

## EDITORIAL

### THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL PHARMACOLOGICAL CONGRESS\*

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THE Third International Pharmacological Congress was held in São Paulo during the week from 24-30 July, 1966, at the new campus of the University of São Paulo, under the auspices of IUPHAR (International Union of Pharmacology), the Brazilian Federal Government, the Government of the State of São Paulo and the University of São Paulo. The Congress was mainly organized by Prof. M. Rocha e. Silva (Rib. Preto), President; Prof. J. Ribeiro do Valle (S. Paulo), Vice-President; Prof. L. Sollero (Rio de Janeiro), Secretary General; and Dr. Hanna Rothschild (Rib. Preto), Secretary-Treasurer. With the exception of the Inaugural Session that was held on July 24, at 6 p.m. at the Gazeta Building, all the scientific sessions of the Congress took place in a single building of the Engineering School at the University City of São Paulo. The Secretariat was opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 24 for registration, and closed on Saturday at 1 p.m. on the 30th of July, 1966.

The Scientific Sessions of the Congress started with a series of four Conferences on Pre-Columbian Pharmacology, on Monday morning, and ended with four Round Table Discussions on Saturday morning. In between 715 papers were presented in fifty-six sessions of Short Communications, plus eleven Symposia and seventeen Special Lectures on important subjects.\*

On Thursday afternoon, the members of the Executive Board and Council of IUPHAR met at the University Rectorate, and discussed the by-laws of the new International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR). The new officers of IUPHAR were elected: Honorary Presidents: C. Heymans (Ghent), S. V. Anichkov (Leningrad) and C. F. Schmidt (Johnsville, Pa.); President: B. Uvnäs (Stockholm); Vice-Presidents: Helena Rasková (Prague) and M. Rocha e. Silva (Rib. Preto); Secretary General: G. Koelle (Philadelphia) and Treasurer: M. Nickerson (Winnipeg).

On Thursday, 28 July, 8.30 p.m. the official banquet was held at the "Automovel Club" in São Paulo. Social gatherings took place at the Municipal Theater (Concert of Chamber Music on Wednesday); at the Club Pinheiros (Folk dancing on Friday) and at the grounds of the University for a closing barbecue ("churrasco") offered by the Congress. After the opening session the participants of the Congress were invited to a buffet-reception at the Salão de Festas Fasano.

The weather was favourable and the scientific program carried out strictly according to schedule. The fourteen rooms for short communications were synchronized with electric timers and the Symposia were timed with devices specially designed for the Congress.

\* The Proceedings of the Third International Pharmacological Congress will be published by Pergamon Press.

The 1049 attendants of the Congress came from fifty-one different countries (Table 1).

The Abstracts of the Communications, Lectures and Symposis were published in a volume of 285 pp. of about 200,000 words, in six different languages, including Russian, German, French, English, Spanish and Portuguese. The subjects dealt with in the Communications, were classified according to the titles indicated in Table 2.

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS (ACTIVE MEMBERS) OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL PHARMACOLOGICAL CONGRESS ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES

Country	Members	Country	Members	Country	Members
Brazil	251	Czechoslovakia	28	Uruguay	12
U.S.A.	251	Canada	21	G.D.R.	12
Argentina	71	Peru	20	Netherlands	11
U.K.	51	Japan	20	Mexico	10
Italy	43	Switzerland	17	Rumania	10
France	42	U.S.S.R.	16	Australia	9
Chile	31	Sweden	16	India	8
G.F.R.	29	Poland	15	Portugal	6
				Belgium	5

Israel, Venezuela, Bulgaria, Hungary, Thailand, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Iran, Jamaica, Spain, Bolivia, Finland, Ghana, Haiti, Iraq, Korea, Norway, Panamá, Republic of China (Taiwan), South Africa, Sudan, Turkey, U.A.R. and Yugoslavia: Less than five each.

Total: 1049.

