Message from the President...

BAP is, we hope, an evolving Association reflecting the needs and concerns of its members. However, to do that we need a Council that evolves too, so this is your annual encouragement to stand, or nominate colleagues, for positions on Council, a call for which we see on page 6 of this Newsletter. You will also see some changes to the involvement of Council in the nominations process, introduced following some concerns of Council members that this process was not completely transparent. We expect, however, that enthusiasm for Council membership will make any nominations committee redundant!

Fortunately only a small component of Council business is taken up with introspective procedural concerns. Some of the developments that Council have instituted can be seen on the web-site, as well as some being reported here. Increasingly we have introduced initiatives to develop and encourage training of the non-clinical membership of BAP. In addition to the Preclinical Certificate (see page 8) these include an in vivo training initiative for undergraduate vacation students which provides a supplement to cover some additional costs associated with in vivo experiments (page 9); piloting the scheme this year seems to have been very successful. Such initiatives complement the various excellent and well-established education programmes for clinical members. These too are developing: Hamish McAllister Williams is leading our efforts in putting together an on-line clinical psychopharmacology resource which we intend to have CPD-accredited.

On the website you will see that our initial foray into the world of PR and the media generated some press releases from the Summer Meeting which had some, so far limited, media interest. We are actively exploring having a public lecture at one of the science festivals next year and this will be advertised on the website as and when it is arranged. BAP is composed of enthusiasts for psychopharmacology and we want to share this enthusiasm – we need to make the most of these opportunities to raise the profile and public understanding of our discipline.

If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions relating to any or all of these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me, any Council member or Susan Chandler in the BAP Office.

Gavin Reynolds
Congratulations from the President and Council to all the recipients of BAP Prizes and bursaries during 2009

2009 Lifetime Achievement Award

Professor Malcolm Lader

Wyeth Psychopharmacology Award Winners:

Carmine Pariante (London)
Sam Chamberlain (Cambridge)
Luke Clark (Cambridge)

Poster Prize Winners in association with the Summer Meeting in Oxford:

Danilo Arnone (Manchester)
For the poster: Current major depression but not remitted major depression shows increased neural responses to sad facial expressions

Pradeep Nathan (Cambridge)
For the poster: High dose glycine impairs the prepulse inhibition measure of sensorimotor gating in humans

Jesper Andreasen (Denmark)
For the poster: Subtype-selective nicotinic receptor agonists enhance the activity of the antidepressants citalopram and reboxetine in the mouse forced swim test (MFST)

Nicola Foister (St Andrews)
For the poster: Optimisation of attentional set shifting task in mice

President’s Poster Prize Winners in association with the Summer Meeting in Oxford:

Christoph Anacker (London)
For the poster: Antidepressants protect human neural stem cells from glucocorticoid-induced reduction in proliferation

Victoria Gradin (Aberdeen)
For the poster: Investigation of reward prediction error signals in depression and schizophrenia
Statistics Clinic at the 2009 Summer Meeting

The BAP Stats Clinic is now in its 6th year and it was good to see there is still a lot of interest and questions from delegates on the subject of statistics and experimental design. This year the clinic ran for two and a half days, and I was busy for most of that time. From clinicians to in-vivo scientists, professors to undergraduates, it was an interesting mix of complex experimental design questions and interesting analysis problems to keep me on my toes. I was surprised that no one brought any data along this time, although a few expressed the wish that they should have done so. The consultations I can give are invariably more enlightening if we have the actual data to look at!

Walking around the posters in a quiet moment I am always pleased to see the amount of hard work that goes into the statistical analysis, and it was good to see some of the ideas I’ve been talking about over the last few years are now being used. There were still a few t-tests in evidence (tut tut), but it was good to see presenters employing more complex analyses to make the most of their data.

In 2010 I will be presenting at the BAP Pre-clinical statistics module which has always been a good opportunity to discuss experimental design and statistics in a bit more detail. I look forward to seeing some of you there in February and if not then next Summer in Harrogate. And if you can’t wait that long there is always HLS Statistical Services!

