

INTRODUCTION TO SYMPOSIUM IN KRIEG'S HONOR¹

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Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 1987 Cajal Club morning symposium. As most of you know, this organization was founded in 1947 by a group of 14 anatomists, largely under the influence of Dr. Wendell Krieg, then a Professor at Northwestern University Medical School. The charter was to provide a friendly forum for neuroanatomical discussion in light of the accomplishments of Santiago Ramón y Cajal, and, I hope, also of Camillo Golgi, the great masters never to be forgotten.

Dr. Krieg's primary research areas were mainly the organization of the cerebral cortex and the thalamo-cortical relations. His aims, however, were even larger than that, for he cultivated a strong interest for developmental and comparative neurology, as well as for neurological diseases that affect higher cortical functions. Dr. Krieg maintained a vivid interest for the Cajal Club, not only during his active

professional life, but also after his official retirement more than a decade ago. During the year, 1986-1987, Dr. Krieg, although not a wealthy man, elected to donate a substantial endowment for this organization to establish a series of annual awards, the first group of which will be presented this afternoon, as indicated in the program. With this generous act, Dr. Krieg, I believe, has managed to set the course of the Cajal Club towards higher and more demanding grounds than would otherwise have been possible. I hope that under this new impetus, we will manage to create a new challenge to be propagated in the years to come by our younger colleagues. My expectations are that the annual meeting of the Cajal Club will become a major event in the national and international neuroscience calendar and that the enlarged membership attracted to the Club will continue to provide an ample selection of outstanding Krieg Award candidates well into the future.

It is with a feeling of gratitude that I have been chosen to dedicate this symposium to Dr. Wendell Krieg, neuroanatomist and neurologist. The topic of the symposium could only be the cerebral cortex, Dr. Krieg's cherished object. In choosing the specific issues, I have arbitrarily selected a few topics where the relevance of neuroanatomy and neurocytology research is clearly highlighted. A much more fair and complete list would have required an extension of the symposium to the afternoon, thus impinging upon other functions of the day.

I wish to note that the list of speakers includes researchers presently outside the

¹At the 1987 Cajal Club Meeting Dr. Enrico Mugnaini organized a symposium entitled "Aspects of Cerebral Cortex Organization in Health and Disease, A Homage to W. J. S. Krieg, Neuroanatomist and Neurologist". This symposium, consisting of six outstanding presentations (see p. 00 of these Proceedings), recognized Krieg for his contributions to our understanding of the cerebral cortex, as the founding Nucleolus of the Cajal Club, and for his endowment of what we now know as the Krieg Cortical Kudos. This is the complete text of the introduction to this symposium.

membership of the Club. This departure from previous trends is intended to bring new subjects and spirits into the Club's atmosphere. I hope that this opening will be perpetrated and facilitated in the future by establishing a monetary fund for covering the travel expenses of the invited speakers. It is my belief that many of the researchers so invited will elect to join the Club's membership, thus enriching our organization in many ways.

Being 82 years old and in frail health, Dr. Krieg cannot be present today, but I am sure that our overflowing recognition will reach him anyhow. On behalf of this organization, I am grateful to the speakers for having accepted this invitation and to the audience for attendance. Before turning to the communications, I would like to introduce Dr. David Whitlock, the Secretary-Treasurer, who will enlighten us briefly about some aspects of the present meeting and, in particular, about Dr. Krieg's generous donations.