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International Meetings

On behalf of the Inflammation Research Association (IRA), I extend a warm welcome to all of you! The IRA, a non-profit association, was founded over 40 years ago to bring together scientists of all degree and experience levels interested in inflammation research, and 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. Unlike other organizations, the IRA includes members from academia, industry, and the clinic. It is a wholly volunteer organization that depends entirely on its membership to accomplish its goals. The IRA is also a founding member of the International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS) which promotes inflammation research worldwide.

Like many other scientific societies, the IRA is adapting to the changing world around us – the breakneck pace of scientific progress, maintaining our relevance to a new generation of inflammation scientists and the ever shrinking pool of resources available to non-profits like ourselves. The IRA sees this as a unique opportunity to rejuvenate the

association and our membership. After some serious reflection, the IRA and the IAIS have recognized the need to increase the profile of inflammation research as a global and significant science. For the IRA this translates to a continued commitment to organizing high quality meetings and renewed efforts to connect with our current members and to introduce the association to future members. Our commitment to the promotion and communication of research and clinical developments in the field remains paramount but the significant networking value of this organization also merits highlighting: The IRA membership encompasses academic, pharma, biotech and clinical scientists from junior through senior levels and networking benefits can be rapidly realized.

For the next two years the new Board will be working towards the fulfillment of these aspirations. As per procedure, the change-over of the IRA Officers and Board occurred at the 17th International Conference in September 2012. Officers for the 2012-14 term are Arpita Maiti (President), Joel Tocker (Vice-President), Lisa Schopf (Treasurer), and Liwu Li (Secretary). Annalisa D'Andrea, Larry Bur-

gess, Larry de Garavilla, Andy Glasebrook, Matteo Levisetti, Alison O'Mahony, Caralee Schaefer, Chris Stevenson, William Westlin and Ed Yurkow comprise the Board of Directors for 2012-14. This group is in the midst of planning the 18th International Conference of the Inflammation Research Association for the fall of 2014 as well as a number of regional meetings. As a founding member of the IAIS, the IRA is sponsoring a session at the 11th World Congress on Inflammation in Natal, Brazil, on Sept 21-25, 2013. The IRA is also hosting a symposium at the Society for Leukocyte Biology meeting in Newport, RI on Oct 20, 2013. To find more information on these meetings or to register, please visit our [website](#) and click on the [meetings](#) tab.

The IRA held its 17th International Conference at the Sagamore Resort on Lake George in Bolton Landing, NY this past fall. The Keynote Lecture was delivered by a worldwide expert in the immunobiology of inflammatory skin diseases, Dr. James Krueger of Rockefeller University. Dr. Krueger gave an outstanding and comprehensive talk titled "Concepts of Driver Cytokines for T-cell Mediated Skin Diseases." Characteristic of all IRA conferences since their inception, the scientific program covered the gamut of applied and basic science presented by an assemblage of excellent industry and academic speakers. Symposia covered diverse topics in inflammation including: "The Underappreciated Immune Cell: Eosinophils, Mast Cells, Basophils, and Platelets", "Inflammation and Fibrosis", "Novel Pharmacological Approaches to Inflammatory Bowel Disease", "Kinases as Targets: Past, Present, and Future", and "Novel Therapeutics".

The IRA made a commitment to support new investigators through the establishment of the Van Arman Award, which encourages candidates to perform exploratory and applied research in the general area of inflammation and is vetted through a Poster Competition at our international meetings. The caliber of the Van Arman candidates and the quality of the posters at the 17th International Conference highlight the talent of the next generation of inflammation scientists.

Unlike many scientific societies, the IRA membership comprises a unique mix of scientists and clinicians, at every experience level and from every sector - academia, industry, government and non-profit. I invite you to make use of the [IRA website](#). For members, it offers access to the membership list to contact other inflammation scientists, receive up-to-date infor-

mation on upcoming IRA-sponsored and inflammation-related meetings and events, view abstracts and reports from past meetings, and to link to other inflammation sites of interest. In addition, the IRA plans on launching its social media initiative in 2013, allowing members to connect in real time! [Click here](#) to join our new LinkedIn group.

