

Executive Secretary & Treasurer Update

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It is both sad and fitting that we inaugurate our first issue of the Newsletter of the Society of Biological Society with a letter from David Braff and John Rush. It is sad because the letter is a farewell from our Society's Executive Secretary and Treasurer, positions held by David and John for the past 8 years. It is fitting because they, more than any other two individuals, are responsible for the character and unprecedented success of our Society. As President and then as Executive Secretary, David developed and executed a vision that transformed SOBPA from an inconsequential organization to one that is a clear leader in the field of psychiatric neuroscience. Our journal moved in impact from obscurity to the third most highly cited in psychiatry, our meeting became invigorated and a forum for the best science that our field has to offer, and, not surprisingly, our membership dramatically expanded. Fueling all of these efforts was the revenue that John skillfully obtained, managed, and amplified, and John's administrative wisdom was the perfect complement to David's dynamic creativity. The dedication of David and John to our organization inspired and continues to inspire those of us fortunate enough to work with them. We all owe them an enormous debt of gratitude; indeed, the current success and future growth of our organization rest squarely on the shoulders of David Braff and John Rush. Following is their letter to the membership.

Dear Colleagues:

When Robbie Robertson and "The Band" had their retirement concert in the late 1970's, documented by Martin Scorsese in the movie "The Last Waltz", they were still relatively young. After 40 years or so of cumulative service to the Society, we are certainly not young nor are we rock stars, but we have been blessed to participate in the Society's growth and development, to learn at our Annual Meetings and to befriend valued Colleagues.

Twenty years ago, the SOBPA was a bit adrift. A series of wonderful Presidents included Ken Davis who had a specific vision for our growth, helped revitalized our work and created a dynamic Society. Our membership grew at a sustainable pace with an emphasis on our unique societal asset: our ability to fully welcome both young and senior scientists from around the world into our circle of intimate and excellent meetings. The Annual Meeting has become a wonderful forum for cutting edge basic and clinical neuroscience presentations in a supportive, collegial environment. Our Journal also evolved and grew from a mid-level PNAS (post Nature and Science) "second tier" journal into a top quality, top 4 in the field venue for the best and brightest to publish their work. Dennis Charney, and now John Krystal, must surely be seen as incredibly dynamic scholars as Editor. Third, the Society's fiscal health proceeded to grow exponentially as John Rush negotiated a terrific contract for the Journal with Elsevier, Maggie Peterson, MBA did a selfless job as our Executive Director and successive Councils ensured a fiscally secure future.

Eight years ago, we (and the Society's Council) agreed to have us serve as Executive Secretary and Treasurer for two mutually agreed upon 4-year terms, but no more. My, how time does pass. Part of the health of the organization is a rotating leadership with Maggie as a constant. We are incredibly lucky to have David "Rubes" Rubinow assume David Braff's Executive Secretary job and Elliott Richelson take over the Treasurer position from John Rush. David R. and Elliott have a long history of Society service and we are lucky that they will continue the tradition of Past Presidents assuming those critical positions. We'd also like to thank Trey Sunderland who served as Interim Executive Secretary during this transition and who brought his wisdom and gentle touch to the job.

With updated Bylaws, a robust strategic plan, and new officers and Editors, we leave the leadership of the Society with some sadness, but with a sense of real accomplishment, of friends made and maintained, and a continuing commitment to participate in the Society in the future. We would like to thank you for allowing us to serve in a Society that has developed into an ideal blend of youth and experience, neuroscientific excellence and ethical balance. We will see you at our annual meetings and at Rubes' band annual rock and roll/blues soires.

Saying goodbye is difficult, but unlike "The Last Waltz", we know that literally and figuratively there are many waltzes left to come, led by a generation of talented and committed future leaders who also have the Society's best interests at heart.

Best Regards,

David L. Braff, MD

A. John Rush, MD

Here's what your colleagues said about the 2007 Annual Meeting...

"Best meeting I've attended in years..."

"The speakers at the plenary sessions were outstanding"

"This is the one meeting I make a point to attend"

2007 Meeting Highlights

The Society of Biological Psychiatry's 62nd Annual Meeting was held May 17-19, 2007, in beautiful San Diego, California. The theme for this meeting was "*Improving Patient Outcomes in Biological Psychiatry: Discovery, Diagnosis and Treatment*," with each Plenary Session and Presidential Invited lecture focused on these three areas.

