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shop. Fifteen invited speakers from major research centers around the world constituted the faculty.

In day one, the sessions focused on the normal function and dysfunction of tau and synuclein proteins as well as on the genetic, anatomo-pathological and clinical spectrum of tauopathies and synucleinopathies. The last session of the day, "Hot Topics", created a forum for the presentation of recently completed studies or works in progress. Day two topics concentrated on controversies and on futuristic approaches including new diagnostic tools and potential implications of recent advances on the treatment of tauopathies and synucleinopathies. Controversial issues discussed included the concept of Pick complex-FTD-parkinsonism, spectrum of Chromosome 17 mutations and what causes mental dysfunction in Parkinson's disease.

The well-balanced mixture of presentations on basic and classical concepts, in depth overviews and thought-provoking lectures on controversial issues and future trends was an especially unique and successful feature of this meeting. High quality lectures delivered by world class experts and, in particular ample time for lively discussions at the end of each session were further keys for the success of this timely workshop. Overall, the meeting was extremely successful in all aspects and was highly praised by all participants. The meeting was accredited by the Turkish Medical Association and the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME).

Meetings

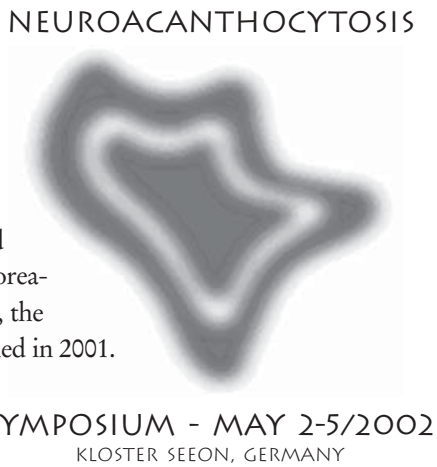
Symposium "Neuroacanthocytosis syndromes: New Perspectives for the Study of Basal Ganglia Degeneration"

— Adrian Danek, M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, University of Munich, Germany
Kloster Seeon, Germany, May 2-5, 2002

The first ever scientific meeting devoted to neuroacanthocytosis took place in an idyllic setting in southern Bavaria, a former monastery by a lake. During two days in May, 22 short presentations (as well as brief video sessions and a small poster exhibit) alternated with extensive discussion periods that expressed a great collaborative attitude. Presenters and chairpersons drew from an international, still small group of researchers with diverse backgrounds and little connections in the past.

The meeting had been organized by Adrian Danek with support from the Irvine family, the Fritz-Thyssen-Stiftung, Carl H. and Elizabeth S. Pforzheimer, John and Ellen Buzbee, Francesca Roberts, Susan and Kurt Mead, Novartis, Sanofi-Synthelabo, Pfizer, the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, the Imperial College Genetic Therapies Centre and John Groom - Helping the Disabled.

Spiky deformation of erythrocytes is typical for these conditions with neurodegeneration mainly of the basal ganglia manifesting with chorea, parkinsonism, dystonia, cognitive impairment, dysarthria,and dysphagia but also with seizures, neuropathy and myopathy.



The topics included the delineation of the different types of neuroacanthocytosis, chiefly the X-linked McLeod syndrome and autosomal recessive chorea-acanthocytosis (ChAc), the gene of which was cloned in 2001. There are at least two additional types, both autosomal dominant, one with intraneuronal inclusions (likely a manifestation of HDL2), and the other with exertion-induced paroxysmal dyskinesias (FADAEP). The exact relationships between what Levine and Critchley originally described in and the hereditary autosomic recesive? HARP syndrome remains to be defined. Despite the heterogeneity, it was agreed to retain neuroacanthocytosis as an

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Meetings

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umbrella term until the molecular correlates are better known.

Normative data from a standardized procedure for easy determination of acanthocytes, were presented. Another basic topic was the physiology of the acanthocyte membrane and the role of the McLeod protein originally identified as an antigen in the Kell system whose main function appears to be endothelin cleavage. The evidence for a role of endothelins as basal ganglia transmitters was reviewed. Several contributions explored Huntington's disease as a paradigm for treatment options and the development of animal models.

Among future interdisciplinary projects, studies of red cell membranes that might share the same defect with the affected neurons were discussed as well as the recently available mice with mutations in the McLeod and ChAc genes. There was general agreement to develop mechanisms to exchange information (clinical data collection with a neuroacanthocytosis questionnaire, sleep study results) and materials (erythrocyte samples, DNA, muscle, nerve, brain specimens) related to these probably still underdiagnosed conditions. Additional collaborators are welcome. There is also a developing patient and family interest group that is looking for partners.

