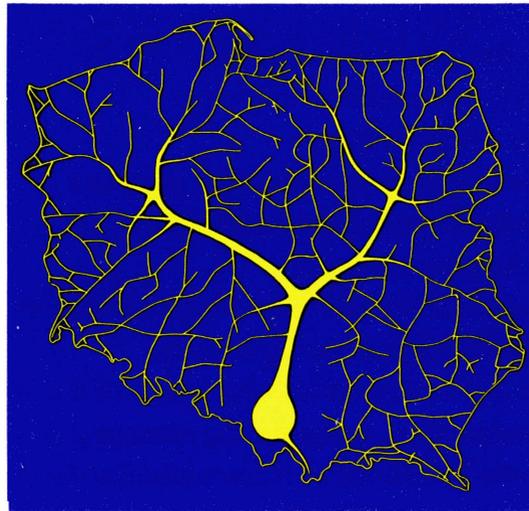


FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
of the
POLISH NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY



Warsaw, 21-23 September 1992
A Congress in the Decade of the Brain

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Part 2, the symposial papers

Editorial board for this issue:

- W. Danysz - Excitatory amino acids
- R. Przewłocki - Molecular neurobiology
- J. Łazarewicz - Brain ischemia
- S. Rump - Neurotransmitters and their receptors
- T. Górska - Motor control and locomotion
- A. Wróbel - Sensory systems
- B. Żernicki and K. Zieliński - Learning and memory
- A. Grabowska - Hemispheric asymmetry
- M. Dąbwska and D. Maślińska - Pathology of the developing brain
- A. Członkowski - Pain: analgesia and neuropeptides
- I. Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz - Neuromuscular disorders
- M. Mossakowski - Alzheimer's disease
- T. Hines - *consulting reading*

Preface

Foundation of the Polish Neuroscience Society in 1991 was a breakthrough event for the Polish neurobiological research community. By declaring its participation in the international "Decade of the Brain", the society created a discussion platform for specialists representing various branches of neurosciences dispersed in numerous specialized learned and professional societies such as: Polish Neurological Society, Polish Neurosurgical Society, Polish Physiological, Pharmacological or Psychological Societies as well as the Polish Society of Clinical Neurophysiology and Electrophysiology, Association of Polish Neuropathologist and many others.

One of the first initiatives of the newly founded society was to organize the Polish Congress of Neuroscience intended to create a broad platform of contact for neuroscientists of all branches who so far have rarely had occasion to "cross talk" having their contacts limited to groups representing traditionally collaborating disciplines.

Polish neuroscience is deeply rooted in the international community. Polish researchers have maintained broad contacts with colleagues in other countries and participated in the activities of various European and international brain research institutions and organizations. Therefore we intended to organize the First Congress of the Polish Neuroscience Society as a venture opened for all interested foreign neuroscientists with some focus on gathering prominent neuroscientists of Polish provenience from all over the world.

The response to our invitation superposed all our expectations. Three hundred ten participants attended actively the Congress; ninety one of them coming from abroad. The Congress program, including plenary lectures, symposia on selected topics and workshops as well as poster session, filled 3 days of presentations running in 3 parallel sessions. The program comprised 122 lectures and communications and 156 poster presentations. It is noteworthy that the old and not always comfortable lecture halls of Warsaw University were filled to the last place throughout the meeting, and discussions extended well beyond the time limits of the particular sessions.

It was our intention to publish jointly all the materials presented at the Congress in one volume of "Acta Neurobiologiae Experimentalis", a journal with a longlasting tradition, which the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology generously decided to share with the Polish Neuroscience Society. Time has shown that our intentions were as ambitious as unrealistic. Not all the authors submitted their papers within the given time limits. In this situation we decided to publish in this special issue the material that had arrived without delay. The papers to arrive later will be published in the subsequent regular issues of the journal with a note that they were presented at the First International Congress of the Polish Neuroscience Society.

The papers included in the present issue of the journal do not reflect the whole spectrum of subjects represented at the Congress. However, we hope that they document the main trends of the Congress and give hints about our future activity. It was intentionally left to the authors to present their data as freely as they wanted. This justifies the apparent non-homogeneity of the articles - from original papers to mini-reviews. I hope that this will not disturb the reader and that this volume will become a useful reference source.

I would like to express my deep thanks to the editorial board of "Acta Neurobiologiae Experimentalis" and moderators of the Congress symposia for preparation of the materials for publication.

M.J. Mossakowski
Past President of the Polish Neuroscience Society,
Chairman of the Programme Committee of the Congress

Warsaw, January 1993