

SNA Newsletter

27 April 2010

Issue 1



SNA Council (2009-2011)

President:

A/Prof ST Dheen

Vice President:

A/Prof Ong WY

Secretary:

Dr He BP

Treasurer:

Dr Sivakumar V

Committee Members:

Prof Ling EA

A/Prof Tay SSW

A/Prof Sanjay Khanna

A/Prof Charanjit Kaur

A/Prof Ng YK

SNA AGM Program

27-04-2010

Registration	9am
AGM	9.15am
President's Report	
Treasurer's Report	
AOB	
Tea	10am
Seminar	10.30am

President's Report

Dear SNA Members,

On behalf of SNA council, I am pleased to welcome all of you to the SNA's Annual General Meeting 2010. It is truly a pleasure to be here and to share my report with you as the President. A summary of events and activities organized by the SNA during the period of 2009-2010 is given below:

1. SNA has received donation from Lee Foundation (Singapore) to sponsor young researchers to attend the Neuroscience Conference organized by SFN, USA. The SNA Council decided to offer '**SNA Travel Fellowships**' for Research Scholars and Post-doctoral Fellows who are SNA members. Last year, one fellowship was awarded to a member to attend the Neuroscience 2009 Conference. Recently, SNA has announced travel fellowships for members to attend the **Neuroscience 2010** Conference to be held in San Diego 13-17, November 2010. Eligible members are encouraged to apply.

2. SNA organized 2 seminars:

a. May 6, 2009 – Speaker: Professor Paolo Sassone-Corsi, Department of Pharmacology, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA. Title: Metabolism to chromatin remodeling: the CLOCK connection. Buffet Lunch was served for 50 pax. Venue: CeLS Auditorium.

b. March 22, 2010 - Speaker: Professor Gibson Wood, Department of Pharmacology, University of Minnesota School of Medicine, USA. Title: Multiple mechanisms of neuroprotective effects of statins. About 50 people attended the seminar. Venue: Anatomy Theatre

3. The SNA, Microscopy Society (Singapore) and Department of Anatomy jointly organize the 'International Anatomical Sciences and Cell Biology Conference' on 26-29 May, 2010 at University Cultural Centre, NUS. I would like to encourage all Members to participate in the conference. Registration fee will be waived for all SNA members.

4. With the assistance from the Singapore Tourism Board, SNA is planning to bid to host the 9th World Congress of IBRO in Singapore in 2015.

5. We have registered a SNA website (<http://www.neuroscience.org.sg/>) which is currently under construction.

6. Mr Yick Tuck Yong and Mdm Bay Song Lin have designed a logo for SNA (please see header) which has been approved by the Council Members. The logo is made of two colors: Red and Grey. Red indicates enthusiasm, stimulated energy and confidence; Gray is associated with intellect and the brain which is composed of 'gray matter'. I would like to thank Mr Yick and Mdm Song Lin for their contributions. The logo will be sent for approval by the Registry of Societies.

7. SNA Council is thankful to Prof Bay Boon Huat, Head, Department of Anatomy for supporting the SNA Secretariat and its activities.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all Council Members, and Ordinary Members for your continuous support and contribution to the Society. We will keep you informed of future activities and look forward to your continued support and participation. Thank you.

S T Dheen

President, Singapore Neuroscience Association

Singapore Neuroscience Association is a registered society in Singapore

HISTORY OF THE SINGAPORE NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION

A/Prof Samuel SW Tay

The Singapore Neuroscience Association (SNA) was formed without any fanfare on 29th January 1988 as an interim society by Associate Professor Laurence Garey (who was elected as the first President) and Associate Professor Tan Choon Kim as its first Secretary. The President was supported by a Vice-President, honorary treasurer and 6 committee members.

Although a Society of Neuroscience has existed already, it was aimed at mainly clinicians. It was felt that there were sufficient non-clinician neuroscientists then who might wish to be associated with an organization whose aim was to further the interests of the whole of the neurosciences. It was hoped that the new society (SNA) would be active in encouraging dialogue and even collaborations between neuroscientists, both basic and clinical. The society also envisaged a program of seminars by local and foreign speakers, exchanges of expertise and ideas, the organization of international meetings and the publication of a newsletter on a periodic basis.

The Singapore Neuroscience Association was only finalized on 27th August 1988 and announced in the Singapore Government Gazette of 9th September 1988.

When Associate Professor Laurence Garey left the services of NUS, he was succeeded by Associate Professor Tan Choon Kim as the 2nd President of SNA in 1991. Professor Tan and his council members organized at least 2 colloquia during his tenure as President of SNA and invited several renowned speakers to present their research findings in neurosciences to members of the SNA, most of these seminars were jointly hosted by the Department of Anatomy.

Associate Professor Tan Choon Kim stepped down from the Presidency of SNA in March 1994 and was succeeded by Professor Ling Eng Ang, who became the 3rd President of SNA. During the tenure of Professor Ling Eng Ang as President of SNA, numerous conference fellowships were awarded to deserving members to attend international conferences related to Neurosciences. The SNA was fortunate to secure donations from the private sectors to help in the defraying of the cost of running its activities. When Professor Ling Eng Ang assumed the Headship of the Anatomy Department, he passed the baton of SNA to Associate Professor Samuel SW Tay who became the 4th President of SNA in March 1998. Upon assuming the duties of SNA's President, Associate Professor SSW Tay connected SNA to the Federation of Asian Oceanian Neuroscience Societies (FAONS) in March 1999. SNA also subsequently became part of the International Brain Organization (IBRO) when its President was elected as a member of the Governing Council. In his tenure as President of SNA, joint Annual Meetings were conducted with the Clinical Neuroscience Society (CNS) and Microscopy Society (Singapore) [MS(S)] on an ad hoc basis.