Simon Bate
Statistics@uk.org.huntingdon.com

2009 Undergraduate Award Winners in association with the Summer Meeting in Oxford:

Emma Searle  (Southampton)
Sarah McVeigh  (Southampton)
Christopher Wood  (Newcastle)

Robert Kerwin International Conference Bursaries 2009

Susannah Murphy  (Oxford)
Darragh Downey  (Manchester)

An online gallery of photographs from the summer meeting may be found on the website, together with the abstract book in pdf format
In the 1950’s and 1960’s, the medical school of Birmingham University was one of the main centres of brain research not only in the UK but also in Europe.

Joel Elkes was the founder of the Dept of Experimental Psychiatry in 1951 and, one year later, appointed a young zoologist from Bristol University, Philip Bradley, to the staff. Philip had been using a new microelectrode technique to study the nervous system of insects and Joel Elkes thought that this technique could be applied to vertebrates. This led Philip to establish a novel technique for recording the activity of single neurons in the conscious cat brain, research that laid the basis for understanding the actions of cholinergic compounds, stimulants and hallucinogens such as LSD on behaviour.

After Joel Elkes moved to the USA to become the director of the Clinical Psychopharmacology Research Centre of the NIMH in 1957, Philip took over the leadership of the Department, which became the Dept of Neuropharmacology. Together with Brian Key, he continued his pioneering studies on the electrophysiological properties of single neurons and how their activities could be modulated by psychotropic drugs. The neurochemist, Brian Ansell, was, by this time, also a member of the department.

So much for the early years of neuropharmacology in Birmingham. I graduated from the Dept of Medical Biochemistry and Pharmacology there in 1959 and during the final year of the undergraduate course had attended some lecture courses provided by Philip Bradley and Brian Ansell. At that time, neuroscience was in its infancy and these courses for the first time seemed to integrate neurophysiology and neuropharmacology with neurochemistry and how such integration may help to understand the mechanisms whereby psychotropic drugs could benefit mental illness. There were rumours in the medical school regarding some of the interesting clinical experiments
that had taken place in the Dept of Experimental Psychiatry earlier in the 1950’s involving LSD. The research staff were the guinea pigs! To us youngsters, the Dept of Experimental Psychiatry was clearly a fun place!

As a person, Philip appeared to those who first met him as being a quiet, somewhat reserved person. However, it soon became apparent that appearances were deceptive. He had a droll sense of humour and was always considerate and helpful to colleagues and students. He was a person with scientific integrity and always emphasised the importance of honesty in scientific research. In this day and age, such criteria seem too often to be ignored!

I had the good fortune to keep in fairly regular contact with Philip during my subsequent career. He spent several years as the Extern in pharmacology in Galway, occasions during which good food and wine helped to stimulate both scientific and political discussions often late into the night. On his visits, he always presented me with the “Daily Telegraph” –to give me the other point of view, he would say!

As a result of the seminal research being undertaken by Philip and colleagues, the Birmingham Department achieved an international reputation. Not surprisingly, Philip was one of the 32 founder members of the CINP in 1957. He served as a First Councillor from 1958 to 1962 and as Treasurer from 1966 to 1972. In 1964 he became the chairman of the LOC of the 4th CINP Congress in Birmingham. This was my first exposure to an international congress and I still remember the excitement that many of us young psychopharmacologists experienced hearing for the first time the latest research from the pioneers of psychopharmacology.

From the UK perspective, the most important event that occurred in 1974 was the establishment, in London, of the BAP. Philip had invited me to attend the event to help make up the numbers of the basic science group. The meeting was held in the Royal College of Medicine, with Max Hamilton presiding. It was a stormy affair that eventually led to agreement of the title of the organisation and the basic rules of membership. Philip played a key role in ensuring that the basic and clinical psychopharmacologists had an equal voice in the organisation. He was subsequently elected onto the Council of the BAP and served as President, with distinction, from 1978 to 1980.

