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President's Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Inflammation Research Association, as well as the Conference Organizing Committee, I welcome you to the 16th International Conference of the Inflammation Research Association.

This is the second conference that we have held at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, VA. At the 2008 meeting we found that the close proximity of this hotel to Dulles International Airport provided easy access for many of our attendees, and the conference center proved to work well for our meeting format. This year we have cut back on the number of symposia and increased the networking time, allowing for the close scientific and social interactions that are a hallmark of IRA Meetings,

The meeting kicks off with an afternoon symposium entitled *Tissue Crosstalk in Inflammation and Metabolism: Adipokines and Myokines* scheduled from 3:15-6:00 PM on Sunday, September 26th. The scientific

program continues that evening at 8 PM with a Keynote Lecture from Dr. Siamon Gordon, Emeritus Professor of Cellular Pathology at University of Oxford, speaking about *The Versatile Macrophage: Receptors and Inflammation*. Dr. Gordon is a preeminent authority on macrophage immunology and is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (London) and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Our Main Symposia on Monday the 27th and Tuesday the 28th feature invited speakers in the following areas:

- Advances in Translational Medicine as it Applies to Inflammatory Diseases
- Molecular and Cellular Crosstalk in the Inflammation Network: the Role of Macrophages and Dendritic Cells
- Lupus: From Basic Mechanisms to the Clinic



Our final symposium on Wednesday the 29th in the morning features exciting clinical data on "Novel Therapeutics."

In addition to the Main Symposia, we will hold two Mini-Symposia as well as a Poster Session. All poster presenters are automatically entered into a competition for the poster with the "greatest therapeutic potential." For scientists early in their careers we have: 1) the Van Arman Scholarship Competition, which provides for five scientists to compete for cash awards while attending the meeting with all expenses paid, and 2) networking events for investigators new to the inflammation arena, which fosters interaction with established IRA members and allows attendees to gain valuable advice on career development.

I look forward to welcoming you to the 16th International Conference at the elegant Westfield's Marriott in Chantilly, Virginia, and to participating in this conference that fosters both great science and social interactions.

John Somerville, PhD
President, Inflammation Research Association



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE 2010-2012 TERM OF THE IRA

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International Meeting Announcements

