

The History Committee of CINP: Past, Present and Future

Thomas Ban, David Healy and Edward Shorter

The CINP History Committee was established by Ole Rafaelsen in 1986 in San Juan at the 15th CINP Congress. The rationale for its establishment was the recognition that without the help of the founders and officers of the first Executive Committees, it would be impossible to reconstruct the story of the organization from the records.

First History Committee

The first History Committee was established within the 16th Executive of the CINP and consisted of Ole Rafaelsen, the immediate past-president, Hanns Hippus, one of the founders of CINP and president of its 9th Executive Committee, and Tom Ban, who had participated on the Executive Committees from 1970 to 1986. The task of the Committee was to review the history of the Collegium in a booklet, which would include brief resumes of the programs of the first 15 Congresses, and reviews of the status of psychopharmacology and CINP in the different countries.

Rafaelsen died in an accident shortly after the San Juan Congress, but Hippus and Ban continued with the project. Ban took on the job of collecting the material and editing the manuscripts. Hippus assumed responsibility for the generation of the necessary funds to cover publishing costs and for the actual production of the final text.

The concerns which led to the establishment of the Committee were real. Reconstructing the membership of the executives and the various constitutional committees turned out to be extremely difficult, because the records were so incomplete. In the late 1980s, only 8 presidents of the 15 executives were alive to tell their story (Valdecasas, Lehmann, Hippus, Deniker, Hollister, Carlsson, Janssen, Kielholz). The story of six of the executives had to be told by others.

THIRTY YEARS OF CINP - A Brief History of the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (Berlin, Springer): was completed by 1988 and

distributed to the participants of the 16th CINP Congress. Edited by Ban and Hippus, it was published in memory of Ole Rafaelsen.



Thomas Ban



David Healy



Edward Shorter

The booklet brought attention to the uneven development within the field. The pharmacotherapy of mental illness was

not keeping pace with the increasingly sophisticated theories about the action mechanism of psychotropics. It also focused attention on the underrepresentation of the CINP in Africa, Asia, and the Latin Americas.

Second and Third History Committee

At the 16th Congress in Munich, (1988) Alec Coppen, the incoming president, and Pierre Deniker, one of the founders of CINP and president of its 10th Executive Committee, were appointed to the History Committee, which now set out to gather information about its founders. How did they perceive the field when CINP was founded in 1957? How did they envision the future in the early 1990s?

The task took considerably longer to complete than expected because of the difficulty in establishing even simple facts, such as who had been present at the founding. At the end, a list of 31 founders was prepared. There were brief tributes to deceased founders written by close collaborators.

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY IN PERSPECTIVE - A Personal Account by the Founders (Springer, Berlin): was completed in 1992 and distributed to the participants of the 18th CINP Congress. Edited by Ban and Hippus, it was published in memory of Paul Kielholz, president of CINP's 14th executive, who died in 1990.

The booklet brought to attention that all but one founder from Peru were from 11 highly industrialized countries (Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States), with the largest numbers from France (5) and the USA (4).

Fourth History Committee

At the 18th Congress in Nice (1992) the History Committee was joined by Philip Bradley, a founder of CINP, who had participated on the Executive Committees

from 1957 to 1970. By that time the Committee used up its funds. It was only owing to the encouragement of Oakley Ray, the general secretary of CINP's forthcoming 19th Congress, and his ability to secure funding, that another publication got rolling.

TOWARDS CINP - From the Paris Colloquium Through the Milan Symposium (J.M. Productions, Brentwood): was completed in 1994 and distributed to the participants of the 19th CINP Congress. Edited by Ban and Hippus, it was published in memory of Emilio Trabucchi, who had been president of the Milan symposium on psychotropic drugs where the organization was first mooted. It was also published in honor of Wolfgang de Boor, a psychiatrist, and Corneille Radouco Thomas, a pharmacologist, who were the first to express the need for the organization which was to become CINP.

