

## Members' News and Notices

Dr Rupert Sheldrake - Experimenter Effects in Scientific Research

Rupert has been conducting a study on the prevalence of experimenter effects in science. He found (see *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, vol. 12, No 1, pp. 73-79) through a survey of recent papers published in a range of scientific journals that the use of blind methodologies is very rare in the so-called hard sciences. In the physical sciences, no blind experiments were found among the 237 papers reviewed. In the biological sciences, there were 7 out of 914. There was a higher proportion in the medical sciences (6 out of 102) and in psychology and animal behaviour (7 out of 143). By far the highest proportion (23 out of 27) was found in parapsychology. A survey of science departments in 11 British universities showed that blind methodologies are neither used nor taught in 22 out of 23 physics and chemistry departments, nor in 14 out of 16 biochemistry and molecular biology departments. By contrast, blind methodologies are sometimes practised and taught in 4 out of 8 genetics departments, and in 6 out of 8 physiology departments. Rupert is proposing a simple procedure for detecting experimenter effects in any branch of science. Any member interested in participating in this with their students should contact Rupert at 20 Willow Road, London NW3 1TJ.

Prof. Vitold Bakhir - Electrochemical Activation of Water

ROGER TAYLOR writes: Many creative new technologies are now being generated in Russia. This one is the brainchild of Dr Vitold Bakhir, of the Russian Scientific Centre of Technologies of Electrochemical Activation in Moscow. Essentially it involves the passage of a high frequency, high voltage current through water, with a membrane interposed so that certain important ionic and molecular species generated at anode and cathode remain in separate chambers. The waters obtained from each of these, termed 'anolyte' and 'catholyte' respectively, have some remarkable properties, which are turning out to have a great many applications.

It does not seem to be clear from the publications I have seen just what ionic and molecular species are in fact generated. Nevertheless, the principal properties derive from the redox potential. The anolyte is strongly oxidizing (redox +1120mV), and the catholyte reducing (redox - 850mV). The anolyte is finding applications as a universal antiseptic and sterilizing agent, suitable for drinking water, swimming pools, surgical equipment, etc. One can even drink it quite safely to clear up gut infections without, it seems, upsetting the gut flora. The catholyte, on the other hand seems to be an ideal water to drink. There is already, due to the work of Vincent, an association between low redox potential and health. The redox of our drinking water is usually much too high - by comparison with that of the best healing spring waters. But the catholyte is reported also to have a much finer cluster structure, which allows it to disseminate more rapidly throughout the body. Judging, however, by its amazing effects on health, one suspects that there is also an energetic component yet to be defined. These waters are in wide use in Russia. Documents put out by the Russian Ministry of Health detail the successful treatment of a wide variety of specific medical conditions (including, e.g. chronic gastritis, eczema, hepatitis, leprosy, etc.) - the choice of anolyte or catholyte being made according to the condition. A large number of agricultural and industrial uses are also described: including cheese making, chicken-farming, seed decontamination, etc. These properties do not persist: after a few days one is left with ordinary water. For the anolyte this forms a great advantage over current methods, such as

chlorination, in that no polluting residue is left. Finally, and most interestingly to me, the properties of these waters can be transmitted to plain water through a totally impermeable barrier - even glass or hard plastic. This suggests the presence of some kind of field, which may account for the energetic effects in vivo.

Prof. S.P. Sit'ko - Physics of the Alive (ISSN 1023-24270)

ROGER TAYLOR writes: This Russian journal, now in its 5th volume, is concerned with the new biophysics, and applications thereof. A proportion of the articles are in English. All have English abstracts. With Prof. S.P. Sit'ko, of Kiev, as Editor-in Chief, it is understandable that many articles are concerned with microwave resonance therapy, in which field he is the leading figure. Little known in the West, this therapy is widely used in conventional hospitals, etc. in Ukraine and Russia. The journal benefits from the advice of a distinguished international editorial board and, hopefully, will become more international in scope. It can be ordered direct from Prof. Sit'ko, SRC 'Vidhuk', 61-B, Volodymyrska St., Kiev 252033, Ukraine. Apparently he is willing to barter it for other journals in this general area.

