



# SBN

Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

## April 2014 - SBN E-News

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### Hormones and Behavior

The current issue of Hormones and Behavior is now available.

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### SBN Announcements

SBN Remembers Dr. Michael Richards (1924-2014)

With sadness we report the death of Dr. Richard Michael. Richard Michael, who was born in London in 1924, died peacefully in his sleep in Atlanta on January 5, 2014. Richard was educated in England, graduating with an MB, BS from University College Hospital Medical School in 1951. A few years later, as a senior resident at the Maudsley Hospital, Richard fell under the spell of Geoffrey Harris, who had recently accepted a Professorship at the Institute of Psychiatry, University of London. Harris, who at the time was pursuing the notion that steroids influence particular neurons in the brain, became Richard's PhD supervisor. For his thesis, Richard chose to use the domestic cat to begin to examine the neural mechanisms underlying the action of estrogen to induce estrus behavior. This was indeed a wise choice because the cat provides a particularly good experimental model because the display of estrus by the female feline is dramatic, stereotypic and absolutely dependent on stimulation by the ovarian hormone. Richard received his PhD in 1960.



Shortly thereafter and together with Harris and Patricia Scott, Richard went on to provide compelling evidence that the brain was indeed the site of action of estrogen to induce behavioral estrus by demonstrating that hypothalamic implants of the hormone could elicit the behavior without a concomitant systemic effect on the reproductive tract. This phase of Richard's career culminated when he used autoradiography to provide the

### Contact Us

Two Woodfield Lake  
1100 E Woodfield Rd  
Suite 350  
Schaumburg, IL 60173  
P: (847) 517-7225  
F: (847) 517-7229  
E: [info@sbn.org](mailto:info@sbn.org)  
[www.sbn.org](http://www.sbn.org)

first evidence that certain neurons in the hypothalamus possess a "special capacity for accumulating and retaining hormone." This signal finding was published in Science in 1962, several years before the concept of an estrogen receptor formally emerged. As the sixties progressed Richard turned his attentions to the rhesus monkey, a representative highly evolved primate with a true menstrual cycle similar to the human female. The monkey proved to be a much more challenging model than the cat, and a decade or more was required for Richard and his colleagues to 1) define both the male and female components of sexual behavior in this species, 2) modify stereotaxic approaches in order to interrogate hormone sensitive regions of the primate brain, 3) to develop operant indices of motivation, and 4) adapt radioimmunoassay procedures so that the low circulating concentrations of ovarian steroids throughout the menstrual cycle could be accurately quantified and correlated with objective behavioral parameters. This work culminated after Richard had immigrated to the U.S. in 1972, when he accepted a joint appointment in the Departments of Psychiatry and Anatomy at Emory University School of Medicine, and founded the Biological Psychiatry Research Laboratories at the Georgia Mental Health Institute.

Throughout his career, Richard wore two hats: one of the academic psychiatrist and the other of the basic scientist exploring fundamental mechanisms underlying the neuroendocrine basis of sexual behavior. His work as an investigator was creative, meticulous, exhaustively analyzed, unambiguously illustrated and relayed to others in a robust and linear fashion with a remarkable efficient use of words. Those wishing to revisit, or to learn more about, Richard's work will find the monograph that he published in 2005\* with Doris Zumpe, a longtime colleague, most engaging and helpful. Richard was an outstanding lecturer: as a mentor he was demanding of his students but at the same time remained a constant source of inspiration to them. In addition to his scientific contributions, which were of the highest caliber, widely recognized and greatly respected by his peers, Richard will also be remembered for his larger than life character and exceptional wit. Richard officially retired in 1994 but he remained active in the field for several years after that. He is survived by his wife, Anne, their four children, Simon, Adrian, Caroline and Crispin, and nine grandchildren.

\*Michael RP and Zumpe D (2005). Neuroendocrine Aspects of Primate Sexual Behavior. REAL U Loganville GA, USA. (ISBN: 1-932999-17-5).

## Meeting Information

2014 SBN/ICN Annual Meeting, August 17-20, 2014, Sydney, Australia

The abstract submission deadlines have been extended:

The new oral abstract submission deadline is Monday, April 28, 2014  
The new poster abstract submission deadline is Friday, May 23, 2014  
Early Bird registration deadline is Friday, May 23, 2014.

For more meeting information, visit:

<http://www.neuroendocrinology2014.org>

Apply for SBN membership soon if you are looking for reduced registration fees and awards for the SBN/ICN meeting.

To apply, visit <http://www.sbn.org>

## Social and Professional Development Activities during the SBN Meeting

Below is a list of opening night opportunities for young investigators to meet your international colleagues. This is a wonderful opportunity to set up international collaborations, so be on the lookout for more details! Space is limited on specific sessions and registration may be required.

### Breakfast Sessions:

- An orientation for newcomers. We will also distribute "First Timer" ribbons. So watch for the newbies and say hello!
- A "New Professors" breakfast for pre-tenured faculty. It's a chance to ask questions, share lessons learned and provide support.
- A "Post Doc" breakfast for current and soon to be post docs.

### Lunch Sessions:

- Speed mentoring sessions (Monday). These are fun, fast and a real opportunity to get lots of advice from many different perspectives in an hour. Build a vast support network without leaving the room! Faculty are in high demand, please sign up!
- Meet the professor lunches (Tuesday and Wednesday). These provide more in-depth discussions with an established researcher. If you are interested, you must sign up when you register!
- Teaching neuroendocrinology workshop with Erin Keen-Rhinehart. Erin is an outstanding teacher and adept at "flipping the classroom." She is an organizer of the American Physiological Society's Institute on Teaching and Learning. Join us and hone your teaching skills.

### Evening Session:

- Professional development workshop Monday night with pizza. This year we will work developing long range plans for your career.

Please keep an eye out for more details about these events, as well as their times and locations in the Annual Meeting program.

## Techniques in Neuroendocrine Research Workshop

A 6-day workshop will be organized in Dunedin, New Zealand the week before the SBN/ICN Meeting. The Workshop will give 30 young neuroendocrinologists (PhD students and early post-doctoral scientists) from across the globe the opportunity to become familiar with a wide range of techniques being used in neuroendocrine research. The Workshop will include six plenary lectures from world renowned neuroendocrine investigators, as well as a series of technique lectures from members of the Centre for Neuroendocrinology (CNE). Students will have the opportunity to undertake intensive, hands-on research in cutting-edge neuroscience techniques. Attendance at the Workshop, accommodation, and most meals are free. Students will be responsible for arranging their own travel to and from Dunedin. Students attending the workshop must go on to the SBN/ICN meeting.

Visit <http://www.neuroendocrinology.otago.ac.nz/workshop.html> for more detailed information. The applications will close in mid-April.

FULL DESCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE SBN  
WEBSITE <http://www.sbn.org/opportunities/bno.aspx>