Sept 23-26, 2010, Brussels	OARSI: 2010 World Congress on Osteoarthritis	www.oarsi.org
Oct 7-9, 2010, Vancouver	The Three R's of Immunity: Recognition, Response and Resolution Joint International Meeting - Society for Leukocyte Biology and International Endotoxin & Innate Immunity Society	www.leukocytebiology.org
Oct 17-21, 2010, Chicago	2010 Joint Meeting of the International Cytokine Society (ICS) & International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research (ISICR)	www.cytokines2010.com
Oct 27-Nov 1, 2010, Seattle	Immunological Mechanisms of Vaccination	www.keystonesymposia.org
Nov 7-11, 2010, Atlanta	American College of Rheumatology, 74rd Annual Scientific Meeting	www.rheumatology.org
Nov 11-16, 2010, Phoenix	ACAAI: American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology	www.acaa.org
Jan 7-12, 2011, Snowbird	TGF-beta in Immune Responses	www.keystonesymposia.org
Jan 15-20, 2011, Vancouver	Tuberculosis: Immunology, Cell Biology & Novel Vaccination Strategies.	www.keystonesymposia.org
Jan 15-20, 2011, Vancouver	Mycobacteria: Physiology, Metabolism and Pathogenesis	www.keystonesymposia.org
Jan 16-21, 2011, Galveston	Immunology of Fungal Infections	www.grc.org
Feb 6-11, 2011, Galveston	Salivary Glands & Exocrine Biology	www.grc.org
Feb 13-18, 2011, Keystone	PI 3-Kinase Signaling Pathways	www.keystonesymposia.org
Feb 15-20, 2011, Taos	Genetics, Immunology and Repair in Multiple Sclerosis	www.keystonesymposia.org
Feb 20-25, 2011, Ventura	Vascular Cell Biology	www.grc.org
Feb 26-Mar 3, 2011, Vancouver	Immunity in the Respiratory Tract: Challenges of the Lung Environment	www.keystonesymposia.org
Mar 6-11, 2011, Lake Louise	New Frontiers at the Interface of Immunity and Glycobiology	www.keystonesymposia.org
Mar 13-18, 2011, Ventura	Oxidative Stress & Disease	www.grc.org
Mar 20-25, 2011, Whistler	Protection from HIV: Targeted Intervention Strategies	www.keystonesymposia.org
Mar 27-April 1, 2011, Asheville	Environmental Epigenomics and Disease Susceptibility	www.keystonesymposia.org
May 1-6, 2011, Italy	Fibronectin, Integrins & Related Molecules	www.grc.org
May 8-13, 2011, Italy	Glycobiology	www.grc.org
May 25-28, 2011, London	EULAR: European League against Rheumatism Congress 2011	www.eular.org
Jun 5-10, 2011, Switzerland	Gradient Sensing and Cell Migration	www.grc.org
Jun 5-10, 2011, New London	Tissue Repair & Regeneration	www.grc.org
Jun 19-24, 2011, Davidson	Phagocytes	www.grc.org
Jun 19-24-2011, Newport	Atherosclerosis	www.grc.org
Jun 25-29, 2011, Paris	10th World Congress on Inflammation	www.inflammation2011.com
July 17-22, 2011, Davidson	Periodontal Diseases	www.grc.org
July 17-22, 2011, Lewiston	Apoptotic Cell Recognition & Clearance	www.grc.org
July 17-22, 2011, Italy	Stress Proteins in Growth, Development & Disease	www.grc.org
Aug 7-12, 2011, Andover	Cellular & Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity	www.grc.org
Sept 15-18, 2011, San Diego	OARSI: 2011 World Congress on Osteoarthritis	www.oarsi.org
Sept 18-21, 2011, Seattle	Bioactive Lipids in Cancer, Inflammation & Related Diseases	www.bioactivelipidsconf.wayne.edu
Nov 13-16, 2011, India	IOIS: International Ocular Inflammation Society	www.iois.memberlodge.org



Focused Topic Meetings

The Inflammation Research Association encourages regional half to one and one-half day Scientific Meetings to promote information sharing between scientists interested in different topics of inflammation. A few years ago, most of these meetings were half-day sessions at the New York Academy of Sciences. We now enjoy full-day meetings at sites around the country.

Do you have an idea for a relevant topic but don't know how to get started? Contact Arpita Maiti (Arpita_Maiti@vrtx.com) with your ideas for topics, presentations and relevant speakers, and see www.inflammationresearch.org/meet-howto.html for suggestions and guidelines on initiating a Regional or Focused Topic Meeting.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease Regional IRA Meeting, St. Louis, MO

The IRA sponsored and Seventh Wave Laboratories hosted a regional Inflammatory Bowel Disease Summit September 14-16, 2009 in St. Louis. The 2 ½ day meeting drew almost 90 registrants from academia and industry.

The meeting started with a session chaired by Themistocles Dassopoulos of Washington University entitled Introduction to Inflammatory Bowel Disease. This session included presentations on Diagnosis, Prognosis and Therapeutic Principles of Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease (Themistocles Dassopoulos, Washington University), Surgical Management of Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease (Steven Hunt, Washington University) as well as compelling presentations by Brian Glass and Karen Guglielmo that provided the audience with a patient's perspective on the challenges of living with IBD. The afternoon session covered the Pathogenesis of Disease and included Current Concepts of Pathogenesis of Crohn's Disease (Arthur Kaser, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical) and Ulcerative Colitis (Michael Rosen, Vanderbilt University) and the Genetics of Human IBD, Risk and Mechanisms (Clara Abraham, Yale University).

During the second day, the morning session focused on Animal Models of IBD (Lex Nagelkerken, TNO and Zaher Radi, Pfizer, Session Chairs) and participants were given an over-

view of Animal Models of IBD (Lex Nagelkerken, TNO), followed by a discussions of Spontaneously Occurring IBD in Animals (Al Jergens, Iowa State University), Strengths and Weakness and Translational Prediction to Clinical Disease (Nick Pullen, Pfizer), Comparative Pathology of Animal Models of IBD (Michael Leach, Wyeth) and Pharmacological Evaluation of IBD Models (Deborah Heuvelman, Pfizer).