On behalf of the IRA Board and membership, I warmly welcome you to join our association if you have not already done so. Many of our members have remarked on the rare collegiality of our organization; we are not just a group of individuals with a common interest in inflammation science, many of us have formed lifelong friendships, which we value as highly as the professional networks we have formed through the IRA. I look forward to your participation as an IRA member during the 2012-2014 term and beyond. If you are interested in helping to organize an IRA-sponsored symposium, to plan the 18th International Conference or to work with the Board, volunteers are always welcome. Just send an [email](#) to an Officer or Board member; we always welcome volunteers!

Sincerely yours,



Arpita Maiti, PhD
President, Inflammation Research Association
president@inflammationresearch.org





Letter from the Outgoing President

By Andy Glasbrook - Past President

This is a bittersweet moment for me.

I have immensely enjoyed my association with the IRA, as a member, as a Board member and through the Officer ranks. But it is now time to move on.

I am fortunate to have worked with some exceptional individuals in co-organizing 3 IRA regional conferences. First with Carlos Paya for the chemokines meeting in Indianapolis in 2005 that attracted 155 attendees, then with Liwu Li for an innate immunity meeting at Virginia Tech in 2006 that attracted 57 and most recently with Ann Welton for a rheumatology meeting in La Jolla in 2009 that 133 scientists attended. In 2010 I was responsible for the scientific program of the 16th International Conference of the IRA held in Chantilly and felt blessed to work with such an exceptional group of symposium co-chairs. Over the past two years we have sponsored major symposiums at two international meetings: at the World Congress on Inflammation in Paris that John Somerville chaired, and at the fall 2011 meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology that Lisa Schopf and Liwu Li co-chaired.

So I hope that I leave having had a positive impact on the IRA and hand off an association that is positioned for future success. But the comparison is tough having been sandwiched between two exceptional Presidents – one that was and one that is to be. My predecessor John Somerville did a masterful job leading the IRA through a severe economic downturn and confronting the multiple professional issues facing inflammation research, both in academia and industry. Because of issues including reduced grant funding, industry consolidation and geographic distance, scientists can no longer attend multiple conferences nor bring their entire lab along. As a result we have seen attendance at the IRA International Conference steadily decline over the last 6 years.

To correct this, we made a conscious decision to “return to our roots,” so to speak, and hold the 17th Conference at The Sagamore in honor of the wonderful meetings held here in the past that were filled with great science, wonderful social interactions

and abundant networking opportunities. I am happy to report that attendance was at, or was a little above the level of 2 years ago. We should feel good that the trend in declining attendance has bottomed and it is only up from here. So I am calling a “bottom” and challenge the new officers and board to continue and expand on this with increasing attendance at future conferences.

This is a great opportunity to revisit who we are and what we want to become. The IRA started out in 1970 comprised mostly of industry scientists from the Greater New Jersey area where many large pharma companies were located. Today it boasts roughly a 50-50 mix of academic and industrial scientists who hail from all corners of the world. This past year we cleaned our registration records and conducted a re-registration drive. We now are an association of about 411 committed members. There are probably many of you out there who would like to join, and I encourage you to do so.

But an association with 411 members is a small organization. For the IRA to do BIG things, we need to be a BIGGER association. We need more members, and we need more members who want to get involved in running the IRA, as this is an all volunteer association. Importantly, we need to find ways to make our meeting the top one or two in people’s minds when then consider which meeting they want to attend. This is the top challenge the new officers and board will face.

I mentioned earlier being sandwiched between two exceptional Presidents, one that was and one that is to be. Arpita Maiti is the new incoming President, and I am confident she will do an exceptional job. She is energetic, a great networker and has a lot of ideas to expand our association, such as using social media to reach out to and connect with a large pool of younger scientists who are potential IRA members. I look with excitement to the next 2 years.

