

REFLECTIONS OF A PRESIDENT ...



Stephen A. Stimpson
Research Association.

I would like to thank the membership of the Inflammation Research Association for the honor and pleasure of serving these last two years as your President. I would also like to offer a huge thank you to our 2002-2004 IRA Officers, Board of Directors and Liaisons who have volunteered outside of their day jobs to fulfill the mission of the Inflammation

As you can see from the following summary of the IRA 2002-2004 Scientific Program, we have been very successful in fulfilling most of our goals. Our meeting at the New York Academy of Sciences was a very successful, provocative program on new directions in prostanoid pathways and many of you expressed interest in continuing to have NYAS meetings in the future. These NYAS meetings have consistently featured great science, fellowship and fun and are an important part of the history of the IRA. We held regional meetings in the Pacific Northwest, the West Coast, two regions of the Midwest, and the Northeast. Several scientific themes from these meetings are to be continued at the 12th International Conference. We sponsored the 6th World Congress on Inflammation and met with our sister inflammation societies from around the globe. I would particularly like to thank Lisa Marshall, Gordon Letts, Richard Carlson, Loran Killar and Tineke Meijers and the Canadian Arthritis Network for their tireless work in organizing and fundraising for this successful congress.

We had several goals for this term - great science with emphasis on new themes in inflammation, target validation and translational research. We wanted:

to emphasize regional meetings representing as many areas of the United States as possible and to expose the excellent inflammation science conducted in those regions.

to foster local interaction between the pharmaceutical and biotech industries and academic institutions.

to build our international IRA membership - not only in the medicines - discovery industry, but also with academic and clinical research groups.

to feature not only the classic inflammatory diseases such as arthritis and pulmonary disorders, but also other important diseases in which inflammatory pathways are increasingly thought to play critical pathophysiologic roles.

to offer fresh insights for therapeutic intervention for these important diseases.

to attract new people to the operation and management of the IRA.

to foster interaction with other non-profit research societies with complementary interests to the IRA.

to interact more with our inflammation research colleagues in Canada and to include our international inflammation research colleagues in our program planning.

to take our turn within the International Association of Inflammation Societies in sponsoring the 6th World Congress on Inflammation held August 2-6, 2003, in Vancouver, Canada.

to use the emerging themes developed in our regional meetings as a springboard to the symposia topics in the 12th International Conference.

Our meetings covered the classical chronic inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and asthma, and also featured exciting new therapeutic insights into Neurodegenerative Diseases, Aging, Metabolic Diseases such as Diabetes and Obesity, and Cardiovascular Disease. We also featured strong interactive programs with other non-profit inflammation research societies and groups including the Canadian Arthritis Network, the Autumn Immunology Conference, the Society for Leukocyte Biology and the American Chemical Society and appreciate the willingness of these groups to partner with us.

IRA SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM 2002-2004

- Oct. 6-10, 2002 **11th National Conference of the IRA**
Bolton Landing, NY.
- Apr. 9-10, 2003 **Cytokine Modulation and Inflammation:
From Discovery to Therapeutic Application,
Pacific Northwest Regional IRA meeting**
Organized by: Joel Tocker (Amgen),
Jeffery Herz (Omeros Corp.), Eoin O'Leary
(Chugai Pharma USA)
Seattle, WA
- May 15, 2003 **Opportunities in the Prostanoid Pathway
Beyond COX-2**
Organized by: Joseph Mancini
(Merck & Co., Inc., Montreal),
Per-Johan Jakobsson (Karolinska Institute,
Stockholm) and Laurent Audoly (Pfizer)
NY Academy Sciences, NY

IRA SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM 2002-2004 (continued from page 1)

- Aug. 2-6, 2003 **IAIS 6th World Congress on Inflammation
IRA-Sponsored Symposium: Inflammation Pathways
in Insulin Resistance-Related Metabolic Diseases**
Organized by: Peiyuan Lin (GSK) and Morris White
(Joslyn Diabetes Center)
Vancouver, Canada
- Oct. 4, 2003 **Cellular Mechanisms in Inflammation: A Symposium
in Honor of Dr. Gerald Weismann at the Society for
Leukocyte Biology**
Coordinated by: Dennis Argentieri (J & J)
Philadelphia, PA
- Nov. 24, 2003 **Pattern Recognition Receptors, Midwest Regional IRA
Meeting linked to the Autumn Immunology Conference**
Organized by: Jim Mobley (Pfizer)
Chicago, IL
- Feb. 26-27, 2004 **Chemokines: Latest Advances and Clinical Outcomes**
Organized by: Gordon Letts (NitroMed), William Selig
(NitroMed), and Kuldeep Neote (Lilly)
University Park Hotel at MIT, Cambridge MA
- Mar. 25, 2004 **Clinical and Preclinical Assessment of Autoimmune
Disease, West Coast Regional IRA meeting**
Organized by: Shripad S. Bhagwat and Brydon Bennett, (Celgene)
Salk Institute, San Diego, CA,
- May 2-3, 2004 **Neuroinflammation, Midwest Regional IRA meeting
including Annual Business Meeting and Election of
New Board**
Organized by: Bruce D. Gitter and Jia En Chin (Lilly)
Indianapolis, IN
- May 19-21, 2004 **3rd International Meeting on Gene Therapy in
Rheumatology and Orthopaedics**
Organized by: Chris Evans (Harvard) and
John Rediske (Novartis)
Boston, MA
- Oct. 3-7, 2004 **12th International Conference of the IRA**
Bolton Landing, NY

