



History of the International Basal Ganglia Society (IBAGS)

First Meeting 1983: Lorne, Australia.

The association began in 1983 on the occasion of a Satellite Meeting of the “International Union of Physiological Sciences” (IUPS), which was held that year at Lorne, near Melbourne, in Australia (5th-7th September 1983). Dr John McKenzie of Melbourne University organised a Symposium devoted to the structure and function of the basal ganglia. There were about 50 participants from 12 different countries. The aim of multidisciplinary led to the choice of a single conference room and participants sharing in the same scientific and social events.

The success of this meeting revealed a need that was not conveniently filled by a large audience medical or neuroscience meetings. It appeared that it would be useful to hold regular meetings on the basal ganglia with triple ambition: quality, multidisciplinary, and balance between clinical neurology and fundamental sciences. The studies presented at the Lorne meeting formed the basis of a book, “The Basal Ganglia, Structure and Function: edited by J. S McKenzie, R.E. Kemm and L.N Wilcock, published by Plenum Press in 1984.

Foundation

In Australia the principle of creating a new specialised scientific society was adopted. Professor Malcolm Carpenter from Bethesda was elected as Founding President with the charge of Institutionalising the Society. The aims of the society were defined as follows: *“To advance the understanding of the structure and functions of the basal ganglia and associated structures by bringing together neuroscientists from various countries of the world and to inform the general public of the results and implications”*

The “International Basal Ganglia Society” was legally constituted as a non-profit association, granted a status tax exempt, under section 501 (c) (3) of the United States

Internal Revenue Code in July 1986. Tentative Bylaws for the Society were drawn up by Professor André Parent (Canada) and Dr. A. Jarayaman (USA) and adopted in amended form at the second triennial Symposium on July 22nd, 1986.

Second Meeting 1986: Victoria, Canada. IBAGS II

The second meeting was held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, from 21st to 23rd July 1986. The organiser was Professor Corcoran from Victoria. The Society had now become a privileged place for exchanges between researchers working on all aspects of the basal ganglia. The work presented at the Victoria meeting was collected in a second book, "The Basal Ganglia II. Structure and Function – Current Concepts" edited by M.B. Carpenter and A. Jarayaman and published by Plenum Press in 1987, and confirmed the importance of the Society in the dissemination of new data and ideas in the field of basal ganglia.

At Victoria it was decided that the subsequent meetings would run independently of the IUPS meeting but maintaining a triennial rhythm. The Italian offer to organise the 1989 meeting having been accepted, Professor G. Berbaridi (Roma) and G. Di Chiara (Cagliari) were unanimously elected President and Secretary of the Society.

Third Meeting 1989: Capo Boi, Sardinia, Italy. IBAGS III

The third meeting held at Capo Boi in Sardinia (Italy) from 10th to 13th June 1989 confirmed the success of the Society and its meetings. The number of participants doubled. A book collecting works presented at the meeting containing 80 chapters was published by Plenum Press: "The Basal Ganglia III" and edited by G. Bernardi, M.B. Carpenter, G. Di Chiara, M. Morelli and P. Stanzione. (Advances in Behavioural Biology, Vol 39).

At the general meeting, Doctor Gérard Percheron (INSERM, Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris) was unanimously elected as the next President of the Society with the responsibility of preparing the next meeting in France in 1992. Professor John S McKenzie was later elected as Secretary. Professor Chihiro Ohye from Maebashi (Gumma University, Japan) was unanimously elected at this meeting as the President for the 1992-1995 triennium with the responsibility of organising the next meeting to be held in 1995 in Japan. Professor Minoru Kimura from Osaka was later elected the Secretary.

Fourth Meeting 1992: Giens, France. IBAGS IV

All previous IBAGS meetings had been held close to the sea and in keeping with this tradition IBAGS IV was held on the Giens Peninsula on the Mediterranean coast from 5th to 9th October 1992. The meeting was organised by Dr. G. Percheron and Professor Albe-Fessard was the Honorary President. There were 162 participants and 169 scientific contributions. The book was again published by Plenum Press, entitled: "Basal Ganglia IV. New ideas and Data on Structure and function" and edited by G. Percheron, J

S McKenzie and J Féger. (Advances in Behavioural Biology, Vol 39). It contains 61 chapters.