With the major changes that have taken place in UK universities since the 1980’s, in which departments have been amalgamated, and student and staff numbers increased exponentially, the role of pioneers like Philip Bradley have been too easily forgotten. The success of neuropharmacology and psychopharmacology in the UK and abroad owes much to the dedication and creativity of such colleagues who did their seminal research in poorly equipped labs with a chronic shortage of funds on projects that were often perceived as esoteric academic exercises of little relevance to future science. Those of us who were fortunate to be taught by the likes of Philip Bradley, and to learn the importance of accuracy, honesty and integrity in research, have much to be thankful for.

I know that the many friends and colleagues of Philip’s will be saddened by the news of his death, at the age of 90, at his home in Somerset. While his health has been fairly poor for some time, the tragedy of his passing is still a shock to all who knew and respected him. Neuropharmacology has lost a champion!

I’ll end by sending my sincere condolences to his wife Gill and his family. May he rest in peace.

Brian Leonard
Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology,
National University of Ireland, Galway
BAP OFFICERS AND COUNCIL
2010 ELECTION

Following the 2009 Annual General Meeting, we welcome Val Curran and Anne Jackson as new members of the BAP Council. A full list of Officers and Council may be found on the website (under “Association”).

In 2010 the following Officer posts will become vacant:

**President-elect**
**Meetings Secretary**
**Secretary for Clinical External Affairs**

Two Council member seats will also become vacant

Nominations for the above posts should be supported by two Full, Honorary or Retired Full Members, signed by the nominee and sent to Susan Chandler to arrive no later than **TUESDAY 27 APRIL**.

Alternatively, separate emails from proposer/seconder/nominee will be accepted (send to susan@bap.org.uk).

Voting will be online via the website **only** and will close on Monday 19 July.

Council has recently approved the following procedure to be implemented if necessary:

a) **In the event of no nomination/s being received by the closing date, the Nominations Sub-Committee should find at least one person to be asked to put their name forward for election**

b) **To this end the nominations closing date should be brought forward by one month to allow time for this process to occur (this change has been included when setting the above deadline, i.e. Tuesday 27 April)**

c) **Council members will be informed if no nominations have been received by the deadline and, if they wish, give names of people whom they consider suitable for the Nominations Sub-Committee to consider**

f) **The Nominations Sub-Committee will comprise the current Past-President, President, President-elect and one of the Secretaries**
The BAP aims to represent the interests of all psychopharmacologists (preclinical, clinical and industrial) regardless of gender or ethnic origins. To achieve this it is essential that Council represents all constituents of the BAP.

Council asks Members to bear this in mind when making nominations for the election, to ensure a balance of expertise.

Nominees:
All nominees will be asked to provide a mini-biography and statement of intent.
Council Members serve a 4-year term; Secretaries serve a 3-year term

Council Meetings:
3 each year: March (London, full afternoon), July (Sunday morning in association with the Summer Meeting), October (London, full afternoon).

Expenses:
Council Members do not receive payment for anything they do for the BAP. BAP will reimburse standard travel expenses and hotel accommodation when necessary.

Governance Panel:
The 2008-2009 Governance Panel Report is available in full on the website (bap.org.uk → Association → Governance Panel). Council greatly appreciates the support and continued involvement with the BAP from the current Panel, Sue Iversen (Chair), Bill Deakin and Charles Marsden.

Today’s Neuroscience – Tomorrow’s History

Neuroscience has been one of the key areas of biomedical science that the Wellcome Trust has fostered and sponsored for nearly 60 years – in fact the very first ‘fellowship’ grant awarded by the Wellcome Trust in 1937 was to Otto Loewi, who shared the 1936 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Sir Henry Dale for their work on the elucidation of chemical neurotransmission.

The Wellcome Trust has recently funded a research project directed by Professor Tilli Tansey (UCL) and Professor Les Iversen (Oxford) to record interviews with prominent neuroscientists, with the aim of providing resources about contemporary neuroscience for the use of present and future historians, as well as journalists, policy makers etc. Simultaneously the potential to engage young neuroscientists with their own history is offered, and some of the material generated by this work will be used for more general educational outreach activities.

Three major themes in modern neuroscience have been selected for study:

Neuropharmacology - British scientists have played major roles in the development of understanding of how drugs work on the peripheral and central nervous system.

