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When Chemistry Meets Biology – Generating Innovative Concepts, Methods and Tools for Scientific Discovery in the Plant SciencesWildlife AbstractsNeural Masses and Fields: Modelling the Dynamics of Brain ActivityHabits: plasticity, learning and freedomSummer SessionsDiacylglycerol Kinase SignallingWildlife ReviewProceedings of the Seventh International Symposium on Plant Growth Regulators in Fruit ProductionDeveloping SynaesthesiaProceedings of the Seventh International Symposium on Plant Growth Regulators in Fruit ProductionTaxonomy and Distribution of the Freshwater Micro-crustaceans and Green Algae of Puerto Rico, Three Contributions to American Cladocerology, and a Bibliography on West Indian LimnologyProceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of AmericaThe Zoological RecordAnnales BiologiquesBibliography of Agriculture with Subject IndexAmerican Journal of Medical TechnologyQuarterly Cumulative Index MedicusThe Journal of Cell BiologyCanadian Journal of MicrobiologyIndiana University Publications Erich Kombrink U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Karl Friston Javier Bernacer Isabel Merida S. Lavee Nicolas Rothen Carlos José Santos-Flores

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biologically active small molecules have increasingly been applied in plant biology to dissect and understand biological systems this

is evident from the frequent use of potent and selective inhibitors of enzymes or other biological processes such as transcription translation or protein degradation in contrast to animal systems which are nurtured from drug research the systematic development of novel bioactive small molecules as research tools for plant systems is a largely underexplored research area this is surprising since bioactive small molecules bear great potential for generating new powerful tools for dissecting diverse biological processes in particular when small molecules are integrated into genetic strategies thereby defining chemical genetics they may help to circumvent inherent problems of classical forward genetics there are now clear examples of important fundamental discoveries originating from plant chemical genetics that demonstrate the power but not yet fully exploited potential of this experimental approach these include the unraveling of molecular mechanisms and critical steps in hormone signaling activation of defense reactions and dynamic intracellular processes the intention of this research topic of frontiers in plant physiology is to summarize the current status of research at the interface between chemistry and biology and to identify future research challenges the research topic covers diverse aspects of plant chemical biology including the identification of bioactive small molecules through screening processes from chemical libraries and natural sources which rely on robust and quantitative high throughput bioassays the critical evaluation and characterization of the compound s activity selectivity and ultimately the identification of its protein target s and mode of action which is yet the biggest challenge of all such well characterized selective chemicals are attractive tools for basic research allowing the functional dissection of plant signaling processes or for applied purposes if designed for protection of crop plants from disease new methods and data mining tools for assessing the bioactivity profile of compounds exploring the chemical space for structure function relationships and comprehensive chemical fingerprinting metabolomics are also important strategies in plant chemical biology in addition there is a continuing need for diverse target specific bioprobes that help profiling enzymatic activities or selectively label protein complexes or cellular compartments to achieve these goals and to add suitable probes and methods to the experimental toolbox plant biologists need to closely cooperate with synthetic chemists the development of such tailored chemicals that beyond application in basic research can modify traits of crop plants or target specific classes of weeds or pests by collaboration of applied and academic research groups may provide a bright future for plant chemical biology the current research topic covers the breadth of the field by presenting original research articles methods papers reviews perspectives and opinions

biophysical modelling of brain activity has a long and illustrious history and has recently profited from technological advances that furnish neuroimaging data at an unprecedented spatiotemporal resolution neuronal modelling is a very active area of research with applications ranging from the characterization of neurobiological and cognitive processes to constructing artificial brains in silico

and building brain machine interface and neuroprosthetic devices biophysical modelling has always benefited from interdisciplinary interactions between different and seemingly distant fields ranging from mathematics and engineering to linguistics and psychology this research topic aims to promote such interactions by promoting papers that contribute to a deeper understanding of neural activity as measured by fmri or electrophysiology in general mean field models of neural activity can be divided into two classes neural mass and neural field models the main difference between these classes is that field models prescribe how a quantity characterizing neural activity such as average depolarization of a neural population evolves over both space and time as opposed to mass models which characterize activity over time only by assuming that all neurons in a population are located at approximately the same point this research topic focuses on both classes of models and considers several aspects and their relative merits that span from synapses to the whole brain comparisons of their predictions with eeg and meg spectra of spontaneous brain activity evoked responses seizures and fitting data to infer brain states and map physiological parameters

in present times certain fields of science are becoming aware of the necessity to go beyond a restrictive specialization and establish an open dialogue with other disciplines such is the case of the approach that neuroscience and philosophy are performing in the last decade however this increasing interest in a multidisciplinary perspective should not be understood in our opinion as a new phenomenon but rather as a return to a classical standpoint a proper understanding of human features organic cognitive volitional motor or behavioral for example requires a context that includes the global dimension of the human being we believe that grand neuroscientific conclusions about the mind should take into account what philosophical reflection has said about it likewise philosophers should consider the organic constitution of the brain to draw inferences about the mind thus both neuroscience and philosophy would benefit from each other s achievements through a fruitful dialogue one of the main problems a multidisciplinary group encounters is terminology the same term has a different scope in various fields sometimes even contradictory such is the case of habits from a neuroscientific perspective a habit is a mere automation of an action it is therefore linked to rigidity and limitation however from a classical philosophical account a habit is an enabling capacity acquired through practice which facilitates improves and reinforces the performance of certain kind of actions from neuroscience habit acquisition restricts a subject s action to the learnt habit from philosophy habit acquisition allows the subject to set a distance from the simple motor performance to cognitively enrich the action for example playing piano is a technical habit considering the neuroscientific account a pianist would just play those sequences of keystrokes that had been repeatedly practiced in the past however according to the philosophical perspective it would allow the pianist to improvise and moreover go beyond the movements of their hands to concentrate in other features of musical interpretation in other words a holistic view of habits focuses on the subject s disposition when facing both