The afternoon session, chaired by Peter Mannon of University of Alabama covered Pharmacologic Intervention in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (Matt Ciorba, Washington University School of Medicine) and Emerging Medical Therapies and Promising Molecular Targets (Peter Mannon, University of Alabama). The meeting ended with a session on the Impact of Intestinal Microflora on Immune Homeostasis with topics including Innate and Adaptive Immunity in Host-Microbiota Mutualism (Kathy McCoy, McMaster University, Session Chair), Microflora-Dependent Induction of Intestinal Immune Homeostasis (Markus Geuking, McMaster University), Impact of Antimicrobials in the Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Alain Schoepfer, McMaster University) and Perspectives for the Use of Probiotics in the Management of IBD (Bas Kremer, TNO).

Each session was followed by a Panel discussion in which the chair provided the participants with provocative questions in order to stimulate broader participation by the audience. The informal scientific and social environment—a hallmark of IRA-sponsored events—fostered collaboration and interaction between the participants and the program was accentuated by a social outing to Busch Stadium where participants enjoyed a St. Louis Cardinals victory over the Florida Marlins.

Additional sponsorship was provided by Seventh Wave Laboratories, TNO, Pfizer, Novo Nordisk, Sigma-Aldrich, Millipore, and Bristol-Myers Squibb. The IRA would like to thank the sponsors, speakers and participants for a very informative and successful meeting. Special thanks to our hosts and co-sponsors Seventh Wave Laboratories, who provided a wonderful venue and program for this regional IRA meeting.

- Tineke Meijers & John Sagartz



Enjoying the baseball game are (left to right): John Sagartz (Seventh Wave Laboratories), Ian Ahnfelt-Rønne (Novo Nordisk), Lex Nagelkerken (TNO), Tineke Meijers (TNO), Jim Hartke (Pfizer).

Photograph courtesy of David Prohaska (PPD)

Rheumatoid Arthritis Focused Topic Meeting, La Jolla, CA

What underlying mechanisms cause rheumatoid arthritis? That was the title for a 2-day conference sponsored by the Inflammation Research Association, supported in part by a generous grant from Johnson & Johnson and held last November 2-3, 2009 at the Johnson & Johnson West Coast Research Center in La Jolla, California. Ann Welton (Johnson & Johnson) and Andy Glasebrook (Eli Lilly) served as co-organizers of the meeting. Participants came from all over the United States and the attendee travelling the greatest distance came from Lillehammer, Norway. 106 attendees were from industry and represented 26 pharmaceutical/biotech companies while 16 academic attendees came from 13 different institutions.

Dr. Gary Firestein (Dean of Translational Medicine, UCSD) delivered the Keynote Lecture to kickoff the conference. Titled "From Bench to Bedside in Rheumatoid Arthritis," Dr. Firestein gave a masterful and sweeping overview from pathogenesis to current treatment options, highlighting the heterogeneity underlying the disease and individual patient responses. This was followed by the first session of the conference titled "Lessons from Genetic Studies" and chaired by Mark Curran (J&J). Speakers included Peter Gregersen (Feinstein Institute for Medical Research) who spoke on lessons learned from GWAS studies and the potential of PWAS (phenotype wide asso-

ciation studies), Nicholas Schork (Scripps) who reported on clustering genes from multiple GWAS studies, and Jim Mobley (Sunapten Therapeutics) who presented a fascinating hypothesis on Mycobacterium tuberculosis as an environmental trigger of rheumatoid arthritis. The day ended with a delightful wine and cheese mixer held outdoors in the crisp San Diego evening against the background of a gorgeous setting sun. That evening the IRA and co-organizers treated the speakers to a buffet dinner at the stately Torrey Pines Inn, adjacent to the world renowned Torrey Pines golf course.