Thursday's Plenary Session was on *New Approaches to Elucidating the Genetic and Neural Mechanisms of Behavior, Emotion and Cognition*, with Hussein Manji, Gabriel Silva, Nicholas Schork and Eric Nestler presenting, and Mary-Claire King gave the Presidential lecture. Friday's Plenary Session was on *New Etiopathologic Findings that may Change our Understanding of Various Disorders*, with Wade Berrettini, Walter Kaye, Raquel Gur and Larry Siever presenting, with Trey Sunderland as the Presidential speaker. Saturday's Plenary Session was on *New and/or Improved Paradigms of Treatment and Treatment Development*, with Michael Davis, Tom Schlaepfer, Francis McMahon and John Rush presenting, and Jerald Radich gave the Presidential lecture. In addition, 12 workshops, 24 symposia, 15 oral/slide sessions, 1 Freshest Data Session, and over 540 posters were presented during the 3-day meeting.

Friday night, the Society hosted its annual banquet at The Birch Aquarium at Scripps in La Jolla, California. Six hundred attendees took the scenic bus route to the Aquarium, where they were treated to a delicious buffet and drinks while enjoying the exhibits or sharks, seahorses, living coral reefs, feeding stations at the tide pool, and many other displays. It was a beautiful night to enjoy the aquarium and network with colleagues.

The 2007 annual meeting had another record-breaking attendance with over 1,215 people registered for the meeting. We hope to see more of our members at next year's meeting in Washington, D.C.

Future Annual Meeting Locations

As the success and attendance of the Society's annual meeting continues to grow each year, we have experienced difficulty obtaining adequate meeting space and room nights at our convention hotel. For several years now, the Society officers and members have been discussing the need to meet separately from the APA meeting to allow the Society to obtain convention hotels with the proper size to accommodate our plenary and poster sessions. The Society and APA tried to

work out arrangements to keep the meetings together, but both meetings have grown to the extent that this was no longer feasible for either group.

With that in mind, the Society decided last year to keep the days of the meeting the same (the Thursday-Saturday prior to the APA meeting) but to move to a different city.

2009 will be the first year we meet separately. APA will be meeting in San Francisco, and the Society will meet in Vancouver. In 2011, APA is meeting in

Hawaii, and the Society will meet in San Francisco. We are still working on the 2010 meeting. This rotation will allow those who attend both meetings to attend the SOBP meeting, then take a flight to the APA meeting precluding taking you out of the office for another meeting at another time of the year.

We hope that these changes enhance the quality of our meetings, and we hope to see all of you at future meetings !!!!!



Vancouver
2009 Annual Meeting

Mark Your Calendars – 2008 Annual Meeting

2008 Annual Meeting

"Molecules to Mind: From Discovery to Recovery"

May 1-3, 2008

Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill
Washington, DC

Call for abstracts open now

Symposia and Workshops abstracts due October 31, 2007



Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill
Washington, DC

2007 Award Recipients

The following awards were presented at the
2007 Annual Meeting:

Humanitarian Award—Mike Wallace, New York, NY

George N. Thompson Award—Margaret Peterson, MBA,
SOBP, Jacksonville, FL

A.E. Bennett Research Award—

Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg, MD, PhD, NIMH, Bethesda, MD

Ziskind-Somerfeld Research Award—

Elizabeth F. C. van Rossum, MD, PhD, The Netherlands

Gold Medal Award—Myrna M. Weissman, PhD,
Columbia University, New York, NY



Myrna Weissman, PhD, receiving
the Gold Medal Award from
President Peter Roy-Byrne, MD

SOBP 2007 Travel Awards:

Yavuz Ayhan, MD
Helene Bach-Mizrachi, PhD
Kevin Bath, PhD
Katha Beesdo, PhD
Maura Boldrini, MD, PhD
Lind Booij, PhD
Paul J. Carlson, MD
Yael Chertkow-Deutscher, PhD
Amir Garakani, MD
Charles F. Gillespie, MD, PhD
Robert Gonzalez, MD

Michelle S. Horner, DO
Avinash Hosanagar, MD
Roger J. Jou, MD
Sanghyeon Kim, PhD
Spencer Lynn, PhD
Nikolai Malykhin, MD, PhD
Fabiano Nery, MD
Victoria Payne, MD
Marlon Quinones, MD
Aristole Voineskos, MD
Shumin Zhang, MD, PhD

2008 Award Announcements

The Society is pleased to offer the
following awards, to be presented at the
2008 Annual Meeting, May 1-3, 2008,
Washington, DC.

