

ISGIDAR

INTERNATIONAL
STUDY
GROUP
INVESTIGATING
DRUGS
AS
REINFORCERS

NEWS LETTER
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CORRESPONDENCE

ABOUT ISGIDAR

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ABOUT ISGIDAR NEWSLETTER

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MEXICO MEETING OF WORKING COMMITTEE

The working committee of ISGIDAR met in Mexico City on Sunday, March 10, 1974. The following active members of the committee were in attendance: R. L. Balster, L. T. Cook, F. Hoffmeister, C. Johanson, J. L. Malis, D. A. McCarthy, R. A. Meisch, D. Römer, C. R. Schuster, J. H. Woods and T. Yanagita. Other members of ISGIDAR also attended.

A number of items of business were discussed.

(1) ISGIDAR OBJECTIVES: These were restated for new members of the group. The most important topic regarding objectives was the communication of research information in a form that will be readily available and comprehensible to all persons working in the field. To this end, a reporting form for tabulation of self-administration data is to be designed. This form will be supplied to all laboratories that have a representative on the ISGIDAR working committee. Each laboratory will be expected to supply such information as will be helpful to other laboratories using the form. This information will then be distributed first to cooperating laboratories and later to ISGIDAR members and other interested parties who can make use of the information. Periodically these report forms will be reorganized for presentation in a way that will allow for maximum utilization. Distribution of information through ISGIDAR is in no way to interfere with the right of the individual investigators who supply the information to publish the results of their work elsewhere. However, if ISGIDAR gets funding for publication of a compendium of the results from substitution studies carried out in the cooperating laboratories, it is expected that the investigator responsible for the data will give permission for such publication.

NOTE: An example of the proposed reporting form has since been constructed by the University of Chicago and Parke-Davis groups. Copies of the blank form are included along with such instructions, definitions, footnotes, etc. as may be necessary for those who will be reporting their data. Other ISGIDAR members are URGED to send in their data to D. A. McCarthy for inclusion with the next News Letter. Several forms containing data are included. A compendium of such data reports and supplements to it will be sent to the ISGIDAR membership aperiodically as appendices to ISGIDAR News Letters.

Interaction with Organizations Concerned About the Problem of Predicting Abuse Liability

The study of drugs as reinforcers for self-administration has important relevance to the abuse of drugs and therefore is of interest to national and international groups concerned about the medical and legal aspects of the regulation of drugs in commerce and in illegal trafficking. It is the desire and objective of ISGIDAR to assist and to cooperate with any or all local, national or international groups and to provide them with information and opinions about the relevance and usefulness of data obtained from self-administration studies. To this end, an ISGIDAR subcommittee acting through Drs. Schuster and Hoffmeister, are discussing ways ISGIDAR and its membership may assist the WHO in setting up an international symposium to examine the usefulness and limitations of self-administration techniques in predicting abuse potential. It would be useful for ISGIDAR to be recognized by national and international groups as representing a cooperative effort between industrial, academic and governmental investigators interested in drugs as reinforcers and the relationship between self-administration by laboratory animals and human drug abuse.

Future Meetings

The Working Committee of ISGIDAR will meet in Ann Arbor for a one-day session Friday, November 22, 1974. The meeting will be held at the Research Laboratories of Parke, Davis and Company. Friday morning will be devoted to discussing the test results obtained from the study of the compounds agreed upon in Mexico City, and other ISGIDAR business. Friday afternoon will be devoted to discussion of 24 hour tests by Dr. R. Balster and choice procedures by Dr. C. Johanson. Other topics may also be discussed. This will be followed by a tour of the primate unit of the Parke-Davis Laboratories. On Saturday morning, Jim Woods will hold a "Show and Tell" session at the Drug Abuse Laboratory of the University of Michigan Pharmacology Department. Information about hotel accommodations, the meeting, local transportation, etc. will be sent out to Working Committee Members around the middle of August.

Dr. Römer has invited interested members of ISGIDAR to participate in a two-day workshop in Basle following the 1975 International Pharmacology Congress to be held in Helsinki. The Helsinki meeting is scheduled for July 20-25, 1975 and the proposed dates for the ISGIDAR workshop are July 28 and 29. Members of the Working Committee will be the guests of Sandoz Ltd. while in Basle. Dr. Römer points out that the selected date is at the peak of the tourist season in Switzerland and therefore it is necessary to make hotel accommodations as soon as possible. Therefore it is essential for those persons who wish to attend and/or to participate in the workshop to mail him the attached form if they intend to attend. The organization of the workshop and the topics to be discussed will depend upon who attends. He proposes that the first day and the morning of the second day include ISGIDAR business plus a scientific program, the format of which will be decided upon at the Ann Arbor meeting in November and/or the May meeting in Washington. In the afternoon of the second day the participants would be provided with a guided tour through the Sandoz Pharmacology and Toxicology laboratories. Dr. Römer would be pleased to receive proposals of suitable topics from those who plan to attend.

A meeting of ISGIDAR will be held on May 18, the day prior to the regular scientific sessions of the CPDD in Washington, D.C. There will be a business meeting followed by formal presentations. Members may submit more than one paper for review. Time for presentation up to 30 minutes will be assigned by a review committee to be selected by the Working Committee at the November meeting. Acceptable manuscripts will have to be received for review before December 1, 1974 and possibly even earlier, depending upon deadlines set by the CPDD for printing of programs, etc. Each manuscript will also have to have an abstract accompanying it for publication in the minutes. Authors will be encouraged to seek publication in archival publications. If authors are willing to have their full manuscript reach only limited distribution, your News Letter Editor will attempt to have the manuscript duplicated and send them out as part of the 1975 News Letters.

Drugs to be Tested by Cooperating Laboratories

At the Mexico City meeting the following members of the Working Committee agreed to test compounds in their respective substitution tests in order to extend the scope of compounds studied beyond those known or suspected of having high abuse potential. It was hoped that much of this could be completed by the time of the November meeting in Ann Arbor. Those agreeing to test drugs were:

Johanson and Schuster	--	Pyrilamine
Balster	--	Atropine and Scopolamine
Woods	--	Ephedrine
Hoffmeister	--	Propranolol
Harrigan and McCarthy	--	Pilocarpine and Arecoline
Römer	--	Physostigmine
Malis	--	Will take one later on
Yanagita	--	Will take one later on

The Mexico City meeting was adjourned so that the participants could attend the bullfight.