

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY NEWSLETTER
(DIVISION 28 - THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION)

SPRING, 1981

L. D. BYRD, EDITOR

NEW STAFF AT NIDA

Two members of Division 28 have recently joined the staff of the Division of Research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Rockville. Michael Walsh and John Grabowski, both of whom are assigned to the Clinical Behavioral Branch, bring new enthusiasm, perspectives and expertise to the Institute at a time when the Washington community is bracing for new budget cuts.

Prior to his appointment at NIDA, Walsh received graduate training at American University in Washington. He has also served in the Behavioral Pharmacology Division of the Naval Medical Research Institute in Bethesda, and as a member of Behavioral Services Consultants. He has been a member of APA since 1975.

Grabowski received his graduate training at the University of Minnesota, then served as a Consultant in Behavior Modification at Faribault State Hospital in Minnesota. Subsequently, he joined the Department of Human Behavior in the University of Southern California School of Medicine, Los Angeles, as an Assistant Professor. Prior to joining NIDA, Grabowski was a member of the staff of the VA Hospital in Philadelphia. He joined APA in 1972.

As science administrators, both Walsh and Grabowski are at NIDA to serve those working in the field of drug abuse, and especially the clinical-behavioral area. Both are committed to being of service to scientists interested in drug abuse research and treatment programs as well as those who are recipients of NIDA funds. If you have questions, need advice or wish to offer suggestions relevant to the national drug abuse programs, contact either by telephone at (301) 443-6420 or by writing to Division of Research, Room 9-21, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

ADVANCES IN ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Haworth Press has announced a new quarterly publication entitled Advances in Alcohol and Substance Abuse. The new journal will be under the editorship of Barry Stimmel, Associate Dean of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, and will begin distribution in the Spring of 1981. Each issue will be entirely thematic in nature and will focus on a topic of current concern in the evolving substance abuse field. One of the major goals of the journal will be to provide all professionals in the field of substance abuse/alcoholism with an ongoing, comprehensive, up-to-date resource to facilitate understanding of the clinical relevance of current research. The theme of each issue will be determined by the recommendations of the Editorial Advisory Board and will be announced two years in advance to allow investigators time to submit appropriate manuscripts. All submissions will be subject to a peer review process.

NEUROBIOLOGY OF AGING

ANKHO International has announced the inauguration of a new journal entitled Neurobiology of Aging with Ray Bartus, Medical Research Division of American Cyanamide, as Editor-in-Chief. The journal is intended to provide a forum for neuroscientists and clinicians to communicate directly with one another on specific problems of aging in the central nervous system and focus on those issues of contemporary interest. It is hoped that information from many experimental and clinical neuroscience disciplines can be assimilated and integrated, resulting in cross-fertilization of ideas and information on aging between these disciplines. An advisory board of over 60 scientists, some of whom are Division 28 members, will evaluate all manuscripts submitted for publication.

THE PSYCHOLOGY DEFENSE FUND IS WORKING

Over \$75,000 has been contributed by individual psychologists and interested organizations to the new "Psychology Defense Fund", and the APA Board of Directors has approved approximately \$47,000 in awards in response to requests for assistance.

Hutchinson vs. Proxmire: An award of \$6,000 was made to the Fund to Protect Scholars from Defamation, a non-profit group soliciting funds to help Ron Hutchinson pay attorney fees and other expenses. Hutchinson's action against Proxmire involved issues of the boundaries of Congressional immunity and the question of whether scientists who receive public support for research are public figures.

Alaska: An award of \$2,000 was made initially to the Alaska Psychological Association to help underwrite a legislative fight over sunset laws. An additional award of \$1,000 was authorized contingent on demonstration of strong commitment by members of the Alaska Association in the payment of dues and a special assessment. The Alaska Psychological Association asked for help to amend a House-passed bill in the State Senate to reestablish statutory licensure for psychologists.