The conference resumed the next morning with "Predictability of Animal Models and Translational Medicine Approaches," chaired by Lars Karlsson (Johnson & Johnson). Ernie Braun (UCLA) kicked off the session with a comprehensive overview of animal models for preclinical evaluation of rheumatoid arthritis therapeutics and ended highlighting the potential for drug combinations involving agents targeting angiogenesis. Gregg Silverman (UCSD) followed with a provocative presentation on an unexpected role of natural antibodies as anti-inflammatory regulatory factors that he had discovered in the collagen-induced arthritis animal model. After a morning break, Bill Robinson (Stanford) covered the clinical development of tyrosine kinase inhibitors focusing on imatinib and masitinib. The last presentation of the session was to be delivered by Virginia Pascual (Baylor University), who unfortunately was not able to attend. But Dan Baker (Johnson & Johnson), stepping in at the very last moment, did an excellent job and gave a very exciting presentation on the clinical development of ustekinumab that captured the attention of everyone.

Lunch was served to all attendees in the beautiful courtyard of the conference center under a perfectly blue sky and moderate temperature. With the participants engaged in lively discussion, it is safe to assume that new acquaintances were made, or in some cases renewed, and our hope is that these result in continued interactions beyond the meeting.

The third session of the conference titled "Lessons from Recent Therapeutic Breakthroughs" chaired by Dan Baker (Johnson & Johnson) began after lunch. Art Kavanaugh (UCSD) reviewed the successes and failures of novel drugs developed for rheumatoid arthritis, ranging from the p38 inhibitors that as a class have failed to date, to new



opportunities for IL-1 inhibitors and the (re)-appreciated role of B cells. He was followed by Andrea Zuckerman (Pfizer) who spoke in much greater detail on one of those novel drugs – the Jak1/3 inhibitor CP-690550. As biologics have dominated treatment options for decades, it was exciting to hear about an orally available small molecule currently in Phase III. Mike Corbo (BMS) was next and after providing a background on the development of Orencia, Mike described exciting studies in early stage rheumatoid arthritis, the next frontier for early and aggressive therapy of rheumatoid arthritis patients.

After a mid-afternoon break, the final session of the conference was a panel discussion on future directions – “Is a Cure or Remission for Rheumatoid Arthritis Possible?” Co-chaired by Patrick Haslett (Shire) and Rob Hoffman (Lilly), they and the audience questioned an esteemed panel composed of the conference speakers. The consensus was that we have come far in the last two decades, and the rheumatologist and patient now have several treatment options from which to choose to match the heterogeneity in disease and patients that Dr. Firestein highlighted at the beginning of the conference. Large biomolecules have dominated the field but there is hope that safe, effective small molecules will emerge in the not too distant future. Everyone agreed that today, most patients can achieve partial remission but must constantly stay in treatment. Some had a view that combinations will lead the way to complete remissions but were challenged by those who think safety issues will make this harder to do. In contrast, they suggested that sequential therapies were the way to go, i.e. revert the immune system back to an earlier state and then treat with a modulator/maintenance agent. Therapies re-establishing tolerance in which a short course of therapy provides a long-term development is one vision for the future, and several clinical trials evaluating efficacy of such agents are underway in other autoimmune diseases. It was commented on by many that agents which treat comorbidities, especially with atherosclerosis, are an urgent need and likely will be the focus of future drug development activities. The session was concluded with remarks from the co-organizers thanking everyone for their attendance and active participation.

A reception was held in the courtyard to celebrate the conclu-

sion and toast one last time our newfound friends. While it was bittersweet to see the meeting end, we felt everyone got something out of it to make it worth their while. To answer our question we posed at the beginning, we recognize that rheumatoid arthritis is a heterogeneous disease in which great progress has been made but also that we still have a ways to go. Perhaps the beginning of the end?

-Andy Glasebrook & Ann Welton

Pulmonary Research Group Symposium Shrewsbury, MA

The IRA again joined forces with the Pulmonary Research Group (PRG) and sponsored a one-day symposium entitled “The Role of Ceramide, Sphingomyelinases and Sphingosine 1 Phosphate Signaling in Pulmonary Diseases.” Lisa Olson, Carolyn Cuff and Robert Stoffel (Abbott Laboratories) represented the IRA and Larry de Garavilla (Johnson & Johnson), President of the PRG formed the organizing committee for the Fall 2009 Symposium that was hosted by Charles River at their Shrewsbury, Massachusetts facility. About 60 people from both industrial and academic institutions attended and the presentations highlighted the potential to identify novel therapeutic agents for the treatment of a variety of inflammatory disorders of the lung including cystic fibrosis, asthma, COPD, and acute respiratory distress syndrome.