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF PAPERS PRESENTED TO THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL PHARMACOLOGICAL CONGRESS

	Number of Abstracts	Lectures	Symp.	R.T.
Neuropharmacology	80	3	1	—
Biochem. Pharmacology	66	2	1	—
General pharmacology	54	1	1	—
Autonomic pharmacology	53	—	—	—
Cardiovasc. pharmacology	45	1	—	—
Polypeptides	42	—	—	—
Symp. vaso act. polyp.	44	—	1	—
Clinical pharmacology	43	2	1	1
Immuno-pharmacol. Histamine	37	2	1	—
Analgesics—Anesthetics	34	—	1	—
Endocrinology	32	1	1	—
Plant and animal products	32	4	—	1
Psychopharmacology	31	—	—	—
Hematopharmacology	24	1	1	—
Chemotherapy—antibiotics	23	—	1	—
Inflam. Anti-inflam. Drugs	21	—	—	—
Toxicology	21	—	1	—
Salt and water balance—renal pharmacology	19	—	1	—
Neuro-muscular junction	13	1	—	—
Comparative pharmacology	11	—	—	1
Pharmacogenetics, teratology	10	—	—	—
Gastro-intest. pharmacology	10	—	—	—
Nutritional pharmacology	7	—	—	—
Historical and teaching	3	—	—	—
Totals	751	18	12	3

In Table 2 are included the papers presented to the Symposium on Vaso-Active Polypeptides which took place on the 2-4 August, 1966, in Ribeirão Preto, with an attendance of eighty members.

It is interesting to consider the large variety of subjects which fit into a Pharmacological Congress, from Neuropharmacology to Radiation Pharmacology. Since future Congresses will have the same task of classifying the subjects, it is interesting to compare the distribution of subjects as indicated in Table 2, with any known distribution of interests of pharmacologists in a large community. Fortunately we have a 'standard curve' of distribution of interests among 314 members of the American Society for Pharmacology and Therapeutics, as published in the current issue of *The Pharmacologist*, vol. 8, p. 113. A very striking correlation is presented in the graph of Fig. 1, in which the subjects of the American options are plotted against the number of options (o). In the same graph, there are plotted the numbers of Abstracts (▲) of the São Paulo Meeting according to the subjects into which they were classified. A very small adaptation was necessary to adjust the titles of the São Paulo Meeting to the optional titles of the American Pharmacologists.

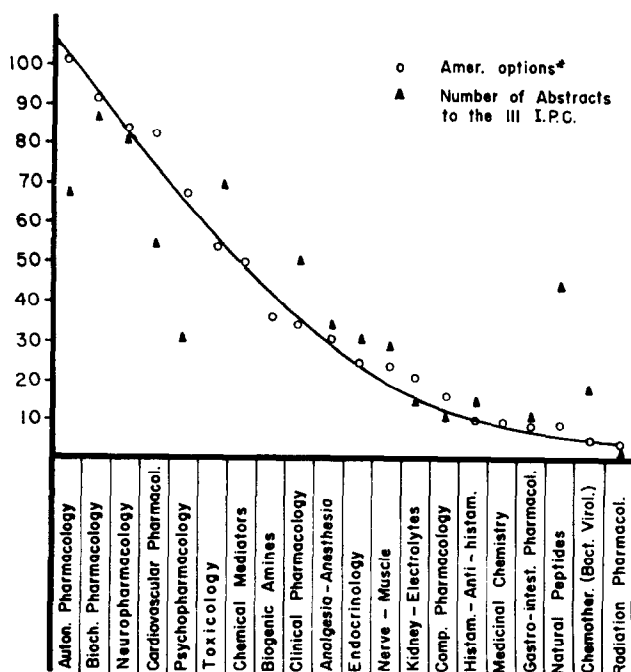


FIG. 1. Correlation between American options\* and the subjects presented to the third International Pharmacological Congress.

\* Major pharmacological research interest of American pharmacologists.

One adaptation was to redistribute the Abstracts under the titles of "General Pharmacology", "Pharmacogenetics and Teratology", "Inflammation and Anti-Inflammatory drugs" and "Immunopharmacology and Histamine" which did not appear in the American list. "Plant and Animal Products" was added to Toxicology. It is to be noted that the number of papers on polypeptides was significantly higher in the Third International Pharmacological Congress than in the usual option of American pharmacologists. The other discrepancies might be explained by differences in the way options were computed (the same individual choosing two or three),

though the figures indicated in the graph for the Third International Pharmacological Congress were actual numbers of Abstracts of papers presented to the Congress, only one paper being presented by each participant.

As a consequence of the Third International Pharmacological Congress, the Brazilian Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics was created on 14 October, 1966, with the same executive board of the Congress. President: Prof. M. Rocha e. Silva, Vice-President: Prof. J. Ribeiro do Valle; Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Hanna Rothschild; Secretary: Dr. Sergio S. Cardoso.