I would like to thank Richard Griffiths, our Vice-President and President-Elect, for an outstanding job in coordinating the scientific program for the 2002-2004 term and look forward to his capable leadership in the next term. I thank Loran Killar, our Treasurer and Vice-President-Elect, for keeping the books through the complexities of regional and international meetings and landing the IRA in excellent financial shape for the next term. I thank Bill Selig, our Secretary and Treasurer-Elect, for establishing a more effective web site and making huge strides in electronic communication with the IRA membership. I welcome Laurent Audoly, Andrew Glasebrook, Arpita Maiti, James Mobley, John Somerville and Joel Tocker to our 2004-2006 Board.

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE BOARD FOR THE 2004-2006 TERM
OF THE INFLAMMATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

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PAST PRESIDENT Stephen A. Stimpson, Ph.D. GlaxoSmithKline (NC)

I would also like to thank outgoing board members Dennis Argentieri, (Johnson & Johnson, Board Member 2000-2002, 2002-2004), Tony Manning, (Roche, Board Member 2000-2002, 2002-2004), John Rediske, (Novartis, Board Member 2000-2002, 2002-2004), Denis Schrier, (Pfizer Global R&D, Board Member 2000-2002, 2002-2004), Jerauld Skotnicki (Wyeth Research, Board Member 2000-2002, 2002-2004) and past-president Richard Dyer [Pfizer Global R&D, President (2000-2002), Vice President (1998-2000), Treasurer (1996-1998) Board Member (1994-1996, 2002-2004)], for years of dedication and contribution to the IRA, and hope that they will all continue to work with us as Liaisons in the future. We are indebted to the companies of our membership for the contribution of time and resources that support our non-profit organization. Let me close by saying that in the past year we have benefited enormously from the hard work and dedication of many Liaisons in the operation and management of the IRA. At considerable risk of excluding an important contributor, these Liaisons include (in addition to those already mentioned above): Chris Evans, Brydon Bennett, Deborah Wolff, Dennis Roland, Doug Morgan, Gordon Letts, Howard Kartstein, Jim Trzaskos, Janet Rivello, Jim Ellis, Jim Winkler, Kevin Koch, Steve Zuckerman, Carlos Paya, Bruce Gitter, and Laura Cox. Our Liaisons participated in several monthly teleconferences with the Board and have helped immeasurably in the success of the IRA this term.

I ask you to please also recognize the many volunteers on our 12th International Conference organizing committees, both to thank them and to see where you can volunteer in the next conference. Special thanks to Marcia Bliven, who in her retirement from Pfizer has continued to be a steadfast and precious Liaison and a source of countless bits of enabling information for the operation of the IRA.

I ask each of you our valued IRA members, colleagues, and friends to make yourselves and ideas known to the new Board and join with them in the development of the next term's scientific program. Last but not least, a major goal of the 30-something-year-old IRA is to forge scientific relationships and friendships among our membership that will last a career and a life-time. Enjoy the 12th International Conference and know that through the IRA, the new friends and colleagues you meet at this meeting will be there for you for years to come.

Report on Inflammation Research Association West Coast Symposium, March 25 2004
CLINICAL AND PRECLINICAL ASSESSMENT OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE

Over 110 people attended the 2004 West Coast Symposium held March 25, 2004, at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, CA. The objectives of this one day symposium were to 1) identify new concepts across a spectrum of autoimmune diseases that might better integrate preclinical endpoints with clinical observations, 2) showcase research from west coast industry and academic institutions, and 3) bring together inflammation scientists from west coast sites.

Argyrios Theofilopoulos (Professor, Immunology, Scripps Research Institute, San Diego, CA) led off the meeting with a review of lupus models and the identification of genes linked to these models. He also described the concept of replicative senescence whereby cells seemingly exit the cell cycle and thus avoid susceptibility to apoptotic triggers. However these cells remain responsive to immune stimuli and continue to exacerbate disease. Attendees were challenged to consider therapeutic strategies that may force these cells back in to mitosis and thus render them susceptible to killing.

Kate Blease (Pharmacologist, Celgene, San Diego, CA) reviewed the large number of asthma models available comprising at least 8 species, multiple allergens, and induced and spontaneous models. The choice of model depends on the aspect of the human disease that is the focus of the therapy; e.g. mucus secretion, leukocyte recruitment, broncho-constriction, tissue remodeling, etc and no single model is fully representative of the human disease. The audience was challenged to consider models that include a chronic disease phase with long term lung remodelling.

