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Preface

# The First International Cajal Club Meeting in Madrid: 21st Century Reports

Cajal is the real founder of modern neuroscience and stands prejudged as the greatest neurohistologist of all time. Most fundamental knowledge about the neuron and its interactions with other neurons and with the sensory and motor end organs in the adult, developing and injured nervous system derives from Cajal's seminal work. Today's neuroscientists can profit from returning to Cajal's global theories, armed with the detailed and extensive knowledge and methodologies of the present. An integrated concept of brain structure and function embodied his work, and this framework can serve as the organizing principle around which to develop a dialogue between basic and clinical scientists from different disciplines. The first joint Cajal Club and Cajal Institute International Meeting on 'Changing Views of Cajal's Neuron' was held in Madrid, Spain between May 25–27, 2001. A book based on the proceedings of this meeting with this title edited by Efrain Azmitia, Javier DeFelipe, Edward Jones, Pasko Rakic and Charles Ribak is now available from Elsevier Science B.V. as Vol. 136 in the Progress in Brain Research book series.

This meeting dealt with the structure of the nerve cell; the nature of intracellular communication; the structure and organization of the synapse; trophic actions in development and regeneration, and neuronal plasticity. More than 200 participants heard 31 speakers and viewed 70 posters. Thirty travel awards to students and Eastern European scientists were given with IBRO support. The King of Spain, Don Juan Carlos I, was given the Cajal Club Krieg Achievement Award and Cajal Medal (sponsored by Roberta Krieg in memory of her late husband and Cajal Club founder, Wendell Krieg) which was presented to the Minister of Science at a special reception.

Professors Harry Steinbusch (Maastricht University; Maastricht, The Netherlands) and Jennifer LaVail (University of California San Francisco, USA) carefully reviewed the posters at this meeting and selected the best ones for special awards. The winners were Diana Moga (Mt. Sinai, NY); N.P. Vessilkin (St Petersburg, Russia); Jose Maria Frade (Cajal Institute); A.B. Martin (Cajal Institute); P. Lesny (Prague, Czech Republic); and A. Duque (Rutgers University, NJ). All these scientists were invited to submit full-length manuscripts for the Journal of Chemical Neuroanatomy and three of these were judged suitable for publication. The three papers showcase the novel approaches to current studies of the nervous system. They include: (1) D. Moga, P.R. Hof, P. Vissavajjhala, T.M. Moran, J.H. Morrison; *Parvalbumin-containing interneurons in rat hippocampus have an AMPA receptor profile suggestive of vulnerability to excitotoxicity*, (2) N. Hiroi, A. Martin, C. Grande, I. Alberti, A. Rivera, R. Moratalla; *Molecular dissection of dopamine receptor signaling*, and (3) P. Lesný, J. De Croos, M. Prádný, J. Vacík, J. Michálek, S. Woerly, E. Syková; *Polymer hydrogels usable for nervous tissue repair*.

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