Humanitarian Award

To Honor Contributions to the Field

Gold Medal Award

To Honor Pioneering Work in the Field

George N. Thompson Award

Distinguished Service Award

A.E. Bennett Research Award

Research Award

Ziskind-Somerfeld Research Award

Research Award

Society of Biological Psychiatry Travel Fellowship Awards

Travel Fellowship Awards for young or
international researchers

More information available at
www.sobp.org

Submit your applications for 2008 Awards

www.sobp.org

Deadline January 11, 2008

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members approved at the 2007 Annual Meeting:

Ella Daly—University of Texas SW Medical Center, Dallas, TX

Jean Frazer—Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, MA

Tsuo-Hung Lan—Yu Li Hospital, Taiwan

Sanjay Mathew—The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY

Eric Morrow—Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

Marion Quinones—University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Alan Radant—Veterans Administration, Seattle, WA

Kurt Rasmusson—Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, IN

Frederick Reimherr—University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Grantley Taylor—McLean Hospital, Belmont, MA

Consuelo Walls-Bass—University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX

Member Services

Contact us at any time with your member needs....

904-953-2842

sobp@sobp.org

Benefits of Membership:

- **Personal subscription to *Biological Psychiatry*, the 4th ranked journal in psychiatry**
- **Access to latest information in the field**
- **Professional Development**
- **Networking**
- **Membership Directory**
- **Membership Discounts**

Join the Society

The Society of Biological Psychiatry invites you to join an elite group of psychiatrists and PhD researchers who are engaged in basic, translational, and clinical science to serve people with mental illness.

When you become a member of this intimate

Society, you will have the opportunity to engage with thought leaders who are fueling innovation, access, and development in the biological psychiatry field. Your membership in the Society of Biological Psychiatry will put you in touch with the professionals who have

shaped the field as it currently exists -- and will enable you to be one of those who shapes biological psychiatry as it will be known!

Submit your application on line now at www.sobp.org

Volunteer for a Committee

Volunteers on our committees are important to the future of the Society. By serving on a committee, you will help the Society identify, prioritize and develop plans for addressing the highest priority issues for the profession. Serving on a committee will also provide networking opportunities among peers, opportunities for professional growth and development, and help to sustain the body of knowledge in the field. Appointments to the committees are made by the President and Executive Secretary. You will be asked to participate on a committee for a 3-year term and will participate mainly by conference calls and emails. Following are the committees open for volunteers:

Annual Program Planning Committee
A.E. Bennett Research Award Committee
George N. Thompson Award Committee

Membership Committee
Ziskind-Somerfeld Research Award Committee
SOBP Travel Awards Committee

Please review the opportunities for participation as a committee member. We welcome your expertise and enthusiasm and hope you will discover a way to contribute to the profession. If you would like to volunteer for a committee, please send an email to Maggie Peterson, maggie@mayo.edu, with your preferences. Every effort will be made to place you on a committee of your choice as openings become available each year.

Biological Psychiatry Update

It has been an exciting and busy first year for the new editorial team at *Biological Psychiatry*. We continue to receive more papers, and more consistently outstanding papers, than ever before. One reflection of this shift is the increase in the impact factor of the Journal from 6.779 in 2005 to 7.154 in 2006 (2006 ISI Journal Citation Reports® published by Thomson Scientific; <http://portal.isiknowledge.com>). In an increasingly competitive publishing field, *Biological Psychiatry* ranks 4 of 95 psychiatry journals and 16 of 199 neuroscience journals in impact factor rankings.

We took steps this year to increase the visibility of the important papers published in the Journal. These steps included introducing the "In This Issue" section to provide lay audiences with a brief introduction to papers published in the Journal and to provide open access to an article in each issue of the Journal. In addition, we are issuing press releases to the public, publishing these press releases on the SOBP web page, and we are advertising the *Biological Psychiatry* Table of Contents in journals including *Neuron* and *Lancet Neurology*.

