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Foreword

Cytokines and the Brain: A Satellite Symposium to the
27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience
Held at the Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, La., October 23–25, 1997

The manuscripts in this special issue of *NeuroImmunoModulation* represent a selection of the papers presented at the Satellite Symposium to the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, entitled 'Cytokines and the Brain'. This was a two-and-a-half-day meeting with a total of five scientific sessions, a poster session, and an evening workshop. The abstracts from both the oral and the poster presentations can be found in an earlier issue of this journal [Arimura et al., 1997].

The five scientific sessions were composed of a total of 30 presentations which focussed on: CNS Actions of Cytokines – I and II (chaired by Adrian J. Dunn, PhD, and Akira Arimura, MD, PhD, respectively), Cytokines and Neuropathology of Stroke (Chaired by David Saphier, PhD), Cytokines and HIV Neuropathology (chaired by Samuel M. McCann, MD) and Behavioral Actions of Cytokines (chaired by John R. Glowa, PhD). An additional 32 posters were presented at the evening session for that format. The workshop, led by Steven F. Maier, PhD, and France Haour, PhD, addressed the questions: 'Do cytokines act directly on the brain?' and 'What mechanism(s) underlie the behavioral action of cytokines?' This session generated lively discussion and provided an excellent forum for all to ask their questions and/or to air their views!

This was the first international meeting to focus exclusively on immune-to-brain signaling and was an outstanding success in this regard. Most participants attended all of the sessions of the meeting, even during the final session, when standing-room only remained!

Including on-site registrants, there were 128 participants, hailing from the USA (83), United Kingdom (9), Japan (7), Switzerland (5), Canada (4), Sweden (4), Germany (3), The Netherlands (3), France (2) and Italy (2), with one each in attendance from Australia, Denmark, Israel, Finland, Poland and Taiwan. Although sponsors of the meeting have already been acknowledged in the issue of *NeuroImmunoModulation* in which the abstracts were printed [Arimura et al., 1997], it is appropriate to thank them again for their support. We are grateful to: The International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology (ISPNE), Schering Laboratories, Eli Lilly & Company, Otsuka Pharmaceuticals, Tulane University, Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Inc., National Institute of Mental Health, Amgen, Dr. Nicholas R. S. Hall, Parke-Davis Laboratories, Endogen. Last, but not least, the organizers would like to thank the participants themselves, most of whom used their own funds to attend the event. Hopefully, it will not be too long before we are able to reconvene to enjoy ourselves once again.

Reference

Arimura A, Dunn AJ, McCann SM, Saphier D: Cytokines and the brain. A Satellite Symposium to the Society for Neuroscience 27th Annual Meeting, October 23–25, 1997, New Orleans, La. *Neuroimmunomodulation* 1997;4: 200–224.