



## EDITORIAL

# Biomedicine '98 — Call for abstracts

In an editorial in our November 1996 issue<sup>1</sup> we commented on the fact that *Molecular Psychiatry* co-sponsors a component of the Spring meeting, now known as Biomedicine, which has been a rite of passage in academic medicine. As discussed in *Molecular Psychiatry* last year,<sup>1</sup> the meeting started in 1886 as the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Physicians (AAP); it was in this meeting that major advances in our understanding of biomedical science and of their application to disease were first presented. Last year, for the first time in its 111-year history there was a plenary theme symposium dedicated to our field (see Table 1), as well as a poster session on molecular psychiatry and neuroscience. Those theme symposium

and poster sessions were highly successful events, attended by leading clinical investigators from various areas of medicine. In 1998 *Molecular Psychiatry* will continue to sponsor a component of the Biomedicine meeting, consisting of a poster session and a theme symposium. Abstract forms for the poster session can be found on the first pages of the issue and of our last issue. Additional forms can be obtained from our editorial office or from the world wide web (WWW) at the following site: <http://www.afmr.org/bm98/index.htm>. The Biomedicine '98 theme symposium on molecular psychiatry and neuroscience, listed on Table 2 will also include the two most outstanding abstract submissions in this area. We encourage you to submit your work and to attend Biomedicine '98 in Washington next spring, bringing to a highly prestigious medical meeting the latest advances in molecular psychiatry and neuroscience.

J Licinio, MD  
Editor

**Table 1** Biomedicine '97  
Molecular Psychiatry/Neuroscience Panel

### Recent Advances in Molecular Psychiatry/Neuroscience

Chair: Julio Licinio, NIMH, NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA  
Editor, *Molecular Psychiatry*

- Regulation of neural gene expression by neurotransmitters and psychotropic drugs.  
S Hyman  
Director, National Institute of Mental Health, NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA
- Normal versus pathogenetic function of Alzheimer's  $\beta$ -amyloid domain.  
K Beyreuther  
Center for Molecular Biology, University of Heidelberg, Germany
- Major depression: Molecular neurobiology, pathophysiology, and treatment.  
PW Gold  
Chief, Clinical Neuroendocrinology Branch, NIMH, NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA
- An antiviral strategy against human borna disease virus infection in affective disorders.  
L Bode, DE Dietrich, R Stoyloff, HM Emrich, L Ludwig  
Free University of Berlin and Robert-Koch Institute, Berlin, Germany
- Glucocorticoid stimulation of thyrotropin-releasing hormone production in cultured hypothalamic neurons is inhibited by antidepressants  
L-G Luo, IMD Jackson  
Brown University, Providence, RI, USA

**Table 2** Biomedicine '98  
Molecular Psychiatry/Neuroscience Panel

### Medically Relevant Advances in Molecular Psychiatry

Chair: Julio Licinio, NIMH, NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA  
Editor, *Molecular Psychiatry*

- Esther Sternberg, *National Institute of Mental Health*, will present an overview of neuroimmune interactions discussing the effects of peripheral and central cytokines and their pathophysiological role in inflammatory and neurodegenerative disease.
- Bruce McEwen, *Rockefeller University*, will discuss the causes, mechanisms, and potential therapeutic strategies for atrophy of the human hippocampus, which occurs in diverse conditions, such as Cushing's syndrome, recurrent depressive illness, post traumatic stress disorder, normal aging preceding dementia, and Alzheimer's disease.
- Mihael Polymeropoulos, *National Human Genome Research Institute*, will present new data identifying in familial Parkinson's disease a mutation in the  $\alpha$ -synuclein gene, which codes for a presynaptic protein thought to be involved in neuronal plasticity; this is the first molecular defect identified in Parkinson's disease.
- Two presentations to be selected from submitted abstracts (see text).

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### Reference

- 1 Licinio J. Molecular psychiatry joins biomedicine. *Mol Psychiatry* 1996; 1: 345-346.