

INTERNATIONAL  
STUDY  
GROUP  
INVESTIGATING  
DRUGS  
AS  
REINFORCERS

NEWS LETTER

VOL 5 NO 1

OCTOBER 12, 1977

---

---

CORRESPONDENCE

ABOUT ISGIDAR

Dr. Roland R. Griffiths  
Psychiatry Department  
Johns Hopkins University School  
of Medicine  
Baltimore, Md. 21205  
  
301-955-3135

ABOUT ISGIDAR NEWSLETTER

Dr. Robert L. Balster  
Pharmacology Department  
Medical College of  
Virginia  
Richmond, Virginia  
23298  
804-770-4691

---

Satellite Session on Drugs as Reinforcers, Boston, July 6, 1977

ISGIDAR again sponsored a scientific meeting as a Satellite Session to the 1977 annual meeting of the Committee on Problems of Drug Dependence. Formal registration was not taken for this meeting, however we can report that the session was attended by as many as 40 individuals. Informal paper presentations were given in the morning and early afternoon. The program for this session was as follows:

J. Dougherty, D. Miller and S. Adams, VA Hospital, Lexington, Ky.  
Intravenous nicotine self-injection in rats.

H. Marcucella, Boston University and J.S. Macdonall, Wasingtonian Center for Additions. Establishing ethanol as a reinforcer in food and water satiated animals.

T.G. Aigner and R.L. Balster, Medical College of Virginia. A rapid screening procedure for studying drug reinforcers.

T.G. Aigner and R.L. Balster, Medical College of Virginia. A food-drug choice procedure for evaluating drug reinforcement efficacy in rhesus monkeys.

P.K. Brandon, Mankato State College. Animal model of chronic oral drug self-administration.

M.E. Carroll and R.A. Meisch, University of Minnesota. Etonitazine as a reinforcer for rats: Effects of concurrent access to water and determinants of etonitazine intake.

G. Gerber, R.A. Wise and R.A. Yokel, Concordia University. Concurrent intracranial self-stimulation and amphetamine self-administration in rats.

S. Harrigan and D. Downs, Parke Davis. The effects of chronic naltrexone on morphine self-administration.

Following the paper session a business meeting was held. A number of important items of business were transacted. The meeting was chaired by departing President Dr. C.R. Schuster.

Election of Officers. Elections were held to fill the offices of President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Dr. Yanagita agreed to retain his position as Vice-President. The officers of ISGIDAR are now:

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Roland R. Griffiths | President      |
| Tomoji Yanagita     | Vice-President |
| Robert L. Balster   | Secretary      |
| David A. Downs      | Treasurer      |

International Charter. Bob Schuster informed the meeting that due to a number of factors, ISGIDAR would not be able to retain its Swiss Charter. The incoming officers were charged with ascertaining the feasibility of obtaining a U.S. Charter or the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation. Roland Griffiths has determined that obtaining a U.S. charter literally requires an Act of Congress. Incorporation is feasible and may not cost more than a few hundred dollars. However, since ISGIDAR has a limited purpose and deals in relatively small sums of money, incorporation appears unnecessary. Consequently, at this time no move is under way to provide a formal basis for ISGIDAR. Comments on this decision from the membership are solicited.

Role of ISGIDAR. A general discussion was held on the purposes for ISGIDAR remaining a functioning organization. There was a general feeling that ISGIDAR fulfilled a useful role and that it should continue as a loose organization. The specific functions for ISGIDAR were suggested to be:

Annual Scientific Meeting. ISGIDAR will continue to sponsor an annual scientific meeting dealing with subjects of interest to the study of the reinforcing properties of drugs. It was suggested that the meetings retain this focus and not expand into the more general topic of the behavioral pharmacology of drugs of abuse. It was felt that holding this scientific meeting as a Satellite Session to the annual CPDD meeting

should continue although some reservations about this were expressed. The principle reservation was that investigators may submit papers to the satellite session in lieu of the general sessions of the CPDD meeting. This would deprive a more general audience of exposure to drug self-administration research. Additionally, the CPDD Program Committee may reject self-administration papers with the reason that there is a "special session" for this research. Although these are both potential problems, they do not seem to have been so in the past since drug self-administration papers have been well represented in the general session. Members of ISGIDAR are encouraged to continue to submit relevant papers to the Program Committee for the general sessions of CPDD. The 1978 meeting of the CPDD will be held in the Baltimore-Washington area. A formal call for papers for the ISGIDAR Satellite Session will probably appear in the announcement of the CPDD which is usually mailed in November or December.

