Preface

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What follows are the proceedings of the First Annual Karger Workshop, held at the 1989 meeting of The J.B. Johnston Club, October 28th in Phoenix, Arizona. As we approach the Second Karger Workshop - and the 10th Anniversary of JBJC - it seems appropriate to review the history of JBJC and its affiliation with S. Karger AG.

By 1980, the Society for Neuroscience Annual meeting was already sufficiently large that many researchers in comparative neurobiology were complaining that there was no time and place to get together, except for someone's hotel room in the middle of the night. Having missed the deadline for requesting a 'special interest dinner', a small handful of these hotel-room-refugees, many of them my former students and postdoctoral fellows, traveled to the Society for Neuroscience meeting in Cincinnati a day early. On the opening Sunday, this group occupied a small meeting room, with benefit of blackboard and rented projector, and enjoyed what might be referred to as 'the best scientific discussion ever', after which they repaired to Mike Fink's Riverboat Restaurant in Covington, Kentucky. Following suitable libations, the group vowed to form an organization called The J.B. Johnston Club, for researchers in comparative and evolutionary neurobiology, and the official charter was written on one of Mike Fink's paper place mats. Letters were sent to other friends and colleagues before the next Society for Neuroscience meeting, and in Los Angeles, 1981, the assembled group voted to meet annually as The J.B. Johnston Club. The name was chosen advisedly: the group wished to honor a remarkable, and relatively neglected, early comparative neurobiologist; and it was hoped that the designation 'Club', rather than 'Society', would help to maintain the informal, provocative and speculative nature of the presentations and discussion. During the past ten years, JBJC has grown in proportion to the Society for Neuroscience itself, with roughly ten times the number of members who adopted a charter in Los Angeles, and has met on the opening day of the Society meeting each year since Mike Fink's.

In 1986, the membership voted to adopt *Brain, Behavior and Evolution* as its official journal, a natural pairing that has resulted in a steady increase in quality papers reflecting the eclectic interests of the membership. In 1988, Dr. Thomas Karger of S. Karger AG again approached the membership with the offer to fund an annual workshop devoted to the in-depth exploration of specific topics in comparative neurobiology, each year's topic and participants to be selected by the JBJC program committee and Editor-in-Chief of *Brain, Behavior and Evolution* from suggestions submitted by the members. For the First Annual Workshop, the selection committee (Andrew H. Bass, William Hodos, Anton Reiner, and myself) was faced with a broad array of excellent suggestions for very specific topics. After due consideration, the committee decided that the first workshop should have the broadest possible appeal and, as its proceedings would be published as we begin the final decade of this century, that it should reflect various approaches to comparative neuro-biological problems, specifically approaches likely to yield striking results during the next ten years. Two workshop participants were therefore asked to focus on both progress and problems in dealing with the evolution of neuropeptides (Robert M. Dorset), as well as the achievements and difficulties of relating the neural distribution of many of these molecules to species diversity and the general problem of homology (Steven E. Brauth). Reflecting other movement in the field of evolutionary neurobiology, are topics dealing with the relationship of ontogeny to phylogeny (R. Glenn Northcutt) and two approaches in the rapidly

expanding field of neuroethology (Ronald R. Hoy and Susan F. Volman, respectively). For a final topic, the committee chose a problem whose solution has long eluded neurobiologists, although it has been considered important for over 100 years: how do nervous systems deal with changes in body size? As one of the most active researchers in that area, Este Armstrong was asked to summarize new hypotheses that range from metabolic constraints to general life history strategies. In short, the

Preface

79

selection committee hoped to reflect the state of comparative neurobiological studies, as the J.B. Johnston Club ends its 10th year, and provide a glimpse of what lies ahead as 20th Century neurobiological research enters its final 10 years.

With the Proceedings of the First Annual Karger Workshop in hand, the members of JBJC and the readers of *Brain, Behavior and Evolution* must now assess whether the selection committee succeeded in recognizing areas of major importance. We hope that we did our job well and that students of comparative neurobiology will find the proceedings provocative in suggesting new avenues of research in comparative neurobiology. If not, thanks to Thomas Karger, we already know there will be a Second Annual Karger Workshop.