Arthur Kavanaugh (Professor of Medicine, Rheumatology, UCSD, La Jolla CA) is Director of the Center for Innovative Therapy at UCSD. He compared accumulated clinical data for several TNF antagonists in arthritis and psoriasis, and compared the differences in response with construction of the agent (antibody, receptor, etc.). Several late stage therapies were also discussed.

Anthony Manning (Vice President, Roche Biosciences, Palo Alto) summarized the current therapeutic strategy for treating organ transplant and rejection, and reviewed the competitive space in this market. He described a new therapeutic candidate, CRB15, an antibody to the IL-15 receptor that acts as an IL-15 antagonist. This antibody contains a functional Fc region that appears essential for the efficient T-cell killing that is observed.

Michael Bevilacqua (CEO, Source Precision Medicine, Boulder, CO) and Ralph McDade (Strategic Development Officer, Rules Based Medicine, Austin, TX) described their expertise in measuring RNA and protein biomarkers respectively. Each technology has

been validated for accuracy and precision and can provide multiple analyte profiling. Source is testing algorithms that provide disease specific therapeutic indices that both predict and grade disease. Rules has industrialized their sample handling and analytics to such an extent that thousands of samples (mouse, rat, primate, human) can be analyzed rapidly and relatively affordably.

Nora Sarvetnick (Professor, Immunology, Scripps Research Institute, San Diego, CA) presented soon to be published work suggesting that a primary phenotype promoting type 1 diabetes (IDDM), as seen in the NOD mouse model, is a chronic reduction (10-20%) in the peripheral T-cell pool (lymphopenia). This shortage of T-cells may be associated with a lack of immunostimulation from the environment, and has been called emptiness. The homeostatic mechanisms in place that try to fill-up the number of peripheral cells leads to autoimmunity. It was proposed that this hypothesis may extend beyond IDDM into other diseases.

William Robinson (Assistant Professor, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA) has compiled a series of protein screening arrays to examine autoantibody epitopes (330 proteins) in models of multiple sclerosis (EAE) as well as the human condition. His group has observed that within 2 weeks there is rapid epitope spreading (B-cell mediated) beyond just the injected myelin peptide into many myelin related proteins. The spreading appears to be at least partly related to protein families and homologies. They have found that a naked DNA vaccine expressing the autoantigen provides remarkable protection in the EAE model. Bayhill Therapeutics has been established to test tolerizing DNA vaccines in the clinic. Stay tuned on this one!

James Rosenbaum (Professor, Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, OR) quipped that the eye did not evolve for the purposes of sight, but to provide inflammation biologists the chance to look in and understand the immune response. He provided real time images of leukocyte trafficking in capillaries of the eye including NASA evaluated time lapse image stabilization. Perhaps there will be clinical opportunities to examine candidate efficacy by secondarily monitoring ocular inflammation, such as uveitis.

In summary, there remains a multitude of molecular targets relevant for therapeutic intervention in autoimmune disease. We have seen unexpected outcomes in the past, good and bad, and will continue to be surprised in the future. The type of therapeutic agent, be it antibody (with or without Fc), decoy receptor, vaccine, or small molecule is an important strategic choice that will affect pharmacologic exposure and the efficacy profile. Symposia attendees were

presented a number of provocative ideas including replicative senescence, epitope spreading, and the concept of T-lymphocyte emptiness and filling. Finally, advances in technology, hardware, reagents and software mean there is little excuse to not include biomarker monitoring and multiple analyte profiling in clinical trials and preclinical models to better triage and optimize drug candidates.

**AMERSHAM BIOSCIENCES
 POSTER COMPETITION**

The Amersham Biosciences Poster Competition, sponsored by Amersham Biosciences, was held in conjunction with the 6th World Congress on Inflammation in Vancouver. All posters presented at the meeting are automatically entered into the Amersham Biosciences Poster Competition. Only previously unpublished work is valid for entry. A panel of seven judges selected the posters representing research with the most therapeutic potential and cash prizes were awarded. Gordon Letts (NitroMed) chaired the judging team, and Jim Ellis (NitroMed), Dick Dyer (Pfizer Global R & D), Steve Kunkel (Ann Arbor), Paul Marshall (Novartis Corporation), Bill Selig (NitroMed) and John Westwick (Novartis Corporation) held the honor of reviewing the posters and judging the competition at the Vancouver meeting. Mike Sully of Amersham Biosciences presented the award certificates at the Congress banquet.

N. Desai and co-workers from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals were awarded the first prize of \$2500 for their work entitled: An Orally Active Inhibitor of Cathepsin S Inhibits Human trans vivo DTH.

