

ANNOUNCEMENT

Polish Neuroscience Society Second International Congress

The Second International Congress of the Polish Neuroscience Society will be held on September 13–16, 1995 in Cracow, Poland. Basic topics: neuroactive amino acids, neuropeptides, myelogenesis, brain and spinal cord plasticity, brain injury, neuroimaging,

melatonin, memory and learning. Presidents of the Congress Committee: Prof. M. Kossut (Warsaw, Poland) and Prof. E. Przegalinski (Cracow, Poland).

For further information, please contact: Dr. K. Osowska, Institute of Pharmacology, Polish Academy of Sciences, 12 Smetna St., 31-343 Krakow, Poland. Phone: (+48-12) 37 40 22, Fax: (+48-12) 37 45 00.

ERRATUM

Wagner F. Gattaz's name has been added to the following abstract, which was presented as an oral communication at the XIXth CINP Congress. Other abstracts from the XIXth CINP Congress were published in the December 1994, Volume 11, Number 4 issue of *Neuropsychopharmacology*.

REM Sleep Criteria - Putative Markers for Distinction of Alzheimer's Disease and Major Depression.

Marcel Bahr, Wagner F. Gattaz, Heidemarie Low, Stephanie Lis, Godehard Stadtmuller, Mathias Berger, and Dieter Riemann.

Section on Geriatric Psychiatry, Laboratory of Clinical Science, NIMH, Bethesda, MD 20892, Central Institute of Mental Health, D-68072 Mannheim, Germany, and Psychiatric University Clinic, D-79104 Freiburg, Germany.

A cholinergic deficit has been widely accepted as a pathogenetic factor in dementia of the Alzheimer type (DAT). Conversely, cholinergic hyperactivity is supposed to be a prominent feature in major depressive disorder (MDD). The clinical differentiation between dementia and depression is often difficult. Since REM sleep regulation may serve as a valid indicator of cholinergic activity in the CNS, we investigated REM parameters in 3 age and gender-matched groups of 20 patients each of DAT, MDD, and healthy controls (HC), using standard diagnostic criteria. After 7 days wash out from psychoactive drugs, subjects underwent polysomnography during 2 nights (night 1: adaptation, night 2: data analysis; scoring of sleep recordings by standard criteria). Analysis of variance showed that variables like REM sleep duration (mean values for HC, DAT, and MDD: 85, 65, and 86 min, respectively) and REM density (22, 20, and 29%) could discriminate significantly between the 3 conditions, whereas REM latency (72, 67, and 44 min) could not. Distinct REM sleep criteria, therefore, may serve as putative markers for the discrimination of DAT and MDD.