known and novel situations we believe neuroscience could contribute to achieve a deeper understanding of the neural bases of habits whose complexity could be deciphered by a philosophical reflection thus we propose this research topic to increase our understanding on habits from a wide point of view this collection of new experimental research empirical and theoretical reviews general commentaries and opinion articles covers the following subjects habit learning implicit memory computational and complex dynamical accounts of habit formation practical cognitive perceptual and motor habits early learning intentionality consciousness in habits performance neurological and psychiatric disorders related to habits such as obsessive compulsive disorder stereotypies or addiction habits as enabling or limiting capacities for the agent

diacylglycerol kinases dgks phosphorylate diacylglycerol dg catalyzing its conversion into phosphatidic acid pa this reaction attenuates membrane dg levels limiting the localization activation of signaling proteins that bind this lipid initially recognized as modulators of classical and novel pkc family members the function of the dgk has further expanded with the identification of novel dg effectors including ras guanyl nucleotide releasing proteins rasgrp and chimaerin rac gtpases the product of the dgk reaction pa is also a signaling lipid that mediates activation of multiple proteins including the mammalian target of rapamycin mtor the dgk pathway thus modulates two lipids with important signaling properties that are also key intermediates in lipid metabolism and membrane trafficking the dgk family in eukaryotes comprises 10 different members grouped into five different subfamilies characterized by the presence of particular regulatory motifs these regions allow the different dgk isoforms to establish specific complexes and or to be recruited to specific subcellular compartments the subtle regulation of dg and pa catalyzed byspecific dgks is sensed by a restricted set of molecules providing the means for spatio temporal regulation of signals in highly specialized cell systems in the recent years multiple studies have unveiled the functions of specific isoforms their mechanisms of regulation and their participation in different pathways leading to and from dg and pa animal models have greatly helped to understand the specialized contribution of dgk mediated signals particularly in the immune and central nervous systems mice deficient for individual dgk isoforms show defects in t and b cell functions dendritic spine maintenance osteoclast and mechanical induced skeletal muscle formation studies in flies and worms link dgk mediated dag metabolism with mtor mediated regulation of lifespan and stress responses in plants dgk mediated pa formation contributes to plant responses to environmental signals aberrant dgk function has been recently associated with pathological states an expected consequence of the essential role of these enzymes in the regulation of multiple tissue and systemic functions dgk mutations deletions have been related to human diseases including diabetes atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome parkinson disease and bipolar disorders on the contrary dgk upregulation emerges as a non oncogenic addition of certain tumors and represents one of the main mechanism by which cancer evades the immune attack as a result the

dgk field emerges an exciting new area of research with important therapeutic potential

synaesthesia is a condition in which a stimulus elicits an additional subjective experience for example the letter e printed in black the inducer may trigger an additional colour experience as a concurrent e g blue synaesthesia tends to run in families and thus a genetic component is likely however given that the stimuli that typically induce synaesthesia are cultural artefacts a learning component must also be involved moreover there is evidence that synaesthetic experiences not only activate brain areas typically involved in processing sensory input of the concurrent modality synaesthesia seems to cause a structural reorganisation of the brain attempts to train non synaesthetes with synaesthetic associations have been successful in mimicking certain behavioural aspects and posthypnotic induction of synaesthetic experiences in non synaesthetes has even led to the according phenomenological reports these latter findings suggest that structural brain reorganization may not be a critical precondition but rather a consequence of the sustained coupling of inducers and concurrents interestingly synaesthetes seem to be able to easily transfer synaesthetic experiences to novel stimuli beyond this certain drugs e g lsd can lead to synaesthesia like experiences and may provide additional insights into the neurobiological basis of the condition furthermore brain damage can both lead to a sudden presence of synaesthetic experiences in previously non synaesthetic individuals and a sudden absence of synaesthesia in previously synaesthetic individuals moreover enduring sensory substitution has been effective in inducing a kind of acquired synaesthesia besides informing us about the cognitive mechanisms of synaesthesia synaesthesia research is relevant for more general questions for example about consciousness such as the binding problem about crossmodal correspondences and about how individual differences in perceiving and experiencing the world develop hence the aim of the current research topic is to provide novel insights into the development of synaesthesia both in its genuine and acquired form we welcome novel experimental work and theoretical contributions e g review and opinion articles focussing on factors such as brain maturation learning training hypnosis drugs sensory substitution and brain damage and their relation to the development of any form of synaesthesia

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no 2 pt 2 of november issue each year from v 19 1963 47 1970 and v 55 1972 contain the abstracts of papers presented at the

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