Preface

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The conference on 'Functional Aspects of Energy Metabolism in Neural Tissue*' was a sponsored satellite meeting to the biennial conference of the International Society for Neurochemistry held in Montpellier, France, in August 1993. This ISN sponsored satellite meeting was held at the Hotel de la Cite in Medieval Carcassonne August 28th to September 1st 1993. The ideas for this meeting were the outcome of discussions at the ASN meeting in Houston Texas in 1992. The people involved, J. Tyson Tildon, Baltimore; John B. Clark, London; Bernd Hamprecht, Tubingen; Mary C. McKenna, Baltimore; Lief Hertz, Saskatoon; Richard Shank, Philadelphia and John Edmond, Los Angeles, became the organizing group for the program, and within an hour, had listed 42 neuroscientists in the field as potential participants, yet recognized that others had not even been mentioned.

The purpose of the satellite meeting was to bring together a number of the internationally recognized scientists actively engaged in research on energy metabolism in the nervous system, and provide a forum that would enable the participants to evaluate information from a variety of experimental approaches. Our primary objectives were to clarify, evaluate, and order our current knowledge of the relationship between energy metabolism and neural function, and to develop a consensus regarding the major issues and priorities in this area of research. Another objective was to identify new approaches for investigating the involvement of energy metabolism in CNS-related disorders, including developmental disabilities, mental retardation, Alzheimer's disease and depression. In all, 39 speakers submitted ab-

stracts for the satellite meeting. The abstract

s were published with the abstracts for the ISN meeting in Montpellier in the special issue of the Journal of Neurochemistry devoted to this purpose. In addition to the oral sessions, a special poster session comprising eight presentations was organized. Three-quarters of the proceedings of the Satellite meeting are published, as peer reviewed articles, in this volume of Developmental Neuroscience in the format of a special issue. The balance are to appear after their review, in a later issue of this Journal. Over 80 scientists enjoyed the collegial atmosphere of the conference as well as the splendid hospitality of the Hotel de la Cite" and its attractive setting in Medieval Carcassonne.

The view of the castle in Medieval Carcassonne was taken from the garden of the Hotel de la Cite\ a scene which greeted the participants each morning as they made their way to the conference room by the hotel's swimming pool. Carcassonne has been immortalized in a poem, or old French ballad, attributed to Nadoud, and adapted by an Englishman, Clifford Harrison, about 1900. The ballad was recorded in 1960 by Sir Lewis Casson, a renowned actor of the British stage who made his professional appearance in 1900 and was prominent in the theater for more than the first half of this century. Herman Bachelard first obtained the recording as a youth in Australia; and as a

consequence, Carcassonne has been on his mind ever since, with an obsession to visit when the opportunity prevailed. Many of us were similarly inclined for other reasons, including curiosity, and no doubt many of us will wish to return. Short excerpts from this poem which reflect the desire to see this Medieval city and which refer to the castle, are presented

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below. The first and last 'verses' are given at the end of this introduction.

One place he'd longed to see, and only one, He'd meant to go, and yet had never gone
It was the city yonder - Carcassonne!

And yet, I doubt not wisely, God has willed My fondest wish should never be fulfilled. A wish that I have fostered since a lad, The one desire I have always had, But now I know, we often learn it thus
In disappointment that is offered us. There's perfect happiness on earth for none. I shall not have my wish fulfilled, for one No, I shall never go to Carcassonne.

Nay, you may even see at one time there

A bishop and two generals - you stare.

A castle too - a mighty one,

Huge as the Palaces of Babylon.

Think of it sir!

And all at Carcassonne.

Would be wrong to say that there is much that I regret

No, still I'm bound to say

There lingers yet that one wish of my boyhood

Yes! I should like before my life is done

I should, I should,

To aet to Carcassonne.

And as we passed along, A sweet smile shone upon his face, As he to everyone we met, cried out 'I go to Carcassonne!'

The organizers gratefully acknowledge the financial contributions from our sponsors who helped make our meeting a resounding success. They included, in addition to the International Society for Neurochemistry,

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It is with some vision that the organizers recognized that this meeting could not cope with the scope of the field, and include all who wished to participate. A second 'Energy' meeting is planned for

August 1995. The organizers thank both speakers and audience participants for a refreshing, productive and collegial encounter with aspects of energy metabolism h the central nervous system. The sun warmed valley of the Aude leads down to Carcassonne, An ancient Roman town. Far off beyond the nearer hills One sees the ridges of the Eastern Pyrenees. Some half way up the valley stands Limoux. The only thing that once would hurry through the village Was the stream that gave its name unto the vale. The summers came and went The seasons changed But other change was none, Until ten years are gone, The busy world stopped short at Carcassonne. Limoux is changed, since then. Its quiet ways have heard the roar and scream That nowadays alters for good or ill All places such as this. And Carcassonne changed too, in much no doubt, But not the Carcassonne he sought. Changing for all, it yet is changed in nought, For it is built upon enchanted ground. Ah! who has seetgfe, was it ever found? Think not this peasant only, he alone dreamt of this place, Tis nigh' to everyone. F. For all the world there is a Carcassonne!