Psychiatry/Neuropsychology - British scientists have had a major impact in the application of rigorous scientific methods to the complex fields of psychiatry and neuropsychology.

Neuroimaging - The development of non-invasive methods that allow the visualization of the structure and the function of the living intact brain is one of the major achievements of the latter part of the twentieth century.

The interviews and transcripts are in the Wellcome Library, London and are freely available at www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/audio/neuroscience

A limited number of copies for teaching purposes are available from Professor Tilli Tansey
E-mail: t.tansey@ucl.ac.uk; Tel: 020 7679 8124; Fax: 020 7679 8194
I had the pleasure of attending the four day course held at the Cardiff MRC centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetic and Genomics. The summer school catered for twenty attendees, and was aimed at both pre-clinical scientists and clinical trainees with an interest in research.

Co-organised by Dr Ian Jones and Dr Lesley Jones, the summer school intended to inform attendees of cutting edge research in brain disorders that are taking place within the Cardiff MRC centre, and to enthuse early career scientists and clinical trainees about research in this field.

The large topic of “brain disorder research” was tackled by a diverse range of stimulating lectures covering the topics of schizophrenia (Dr Stan Zammit), multiple sclerosis (Dr Neil Robertson) and neurodegenerative diseases (Dr Lesley Jones), to name but a few. Professor Sian Ellard of Peninsula Medical School delivered a heart-warming plenary lecture on neonatal diabetes, which although did not cover a brain disorder, did give an excellent insight into how studies into the genetics of a complex condition can ultimately lead to better treatments and thus a better way of life for patients and their families. This is undoubtedly the aim for all researchers and clinicians interested in brain disorders, where the treatments currently offered to patients are relatively poor.

As well as lectures, the course involved workshops allowing discussions on controversial topics such as animal modelling of psychiatric disorders. Informative sessions on career development were presented for both clinical academic careers and scientific research careers. As a final year PhD student considering my next career step, I found these sessions very helpful and motivational.

Tours of the Cardiff MRC centre displayed state-of-the-art genomic equipment capable of producing genome wide association studies, as well as top-class imaging facilities at Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC). Undoubtedly, the faculty here at Cardiff MRC centre are of a very high standard and this is evident in their fantastic publication record. Dr Ian Jones, co-organiser, stated “It’s a great time to be researching psychiatric and neurological disorders with a number of exciting findings beginning to emerge. Our hope was the summer school would enthuse those who attended about a range of research paradigms and their potential to revolutionise our understanding of these conditions.”

Generous funding from the MRC and the Wales Office of Research and Development for Health and Social Care (WORD) provided a fantastic opportunity for clinical attendees to get an insight into scientific research, as well as allowing pre-clinical scientists to see how their research translates into patient care in the clinic. I would highly recommend other clinical and pre-clinical trainee BAP members to consider this event next year.

Clare Paterson,
PhD Student, PsYRING, Glasgow
The Preclinical Certificate continues to grow in popularity with an overwhelming attendance at the May Module (Combining Neurobiology and Behaviour). The summer meeting module on Genomics and Proteomics (kicking off the 4th cycle of the Certificate, now in its 9th year since launch), was also very popular.

The recent module on Scientific Validity in Experimental Psychopharmacology (organised by Mohammed Shoaib and Jo Neill on 2nd November in Newcastle) was a very interesting and highly successful session with a diverse array of presentations and stimulating discussions. We were privileged to be able to include one given by a member of the RSPCA’s Research Animals Department Science Group, on the topic of the 3 R’s and Psychopharmacology from their perspective. We were also delighted to award five more participants with their Certificates following this module. Congratulations to you all.

Statistics is essential to all our psychopharmacological and behavioural research data analysis. The Preclinical Certificate Module 3 'Experimental Design 1: Statistic and Experimental Design' will focus specifically on the design of experiments, statistical methods including non-parametric versus parametric analysis and the impact of statistics on sample sizes etc, as well as offering participants the opportunity for hands-on data analysis with PC statistical programmes (where participants are invited to bring their own stats queries if necessary). The module will be held at the University of Nottingham on the 5th February 2010. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. Details are on the website.

