

# THE CAJAL CLUB - A RETROSPECTIVE

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The Cajal Club was founded by 14 anatomists in Room 8102 of the Mount Royal Hotel in Montreal, Canada on Thursday evening, April 3, 1947 [see The Proceedings of the Cajal Club (PCC) 1:7]. Recollections of that night by several who were present may be found in PCC 2:8-10. Dr. Wendell J.S. Krieg was the founding Nucleolus (President), Dr. Clement A. Fox was the Nissl Body (Vice President) and Dr. Pinckney J. Harman was the Apical Dendrite (Secretary-Treasurer). Dr. E. Horne Craigie, who had studied with Don Santiago [see his recollections elsewhere in this volume], was present and became the first Honorary Member as "The Axone". The other members of the "Nucleus" (the Founders), in the order that they signed the original Covenant of the Cajal Club (The Articles), were Drs Fred Becker, George Clark, James Graves, Dave Jones, Tony Pearson, Duncan Heatherington, Art Jansen, Grant Rasmussen, Chick Berry and Talmage Peele. Dr. Krieg served for five years before becoming a Lipofuscin Granule (Past President). He was succeeded for two-year terms by Clem Fox, Don Kimmel, Grant Rasmussen and Chick Berry, in that order. Since 1960-61 Nucleoli have served one-year terms. They have been Walle Nauta, George Clark, Harold Koenig, Murray Barry, Dave Jones, Ray Truex, Fred Becker, Kermit Christensen, Harold Schnitzlein, your author, Jerry Sutin, Marc Colonnier, Jim Sprague, Sandy Palay, W. Ingram, Dave Bodian, Ray Guillery, Lloyd Guth, Jay Angevine, Malcolm Carpenter, D. Kent Morest, Bill Willis, Charles Noback, Ann Graybiel, and Jacques Courville.

Wendell Krieg had the concept, and the Cajal Club was born to (i) "revere Cajal", (ii) "provide an opportunity for congenial scientists with a special interest in the nervous system to confraternize annually", and (iii) "contribute to the welfare of neuroanatomy and neuroanatomists". Whether this has been accomplished over the last 38 years I leave to the reader to decide.

Dr. Harman was to serve the Club for 20 years until he died in office in 1966. If WJSK was the heart and spirit of the Club, Pincky was its substance [see PCC 2:3]. He was an institution. The records of the Club were in his head, and while noted as a "sober man" during most of the year, his capacity at the bar during the meetings was legend. I recall his lunch in the Tavern Tap Room of the Pick-Congress Hotel in Chicago in 1961 - one fifth of couruoisier cognac, consumed in style from a giant brandy sniffer. Memories of these early days may be found in George Clark's "The Harman Era" [PCC 1:1-2].

Dr. Howard Matzke succeeded to the title of Apical Dendrite, and became a second legend for the next 15 years when he retired in 1981 as the 1st Neurofibrillary Tangle (Past Secretary-Treasurer). Dave Whitlock is now in this second term as the 3rd "Heart" of the Cajal Club.

The original purpose of the Club was to supplement the annual meeting of the American Association of Anatomists. The first few years were social occasions, but in 1950 in New Orleans, free papers were presented on the day before the Anatomists meeting. There was a business meeting and a banquet. The first call for dues came in 1952 - \$1.00/annum, and the membership was opened to women in 1953. Banquet speakers were a fixture from 1952 until 1968. In 1969 we held the 1st Annual Pinckney J.