New Bylaws drawn up by Professor Richard Faull (New Zealand) and other contributors, previously adopted by the council, were unanimously adopted (5th October 1992). Professor Stephen Kitai (University of Tennessee, USA) was elected as the Treasurer of the Society. Professor Ann M. Graybiel from M.I.T was elected as the President-elect and Professor Mahlon R. DeLong from Emory University as the Secretary-elect with the responsibility of organising the meeting to be held in the USA in 1998.

Fifth Meeting 1995: Nemuno-Sato, Japan. IBAGS V

The fifth meeting was held at Nemuno-Sato in the Mei Prefecture of central Japan from 23rd to 26th May 1995. The meeting was organised by Professor Chihiro Ohye and Professor Minoru Kimura and followed the now well-established traditions of IBAGS meetings with no parallel sessions, all participants on the same site and an informal and social atmosphere where basal ganglia scientists at all level could freely interact. The proceedings were published by Plenum Press, (Advances in Behavioural Biology, Vol 47; 61 chapters) entitled: “Basal Ganglia V” and edited by C. Ohye, M. Kimoura and J. S. McKenzie.

Sixth Meeting 1998: Cape Cod, USA. IBAGS VI

Ann Graybiel and Mahlon DeLong organised the sixth meeting of IBAGS (15th-18th October 1998), the second to be held on the North American continent and followed all IBAGS traditions. The meeting was held at Brewster, Cape Cod and there were 226 participants from 16 countries. The proceedings were published in 2003 “The Basal Ganglia VI” by Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers as a 66 chapter volume (Advances in Behavioural Biology, Vol 54) and edited by A. Graybiel, M. DeLong and S. Kitai.

At the general meeting, Professor Paul Bolam (MRC, Oxford) was unanimously elected as President-elect and Dr. Cali Ingham (Edinburgh) as Secretary-elect with the responsibility of organising the meeting in the UK in 2004.

Seventh Meeting 2001: Waitangi, New Zealand. IBAGS VII

The 7th meeting, organised by Richard Faull and Louise Nicholson was held at Waitangi in the north of New Zealand in the beautiful Bay of Islands region, again proved the success of the way in which IBAGS meetings are run. There were 155 participants from 16 countries with 122 scientific presentations. Again there was ample opportunity for delegates to interact socially and to endlessly discuss the basal ganglia. The book “IBAGS VII” was published in 2002 and contains 61 chapters. It was published by Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers (Advances in Behavioural Biology, Vol 52) and edited by L.F.B. Nicholson and R.L.M. Faull.

At the general meeting, Professor Henk Groenewegen (The Netherlands) was unanimously elected as President-elect and Dr. Henk Berendse (The Netherlands) as Secretary-elect with the responsibility of organising the meeting in the Netherlands in 2007.

Eighth Meeting 2004: Crieff, Scotland, UK. IBAGS VIII

The 8th meeting, organised by Paul Bolam and Cali Ingham took place in September 2004 at Crieff Hydro Hotel, Crieff, Perthshire, Scotland. Amazingly, the sun shone and showed off the beautiful Scottish setting in all its glory. The Scottish theme was highlighted at the Conference dinner with kilts, bagpipes and plenty of Scottish country dancing (ceilidh). Two new innovative projects were born - hopefully to be continued in future meetings. These were (i) a visit to local schools with workshops on 'the brain' to bring science closer to the community and (ii) the first IBAGS Harlequins Rugby match against local schools boys. As always, the science was excellent reflecting the high calibre of attendees with a passion and expertise in basal ganglia research. There were 263 scientific attendees from 18 countries with 186 presentations. A small number of parallel sessions for the first time ever were welcomed by some but not by others. Three new honorary members were elected, Oleh Hornykiewicz (guest speaker) for his contributions to our understanding of dopamine in the basal ganglia, Ann Graybiel and Anne Young for their long and continuing contributions to basal ganglia research. Special issues of '*Trends in Neuroscience*' were timed to coincide with the meeting and were designed to highlight key issues in contemporary basal ganglia research. The book "The Basal Ganglia VIII" was published in 2005 and contains 6 sections with 59 chapters. It was published by Springer (Advances in Behavioural Biology, Vol 56) and was edited by J. Paul Bolam, Cali A. Ingham and Peter J. Magill.

At the general meeting, Professor Jim Tepper (USA) was unanimously elected as President-elect and Professor Elizabeth Abercrombie (USA) as Secretary-elect with the responsibility of organising the meeting in the United States of America in 2010.