A recent development has been that companies specialising in the provision of behavioural research equipment were invited to advertise their specific module-topic related products in the Preclinical Certificate module handbooks. We would like to thank the following companies who took advantage of the offer and for their enthusiasm and support of the Certificate:

- **Sandown Scientific** (www.sandownsci.com), suppliers of behavioural research instrumentation and software
- **Tracksys Ltd** (www.tracksys.co.uk), suppliers of behavioural research solutions and technical support
- **Avisoft Bioacoustics** (www.avisoft.com), suppliers of rodent ultrasound recording equipment
- **MB Rose** (www.mbrose.dk), a company specialising in rodent home cage feeding and activity behaviour equipment
BAP in vivo training initiative pilot scheme

BAP launched the in vivo training initiative earlier this year. The pilot funding scheme was successfully run in the summer of 2009 with 4 highly-deserving recipients submitting excellent in vivo vacation studentship project proposals.

Full reports on the projects are available to read on the website (under Education). The successful applicants were:

- Ros Brett, University of Strathclyde. Cannabinoids and depression: effect of chronic delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol on conditioned place preference to sucrose.
- Helen Cassaday, Nottingham University. Testing for behavioural dissociations of the effects of catecholaminergic depletion within the medial prefrontal cortex.
- Michael Harte, University of Bradford. Investigation into cognitive and pathological deficits in an animal model of schizophrenia: effects of antipsychotics.
- Emma Robinson, Bristol University. Effects of ADHD medications on performance in the stop signal reaction time task for rats.

Each of those named above received £500 from BAP towards running their project and also paid reduced costs for animals from Harlan (www.harlan.com).

The scheme will be expanded in 2010. Details will be available on the website soon and the deadline for applications will be 1st April.

Jo Neill and Mohammed Shoaib

2011 SUMMER MEETING:
SUNDAY 24 – WEDNESDAY 27 JULY, HARROGATE

A major topic at BAP Council meetings is to decide on the symposium programme for the summer meeting, which we are all aware, is the showcase event for the BAP. To ensure that the meeting is successful we need to provide a programme that is topical, well balanced and that reflects the needs and interests of the members. The best way that this can be achieved is to have substantial input from the membership. Thus members are encouraged to think seriously about the topics that they would like to see in the summer meeting symposia and to put forward proposals. There are several factors that are important to address in choosing the topic and content of symposia and against which proposals are measured; these include:

- Topical nature of the subject
- Breadth of interest
- Relevance to, and inclusion of, both clinical and preclinical psychopharmacology
- A lack of overlap with, or repetition of, recent BAP symposia
- Four high-quality speakers (with ideally no more than one requiring a high travel cost)

Members who have ideas, whether tentative or clearly formulated, are strongly encouraged to discuss these with a member of Council.

Members are now invited to submit proposals for symposia for the 2011 Summer Meeting. These should be emailed to Susan Chandler by 28 February 2010. All proposals should include:

- Symposium Title
- A proposed chair person
- Four proposed speakers with suggested titles
- A 200-word justification for including the symposium in the programme.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Alan Bateson
Meetings Secretary
Conference Announcement

Analysing and modelling neural systems in health and disease
1-3 February 2010, Informatics Forum, University of Edinburgh, UK

The UK Node of the International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility (INCF) is holding a three day conference “Analysing and modelling neural systems in health and disease” at the Informatics Forum, University of Edinburgh, from 1st to 3rd February 2010.

The conference brings together people who are already working in the field of neuroinformatics as well as showcasing the opportunities in neuroinformatics to people working in related disciplines. There will be plenary talks covering different aspects of analysis and modelling in addition to posters and demonstrations.

A set of stimulating collaborative workshop sessions on a variety of topics will be hosted: the formation of a Road Map for UK Neuroinformatics; a skills-interchange forum involving case studies of neuroinformatics-related problems and solutions; opportunities for collaboration within INCF.

The conference starts with lunch from 12 noon on Monday 1st February and will finish with lunch at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 3rd February.

There are bursaries available to contribute to the expenses of registered UK postgraduate students.