The third booklet brought attention to the initiative of a small group of academics in the Spring of 1957 during the Milan symposium to found the organization, and the postponement of founding to the Fall of that year during the 2nd World Congress of Psychiatry in Zurich. By that time Rothlin, a director of Sandoz, raised the money for the inaugural meeting and prepared his list for the nomination of the first slate of officers of CINP. As the first president, he made the key decision to limit the membership of the organization to a selected few. This was in variance with the kind of open society that Trabucchi had espoused which could spread the new discipline freely. Rothlin's decision heavily influenced the development of CINP.

Fifth History Committee

At the 19th CINP Congress in 1994, the membership of the History Committee was extended with the inclusion of Paul Janssen, the president of the 13th Executive Committee.

Shortly after the Washington Congress, the Committee set out to review the period from the inaugural meeting through the first three congresses, also covering to some extent the development of psychotropic drugs. This created problems,

because some contributors discussed mainly the external history of the drug, leaving out the CINP side of the story, whereas others discussed developments only within the CINP framework. The editors had to complement these accounts, so that it would be clear how the history unfolded both within the organization and without.

Since the organizers of the 20th Congress did not offer any help, preparation of the report fell behind schedule. But again Oakley Ray came to the rescue, and while exploring sources of funding, he collaborated with Tom Ban in the writing of several of the complementary contributions.

EARLY YEARS - From the Inaugural Meeting to the Third Congress in Munich was ready for publishing by the end of June, 1996, just a few days prior to the Melbourne Congress. It was edited by Ban, Ray and Hippus, in memory of Rothlin and Hoch, former presidents, and in honor of Philip B. Bradley and Pierre Deniker, first councillors of the first three Executives.

Contributions to Early Years documents Rothlin's dominant role in the founding of the Collegium. The inaugural meeting connected with the "buffet dinner" at the Zurich railway station was Rothlin's party. It was by invitation only and since Rothlin decided who was invited to this "dinner," it is reasonable to assume that Rothlin handpicked the founders of CINP. Considerations, other than involvement in the field clearly played a role in the selection of the participants of the inaugural meeting. A number of key political figures were invited who had little, if any, dedication to and only marginal involvement with the new field.

Early Years also suggested that the scientific program of the congresses was not based exclusively on scientific considerations. There was a rapidly growing interest in the use of lithium in manic depressive illness in those days. Nonetheless, only two presentations had dealt with lithium during the first three CINP Congresses. It was the striking avoidance of lithium related topics in the programs which led Schou to begin his contribution to Early Years with the statement that "Lithium treatment and the early years of

CINP had little to do with each other." For him and for others "the main reason for the neglect of lithium" was "quite simply that lithium salts are so inexpensive that no commercial interests are involved."

Early Years was published in a combined volume of four booklets including the first three booklets of the History Committee which were no longer in print. The combined volume was edited by Ban and Ray and published from funds obtained by Ray from CINP's 20th Executive and the Janssen Research Foundation. The book was mailed to all CINP members shortly after the 20th Congress.

A HISTORY OF THE CINP (J.M. Productions, Brentwood) is not simply a combined volume of four booklets. It also contains information on the Executives after 1986, not included in Thirty Years, as well as about two additional founders, who were identified after the publication of Psychopharmacology in Perspective.

The book demonstrated how international participation in CINP was growing. While the founders of CINP were from 13 countries, by 1988 CINP had members from 37 countries, with 10 or more members in 15 (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA). At the same time, the number of CINP members from the seven countries with the highest representation among the founders (France, USA, UK, Canada, Italy, Switzerland and The Netherlands) was considerably higher (474) than the number of CINP members from all other countries represented in the organization (285). While the first CINP Congress was organized by Trabucchi in collaboration with an international team of 16 neuropsychopharmacologists from 15 countries, (including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands and the United States), by the time of the 20th Congress, the organizing team included only 9 members, of whom 3 were from the USA and the rest from Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and the UK. The evidence of concentration of leadership in a

handful of countries could not have been more striking.

Sixth History Committee

At the 20th CINP Congress in Melbourne (1996), the membership of the Committee was changed. While some of the old members of the Committee (Ban, Coppen, Deniker, Hippus and Janssen) continued to serve, three new members were appointed to the History Committee: Heinz Lehmann, who was president of the 7th Executive Committee, Herman van Praag, who had served on a number of Executive Committees, and Joel Elkes, who had never served on any of the Executive Committees of CINP, but played a major role in the early development of the field.