Richard Kolesnick, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, who served as conference scientific advisor, discussed the role of sphingomyelinase and ceramide rich macrodomains in pathological processes. Ceramide is generated through several different stimuli and changes membrane structure to form macrodomains. Ceramide is able to regulate cell signaling through the formation of these macrodomains and recruitment (translocation) of proteins such as Ksr1 and Bax. Additionally, ceramide acts to enhance signaling of several proteins by targeting them to the appropriate compartment. The formation of the ceramide rich macrodomains has been linked to several diseases including infection and cancer.

Irina Petrache, Indiana University, discussed the potential role of ceramides in lung dysfunction during COPD which suggested that oxidative stress induced by cigarette smoke upregulates ceramide levels, disrupting lung barrier function by inducing lung epithelial cell apoptosis. This process may contribute to the pathogenesis of COPD.

Erich Gulbins, University of Duisburg-Essen, discussed acid sphingomyelinases and their potential as treatment for cystic fibrosis (CF). Ceramide levels have been shown to be increased in human disease as well as in a genetic model of CF – transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) knockout mice. Inhibition of acid sphingomyelinase by amitriptyline inhibited ceramide levels in cultures of epithelial cells derived from CF patients. Amitriptyline reduced ceramide levels that was associated with reduced pulmonary inflammation in the CFRT KO mice, and proved to be efficacious in CF patients. These data suggest that inhibition of this pathway may provide benefit to CF patients.

Robert Bittman, Queens College, CUNY, discussed the interactions of FTY720 and its phosphate metabolite on several different enzymes. FTY720 was found to inhibit S1P lyase and cytosolic phospholipase A2. In addition, FTY720 was shown to inhibit ceramide synthase. Phosphonate derivatives of FTY720 were synthesized and shown to protect cells from apoptosis in a pertussis toxin dependent manner. These phosphonates did not interact with any of the known S1P receptors, as examined in calcium flux assays. These data suggest there is, as yet, an uncharacterized receptor target that is activated by the FTY720 phosphonates.

Bob Stoffel, Abbott Laboratories, set the stage for the afternoon session by introducing the sphingosine pathway including the kinases responsible for its phosphorylation (sphingosine kinase 1 and 2) and the extracellular receptor family that binds to sphingosine 1 phosphate (S1P receptors 1-5). S1P receptor 1 (S1P1R) agonism downregulates S1P1R levels and sequesters T cells in the lymph nodes resulting in profound lymphopenia. Modulation of the sphingosine pathway may provide benefit for the treatment of asthma through its effects on inhibiting T cell trafficking as well as the potential to inhibit smooth muscle contraction. Proof of concept studies in rodent asthma models have shown that the S1P1R agonist FTY720 ameliorates the

asthma phenotype in T cell mediated disease in response to ovalbumin challenge.

Steven Dudeck, University of Chicago, discussed the potential to exploit S1P receptors to improve the barrier function of the pulmonary endothelium. Disrupted barrier function is a prominent feature of acute respiratory distress syndrome. Sphingosine treatment, which activates S1P receptors 1-5, is effective at reducing cellular inflammation and vascular leak induced by LPS in animal models even when administered 4 hours after the initiation of the lung inflammation. The mechanism is likely through S1P1R agonism which was demonstrated through the use of selective agonists as well as knockout mice. This represents an opportunity to develop novel therapies for the treatment of this life-threatening disease.