Second prize of \$1000 went to Ron Laliberte et al. of Pfizer Global Research & Development for work entitled: Identification of GST Omega-1 as a Target of Cytokine Release Inhibitory Drugs (CRIDs). Third place (\$500) was a tie between P. Giblin and co-workers, also from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals: Novel Potent Antagonists of LFA-1 Function and K. Yamashita et al. of ONO Pharmaceutical Company for their work: Effects of a Matrix Metalloproteinase



Richard J Griffiths

INTRODUCING THE NEW IRA PRESIDENT, RICHARD GRIFFITHS

Dear IRA members and friends,

It is now sixteen years since I first attended an IRA meeting and it is a great honor to be charged with the responsibility of leading

this organization for the next two years. It was clear from that meeting back in 1988 that the IRA was a unique organization. The scientific content of the meeting was excellent yet the meeting also fostered the development of personal relationships based on a passion for understanding basic inflammatory mechanisms and how such knowledge could be applied to the development of new therapeutic approaches. It didn't matter whether you were from industry or academia, a junior scientist or a vice-president of research, everyone made a contribution to the meeting. In looking back at the remarks of past Presidents, it is clear that this spirit of openness and camaraderie, of all being in this together, is a common theme that has sustained and drawn people to the organization over the years.

The basic goals of the organization, as articulated in the mission statement, have not changed:

The Inflammation Research Association is a non-profit organization instituted to bring together scientists of all degree and experience levels with an interest in inflammation research to encourage communication and discussion of scientific and technological advances that can be used to develop new therapeutic agents for the wide diversity of serious diseases with inflammatory processes.

However, the world changes around us; as we try to achieve our goals, we have needed to adapt and we will continue to do so.

Length and location of meetings: A few years ago, the majority of meetings were half-day sessions at the New York Academy of Science. Now we enjoy full day meetings at sites around the country.

Communication with the membership: Our primary means of communication until recently was by mail. Thanks to the efforts of our Secretary, Bill Selig, in updating the list of members email addresses we have on file, nearly all of our communications are now via email.

Communication between board members: With the movement of many meetings out of the Northeast, the distribution of board members has spread throughout the country. Instead of relying on face-to-face meetings coinciding with New York Academy of Science meetings, we have increasingly relied on monthly teleconferences to coordinate the activities of the organization.

Over the next two years there will undoubtedly be new challenges to face, but I believe we have a solid foundation on which to maintain and build the essential spirit of the organization and to position it for continued success. Among the opportunities that I look forward to working on with the new board are:

Solidifying the regionalization of the organization: Under Steve Stimpson's leadership, we have made great strides in establishing meetings in many areas of the country. We must ensure that we use the meetings and the board members in each region to establish solid networks within the scientific community and increase awareness of the IRA.

Continuing to seek ways to encourage the participation of academic colleagues in our meetings: Translational Medicine is a buzz word right now. I would argue that the IRA has highlighted this type of research from the beginning; in fact we will devote a meeting in the 2005 program to this topic.

Promoting the involvement of young investigators in inflammation research: The Van Arman scholarship competition, held at each International Conference, is the clearest example of how the IRA has worked to engage newcomers to the field of inflammation research. I believe we have a responsibility to find additional mechanisms to attract young people to the organization and open up their minds to the fact that the discipline of inflammation research can lead to a career for life!

Streamlining our administrative processes: The organization has always been run by volunteers who have given endlessly of their time and skills to ensure that things get done. With increased workplace pressures and the need to balance work and home life, the time for board members to strategically consider the organization could be increased if administrative tasks involved in holding meetings are reduced. The current board has explored some ideas, and we will make a decision on how to implement these over the next term.

The next two years promise to be a lot of fun. I look forward to working with the new board members as we develop a scientific program that already has some very interesting topics in the planning stages:

*Emerging Biological Therapies for Autoimmune Disease
West Coast Regional, San Francisco, Tony Manning and Andy Chan*

GE HEALTHCARE POSTER COMPETITION

"The Most Therapeutic Potential"

GE Healthcare (formerly Amersham Bioscience) is sponsoring a competition at the 12th International Conference, as it has at each meeting since the 9th International Conference, where three representatives of the Inflammation Research Association Board formed the judging panel and selected three posters judged to describe work with the most therapeutic potential.

All posters presented at the 12th International Conference meeting are automatically entered into the GE Healthcare Poster Competition, excluding those presented by the C. Gordon Van Arman Award Finalists. Authors selected for Mini-Symposia presentations at the Conference may also prepare a poster for entry into the competition. Only previously unpublished work is valid for entry. A panel of five judges will select the top three posters representing research with the most therapeutic potential and cash prizes will be awarded. The judges will announce the three winners at the Conference Banquet on

Feb/Mar 2005

*Translational Medicine
Boston, Tony Arulananadam
Apr/May 2005*

*Chronic lung inflammation/fibrosis
Joint meeting with Pulmonary Discussion group
Boston, Bill Selig and Jim Ellis
TBD*

*CV Disease and Inflammation
Midwest Regional, Indianapolis, Andy Glasebrook
Spring 2005*

*Fibrosis and resolution of chronic inflammation
South East Regional, Steve Stimpson
TBD*

*Young Investigators Meeting
TBD, Lisa Marshall
2006*

*Non-genomic action of Glucocorticoid Receptor
TBD, John Somerville
2006*

If you have ideas for meetings, please contact Loran

C. GORDON VAN ARMAN SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION SCHEDULED FOR 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Always a highlight of the Conference, the Inflammation Research Association sponsors a competition encouraging young scientists to perform exploratory and applied research in the general area of inflammation. Contestants must be candidates for advanced degrees: M.S., Ph.D., M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M., or first year post-doctoral fellows. Through this award, the IRA hopes to develop a commitment to high quality inflammation research in young scientists.