Membership in ISGIDAR. The status of our membership roles is somewhat confused. A brief history may be instructive. Prior to 1976, ISGIDAR was a loose-organization composed of a group of "Working Members" as well as a group who attended sessions and who appeared on the mailing list. In 1976 ISGIDAR attempted to formalize by adopting a set of by-laws which led to a formal charter under Swiss Civil Code, Article 60ff. This required a formal membership roster as well as the establishment of various types of members (member, associate member, sponsoring member). Consequently, in October 1976, a form was distributed to the mailing list which asked qualified individuals to return the completed form for automatic charter membership. Therefore, at this point we have two sets of individuals: Those on the mailing list and "members". All of the latter are, of course, on the former list. Qualifications for membership are "any person holding an academic or scientific degree and who is actively engaged in research related to drugs as reinforcers shall be eligible to become a member." A current membership list is attached to this newsletter. If your name does not appear on this list and you seek membership in ISGIDAR, a form is enclosed in this newsletter which allows you to:

a) Add your name to the mailing list, b) Add your name to the membership list or, c) Change your mailing address. If you received this newsletter then your name is already on the mailing list. Dues for members will be collected in the form of a registration fee required of all registrants at the annual ISGIDAR Satellite Session at the CPDD meeting.

Dissemination of Research Results. At the ISGIDAR meeting in Boston there was considerable discussion of the possibility that an added role for ISGIDAR might be to facilitate the dissemination of research results among its members. A number of means for doing this were entertained. It was suggested by some that members of ISGIDAR routinely send reprints of their publications to other members. This was considered a good idea but it was pointed out that this may result in the distribution of costly reprints to individuals not really desiring them. In addition, for some (especially where overseas postage is required), the expense would be prohibitive. An alternative procedure was suggested and adopted. ISGIDAR will serve as a collecting point for lists of current references

pertaining to the behavioral pharmacology of drugs of abuse. These will be distributed in the form of a bibliography which will list the mailing address for reprint requests in much the same format as Current Primate References. The compilation of these bibliographies will be accomplished by providing the membership with forms which can be filled out advising the availability of a new reprint. These forms will be returned to the Secretary of ISGIDAR, who will periodically compile them and distribute the bibliography to individuals on the mailing list. Clearly, the success of this enterprise rests upon the willingness of the membership to fill out the forms as their research is published. A form, which should be copied and retained for future publications, is included in this newsletter. To begin with we will compile a bibliography which begins with papers published in 1976 or 1977. Those of you who want your publications included in this bibliography please fill out the form, one for each paper, and return as soon as possible.

#### Announcements

A series of sessions on biochemical and pharmacological research on drug dependence will be held in conjunction with the 32nd International Congress on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. These meetings are scheduled for September 3-8, 1978 in Warsaw, Poland. Further information can be obtained from Professor T.L. Chrusciel, Deputy Director, Institute for Drug Research and Control, 30/34 Chelmska, Warsaw, Poland.

The American Psychological Association will hold its annual convention in Toronto at the end of August. Division 28 (Psychopharmacology) will sponsor paper sessions as well as special presentations and symposia. Although all topics of concern to behavioral pharmacology are appropriate, the special focus this year will be on substance abuse, particularly comparisons between and commonalities in various self-administered substances (drugs, alcohol, tobacco and caffeine containing beverages). Suggestions for symposia are welcomed. Formal papers will require an 1800 word abstract and non-members of APA will have to be sponsored by a member. Information concerning papers or symposia can be obtained from this year's program chairperson, Dr. Chris E. Johanson, Psychiatry Department, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. 60637.

#### Acknowledgement

Since the inception of ISGIDAR, the costs of maintaining a mailing list and the printing and dissemination of the ISGIDAR Newsletter have been borne by Parke-Davis Co., Ann Arbor, Michigan. Parke-Davis has kindly agreed to continue this support and to increase it to include the periodic mailings of bibliographies. We would like to acknowledge and thank them for their generous help.

ISGIDAR BIBLIOGRAPHY FORM

- ( ) Published, reprints available.
- ( ) In press, reprints will be mailed after publication.
- ( ) Reprints unavailable.

Please use the following form for citations:

Deneau, G., Yanagita, T. and Seevers, M.H. Self-administration of psychoactive substances by the monkey: A measure of psychological dependence. *Psychopharmacologia*, 16:30-48, 1969.

Schuster, C.R. and Johanson, C.E. Behavioral analysis of opiate dependence. In: Opiate addiction: Origins and treatment. Fisher, S. and Friedman, A.M. (eds.), pp. 77-92. Washington:Winston and Sons, 1973.

Citation:

Mailing Address for Reprints:

Mail this form to Robert L. Balster, Box 726, Medical College of Virginia,  
Richmond, VA 23298 U.S.A.