Marco Idzko, University of Freiburg, further discussed the potential application of modulators of the sphingosine and ceramide pathway as treatments for asthma. Local delivery of a S1P agonist reduced eosinophilic infiltrate, Th2 cytokines and airways hyperresponsiveness in an ovalbumin-induced model of asthma. The mechanism of action is due to the inhibition of the myeloid dendritic cells ability to prime T cells to respond to antigen. The phosphorylated form of ceramide, ceramide 1 phosphate (C1P) was able to ameliorate asthma phenotype in vivo when administered intra-tracheally prior to antigen challenge. The inhibition was apparent by a decrease in both cells and cytokines and is due in part to modulation of dendritic cell function as inhibition was also observed in a model of asthma induced by antigen-specific dendritic cell transfer. Therefore agonism of the ceramide receptor pathway may provide a novel approach for the treatment of asthma.

Speakers at the Fall 2010 PRG Symposium will focus on models of COPD and Pulmonary Fibrosis. The symposium is scheduled for October 15, 2010 and will be hosted by Pfizer at their Andover, Massachusetts facility. Cara Williams (Pfizer), Lennart Lundblad (University of Vermont) and Jonathan Phillips (Hoffmann-La Roche) are the Organizers. For more information and to register go to www.pulmonaryresearch.org.

-Lisa Olson, Carolyn Cuff, Robert Stoffel & Larry de Garavilla



Reflections of the Outgoing President

As I took the office of President of the IRA in 2008, I have to admit that I did so with some trepidation. Foremost, given the changes that were happening around us at the time I didn't want to burn through our savings. I am happy to report that even though the IRA has had some struggles, because of the hard work of the volunteers that run the organization it remains and will continue to be strong both financially and spiritually. Working with the current Board and Officers has been a real pleasure and will be a great memory in my career.

As you know, in 2008 the nation's economy was beginning to have some problems and a "potential" recession soon became real. Even without the economic downturn, a significant portion of the Bio-Pharmaceutical industry was already preparing for a downturn in sales due to patent expirations on many blockbuster drugs. The resulting changes have impacted all of us. Mergers and acquisitions have taken place, research sites have closed, many jobs have been lost and people have switched career paths, moved into new opportunities and started their own companies or consulting firms.

The impact of this on the IRA has been in several forms. One of the strengths of our organization is our networking and fortunately many recruiters know this. When openings happen where we work, we quickly pass on the information to our colleagues and job opportunities are quickly spread throughout our organization. This is a benefit of membership in the IRA that we can leverage and improve as we better utilize our web site, a plan we have for the future. Another impact of these changing times is in our ability to raise funds. We, like many other associations are being turned away more frequently by our traditional sources. Fortunately we have been able to make up for this with support from smaller companies, contract research companies, and the scientific vendors. Fundraising for our organization needs to become a full time activity and many thanks go out to our members who have championed our cause to their companies and provided us with the support we need for our mission.

With the contraction of our industry's research funding ("do more with less" never seems to go away), our travel budgets have shrunk, and many of us have had to make difficult choices as to which meetings to attend. While this has affected attendance at our International Conferences, our regional meetings have all had good attendance with some having to close registration because they were full! This confirms that as an organization our mission is still valid and relevant, and that our members know how to focus on cutting edge science. We need continued member involvement with meeting ideas and help in their execution.

Building our membership and keeping our membership database as accurate as possible has always been a concern. Membership in the IRA is free and recruitment of members is an area we all need to work on and the Board greatly appreciates your input and ideas that will help us to accomplish this task.

Upon our 40th anniversary as an organization, I look forward to helping the new set of officers take the reins and drive the organization forward. As I am sure you are all aware, the role of inflammation in disease continues to expand into neurosciences, metabolic disease, cardiovascular and oncology, making our organization even more relevant and impactful.



John E. Somerville, Ph.D.
Bristol-Myers Squibb

Professor Maria Belvisi is the 4th IAIS Women in Inflammation Science Award Winner

First presented at the 6th World Congress in 2003, the Women in Inflammation Science (WIS) Award recognizes and honors an individual scientist - man or woman - 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. The Fourth WIS Award was presented to Professor Maria Belvisi, Head of Respiratory Pharmacology, NH&LI, Imperial College, London UK, July, 2009 at the 9th World Congress on Inflammation in Tokyo, Japan.