The competition and awards are in recognition of the late C. Gordon Van Arman, who had a long and distinguished research career as an industrial scientist, publishing over 100 scientific papers. The development of diphenoxyate, disopyramide, sulindac, and diflunisal can be directly attributed to his work. Dr. Van Arman along with Edward L. Takesue, Marvin E. Rosenthale and Mary Lee Graeme founded the Inflammation Research Association in 1970 as an informal forum for bench scientists to exchange research ideas in inflammatory diseases.

Prior to the Conference, mini-papers were submitted and the the Scholarship Committee selected the five finalists. The Finalists will attend the Conference and participate in poster and oral presentations to the Committee. Awards will be presented at the Conference Banquet on Wednesday, October 6, 2004.

The finalists are:

A novel role for 15 deoxy D 12-14 PGJ2 in vivo: immunomodulatory activity in antigen induced arthritis

Seema Gor Trivedi, M.P. Seed, P.R. Colville-Nash
Experimental Pathology Group,
Centre of Biochemical Pharmacology
The Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital
Charterhouse Square
London EC1M 6BQ

Cryopyrin Regulates Tumor Necrosis Factor Signaling and Cell Death

William O'Connor Jr.*, Daniel T. Bergstralh, Debra J. Taxman and Jenny P-Y. Ting*

Departments of *Microbiology and Immunology, and Genetics, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7295, USA

Enhanced Indoleamine 2,3-Dioxygenase (IDO) Expression in Transgenic Mice Inhibits T Cell-Mediated Allograft Rejection.

Anna Manlapat*, Phil Chandler, Derin Keskin, and Andrew Mellor.
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia 30912

Identification of a natural soluble form of the IL-18 Receptor accessory protein as an immunomodulator in experimental arthritis

Ruben L. Smeets*, Fons A.J. van de Loo and Wim B. van den Berg

Rheumatology research and advanced therapeutics, Department of Rheumatology, University Medical Center Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Inhaled carbon monoxide reduces the remote intestinal inflammatory response elicited by hindlimb ischemia/reperfusion

Jeffrey R. Scott¹, Daryl K. Gray², Michael C. Ott², Aurelia Bihari², Amit Badhwar²,
Kenneth A. Harris², Richard F. Potter^{1, 2}

Medical Biophysics¹ and Surgery², University of Western Ontario, London, ON, N6A 4G5, CANADA

For information please contact the Chairperson for the Scholarship Committee:
Denis J. Schrier, Ph.D.

IAIS DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD

Ivan G. Otterness, Ph.D., received the IAIS Distinguished Mentor Award at the 6th World Congress on Inflammation. Recognizing Ivan's contributions as a mentor to both graduate students and young scientists during his 30 year career at Pfizer, Wim van den Berg, Ph.D., President of the IAIS and Ivan's close friend and collaborator, presented Ivan with a Rosewood Plaque and a check.

Introducing Ivan with an excellent overview of his scientific career, including candid pictures of Ivan in his younger days at Pfizer, Wim explained that throughout Ivan's career, he advocated interaction with and education of graduate students, younger staff members and visiting young investigators. He helped many understand both the inflammatory process and the pharmacological development of drugs for the treatment of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid and autoimmune diseases.

In his presentation, Looking Back Reaching Forward, Ivan emphasized that mentors have a responsibility to lay a sound foundation for students and young investigators, by developing their inquisitive and creative talents, and teaching research techniques and the rational design of experiments. Quoting Ramon y Cajal, Ivan said "The greatest honor that can come to any Mentor lies not in molding students to follow in his footsteps, but in producing scholars who will surpass him."

Ivan also stated that "Ideas are funny things they never work unless you do, and he passionately believed that protocols should be shared and open for criticism not only within your workplace, but with colleagues in your field of research. Ivan also thought that experimental work must be reproducible by independent investigators. Sir Isaac Newton said, "In science you see further because you stand on the shoulders of giants. In his presentation, Ivan said, "If you have knowledge, let others light their candle by it."

