28 July 1999, Boston, Massachusetts.
Robin Roth, Protein Society Symposium Management Office, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3998, USA.

6th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOLID PHASE SYNTHESIS
31 August - 4 September 1999, University of York, York, UK.
Professor Roger Epton, c/o 6th SPS Secretariat, PO Box 13, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 OHQ, UK
[Fax +44 1384 294463].

19th JOINT MEETING OF BRITISH ENDOCRINE SOCIETIES
26-29 March 2000, Warwick, UK.
Julie Cragg, Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS12 4NQ
[Tel +44 1454 619036; Fax +44 1454 616071].

26th EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Probably September 2000, Montpellier.
Details will be published in due course.

GRS '2000
7-9 September 2000, Gothenburg, Sweden.
Information from the Secretary of the Growth Hormone Research Society: Dr Jens Sandhal Christansen, Medical Department M, Aarhus Kommunehospital, DK-8000, Aarhus C, Denmark.

ICE 2000
11th International Congress of Endocrinology.
30 October-3 November 2000, Sydney.
Professor John Eisman, The Garvan Institute of Medical Research, St Vincent’s Hospital, 384 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst Sydney, NSW 2010, Australia.

17th AMERICAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
Mid-2001, San Diego, California.
Details will be published in due course.

27th EUROPEAN PEPTIDE SYMPOSIUM
In the year 2002, Italy.
Details will be published in due course.

Compiled by the Editor
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