In closing, I want to borrow a phrase from Star Trek VI. I grew up watching the original Star Trek on television Friday evenings and enjoyed the movies. Star Trek VI, The Undiscovered Country, was the last film starring the original TV cast. At the end of the movie, after having successfully averted yet another armaged-

don to face our universe, Commander Chekov turns to Captain Kirk on the bridge and says "So, this is goodbye."

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate in and lead this wonderful association. I have made many dear acquaintances that I think will be lifelong friends. I have never regretted being involved with the IRA and treasure every moment we were together, whether via webex or at conferences.



Good luck to the IRA in the future and best wishes for continued success. Thank you.

Andy Glasebrook, PhD
President, Inflammation Research Association 2010-2012



Officers and Board Members for the 2012-2014 Term of the IRA
Not pictured: Matteo Levisetti and Annalisa D'Andrea

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE 2012-2014 TERM OF THE IRA

Officers

President	Arpita Maiti, Ph.D. Vertex Pharmaceuticals president@inflammationresearch.org
Vice President	Joel E. Tocker, Ph.D. Centocor vicepresident@inflammationresearch.org
Treasurer	Lisa Schopf, Ph.D. Kala Pharmaceuticals, Inc. treasurer@inflammationresearch.org
Secretary	Liwu Li, Ph.D. Virginia Polytechnic Institute secretary@inflammationresearch.org

Directors

Annalisa D'Andrea, Ph.D.
SRI International Biosciences

Larry Burgess
Array Biopharma

Lawrence de Garavilla, Ph.D.
Janssen Pharmaceutical R&D

Matteo Levisetti, M.D.
Pfizer BioTherapeutics R&D

Alison O'Mahony, Ph.D.
Bioseek, a division of DiscoverRx

Caralee Schaefer, Ph.D.
InterMune, Inc.

Christopher S. Stevenson, Ph.D.
Hoffman-La Roche

William Westlin, Ph.D.
Celgene Avilomics Research

Ed Yurkow
Johnson & Johnson

Past President	Andrew Glasebrook, Ph.D. Eli Lilly & Company
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Regional Meetings and Symposia

The Inflammation Research Association is always interested in sponsoring half-day to one and one-half day regional meetings. Do you have an idea for a relevant topic but don't know how to get started? Here are guidelines with full details presented at the IRA Website: <http://www.inflammationresearch.org/meet-howto.html>

First decide on a topic and prepare an outline of potential presentations and relevant speakers. Then contact the sitting Vice President of the Inflammation Research Association, who holds responsibility for coordinating regional meetings. The Vice President will present compelling concepts to the IRA Board that will discuss the proposal and approve or recommend changes.

Planning should start at least six months to one year ahead. For a half-day meeting, usually 4-5 speakers are appropriate. For a longer meeting, you can increase that depending on the desired length of the program. A regional meeting should be co-chaired by at least two scientists. If you don't have a co-chair in mind, the IRA can help you identify someone to help you organize the session.

Apart from conventions style of plenary lectures, meetings can include posters, workshops, debates or other formats that may be stimulating or productive. Generally, speakers should be encouraged to present relevant data from their work and their views of their area of research. It is helpful to include an introductory presentation to the specific subfield of inflammation for those in the audience needing an introduction to that specific area.

Upcoming Regional Meetings and IRA-Sponsored Symposia:

Immune Tolerance Symposium at WCI

IAIS 11th World Congress on Inflammation
Natal, Brazil

Session: Sunday, September 22, 2013

Chairs: A. Glasebrook, PhD
A. Maiti, PhD

IRA Sponsored-Symposium at SLB

"NETs" - Neutrophil Extracellular Traps
Society for Leukocyte Biology, 46th Annual Meeting
Newport, RI

Session: Sunday, October 20, 2013

Chairs: L. de Garavilla, PhD
M. Kaplan, PhD



18th International Conference to be held on West Coast

For the first time in its history, the IRA will hold its biennial conference on the west coast. Scheduled for September 16-17, 2014, the IRA is excited to showcase the Association in this region and to bring the science and camaraderie that is the Biennial Conference to researchers in California and the neighboring states.