Ivan Otterness continues to add his knowledge to the scientific world as a Scientist, Drug Researcher, and Consultant, working as a visiting professor in Universities throughout the world with colleagues and their students. The IAIS Steering Committee extends to Ivan their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for educating



Wim Van den Berg (r) with long time collaborator Ivan Otterness (l)

INFLAMMATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Derek A. Willoughby, Ph.D., was the recipient of the first Inflammation Lifetime Achievement Award. Presented at the 6th World Congress on Inflammation, the Inflammation Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals from industry, academia or the medical profession who over their careers have made major and sustained contributions to the field of inflammation research. Nominees are selected by the IAIS member societies every 2 years to coincide with an IAIS Congress.

Derek Willoughby received his Ph.D. from Cambridge University after initiating his interest in science at University College, London. He joined the Pathology/Immunology Department as a lecturer at St. Bart's Medical College (London) in the early 1960s and was appointed Professor of Experimental Pathology in 1969. Derek was most recently the Emeritus Professor and Director of Experimental Pathology at the William Harvey Institute in London.

Derek always had a passion and enthusiasm for his work on inflammation, which included early work on histamine, serotonin and kinins, and recent studies on NF κ B signal transduction and the resolution of the inflammatory process.

Derek always encouraged open dialogue between scientists. In the early 1970s, collaborating with J.P. Giroud (Paris) and Giampaolo Velo (Verona), he began a series of meetings. Future Trends in Inflammation Research. The success of these meetings prompted the first IAIS meetings in the early 1980s, the drafting of the IAIS constitution and the creation of numerous international societies.

Publishing nearly 600 articles over his 45 year career, Derek's contributions were immense. Sadly, Derek died suddenly on March 13,



Alan Lewis presents Professor Willoughby with his award

6TH WORLD CONGRESS ON INFLAMMATION AUGUST 2-6, 2003 • VANCOUVER

More than 1,000 scientists from around the world gathered for the 6th World Congress on Inflammation, August 2-6, 2003. The Welcome Ceremony opened with a presentation by the Congress President Dr. Robin Poole, followed by other notable IAIS officers and Congress organizers. Native Vancouver Indians granted us a great meeting through the ceremony of the "Talking Stick" and then meeting participants convened at the Pan Pacific Vancouver Hotel for cocktails. The meeting venue of the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Center was decorated by the beautiful Pacific seaport of Vancouver, British Columbia, nestled at the edge of the mountains of Western Canada. The remarkable splendor of this beautiful setting provided more than a backdrop for this major scientific Congress on Inflammation. Several social events in the city and nearby Grouse Mountain Park provided informal fun times for everyone to interact.



After dinner speaker, Dr James Louie

The event was organized by the Inflammation Research Association (IRA) and the Canadian Arthritis Network (CAN), under the auspices of the International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS). The IAIS is the key organization in the world, promoting international co-operation among inflammation scientists and linking the individual societies of inflammation research, such as the IRA and CAN. Society members of the various inflammation organizations voluntarily raised funds, planned, ran and participated in the event's sessions with the support of Triangle 3 Ltd. of London. This is remarkable, as all volunteers accepted this responsibility in addition to their day (and night!) jobs with industry or academia. What a nice way to get to know the competitors: work with them!

The event was covered by on-site, scientific reporters from Thompson-Current Drugs who wrote detailed daily summaries of each day's proceedings and made them available overnight on the Conference WEB site. Attendees accessed them with their laptops from their hotel rooms. A handy package to take home!

The scientific presentations detailed cutting-edge data on mechanisms of inflammation - the focus of the meeting. Chemokines and reactive oxygen and nitrogen species received an intense focus, as did reports on how the latest therapies for rheumatoid arthritis were working. Plenary lectures on these topics started each day. Symposia, focus, teaching and poster sessions elaborated further and broadened the Congress to a variety of topics including drug discovery technologies, novel drug targets and therapeutics, drug delivery, biomarkers and imaging technology. Vendor exhibits rounded the experience to include the latest commercially available research tools and technologies, from laboratory equipment to scientific journals and books.

A variety of new molecules in development with therapeutic potential in inflammatory diseases were presented and the outcomes of clinical uses of new drugs revealed. The remarkable response of RA patients to the new anti-TNF α agents and immune modulators as reported by several clinicians helped exemplify critical progress of new therapeutics. Evidence for efficacy of these agents in other inflammatory diseases, such as psoriasis and IBD, were also discussed. Advances in asthma, ocular inflammation, cardiovascular, fibrosis, skin inflammation, wound healing and inflammatory bowel disease were presented. Indeed, a special symposium on COPD emphasized the increasing threat of this disease and anti-inflammatory therapies as important treatments for the underlying causes. The Congress was a showcase for many promising agents, including anti-cytokines, p38 MAPK inhibitors, COX-II inhibitors, combinations of nitric oxide agents and NSAIDs, chemokine receptor antagonists, immune modulators, eicosanoid synthesis inhibitors, dual-acting anti-eicosanoid synthesis inhibitors, antibodies, etc..