Virginia: An award of \$10,000 was made to the Virginia Academy of Clinical Psychologists to defray the cost of an appeal in their suit against the Virginia Blue Cross/Blue Shield organization and others over a State freedom of choice law. An adverse decision in a Federal district court held that Blue Cross and Blue Shield were not violating Federal anti-trust laws and that psychologists do not compete directly with psychiatrists and should be under medical supervision. The decision was viewed as damaging to the status of psychology as an autonomous profession and as a threat to the capacity of psychologists in Virginia to make essential services available to the public.

South Dakota: The Defense Fund has as-

sisted the South Dakota Psychology Association in its effort to reenact licensure in that state by awarding a grant of \$8,780, plus a matching grant not to exceed \$2,850.

Ohio: To support the Ohio Attorney General in an anti-trust complaint against the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH), a \$10,000 grant was awarded.

New York: A \$250 award was made to the New York Academy of Sciences for monitoring and disseminating information in support of ethically sound animal research.

North Carolina: The North Carolina Psychological Association received a loan of \$2,339, a grant of \$1,895 in matching funds and a challenge grant not to exceed \$2,000 to defend against sunset laws in that state.

In addition to the above, there are pending requests for (1) support of administration/legal actions, (2) funds to defray the cost of a successful fight against sunset laws, and (3) supplemental funds to assist the Fund to Protect Scholars from Defamation.

The Psychology Defense Fund may award loans, grants and other assistance in support of qualified activities which advance the objectives of APA as set forth in the By-Laws. Contributions to the Fund are tax deductible. Requests for funds from the Defense Fund should be forwarded to Michael Pallak, Executive Officer, APA, 1200 Seventeenth St. NW, Washington, D. C. 20036.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Material of interest to the membership of Division 28 should be forwarded for inclusion in the Newsletter to:

Dr. Larry D. Byrd, Editor
Yerkes Regional Primate Research
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BEHAVIORAL AND NEUROPHARMACOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Since 1963, the University of Minnesota has offered interdisciplinary research training in behavioral and neuropharmacology. That training continues in four research settings, including both graduate and post-doctoral training (the latter sponsored by NIDA - "Behavioral Approaches to the Study of Drug Dependence"). Much of this research is sponsored by individual research grants as well. These settings include: 1) the Behavioral Pharmacology Laboratory of the Department of Psychology, under the direction of Travis Thompson; 2) the Neuropharmacology and Psychopharmacology Laboratory of the Department of Pharmacology under the direction of Sheldon B. Sparber; 3) the Animal Behavioral Pharmacology Laboratory of the Department of Psychiatry under the direction of Richard A. Meisch; and 4) the Clinical Drug Dependence Research Program of the University of Minnesota Hospitals, directed by Roy W. Pickens of the Department of Psychiatry.

The Behavioral Pharmacology Laboratory in the Department of Psychology is involved with two types of research. A NIDA sponsored research project deals with identifying behavioral mechanisms of action of methadone alone and in combination with other drugs. Research has dealt with methadone effects on schedule-regulated performances under control of various discriminative stimuli, using pigeons, rats and monkeys as subjects. In addition, an attempt has been made to distinguish selective effects of methadone on the discriminative and conditioned reinforcing effects of stimuli in chained and tandem schedules. The laboratory is also developing procedures for assessing effects of behaviorally active drugs on schedule-controlled performances in humans, in which operants having a greater degree of species relevance are studied. In the past, such performances have included handwriting and reading. Currently, work performance by retarded sheltered workers under interval and ratio contingencies is being investigated. These baselines are

intended for subsequent assessment of interactions between reinforcement contingencies and dose of haloperidol, mellaril, chloridazepoxide or amphetamine. The objective of this research is to determine the behavioral mechanisms of actions of these widely used drugs in treating mentally retarded people, using face-valid clinically relevant responses.