For more information, please visit www.neuroinformatics.org.uk

---

BAP CLINICAL CERTIFICATE
FORTHCOMING MODULES

Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology (Specialist Module):
**THURSDAY 25 – FRIDAY 26 MARCH 2010**
Nottingham - OPEN FOR BOOKING

Schizophrenia (Core Module):
**THURSDAY 14 – FRIDAY 15 MAY 2010**
Manchester - Details will be emailed (only) in January 2010

Substance Misuse (Specialist Module):
**THURSDAY 20 – FRIDAY 21 MAY 2010**
Manchester - OPEN FOR BOOKING

Affective Disorders (Core Module):
**THURSDAY 23 – FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2010**
Newcastle - Details will be emailed (only) in May 2010

Old Age Psychiatry (Specialist Module):
**THURSDAY 7 – FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER 2010**
Manchester - Booking to open in January 2010

Anxiety Disorders (Core Module):
**JANUARY 2011**
Bristol (date tbc)

Full details of the BAP Clinical Certificate in Psychopharmacology are available on the website.
2010 SUMMER MEETING 25-28 JULY
HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

MONDAY 26 JULY 2010

Symposium 1. ADVANCES IN UNDERSTANDING CANNABINOIDS: IMPLICATIONS FOR PSYCHOSIS, DEPENDENCE AND COGNITION
Chair: Val Curran
Confirmed speakers: Gernot Riedel, Cyril D’Souza, Celia Morgan, F Markus Leweke

Symposium 2. THE MOOD-PSYCHOSIS SPECTRUM: IMPLICATIONS FOR PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
Chairs: Ian Jones and Danny Smith
Confirmed speakers: Danny Smith, Jules Angst, Nick Craddock, David Slattery

Symposium 3. PHARMACOLOGICAL MR: FULFILLING ITS PROMISE?
Chairs: Judy Pratt and Andrea Malizia
Confirmed speakers: Angelo Bifone, Craig Ferris, Rene Hurlemann, Andrea Malizia

Also on Monday: Guest Lecture (Trevor Robbins), Poster Session 1, Psychopharmacology Award Winner Short Orals, Satellite Symposia

TUESDAY 27 JULY 2010

Symposium 4. SEX DIFFERENCES IN PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
Chairs: Jo Neill and Hugh Marston
Confirmed speakers: Kay Marshall, Jane Sutcliffe, Liz Tunbridge, Jayashri Kulkarni

Symposium 5. SEVERE AND CHRONIC TREATMENT RESISTANT DEPRESSION - EMERGING NEUROBIOLOGY
Chair: Andrea Malizia
Confirmed speakers: Pierre Blier, Nicol Ferrier, TBC, Thomas Schlaepfer

Symposium 6. DOPAMINE: WHAT IS IT DOING IN ADDICTION?
Chairs: Mike Travis and Anne Lingford-Hughes
Confirmed speakers: Mike Travis, Mark Ungless, Anne Lingford-Hughes, Jeff Dally

Also on Tuesday: Post-doctoral symposium, Poster Session 2, Short Oral Presentations, Gala Dinner

WEDNESDAY 28 JULY 2010

Symposium 7. ADVANCES IN MODELLING SCHIZOPHRENIA IN THE RODENT
Chairs: Kevin Fone and Jo Neill
Confirmed speakers: Kevin Fone, Jo Neill, Anthony Grace, Bernd Gallhofer

Symposium 8. ARE TREATMENT TRIALS BECOMING MORE RELEVANT FOR THE CLINICAL SCENARIO?
Chairs: Naomi Fineberg and Chris Hawley
Confirmed speakers: Andrew Moore, Stuart Montgomery, Jonas Eberhard, Chris Hawley

Symposium 9. LITHIUM: MULTIPLE CELLULAR AND CLINICAL EFFECTS
Chairs: Nicol Ferrier and Richard McQuade
Confirmed speakers: Rasmus Licht, Adrian Harwood, Martin Beaulieu, David Cousins

Abstract submission and registration facilities will shortly open on the website
www.bap.org.uk

Abstract and bursary submission deadline: FRIDAY 19 MARCH