Professor Belvisi received her PhD at the Heart & Lung Institute at Imperial College working with Professor Peter Barnes on the role of nerves in airway disease. She worked in industry as a section manager in Pharmacology at Rhone Poulenc Rorer making key contributions in the development of corticosteroids as therapeutics for asthma. She returned to the Imperial College in London in 2000 to head the Respiratory Pharmacology Group, producing key scientific contributions on the pathology of airway lung disease including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cough. Her impact is evidenced by an extensive publication record of over 150 peer reviewed articles and reviews, as well as active participation on program committees for international respiratory meetings.

Of equal importance is her advocacy and promotion of scientific career development of woman. Gender differences in the work place, both academic and industrial have not dissolved. Professor Belvisi serves as a mentor for woman in the British Pharmacological Society and is the appointed ambassador for Women in the Faculty of Medicine at the Imperial College, a position designed to study how to improve the standing of woman scientists, break down barriers and facilitate their equal recognition for scientific pursuits. She also continues to train and mentor a number of graduate students through their academic programs in her research laboratory.

As the award winner at WCI'09, Professor Belvisi presented a

Distinguished Speaker Seminar entitled "Inflammation, Sensory Nerves and Cough Reflex", and she was awarded an honorarium and commemorative plaque during the Conference Banquet.

The IAIS would like to send a special thanks to the 3 judges; Wim van den Berg PhD, Department of Rheumatology, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center, The Netherlands; Dr. Nobuyuki Miyasaka, MD., Professor of Medicine and Rheumatology at Tokyo Medical and Dental School, Tokyo Japan, and Dr. Michael Parnham, PhD, Director of Science and Technology at MediMlijeko d.o.o. and series editor of Progress In Inflammation Research. These judges had the honor of reviewing the many outstanding nominations and identifying the winner. We also thank and acknowledge GlaxoSmithKline for their generous financial support for the WIS award.

The IAIS looks forward to continuing the honor of recognizing extraordinary individuals who offer both worldwide scientific leadership and a commitment to foster development of the next generation of women scientists by awarding the 5th Women in Inflammation Science Award at the 10th World Congress on Inflammation in Paris, France, July 2011.

- Lisa Marshall





16th International Conference of the IRA

C. Gordon Van Arman Scholarships

As always the IRA is proud to sponsor the Van Arman Competition at our International Conferences. This competition is for young investigators that are active in laboratory research as degree candidates or have yet to complete postdoctoral training. This year the committee is chaired by Lisa Olson (Abbott Bioresearch) and includes Jane Connor (MedImmune), Jim Ellis (Sirtris), Liwu Li (Virginia Polytechnic Institute), Caralee Schaefer (InterMune), Joel Tocker (Centocor) and Wes Westlin (Avila Therapeutics). With nearly 20 high quality mini-papers to judge, the committee had its work cut out for it and after extensive review of the mini-papers, five finalists were selected by the Scholarship Committee (in alphabetical order):

Elizaete Ferreira (Harvard)

"Inflammation and Osteogenesis: a paradoxical effect of interleukin-1 on the osteogenic differentiation of human, bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells"

Miranda Hanson (NCI, NIH)

"Lactococcus lactis expressing IL-27: A potential therapeutic for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)"

Qian Qi (Cornell)

"Partial rescue of I κ B α -/- iNKT cell development by Txk/Rlk reveals a unique role for I κ B α in survival of iNKT cells"

Sivapriya (Priya) Vanaja (U. Mass)

"AIM2, NLRP3, and NLRP12 function in a non-redundant manner to drive IL-1 β in response to Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli"

Amanda Walker (Rider U.)

"Th1/Th2 differences in triggering macrophage-mediated suppression: studies with interferon- γ -receptor knockout mice"

The five finalists all received financial support to attend the conference and will be welcomed by members of the Scholarship Committee at a luncheon on Sunday, September 26, the opening day of the meeting. We look forward to hearing the great oral and poster presentations by the candidates and to the presentation of the Van Arman Awards at the Banquet on Tuesday, September 28.

Charles River Poster Award



The Most Therapeutic Potential

Charles River, a global provider of research models and preclinical and clinical support services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, government research centers, hospitals and academic institutions will sponsor the Best Poster Competition at the 16th International Conference of the Inflammation Research Association.

