

EDITORIAL

The European Society of Biochemical Pharmacology (ESBP)

The International Society of Biochemical Pharmacology (ISBP) has been in existence for a number of years*. In the past, ISBP has sponsored and organized a variety of international symposia, although in recent years, it has been rather quiescent. Numerous scientists have voiced the opinion that there is a need for some international body devoted to the biochemical aspects of pharmacology. The undersigned have decided to experiment with a revised organization of the ISBP in order to fulfill the wishes expressed by these pharmacologists as well as the many workers from such allied disciplines as clinical pharmacology, physiology, biochemistry, biophysics, electron microscopy and genetics, who have also expressed an interest in such a society.

The suggested new structure will be based on a European organization (ESBP), highly flexible and therefore better suited to satisfy varying needs. Because of various difficulties, pharmacologists of some Eastern European countries (Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia) have decided to form national groups. Naturally, these scientists would be welcome to participate in ESBP activities either as individuals or collectively.

The society will elect its chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer. Unavoidably, a few people must start the organization and the undersigned biochemical pharmacologists have agreed to lead the ESBP (pending eventual confirmation of their position by the first assembly) and will organize the activities of ESBP according to the wishes of members.

Suggested activities for the ESBP include the following:

1. An international meeting centred on some field of major interest to be held every four to five years.

2. Workshops or summer courses in methodology, sponsored by pharmacologists from industry, universities or research institutes.

3. Seminars with practical demonstrations, especially advanced courses in fields where younger scientists feel the need to acquire first hand information.

4. Symposia or colloquia with limited audiences and sufficient time for thorough discussions.

Emphasis will be given to personal contact and freedom of expression for the younger scientist.

Membership is open to all including undergraduates. Those interested in joining should apply in writing to the chairman (R. Flower, The Wellcome Research Laboratories, Langley Court, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BS, England) or to the Secretary (P. Laduron, Janssen Pharmaceutica, Beerse B-2340, Belgium). The registration fee is 1,000 Belgian Francs (half price for students).

Honorary Chairman:

Z. Bacq (Liège) Belgium

Honorary Secretary:

R. Paoletti (Milano) Italy

Chairman:

R. Flower (Beckenham) England

Secretary:

P. Laduron (Beerse) Belgium

Counsellors:

G. L. Gessa (Cagliari) Italy

J. Glowinski (Paris) France

I. Jankú (Prague) Czechoslovakia

L. Samochowiec (Szczecin) Poland

L. Terenius (Uppsala) Sweden

H. Thoenen (Basel) Switzerland

L. Tomatis (Lyon) France

V. Ullrich (Homburg) Germany

D. Versteeg (Utrecht) The Netherlands

* Past presidents of ISBP include E. B. Chain, C. Heymans; Present president, Z. Bacq; General Scientific Secretary, R. Paoletti; North American Secretary, N. Back.