Many scientists were also recognized for their work in inflammation research with awards for scientific accomplishments presented by the organizing committee. This year, Dr. Ivan Otterness received the Distinguished Mentor Award for his career achievements; Derek Willoughby received the "Inflammation Lifetime Achievement Award" for years of scientific achievements and mentoring, and Susan Brain was the first recipient of the new Women in Inflammation Science award. In addition, five scientists received the Young Investigator Award out of 30 applicants, who were all offered travel grants to participate in the meeting, and the "Amersham Best Poster Prize" award went to three researchers with abstracts that exhibited the "Most Therapeutic Potential".

An enlightening mix of art and arthritis was presented at the Congress banquet by Dr. James Louie who intrigued and delighted the audience with his lecture *Renoir, Dufy and Otterbridge - better therapies for RA*. This remarkable presentation showed the progression of arthritic diseases in these famous artists, how they coped with it and the effect it had on their paintings. The meeting closed with a "Symposium on New Drugs," a session designed to demonstrate the success of our hard work and dedication.

The 6th World Congress on Inflammation was a great success and a prominent stage for cutting-edge progress in worldwide inflammation research. We thank all the members of the IRA, CAN and the IAIS for making this



Lisa Marshall (r) presents Sue Brain (l) with her award

DR. SUSAN BRAIN RECEIVES THE FIRST IAIS WOMEN IN INFLAMMATION SCIENCE AWARD

The 6th World Congress on Inflammation introduced a new award last August (2003) while meeting in Vancouver, BC Canada. The award, given by the International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS), is entitled the Women in Inflammation Science Award. Its purpose is to recognize and honor an individual female or male scientist who has demonstrated scientific excellence in the field of inflammation research and who has, either through leadership or by example, promoted the advancement and development of women in this field.

Gender inequities in the work place, especially within the scientific community, both academic and industrial, have not dissolved even as we reached the new millennium. Broadly published reports (D. Ginther, 2001 working paper, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta) have revealed that women in scientific academic careers make 17% less salary than male colleagues, receive less governmental grant funding and are 6-8% less likely to be promoted than men. Further, fewer than 10% of industrial senior managers are women (HealthCare Business Women's Association, The P.O.W.E.R. Study, 1999).

The recommendations from these reports are varied, but a common theme is to build awareness around the issue within the scientific workplace, in parallel to that ongoing in the greater community, and to provide good role models and mentors. The IAIS has accepted this challenge, as have many other large prominent scientific organizations (e.g. AACR, AAI) and has provided an award to recognize individuals who advocate equal treatment of inflammation scientists on the basis of merit, who enhance awareness of this issue and who provide excellent mentoring.

The winner of the first "IAIS Women in Inflammation Science Award" was Dr. Susan Brain, from the Centre for Cardiovascular Biology & Medicine, Pharmacology

& Therapeutics Division, King's College, London. Brain was selected by a distinguished panel of judges Dr. Roger MacMillian, (AstraZeneca, Chair of the Judging Committee), Dr. Rodney Flower, (William Harvey Research Institute, Queen Mary, University of London), and Dr. Hellio Le Graverand-Gastineau, (Clinical Sciences, Inflammation, Pfizer) representing both academia and industry. Dr. Brain's research has centered on the investigation of the cardiovascular and inflammatory activities of vasoactive mediators. A focus on neurogenic mechanisms included the study of cellular and molecular inflammatory mechanisms to understand how the inflammatory process and neurogenic component are integrated. Dr. Brain evaluated cytokines and families of CGRP related peptides and/or adhesion molecules in processes such as neurogenic inflammation and the role of nitric oxide and reactive oxygen species in arthritis, inflammatory models and thermal injury. In addition to more than 100 publications, Dr. Brain has been active in scientific organisations, notably BIRAs, IAIS and the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) that speak to her commitment to inflammation science. She has demonstrated leadership in pioneering projects to enhance key skill sets needed in the study of inflammation, such as in vivo animal model workshops, promoting animal welfare and student knowledge and awareness in the use of animals in medical research. Finally, she has been exemplary in nurturing the academic development of nearly 20 young women and men in this field over the last 17 years, each who has successfully continued post-graduate careers in academia and industry.

As part of the goal to lead by example and mentor or encourage women in Inflammation Research, Dr. Brain was invited to the World Congress on Inflammation; she gave a 30 minute lecture entitled "Polymorphonuclear leukocyte accumulation: influence on microvascular and nociceptive events" prior to the plenary session. Further, she participated in the Young Investigator Award Reception. She received a financial award and commemorative plaque presented at the Conference Dinner on Tuesday, August 5th, at the Parkview Terrace. The funding for the award came through generous donations from GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer Research and Development and AstraZeneca.

It is the intention of the IAIS to provide the Award again at the 7th World Congress

IAIS YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

The International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS) is an international organization comprised of representatives from each of the major national and regional inflammation societies. Attendance at IAIS meetings by young scientists is vital to the development of inflammation research. These young scientists will be the future Department Heads and Opinion Leaders in Inflammation Research. To encourage attendance by young scientists at IAIS World Congresses, young scientists are invited to enter the IAIS Young Investigator Award Competition.