Dr. Frank Parkinson - Evolutionary Christianity

This booklet, written by a self-styled 'free range Christian' from a Quaker perspective, examines the consequences of taking Jesus to be not a God-man in some mythical sense but an exceptionally advanced human, in effect an evolutionary emergent. This approach adds new significance to St Paul's argument that Jesus was 'the new man' and the 'first born of a new family', but faces the spiritual seeker with the need to reinterpret traditional versions of Christian truths, in effect to apply an evolutionary epistemology. This will be a liberation to some but a threat to others, especially those who have a vested interest in current orthodoxy. Framing this thesis within the greater thesis of cosmic evolution, it is argued that the arrow of time takes on the form of a re-entrant loop, with the spiritual consciousness of Homo sapiens making potential contact after fifteen billion years with the primordial power which is its source. Obtainable for £2 (inc. p + p) from Foursquare Press, 45 Corvedale Road, Birmingham B29 4LA. Members may also be interested in related papers, 'Reinventing the Species' and 'Seeking the Within-ness of God through Science', each obtainable from Frank Parkinson directly for a first class stamp + SAE, at 14 Ryeheys Road, Lytham St Annes, Lancs. FY8 2HA.

Dr Valery Poleskii - Appeal to discuss the Septenary's role in the search for a conceptual basis in mathematics and philosophy

Some results in esoteric philosophy, epistemology, and mathematical philosophy are contained in the author's articles: [1] Basic Features of Mathematics and its Esoteric Philosophy, [2] Three Questions About Initial Concepts of Mathematics: What Are They? What Structure Have They? How Do They Arise? The results derived from the esoteric idea of the Septenary (a hypothetical basis of Reality).

[1] gives a new, esoteric model of human thinking - superposition of seven basic mental abilities (a correspondence of the Seven Rays on mental plan). It describes the seven basic features of mathematics, a systemic esoteric approach, a spiritual philosophy of mathematics, and an approach to mathematical education (from Intellect to Intuition).

[2] shows that the subtle structure of human thinking gives a key to a constructive beginning of mathematics. Specifically in its terms we can answer the three questions. These articles

are available on the Network web site or in hard copy from the office (see Members' Articles). More information is contained in the author's book 'Hidden Structures of Thinking and Mathematics' that will be published by the Esoteric Publishing. The author appeals to all readers to examine the new ideas with open mind, judging them in their own merit.

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Web site: [www.spircom.org/russia.htm](http://www.spircom.org/russia.htm)

Nikolai Neshev and Emilia Kirilova - Research in India

Nikolai writes: We just came back to Bulgaria from India after one year of joint research with Prof. R.K. Mishra at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences. So the three of us (all SMN Full Members) developed a new method of investigating the structure of aqueous solutions using Cerenkov radiation produced by the beta decay of radioactive phosphorus. This method turned out to be very sensitive to hydrogen bonding. In particular, we tested it on homoeopathic drugs and it showed a statistically significant difference between the structure of the control water-ethanol solution and the drug itself. In addition, for the first time in India, we demonstrated and introduced Millimetre-wave Resonance Therapy which, we believe, will be very beneficial for that huge country. We deeply wish that there would be many other research projects initiated and carried out by teams of SMN Members.

Marco Bischof - New Internet Magazine on Frontier Science

Marco has informed me of a new Internet magazine on frontier science to which he has contributed. The URL is [www.datadiwan.de/magazin](http://www.datadiwan.de/magazin) and it forms part of the Datadiwan network of which the Patienteninformation für Naturheilkunde is another part.