In summary, the first international symposium on neuroacanthocytosis provided an excellent opportunity for exchange about a still insufficiently understood group of syndromes. On the basis of this success, a follow-up meeting is planned for 2004 in Italy.

Additional information: www.nefo.med.uni-muenchen.de/~adanek/index_eng.html .

Interest group: gingerirvine@compuserve.com

From left to right: A. Sano, M. Ho, V. Irvine, G. Irvine, L. Rampoldi, R. Hardie, M. T. Dotti, A. P. Monaco, M. Melone, B. Landwehrmeyer, H. H. Jung, A. Velayos-Baeza, C. Dobson-Stone, T. N. Witt, A. Andreu, A. Weindl, J. Kobal, R. Walker, J. G. de Yebenes, F. Anneser, A. Danek, M. Dose, G. Bosman, M. van den Buuse, A. Storch, F. Tison, M. O. Hengartner, B. Schoser, G. Daniels, B. Gathof, T. Klopstock.

Participants not shown: J. Andrich, T. Brandt, A. Deutschländer, L. de Franceschi, T. Gasser, A. Irvine, C.-M. Kosinski, E. Kraft, H. Meierkord, T. Meyer, R. Reilmann, J. Volkmann, U. Wahlländer-Danek.

Meetings

ASENT Annual Meeting

The American Society for Experimental NeuroTherapeutics (ASENT) announces its 5th Annual Meeting, March 13-15, 2003 at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC.

The 5th Annual Meeting features two symposia, "Neuroprotection: Translation of Mechanism and Model Into Therapy" and "Evaluating the Potential of Stem Cells: A Critical Assessment." The meeting also features three workshops entitled, "Placebos and Active Controls of Clinical Trials," "Neuroprotection: Issues in Clinical Trial Design" and "Update on Clinical Trials.

If you would like additional information about ASENT or the 5th Annual Meeting, please visit our web site at www.asent.org or call 414-273-8290.

A *MOVEMENT* DISORDER SOCIETY UPDATE

Moving Along

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inside this issue

Editorial

With this Winter issue of ***Moving Along***, the official Newsletter of The Movement Disorder Society (MDS), it concludes one of the most interesting and successful years of the MDS. We would like to thank Dr. Werner Poewe for his outstanding job as the MDS President in 2001 and 2002. His effective communication and excellent leadership contributed to the many accomplishments of The *Movement* Disorder Society. We welcome Dr. Warren Olanow as the new president of MDS and look forward to continued success under his direction.


Irene Litvan, MD


Thomas Gasser, MD

The year culminated in the 7th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders held at the Fontainebleau Hilton Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida, USA. Not only was the venue spectacular, the number of participants record-breaking, and the atmosphere and social programs fabulous, but the attendants enjoyed an outstanding scientific program reflecting the rapid progress in Movement Disorders. The plenary lectures, given by the leaders in the respective areas provided excellent overviews of all pertinent topics in Movement Disorders.

Many of the lectures also presented original unpublished results of recent research. For example, the cloning and the identification of a novel gene causing autosomal-recessive early-onset parkinsonism was announced by Dr. Bonifati of Rotterdam. This gene, called DJ-1, has been implicated among other things in the cellular response to oxidative stress. Analysis of its function and the consequences of its dysfunction promise to provide novel insights into the molecular mechanism of neuronal degeneration. Other highlights included promising reports on the success of deep brain stimulation in dystonic syndromes (this topic was also represented by a large number of excellent poster presentations), and an important study presented by Dr. Stanley Fahn of Columbia University, NY, concerning early vs. late treatment of PD with levodopa which indicated that this compound is in fact not detrimental to dopaminergic neurons in early PD.

On the other hand, clinical studies do not always provide the results that had been wished for. Professor Warren Olanow from Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY, our incoming MDS President, presented data from a second placebo-controlled fetal transplantation study. The authors were cautious about the prospects of this form of treatment since a reduction of motor disability was not achieved despite excellent improvement in 18F-L-dopa PET studies and data demonstrating at autopsy solid survival of transplanted neurons. These results once again demonstrate that properly designed clinical trials are the gold standard for the evaluation of treatment progress in PD. The study, once fully assessed, will likely send researchers back to the laboratory benches.

This issue of ***Moving Along*** will once again give you the full spectrum of news, opinions and controversies that makes the life of a Movement Disorders specialist interesting. We are particu-

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