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**Seventh Joint Soviet-Italian Meeting
on Neuropsychopharmacology**

Proceedings edited by
V. G. LONGO, S. B. SEREDENIN and H. MICHALEK

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SEVENTH JOINT SOVIET-ITALIAN MEETING ON NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

Copanello (Catanzaro) Italy, September 19-21, 1988

Proceedings edited by

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OPENING ADDRESSES

Chairmen Seredenin and Longo, Ladies and Gentlemen,

as local organizer of this VII Joint Soviet-Italian Meeting of Neuropsychopharmacology, it is my privilege to welcome you all to Calabria, especially our friends from Soviet Union. After so many years of joint meetings, it is for me a pleasure to remember the success of the previous VI Joint Meeting held in Tashkent in 1986. I am sure that all the participants share with me the memories of many unforgettable experiences in so many different parts of the Soviet Union, until the last one, marvellously organized in Tashkent by Prof. Valdman, who unfortunately today is not with us. No one will forget the unique, scientific, cultural and religious atmosphere that we could breathe in Samarcanda!

Today we are on the same parallel, same temperature, similar fascination from the glorious past. As you know, here, all along this coast, Magna Graecia reached its maximum splendor with the presence of great scientists such as Alkameon, the first neuroanatomist, the father of experimental medicine and neuroscience, and Pythagoras, the greatest genius in mathematics.

The legendary figure of Alkameon is still wrapped in mystery, even though his genius is evident from the fragments of his work reported by Aristotle, Plato, Calcidius. From prehistoric times to about 500 B.C. medicine was in the hand of priests and magicians and this mystic age covered the ancient civilizations such as those of Mesopotamia, Phoenicia, Crete, China, India, Egypt. Thus, the role played by Alkameon and the Medical School of Kroton was fundamental and his new experimental methodological approach to the study of the human body was revolutionary.

The great genius of Alkameon was the first to demonstrate that the brain was the site of our emotions, affectivity, intelligence as well as the site of the origin of cranial nerves and motor life. In order to evaluate the extraordinary importance of such discoveries it is enough to remember that 2 centuries later Aristotle believed that the heart was the site of psychic life. In a masterpiece volume called the "Brain Principate", Alkameon elaborated the "Isomomy Theory" according to which he anticipated the concept of "democracy" between peripheral organs as well as the prominent role of the central nervous system, to which peripheral inputs arrive and from which output responses depart. How modern these concepts elaborated 6-5 centuries before Christ!

For his experimental and biological approach to the study of the brain and the other organs and for the famous School of Medicine he created (it is enough to remember that Hippocrates was a pupil of Erodicus, who was a pupil of Euriphontes of Alkameon's School!), Strabo wrote: "the last doctor in Kroton is worth the first of the Greeks" as well as Herodotus: "The doctors from Kroton are first in the world, second are those from Cyrene".

I would like to thank the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry for Scientific Research for their kind telegrams expressing their best wishes for the success of this Symposium. My thanks also to all the colleagues who have come from different parts of Italy to spend a few days here with us to give a talk on a topic for which they have given original contributions. This Meeting will touch areas of frontier in neuropsychopharmacology, such as stress and depression, aging, drug abuse and I am sure that the results will be relevant not only for the advancement of science in terms of mechanisms of action but also from the social point of view.

I wish to express my gratitude to all the institutions and people who helped us by sponsoring this Symposium, and in particular: Dr. Blasco, President of Catanzaro University Consortium, the Rector of Reggio Calabria University, the Calabria Region President, and the Provincial Council of Catanzaro.

I finish now hoping that the cooperation between Soviet and Italian pharmacologists will continue and will be fruitful. In addition, I hope that sometimes in the future you will again be our guests here in Copanello. Thank you!

G. NISTICÒ

*Director of the Institute of Pharmacology,
of the University of Reggio Calabria
Catanzaro (Italy)*

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

on behalf of Academician Arthur V. Valdman and of all the members of the Soviet delegation let me express our deep gratitude to the Italian coordinator Prof. Longo and to Prof. Nisticò for their efforts in organizing the 7th Symposium on Neuropsychopharmacology in such a nice place. Also, I want to thank Doctor Rocco of the Italian Ministry of Health for his attention to the development of the Soviet-Italian cooperation in the field of Pharmacology.

Since last Symposium in Tashkent, October 1986, our cooperation resulted in more active exchange of scientists and carrying out of common projects in the pharmacology of some new peptides and in the pharmacology of alcohol and neurochemical mechanisms of experimental alcoholism. Scientists from the Institute of Pharmacology in Moscow had an opportunity to work at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità and at the Institute of Pharmacology, University of Cagliari. Some results of the joint experiments will be presented at this Symposium. This proves that we have established good relations between the pharmacologists of two countries. I wish a good luck to all of our Italian colleagues in their science and life.

S.B. SEREDENIN

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PROTOCOL

Since the 6th Soviet-Italian Symposium on Neuropsychopharmacology held in Tashkent (October 1986) the cooperation between the Soviet Union and Italy within the framework of the agreement between the Governments of the Soviet-Union and Italy, has continued in various fields of Neuro- and Psychopharmacology.

The issues of the 6th Soviet-Italian Symposium, where scientific achievements obtained in the Soviet and Italian research laboratories have been discussed, were published in *Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità*.

Cooperation has also covered exchange of scientists in order to establish some temporary research teams to carry out common projects. In 1987 two scientists from the Institute of Pharmacology in Moscow visited Italy for one month: Doctor M. Alexey Maisky at the Institute of Pharmacology in Cagliari investigated the turnover of neurotransmitters in the brain of animals chronically intoxicated with ethanol. The results of these experiments were published in joint papers and one of these was presented at the Symposium in Copanello.

During the last two years the programs of cooperation between Italy and Soviet Union have been renewed and extended through the new agreement signed by the representatives of the two countries. Professors Longo and Seredenin were members of the delegations of the respective Ministries of Health who signed the agreement.

The 7th Symposium was held on 19-21 September 1988 in Copanello and was organized by the Department of Pharmacology, University of Catanzaro (Prof. G. Nisticò). Nine Soviet scientists participated: D. Kharkewich, S. Seredenin, T. Voronina, M. Kozlovskaya, S. Borisenko, A. Maisky, N. Avdulov, R. Rayevsky (Moscow), A. Balakleevsky (Minsk). Twentythree oral reports (9 from USSR and 14 from Italy) and 9 posters were presented.

The Symposium examined four topics: stress and depression; drug abuse; aging; environmental, maternal and genetic determinants in Neuropsychopharmacology. The presentations were reflecting the progresses of research in these fields in the Soviet Union and Italy.

At the Symposium it was discussed the usefulness of the further development of the cooperation in the field of pharmacological regulation of emotional stress reactions and their genetic basis; drug abuse; pharmacology of peptides; aging. More active exchange of scientists was recognized as one of the main way for further developing of cooperation. The participation of Doctor Scotti De Carolis to the Congress of Pharmacology in Tashkent (October, 1988) and the stay of Doctor Borisenko in the Department of Pharmacology, University of Cagliari (April-May, 1989), are planned as nearest steps of the exchange of scientists.

The papers read at the 7th Italian-Soviet Symposium as well as some selected posters will be published in *Annali dell'Istituto Superiore di Sanità*.

It is planned to hold the 8th Soviet-Italian Symposium on Neuropsychopharmacology in 1990 in Soviet Union. The main topics and the site of the Symposium will be selected by common agreement.

Coordinators of the Soviet-Italian Cooperation on Neuropsychopharmacology

Italian side
V. G. LONGO

Soviet side
S. B. SEREDENIN