The principal interests of Richard Meisch in the Department of Psychiatry's animal laboratory concern factors that control the drug-reinforced behavior of rats and rhesus monkeys. In contrast to self-administration studies of other laboratories, most of his work involves the oral route. Use of the oral route facilitates long-term parametric studies with minimal technical problems. Ongoing research examines food deprivation, reinforcement schedules and drug concentration as determinants of ethanol and pentobarbital taking behavior. Interactions among these variables are also being studied. Related research interests include refinements of procedures for establishing orally delivered drugs as reinforcers and the consequences of continuous drug access such as physiological dependence and withdrawal. Marilyn Carroll, also working in the laboratory, is investigating aspects of oral phencyclidine self-administration by rhesus monkeys. Effects of food deprivation, tolerance, physical dependence, schedule parameters and interactions with other drugs are being studied in monkeys receiving daily oral access to phencyclidine. She is also interested in the effects of food deprivation on drug-maintained behavior.

Research projects underway in the Department of Pharmacology's laboratory under Sheldon Sparber's direction include several approaches to acute and chronic neuropsychopharmacology and neurobehavioral toxicology studies. Most studies include drugs of abuse or potential for abuse (under NIDA sponsorship). Often, these same drugs are used as pharmacological probes since a good deal is known about their mechanisms of action.

For a number of years, Sparber's group has used brain perfusion and operant conditioning methods to study the biochemical and behavioral effects of acute and chronic administration of various drugs of abuse as well as drugs which have recently proven to be effective in modifying symptoms of withdrawal from opiates. Alterations in prostaglandin levels in brain are accomplished by directly infusing prostaglandins and by treating subjects with prostaglandin synthetase inhibitors to determine the nature of the involvement of the prostaglandins in the action of psychoactive drugs. Drugs examined in detail include the cortical stimulants and opiates, as well as clonidine. In other work, dominant and submissive members of a paired social hierarchy are administered phenylcyclidine to determine if this model of aggression is sensitive to delayed effects of this drug.

Sheldon Sparber's laboratory has also been extensively involved in multispecies, multidisciplinary, longitudinal studies of the effects of opiates on development. Comparisons between LAAM and methadone are being made. These drugs are administered to rats and injected into chicken eggs to determine if: 1) behavioral and/or biochemical teratogenesis can be induced at realistic doses estimated to be sufficient to maintain an opiate-dependent rat, and/or induce congenital dependence without inducing embryotoxicity, and 2) withdrawal (abstinence) from opiates, at various stages of development, can have significant postnatal behavioral or biochemical consequences suggestive of functional teratogenicity.

In Roy Picken's laboratory in the Department of Psychiatry, investigation of drug dependence in humans is being conducted. Human subjects with established histories of sedative dependence are being allowed to experimentally self-administer pentobarbital and other sedative drugs to study pharmacological, behavioral and personality factors in sedative dependence in the Clinical Investigations Unit of the University of Minnesota Hospital. Assessment of abuse

liability of representative sedative drugs is also being made. Recently, use of human drug self-administration methodology has been extended to the study of smoking behavior as well. A device has been developed to measure (with an accuracy of 0.1 sec) the following topographical aspects of smoking: cigarettes/day, puffs/cigarette, individual puff durations, inter-puff intervals, cigarette durations and inter-cigarette intervals. These measures are obtained from subjects in their natural environments. The device is being employed to determine the effects of pharmacological and behavioral manipulations on smoking behavior. Factors related to outcome results in treatment of smoking and drug dependence are being studied in the Behavioral Health Clinic, which is part of the Psychiatry Outpatient Clinic. Formal clinical research is also being conducted on patients undergoing treatment for alcoholism and drug dependence at a large private treatment center. Recently completed projects at this center include determining the role of depression in relapse to alcohol or drug use after treatment, the effects of number of alcoholic parents on pre-treatment, treatment and post-treatment variables in an alcoholic population, and effects of undiagnosed withdrawal symptoms on patients being treated for chemical dependency.