The first joint meeting with MS(S) was held at the Arana Country Club, Pasir Ris in December 1999; which was subsequently followed by several other joint meetings with MS(S). A joint meeting with CNS was held at the Rasa Sentosa in April 2000. Another successful joint meeting was the International Biomedical Science Conference held in Kunming (China) in December 2004, supported by local co-host MS(S) and the Kunming Medical College, China as well as the Yunnan Neurosurgery of China Medical Societies. This meeting attracted more than 300 participants from all over the world. SNA also tied up with the International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN) to organize and co-host the 7th Biennial Meeting of the Asian Pacific Society for Neurochemistry (APSN 2006). This was held at the Suntec City Convention Centre in early June 2006, and it attracted more than 300 participants worldwide.

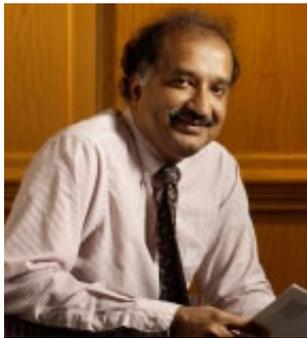
The 6th National Symposium on Health Sciences (2006) was held at the Palace of Golden Horses, KL in June 2006. This was jointly organized by SNA, MS(S) and the Faculty of Health Sciences, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Another planned joint meeting with the Microscopy Society (Singapore) and the Department of Anatomy, NUS is the International Anatomical Sciences and Cell Biology Conference to be held at the NUS Cultural Centre in May 2010. Associate Professor SW Tay has always advocated succession planning and left the Office of Presidency of SNA in March 2009 and was succeeded by Associate Professor ST Dheen, who has since spearheaded several new initiatives for SNA, so as to imbibe vibrancy into SNA.



We are on the web!

www.neuroscience.org.sg

Broken Heart and Silent Strokes



Professor Ranga R Krishnan

Dean, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore

Abstract:

Subcortical vascular disease, which may include silent lacunar infarctions or hypertensive lesions, may hypothetically disrupt these circuits. Subcortical ischemic disease is common even in otherwise neurologically normal elderly patients, occurring in both periventricular and deep white matter and in subcortical gray matter nuclei. These vascular changes are an age-related phenomena, as greater lesion severity occurs with aging. Cerebrovascular risk factors, such as hypertension and diabetes, are also strongly linked to subcortical ischemic disease and disease progression, although metabolic factors and specific genetic factors may also contribute toward these findings. Subcortical lesions are more common in elderly depressed than healthy elderly control subjects and more common in late-onset than early-onset elderly depression. This difference has also been demonstrated in community populations with depressive symptoms, extending the finding beyond those meeting criteria for major depression. Subcortical lesions are associated with poor antidepressant outcomes and with persistence or worsening of depressive symptoms over time. Poorer depression course is also associated with greater increases in subcortical lesion volume over that time. There may also be a biological gradient, wherein lesions contributing to depression need to occur in specific regions. More recently we have related BDNF and AGTR to the development of lesions.

Professor K. Ranga R Krishnan is the Dean at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore. He was appointed Professor and, was the Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina for eleven years, until June 30, 2009. Prof Krishnan is widely recognized for his contributions to the understanding of the neurobiology of late life mental disorders and he was among the first investigators to establish a link between “silent” strokes and depression in the elderly. Prof Krishnan’s work as key investigator in the SADHEART study has also demonstrated that post-myocardial infarction depression is a serious and treatable psychiatric disorder. As recognition of his contributions to biomedical science, Prof. Krishnan received several Awards. More recently, Prof Krishnan was presented with the Award for Research in Geriatric Psychiatry by The American College of Psychiatrists at its Annual Meeting held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in February this year. The Award honours an individual who has contributed to advancements in the field of Geriatric Psychiatry.

Venue:

Anatomy Theatre

MD 10 Level 2

**Department of
Anatomy, NUS**

27 April 2010

10.30am

SNA Travel Fellowships

Singapore Neuroscience Association is pleased to announce the **SNA Travel Fellowships** for Young Investigators (Graduate Students, and Post-doc Fellows) to attend the “Neuroscience 2010” conference to be held in San Diego, USA from 13-17 November 2010. The applicant:

should be a SNA member (for at least 1 year)

should have submitted abstract as a Presenting Author

should submit a letter/ email of recommendation from his/her supervisor.

The number of fellowship (S\$500.00 each) is limited. Applicant should submit the abstract to Dr He Beiping (anthebp@nus.edu.sg) on or before **13 May 2010**.

The Fellowship Recipients will be notified as soon as a decision is made.



Become a SNA facebook friend

SNA Travel Fellowship

Recipient 2009

Dr Sivakumar V

Department of Anatomy

Neuroscience Meetings

Society for Neuroscience

Neuroscience 2010
San Diego, CA, Nov 13-17,
2010.
Abstract deadline: May 13,
2010

8th World Congress of Neuroscience IBRO

Florence, Italy, July 14-19, 2011

SNA Contact:

Dr He Beiping
Hon Secretary

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We are on the web!

www.neuroscience.org.sg



**International
Anatomical Sciences
and Cell Biology
Conference**
(2nd Announcement) **26th-29th May 2010**

Registration fee is waived
for SNA Members!!
Sign up now!