Members of the new Committee were no longer appointed exclusively on the basis of information they could offer about the past of the Collegium. The objective of the Committee shifted from the documentation of the history of the Collegium to the documentation of the history of neuropsychopharmacology with special consideration of the role of the Collegium.

To accomplish the new task Ban, the chairman of the Committee, felt that it would be desirable to strengthen the Committee with experts in historical research in the field. On his request, Claude de Montigny, the president of CINP, appointed David Healy and Edward Shorter to serve on the History Committee. Healy, a psychiatrist who was elected a fellow of CINP in 1994, had already published the first volume of The Psychopharmacologists (Altman, London), his interviews with the founders of neuropsychopharmacology, and his carefully documented monograph, The Antidepressant Era (Harvard University Press, Cambridge). Shorter, a professor of the history of medicine, who was to become elected a fellow of CINP in 1998, had also published his book, A History of Psychiatry from the Era of the Asylums to the Age of Prozac (Wiley & Sons, New York).

After the Melbourne Congress the Committee had decided to cover the first period in the development of the field,

from the early 1950s to the end of the 1960s. But it was only in the summer of 1997 that the team of Shorter, Healy and Ban embarked on the work. The three agreed that autobiographical memoirs from anyone elected to membership in the Collegium from the time of founding to 1970, should be the means for accessing the information. A substantial publication subsidy was needed to cover the expense. The Janssen Pharmaceutica and Research Foundation in the USA, the Janssen Pharmaceutica International in collaboration with Organon International, and the Pierre Fabre company in France, donated the necessary funds.

The Rise Of Psychopharmacology And The Story Of CINP (Animula, Budapest), edited by Ban, Healy and Shorter: was ready by mid-1998 and distributed to all the participants of the 21st CINP Congress, as well as to CINP members who were not at the Congress.

The Rise of Psychopharmacology is a unique source book for historical research about the first period of neuropsychopharmacology. The volume shows the colorful social and political background of the introduction of psychotropic drugs, and how the new drugs channeled thinking towards a biological frame of reference of mental pathology. It also emphasizes that CINP in the 1960s became an important platform for the display of the mainstream of international psychopharmacologic development.

Seventh History Committee

At the 21st CINP Congress in Glasgow (1998), the History Committee was re-appointed unchanged with the clearly defined mandate to continue with the review of the field by autobiographical memoirs. Hippus has joined the editorial team, and plans are to have the second volume, which will cover the 1970s, ready for distribution by 2000 at the 22nd CINP Congress in Brussels.

The Role Of History In Psychopharmacology

During the past years, the History Committee was confronted on several occasions with the question, "What are all these efforts in aid of?" "Of what use

is the history of psychopharmacology to those who in one or another way are involved with the discipline?"

Our answer is that the material we present can be used:

1. AS A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. The target of pharmacotherapy with psychotropics is mental illness. An understanding of the historical development of current diagnostic concepts may explain findings in treatment and facilitate progress. For example, the findings that there are many subgroups with different responsiveness to various neuroleptics within the diagnostic category of schizophrenia is in keeping with the historical fact that this diagnostic category was artificially constructed. The uncovering of the different forms of schizophrenic disease described in the course of history may provide a key for the development of discriminatory treatments.

2. AS A GUIDE TO DECISION MAKING. Those who possess only isolated pieces of the picture will judge the field differently than those who possess a comprehensive overview. Past failures need not be repeated; for example, the failure to improve efficacy in the treatment of depressive illness by the introduction of desipramine and other selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors subsequently. Recapping the story by the introduction of a new wave of selective noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors without a prior identification of the treatment responsive subform (s) of depressive illness reopens the story unchanged.

3. AS A GUIDE TO THE PUBLIC AND TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION. An understanding of the history of psychopharmacology serves to convince the public and medical practitioners that psychiatry is able to help many people for whom there was no help before. The field has made a precious contribution to the history of public health and the history of therapeutics. The availability of effective therapies for mental illness makes a huge difference in enlisting public opinion on behalf of neuropsychopharmacologic research. ■