Mitja Perus - Conference Announcement

International Conference on Consciousness in Science and Philosophy '98. November 6th-7th, 1998, Charleston, Illinois, USA Call for Papers

Eastern Illinois University, Department of Mathematics, is the host organizer of the 1st International Conference on Consciousness in Science and Philosophy. The scientific program of the conference will include the following sessions (probably about 2-3 hours each, 20-30 minutes per lecture) organized by chairmen whose names are written after each topic, and any new chairmen for new suggested topics:

1. Informational phenomenalism of consciousness, Prof. Anton P. Zeleznikar, [anton.p.zeleznikar@ijs.si](mailto:anton.p.zeleznikar@ijs.si) and at home [s51em@lea.hamradio.si](mailto:s51em@lea.hamradio.si)
2. Cybernetic concepts of consciousness, Prof. Jerry L.R. Chandler, [jlrchand@erols.com](mailto:jlrchand@erols.com)
3. Cognitive aspects of consciousness, Prof. Vladimir A. Fomichov, [vaf@nw.math.msu.su](mailto:vaf@nw.math.msu.su)
4. Complex system background of consciousness Mitja Perus, [mitja.perus@uni-lj.si](mailto:mitja.perus@uni-lj.si)
5. Physical background of consciousness, Prof. Richard Amoroso, [ramoroso@hooked.net](mailto:ramoroso@hooked.net)
6. Consciousness and computers, Dr Ben Goertzel, [ben@goertzel.org](mailto:ben@goertzel.org)
7. Transcendental states of consciousness, Prof. Suhrit K. Dey, [cfskd@eiu.edu](mailto:cfskd@eiu.edu)

The following session topics, for example, are also open:

- Philosophical/psychological aspects of consciousness
- Neural correlates of consciousness
- Spiritual dimensions/altered states/phenomenology of consciousness

Other consciousness studies topics are welcome also.

Deadline for submission of summaries: Please send your lecture summary by e-mail to the chairman of the session where you would like to take part. If you feel that your contribution does not fit well into any of the mentioned sessions, please send your summary by e-mail to mitja.perus@uni-lj.si and add your classification suggestion (e.g. neural correlates of consciousness, philosophical aspects, psychological aspects.... Deadline for summaries is July 1st, 1998.

All correspondence will be communicated by e-mail. Host chairman and local organizer: Prof. S.K. Dey, Eastern Illinois University, Department of Mathematics, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, Illinois, 61920-3099, USA; e-mail: cfskd@eiu.edu

Program secretary: Mitja Peruš, National Institute of Chemistry, Hajdrihova 19 (POB 3430), SI-1001 Ljubljana, Slovenia & Slovene Society for Cognitive Sciences; e-mail: mitja.perus@uni-lj.si Main information sources (for those not having access to WWW): cfskd@eiu.edu (organization, facilities), mitja.perus@uni-lj.si (program). Registration fee: \$150

Dean Radin and the University of Nevada

Readers may recall the piece in these columns in the last issue. Dean has now left the University. He writes: 'At first, the Provost countered the academic freedom issue by citing the appointment of parapsychologist Prof. Charles Tart to the Bigelow Chair of Consciousness Studies for 1997-78. However, he said later that it was merely a coincidence that Prof. Tart was a parapsychologist and that 'next year ... the person sitting in the Bigelow Chair will be potentially from a totally unrelated area' (Las Vegas Sun, 3rd March 1998). This is odd given that the Bigelow Chair was explicitly endowed to teach courses in survival of human consciousness, a sub-branch of parapsychology'.

Some readers may like to consult a web site with an article from the London Times Higher Education Supplement (17th October, 1997) along with Dean's response: <http://www.psiresearch.org/crlthes.htm> He is now continuing his psi research in the private sector. A review of his Network Book Prize winning book appears in the Psychology section.