The competition is based on the submission of an abstract and mini-paper prior to the international meeting. At the 6th World Congress, an international panel



Dave Howat and Dick Carlson with the Young Investigators

of nine independent judges representing the various International Inflammation Societies judged these submissions. The six highest scoring applicants were invited to present their work in a dedicated session at the congress. Judging criteria were scientific merit, novel approaches to the inflammatory process and the development of novel anti-inflammatory agents, and clarity of presentation.

The competition at the 6th World Congress included finalists from Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The papers were each of the highest standard and the judges found it difficult to select the top three presentations and decided to make four awards. First place went to Zoe Johnston from Serono in Geneva for her excellent work on a novel strategy for blocking chemokine mediated inflammation. Second place was to Dr. M. Paul-Clark (William Harvey, London) for his interesting findings on nitro-steroids. Third place was a tie between Dr. A. Cauwels (Ghent, Belgium) and Rubens Smeets (Nijmegen, Netherlands) for their work on caspase inhibition and shock via a ROS mediated pathway; and the modulation of arthritis through the overexpression of a soluble IL-1 accessory protein (sIL-1AcP), respectively. Honourable mentions were received by B. Monoury (INSERM, France). and S. Costa (Kings College, London).

The Judging Committee also awarded \$1000 travel grants and waived registrations for 15 runners up selected from the submitted entries, enabling the work of these additional young investigators to be presented in the general sessions of the World Congress. The committee congratulates all the applicants

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- September 2-3, 2004** *Drivers and Resolvers in Inflammation*
The Barber Institute, University of Birmingham
Birmingham, UK
Website: www.biras.co.uk
- October 3-7, 2004** *IRA 12th International Conference of the Inflammation Research Association*
Lake George, NY
Website: www.inflammationresearch.org
- October 23-25, 2004** *Inhibition of Matrix Metalloproteinases Expanding the Horizons*
East Elmhurst, NY
Website: www.inflammationresearch.org
- August 20-24, 2005** *IAIS 7th World Congress on Inflammation*
Melbourne, Australia
Website: www.icms.com.au/inflammation2005
- August 20-24, 2006** *XIV Congress of the Pan American League of Associations for Rheumatology (PANLAR)*
Lima, Peru
Website: www.panlar2006peru.terra.com.pe
- June 16-20, 2007** *IAIS 8th World Congress on Inflammation*
Copenhagen, Denmark
Website: www.ics.dk

ANNOUNCEMENT 7TH WORLD CONGRESS ON INFLAMMATION

Organized by
Australian Society for Cytokines, Inflammation and Leukocytes

Under the auspices of the
International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS)

Melbourne, Australia
20 – 24 August 2005



For information contact:
Inflammation 2005 Secretariat
CI-ICMS Pty Ltd.
84 Queensbridge Street
Southbank VIC 3006
Australia
+61 3 9682 0244 tel
+61 3 9682 0288 fax
inflammation2005@icms.com.au
www.icms.com.au/inflammation2005

Important Dates

Deadline for Abstract Submission 1 April 2005
Deadline for Early Registration 2 May 2005



COMPANY NEWS / PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Bill Selig, IRA Secretary, has joined NitroMed as Senior Project Director. Previously, Bill was Senior Director of Pharmacology at UCB Research in Cambridge, MA. You can contact Bill at wselig@nitromed.com.

Jim Ellis has been appointed as Executive Project Director and Chief Biology Advisor at NitroMed. In his new position Jim is responsible for guiding NitroMed's Biology group and is Project Manager for NitroMed's collaboration with Merck on nitric oxide donating Coxibs. Previously, Jim was Senior Director of Pharmacology at UCB Pharma. Contact Jim at jellis@nitromed.com.

Jim Ellis also reports that **NitroMed** relocated and expanded its corporate headquarters and research facilities in July 2004. The Company now occupies 52,000 square feet of renovated space in the Lexington Technology Park, Lexington, Massachusetts. The new facilities will increase NitroMed's current space, allowing for the expansion of both its corporate and research and development staff. Additional state-of-the-art laboratories for discovery and pre-clinical research are key architectural elements of the new space. Making this move along with Jim will be IRA members, **Gordon Letts and Bill Selig**.

Steve Gilman (former IRA secretary) has joined ActivBiotics, Inc., as President and CEO. Contact Steve at (781) 372-4855, or via e-mail at sgilman@activbiotics.com.

Former IRA President **Dick Dyer** (Pfizer, Ann Arbor; richard.dyer@pfizer.com) has completed his tenure as Director of Inflammation Molecular Sciences. As a Research Fellow, he now heads a group in Inflammation Pharmacology with emphasis on animal models and biomarkers for osteoarthritis.

Loran Killar, IRA Treasurer and Vice President Elect for the 17th term, reports that on September 13 she will join Pfizer in Ann Arbor as Senior Director Inflammation Pharmacology. Loran's new contact information will be available on the IRA website - www.inflammationresearch.org.