Travis Thompson

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN PSYCHOLOGY

The Association for Women in Psychology has announced the 8th Annual National Conference on Feminist Psychology to be held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, March 5-8, 1981. The theme for the conference is "Feminism in the Eighties: Weaving New Connections". The conference will utilize a variety of formats including symposia, workshops, paper and poster sessions, discussion hours, films and demonstrations. Additional information and registration forms can be obtained from A.W.P. Conference Committee, Dept. of Psychology, Boston University, 64 Cummington Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02215.

RESEARCH SUPPORT NETWORK

The APA Board of Scientific Affairs and the APA Scientific Affairs Office are organizing a Research Support Network in response to concerns that the behavioral sciences are going to have to work hard to make friends and gain support within the new Congress. Research funding for the behavioral and social sciences has become less predictable and more vulnerable to political pressures, and many within APA consider an organization like the Network a necessity. Activities of the Network will include contacts with legislators and agency officials via telephone, mail and personal visits.

Membership in the Research Support Network is free and entitles the individual to receive a quarterly bulletin on Network activities and updates on Federal policies affecting research in psychology. Information can be obtained from Alan Kraut or Virginia Holt, APA Scientific Affairs Office, 1200 Seventeenth St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Organizations with academic and research interests are especially urged to support and assist the Network.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Begleiter, H. (ed.): Biological Effects of Alcohol. Plenum Publ.: New York, 1980, 846 pp.

Butters, N. and Cermak, L. S.: Alcoholic Korsakoff's Syndrome. An Information-Processing Approach to Amnesia. Academic Press: New York, 1980, 208 pp.

Drug Concentrations in Neuropsychiatry. Ciba Fdn. Symp. 74 (New Ser.). Elsevier North-Holland: New York, 1980, 276 pp.

Kalant, O. J. (ed.): Alcohol and Drug Problems in Women. Plenum Publ.: New York, 1980, 725 pp.

Sattelle, D. B., Hall, L. M. and Hildebrand, J. G. (eds.): Receptors for Neurotransmitters, Hormones and Pheromones in Insects. Elsevier North-Holland: New York, 1980, 318 pp.

Routtenberg, A. (ed.): Biology of Reinforcement. Facets of Brain-Stimulation Reward. Academic Press: New York, 1980, 192 pp.

Usdin, E., Kvetnansky, R. and Kopin, I. J. (eds.): Catecholamines and Stress: Recent Advances. Elsevier North-Holland: New York, 1980, 400 pp.

Merkus, F.W.H.M. (ed.): The Serum Concentration of Drugs. Elsevier North-Holland: New York, 1979, 300 pp.

Mavissakalian, M. G. and Barlow, D. H. (eds.): Phobia: Psychological and Pharmacological Treatment. Guilford Publ.: New York, 1981, 256 pp.

Mason, A. S. and Granacher, R. P.: Clinical Handbook of Antipsychotic Drug Therapy. Brunner/Mazel: New York, 1980, 350 pp.

Schooler, J. C. and Claghorn, J. L. (eds.): The Kinetics of Psychiatric Drugs. Brunner/Mazel: New York, 1979, 336 pp.

Usdin, E., Eckert, H. and Forrest, I. S. (eds.): Phenothiazines and Structurally Related Drugs: Basic and Clinical Studies. Elsevier North-Holland: New York, 1980, 400 pp.

Muller, E. E. (ed.): Neuroactive Drugs in Endocrinology. Physiologic, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Applications. Elsevier North-Holland: New York, 1980, 396 pp.

Wikler, A.: Opioid Dependence. Mechanisms and Treatment. Plenum Publ.: New York, 1980, 300 pp.

Schuckit, M. A.: Drug and Alcohol Abuse. A Clinical Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment. Plenum Publ.: New York, 1979, 230 pp.

Barrass, R.: Scientists Must Write. A Guide to Better Writing for Scientists, Engineers, and Students. Halsted Press: Somerset, New Jersey, 1978, 150 pp.