Dr Sadananda Misra - Village Small School Project in India

For the last few years Sadananda has been involved in the running of a small village school in rural Orissa to provide holistic education to poor, underprivileged children. The school currently has 35 children between the ages of 5 and 8, with two teachers and a matron. I visited the school myself in 1992 and can vouch for its significance within the local community. In the past, the school has welcomed visiting teachers for a stay of between 2 and 6 months. Besides teaching, there is work on the small organic farm and it is a unique opportunity to gain experience of life in an Indian village. Visitors receive free accommodation in a single room and vegetarian food, plus use of a bicycle to get around locally. Only one visitor is there at any particular time. If you are interested, write to

Sadananda at 5 Professor's Colony, Vidyasagar Villa, Chatra, Derabis, Cuttack 754289, Orissa, India.

Rachel Govan - Artist and researcher looking for collaboration(s) with scientist(s)

I am looking for a collaboration with a scientist or group of scientists generally, and would be most interested to collaborate for the SCI-ART competition (Wellcome Trust) in 1999.

Through my art (the primary vehicle for my research) I am researching into the functioning of the brain. Although my work covers many different areas I am particularly interested in cancer research, sickle cell, embryology, neurology, mental health, how the mind and body interact, parapsychology and consciousness ('enlightenment' - the transcendence of time). My art, including the process, is the visual data for my research. For further information or enquiries please contact: Rachel Govan, 15 Birch House, Tulse Hill Estate, London SW2 2ET - Telephone: 0181 333 6420.

Bronwen Astor - Offer of Retreat Centre for Workshops, Surrey

Bronwen is making available a space in the grounds of her home in Surrey for groups and individuals who wish for peace and solitude and time for reflection. Facilities available include a chapel, group therapy room, self-catering kitchen/dining room, quiet garden with stream, swimming pool. Prices are £25 per day for individuals and £15 per day for groups of 4 to 20. Enquiries to Tuesley Manor, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1UD. Tel: 01483 417281.

Dr Peter Marcer - Superhighway Initiative in Computer Technology

Peter reports that the British Computer Society (BCS) is the main contractor in the European Pathfinder Project, an initiative designed to signpost and prioritize the directions in the new leading edge field of quantum information, computing and communication, so that appropriate EU funding can follow. Peter forecasts that the current silicon superhighway will run out of steam around 2010 because individual gate switching will by then depend on the statistics of just 10 electrons! So quantum co-processors may well be the only type of device to be found in the computers of the next century. A conference on this topic was held at Greenwich University in March. Details from BCS, 1 Sanford Street, Swindon SN1 1HJ. Web site: [www.bcs.org.uk/](http://www.bcs.org.uk/)

Dr Desmond Berghofer, Dr Geraldine Schwartz

The Visioneer and The Institute for Ethical Leadership, Canada

I met Des and Gerry at a conference in Santa Barbara in 1995 and have been following their news sheet of visionary ideas and perspectives ever since. It articulates our possibilities for the new Millennium and encourages its readers to 'move to higher ground'. It reflects a song by Barbara Streisand where she writes that there is too much diminishing of others' achievements; 'The only way to fight back is to do good work and leave a legacy of some kind, one that is positive, uplifting, and, hopefully, motivating'. A new initiative from Creative Learning International (CLI) is the Institute for Ethical Leadership. Its philosophy is the belief that a healthy and successful society is grounded in strong ethical relationships between its members, and that the voice of ethical people is urgently required to ensure a decent future. The vision is to become a cohort of friends who want to inspire our lives with higher purpose. Details: CLI, 209-1628 West 1st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6J 1G1. Email: [desgerri@direct.ca](mailto:desgerri@direct.ca)

Dr Fiona Day - Borders General Hospital Complementary Therapies Group, Scotland

This group currently meets monthly and has about 40 members. Its aims fall into three categories: professional development via education and information; personal development - caring for professional carers; and promotion of holistically based healthcare. In October last year the group organized a Complementary Therapies Awareness Fair attended by 200 people. Members running or thinking of running similar local initiatives may like to be in touch with Fiona at the Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS, Scotland.