

Meeting Report 1990

The nineteenth meeting of the European Histamine Research Society (EHRS) was held in Kuopio, Finland in May 1990 at the kind invitation of Dr. Leena Tuomisto. It was attended by over 150 members and guests from 20 countries. The weather was cool, but largely fine and bright, and the threatened snow never fully materialised. The Meeting was formally opened by Dr. Tuomisto and a welcoming address by Dr. Kauranen, the Vice Rector of the University of Kuopio. This was followed by the Plenary Lecture "Histamine, a Stimulant to Physiological Imagination" given by Sir James Black, Nobel Laureate. Sir James reviewed the factors involved in the control of acid secretion, from early hypotheses to modern theories based on sophisticated experimentation and mathematical modelling. There then followed a series of short papers on "Mast Cells from Various Sources" and a Minisymposium on "Histamine in the Central Nervous System". The latter reflected current intense interest in this field, both worldwide and in Kuopio. The afternoon was completed by a session of Plenary Posters on "Histamine Release". In the evening there was a reception in the City Hall, followed by a boat trip on Lake Kallavesi which provided an opportunity to witness a magnificent sunset.

On Friday, there were oral communications on "Histamine Release and Mast Cells", and "Mast Cells and Cations". The official excursion in the afternoon took us to the town of Varkhaus where we had lunch in the forest, saw tree feeling and paper production in the Enso's Varkhaus Mill, and visited a marvellous museum of mechanical music. The evening meal at the Varkhaus Club was accompanied by the presentation of prizes to the winners of an "EHRS -Trivial Pursuit" competition, whose questions ranged from the time of sunset in Kuopio on Christmas Day to the number of atoms in the histamine molecule.

The final day consisted of oral presentations on "Histamine and Cancer", "Histamine Receptors", "Histamine Release in Surgery, Trauma and Septic Shock", "Histamine, Circulation and Platelets", and further Plenary Posters. The meeting concluded with a superb

banquet at the Hotel Savonia. Poster prizes were presented to Masini et al. (Florence), Mousli et al. (Strasbourg and Montpellier), Airaksinen et al. (Helsinki and Kuopio) but with the top award once again going to Kenji Tasaka (Okayama). There was much dancing, singing of "Oh My Darling Clementine", suitably reworded by the Society's resident songstress Anita Sydbom, and finally the International Anthem of the EHRS. The singing was muted this year by the absence through illness of Geoff West and he was much missed. Finally, our sincere thanks go to Leena Tuomisto, her husband, and her organizing committee for arranging such a fine meeting. The next meeting will be held in Marburg, FRG in May 1991 at the invitation of Professor Wilfried Lorenz.

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