During the year, we set and have largely achieved the following goals: 1) to reduce the backlog of accepted papers awaiting hard copy publication to 6 months, 2) to reduce the backlog of accepted papers awaiting electronic publication to 45 days, and 3) to make an initial editorial decision (to send out for peer review or editorially reject) within 4 days of completed electronic submission. Also, in 2006, we made our initial decision of editorial rejection in an average of 5.1 days and in 42.9% of submissions. Since June of 2007, we further increased the rate of editorial rejections to approximately 50% of initial submissions. Thus, even if a paper is editorially rejected by *Biological Psychiatry*, there is relatively little "cost" with regard to delay.

We, the Editors of *Biological Psychiatry*, remain committed to publishing research with the highest possible scientific impact. However, with the rapid increase in the number and quality of papers submitted to *Biological Psychiatry*, we shifted from a journal that could accept all outstanding papers to a journal that had to select from among outstanding papers. For example, during the summer of 2007, the acceptance rate for submissions to *Biological Psychiatry* hovered around 10% even though during this period the average quality of submissions was probably the highest in the history of the Journal. To help us make these difficult decisions, we have relied more heavily

on the reviewers' ratings of perceived impact of the paper (1=highest impact, 10=lowest impact) in making editorial decisions than last year. We recognize, however, that these impact ratings are inherently subjective. Thus, the Editors will continue to provide consistency in the review process across papers and across domains of research in psychiatric neuroscience and therapeutics.

We are also taking steps to increase the number of papers that we accept each year. By April 2008, we will have reduced the delay between acceptance and publication to 6 months. Reaching this goal will enable us to increase our acceptance rate by approximately 5%, to roughly 15% of submitted papers. Further, we are introducing a new category of research paper that we believe will fill a gap in translational neuroscience publishing and also enable us to publish more papers in each issue of *Biological Psychiatry*. We will publish three types of research papers, Brief Reports (1500 word length, up to 20 citations), Research Reports (2500 word length, up to 50 citations) and Archival Reports (4000 word length, unlimited citations). In addition, we are encouraging authors to make creative use of on-line supplements to compensate for shorter article lengths. Detailed methods, additional tables or figures, movies, and other materials now may be published online. We are taking other steps to increase the number of papers that we can accept by eliminating "Case Reports" as a distinct type of research paper. We will continue to receive and publish case reports, but they will be treated as "Correspondence." Accepted "Correspondence" articles will be published solely as web-based supplements to the Journal and they will appear in the Table of Contents for their selected issues.

I have introduced the initial plan for continuing the increase in the prominence of *Biological Psychiatry*. We hope that by making the Journal as supportive of authors as possible, by increasing the visibility of published papers, and by evolving to take advantage of new opportunities in scientific publishing, that we will attract the best papers in psychiatric neuroscience and therapeutics. In holding these outstanding papers to the highest standards of scientific review, one which places a premium on advancing the field, *Biological Psychiatry* will continue to expand its impact.

John Krystal, Editor

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.sobp.org

Annual Meeting Registration Fees for Members Slashed by 33%

In an effort to increase the value of membership, beginning in 2008 the registration fee for our annual meeting will be drastically reduced for members only. The registration fee for non-members will remain the same. This means that

non-members will be paying more than twice as much as members to attend our annual meeting. Tell your non-member friends and colleagues about this - it's a great reason to join SOBP.

Registration material available January 1, 2008 at www.sobp.org

Join the Society now www.sobp.org

Membership Dues

SOBP membership dues are due now and may be paid on-line at www.sobp.org

Your prompt payment of your membership dues is appreciated by the SOBP. Your dues are critical for

the on-going health and success of the Society.

If you have questions regarding the status of your membership dues, please contact us so we may assist.

If you have forgotten your

Username and Password, contact Maggie@mayo.edu

REMEMBER – pay your membership dues now to obtain your discounted registration fee for the Annual Meeting

New Membership Database

The SOBP will be upgrading our membership database to a new website software, which will provide more benefits and greater ease of use for Society members.

We hope to have this transition completed by January 2008. Please make sure your member profile is updated to ensure we convert your most current information to the new database.

The SOBP would like to thank you in advance for your patience during this transition.

Revised By-Laws

It has been many years since the Society's By-Laws and Constitution were thoroughly reviewed and updated. After many months of review and editing, the By-Laws are now ready for review and approval by the voting membership.

You will receive an electronic ballot to the revised By-Laws and an electronic ballot shortly.

To make sure you receive this ballot, and other Society information, please ensure your email

address is current—you may update your membership profile at www.sobp.org.