



DIVISION 28 NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL PHARMACOLOGY

Vol. 1 No. 1

January 1967

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JARVIK

"I am pleased to report that at the September 1966 meeting of the American Psychological Association Executive Council in New York City we were formally approved as Division 28. The members of the present Executive Council and the charter members contributed considerable effort to our creation, but most of the credit for the spade work goes to Harley Hanson and Carl Scheckel. Now that we are launched I am sure that we can become one of the most active and productive divisions in the APA.

Psychopharmacology has been a subject of intensive investigation for about a decade now and psychologists have played an important though not exclusive role in the development of this area. Certain types of behavior are strongly influenced by certain types of drugs. Psychologists have come to realize that drugs are important tools for understanding and controlling behavior. By the same token psychiatrists, pharmacologists, and biochemists have come to realize that behavior may be used to understand the action of drugs. The advent of the phenothiazines and rauwolfia alkaloids have made psychiatrists aware that verbal communication, though important, is not the only way to treat patients. The appearance of other classes of drugs has reinforced this view. Pharmacologists and biochemists are beginning to accept the fact that the function of the brain is more complex than merely transmission of nerve impulses and that the actions of a drug like chlorpromazine or LSD or imipramine cannot be understood solely by studying an anesthetized animal in the laboratory or a brain homogenate in a test tube. Behavioral science is invading the most sacred precincts of molecular investigation.

Of course, psychopharmacology must promise much more than it has delivered. We still cannot comprehend the full psychological potential of drugs. We have only hints to the answers to such questions as the following: Are there drugs that make us happy and drugs that make us cry? Can drugs affect our appetite and our sleep? Are there drugs that will facilitate learning and remembering? What psychological functions cannot be influenced by drugs? Clearly it will take people with psychological training to answer these questions but the interdisciplinary implications are, of course, great.

One of the main functions of our division will be to encourage research into the behavioral effects of drugs. If certain organizations have been overenthusiastic in their expectations in the past of psychological miracles from drugs, we would like to prevent the converse reaction of rejection. One of the ways we can heighten interest in our field is to have a successful scientific program at the American Psychological Association Convention and I am appealing to members to contribute papers for the next meeting.

Although we have much in common with Divisions 3, 6, and 25 and hope to effect appropriate liaison with them, we also can gain something from branches of psychology dealing with more complex forms of human behavior. There is scarcely a division of the APA which could not have some interest in drugs. Certainly the social and clinical implications of drugs are tremendously important and the influence of youth and old age upon drug effects would be hard to underestimate. We should be able to develop some interesting programs in collaboration with these other divisions.

I hope that our membership will send us suggestions for our programs as well as for other possible activities. Some of these can be printed in our Newsletter and others brought up at the time of our meeting. Furthermore, it would be extremely helpful if our present members would help to recruit other members to our division. With an active membership we can look forward to a highly successful division."

SPECIAL NOTICE

"Through an unfortunate error certain charter members received a dues statement with their designation as fellows. They still remain charter members but their election to fellowship status has not been completed and is being considered carefully by the membership committee. Their election must follow the usual APA rules. We hope that all of our charter members will ultimately become fellows of the division."

CALL FOR PAPERS AND SYMPOSIA

Division 28 has been allocated 11 hours program time during the 1967 Convention which is being held in Washington, D.C. September 1-5. The division's time is scheduled for the 1st and 2nd of September (Friday and Saturday) all sessions to be at the Sheraton Park Hotel.

All members of the Division are encouraged to submit papers and ideas for symposia keeping in mind that the deadline is March 1, 1967. See pages 1070-1101 of American Psychologist 21 November 1966 for details of preparation. Send abstracts and/or requests for information to:

Dr. Carl Scheckel
Department of Pharmacology
Hoffmann La Roche
Nutley 10, New Jersey

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

The membership is reminded to give attention to the nomination for president-elect. The ballots have been sent out, please return yours; if you have not received a ballot contact our secretary, Carl Scheckel.

NEW JOURNAL

It was called to our attention that the "Social Science and Medicine" will be published monthly starting in January 1967 by Pergamon Press Inc. The editors invite original reports of systematic studies and research in "all areas of common interest to the socio-behavioral sciences and medicine, including psychiatry and epidemiology" Editor-in-chief Dr. Peter J. M. McEwan, Harvard Medical School, 40 Fenwood Road, Boston, Massachusetts 02115. Published quarterly, subscription \$10.00 or £5 U.K.

Our bylaws provide for a class of membership, corporate affiliates. Any member knowing of a proper organization which might be interested in being elected to membership, or if there are members interested in promoting this class of membership, contact Secretary Scheckel.

Since this is the first number of The Needle it is still somewhat uncertain what its role in the Division should be. Any comments or suggestions will be appreciated by the editor:

Dr. Harley M. Hanson
Merck Institute
West Point, Pennsylvania 19486