Always a focal point of the conference, this competition is open to authors of all posters detailing previously unpublished work, excluding those presented by the C. Gordon Van Arman Award Finalists. Andy Glasebrook (Eli Lilly), Arpita Maiti (Vertex Pharmaceuticals) and Lisa Schopf (Virdante Pharmaceuticals) will lead the judging team at the Chantilly, Virginia Meeting.

The IRA thanks Charles River for its ongoing support and for continuing this important tradition of the Inflammation Research Association conferences, as the competition has been part of each meeting since the 9th International Conference when 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.

Lunch & Learn Sessions

Always well-attended and constantly a source of interesting and exciting product and technology information, the Lunch & Learn Program allows you to learn of a broad range of topics from a diverse, leading-edge group of companies while enjoying lunch in an informal setting. Lunch & Learns are scheduled on Monday, 27 September and Tuesday, 28 September, from 12:15-1:30 in the Washingtonian Salons. Lunch is provided by the sponsors and registration is required in advance – sign-up sheets will be available at the Registration Desk.



Understanding Metabolism through Global Biochemical Profiling.



Inflammatory Disease Models: Gaining New Insight with Innovative MicroCT Imaging and Analysis.



The RBM Approach to Biomarker Pattern Discovery and Validation: Discovery to Late-Stage Clinical Trials.



Humanized mice and their utility in preclinical research.

2010 IRA Exhibitors

The Inflammation Research Association gratefully acknowledges the support and participation of these vendors during our 16th International Conference. Please support these vendors by visiting their displays during the conference.

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Calvert Labs
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Enzo Life Sciences (BioMol)
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HistoTox Labs
Lovelace Respiratory Institute
Research Institute
MD Biosciences
Metabolon
Numira Biosciences
PBL Interferon Source
Rules Based Medicine
SABiosciences/Qiagen
Seventh Wave Laboratories
Springer Basel AG
SRI International
Studylog Systems
The Jackson Laboratory
Ugo Basile North America



10th World Congress on Inflammation

Paris June 25 - 29, 2011

Key Dates:

- Deadline for abstracts submission: January 20, 2011
- Deadline for early registration: April 10, 2011
- Deadline for hotel reservation: April 10, 2011
- Opening of the congress: June 25, 2011

Keynote lectures, Symposia, main topics and updated congress agenda are available on the congress website:

www.inflammation2011.com The preliminary programme, call for abstracts and online registration will be available early October.

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Inflammation 2011

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The updated Scientific Programme is online

www.inflammation2011.com

IRA at the 10th World Congress on Inflammation

The IRA is sponsoring a Society Symposium at the 10th World Congress on Inflammation (www.inflammation2011.com). The IRA session is scheduled for Monday June 27, 2011 from 2:00-3:30 pm and is entitled Cancer and Inflammation. John Somerville and Lisa Marshall are co-chairs. The three speakers are at the forefront of their respected fields and are expected to provide a superior and memorable session at the congress. The schedule includes talks from James Allison of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY on *Co-stimulation and Cancer*; Robert Schreiber from Washington University, St. Louis, MO on *Cellular Signalling and Cancer*; and a talk by Frances Balkwill from the Institute of Cancer at Barts, London, U.K. on *Inflammatory Cytokines and Autocrine Tumor-Promoting Networks*. If you plan on attending this meeting next summer, please show your support for the IRA!

Company News & People on the Move

Laurent Audoly is now the Chief Scientific Officer for Pieris AG in Freising-Weihenstephan, Germany.

Alan Lewis was appointed Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at Ambit Biosciences.

Lisa Marshall took office as the President of IAIS at the 9th World Conference in 2009 in Tokyo, Japan. Her term will expire at the 10th World Congress in Paris.

Murray McKinnon has been named Vice President, Head of Discovery, Immunology at Centocor and **Joel Tocker** has been named Director of Research, reporting to Murray.

Lisa Schopf is now Director of Preclinical Development at Viridante Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, MA.

Arginetix has merged with Immune Control Inc. to form Corridor Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where **Bruce Tomczuk**, Vice President of Research & Development, will lead efforts to develop novel treatments for vascular diseases.

The Newsletter

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