SRI International in Menlo Park, California is the location for the 18th International Conference and now is the time to get involved with planning the conference. Volunteers are needed to help shape the scientific content for this meeting and also to organize the poster session, advertising and fundraising. No experience needed as we have meeting veterans that will help guide the way! [Contact an IRA Officer Today!](#)



IRA to foster and advance Inflammation Science

The IRA is a unique organization; the association includes members from academia, industry, and the clinic and is a wholly volunteer organization that depends entirely on its membership to accomplish its goals. Changes in the pharmaceutical and related industries and reductions in government grants have reduced the available pool of funding those organizations including the IRA use to run and support their functions and goals.

The IRA remains strong and to sustain our financial health and provide enhanced membership services to the thriving inflammation community, the Board of the Inflammation Research Association approved a membership fee at its May 20, 2013 meeting. This small fee will allow the Association to continue to provide and improve what we do best - foster communication and discussion of scientific and technological advances in inflammation research.

Starting July 1, 2013 the IRA will charge a \$50 annual membership fee (\$25 for retirees and students)- [click here to join](#). For proper credit please log into (~halfway down the page) your IRA account. If you do not know your username, please contact our webmaster at webmaster@inflammationresearch.org with your full contact information.

Your membership fee will support future expert and exciting scientific programs at IRA sponsored meetings and symposia and provides these benefits:

- Discounted rate on regional meeting registration
- Discounted rate on international meeting registration
- Access to the Membership List

We welcome you to join our association and to become part of our great science, wonderful social interactions and abundant networking opportunities.



A thank you isn't enough

A new iMAC

In late April 2013, Marcia Bliven was visited at her home by John Somerville. John explained to Marcia that he wanted to return the IRA photo albums that he had borrowed to scan for the archives. In addition to the photo albums and in gratitude for her many years of volunteering and service, John presented Marcia with a few gifts from the IRA. Marcia was using an ancient Mac Mini on which she did all of her work for the IRA, and these presents included a group of new Apple computer accessories. Marcia was thrilled with those and then John said, "But wait, I have something else in the car." He then returned carrying a brand new iMac computer!

In a message to the IRA, Marcia wrote that she "...was totally overwhelmed and speechless! I want to thank the officers and representatives of the IRA from the bottom of my heart! I've always felt acknowledged and appreciated over those years and didn't need such a wonderful gift to underscore that. I have many fond memories of working with my IRA friends at all those International Conferences, and I'll always treasure those experiences. Thank you so very much for this wonderful gift and for the opportunity to work with such a fine group of people!"

John explained that it all was a gift from the Association and from a group of IRA friends who wanted to let Marcia know that her work with the IRA over the past thirty years is sincerely appreciated.

Relationship began in 1982

Marcia has been an integral member of the Inflammation Research Association and the broader Inflammation scientific community for many years, but her relationship with the Association really began in 1982 when she attended the 1st International Conference of the IRA at Grossingers in Liberty, New York.

Marcia's professional career at Pfizer lasted 35 years and for much of that time she worked closely with Ivan Otterness. When Ivan became IRA Treasurer, with the Treasurer at that time also serving as the President-elect, Marcia volunteered to help

with the many administrative duties that fall to an officer of this organization.

At the 1982 conference Marcia met Debbie Wolff who was helping with the organization of the meeting. From then on Marcia, Debbie and later Joan Chapdelaine became and remain the core team that handles the thousands of logistical details that go into organizing the biennial IRA International Conferences. They are the face of the organization at the registration desk and nothing is too much trouble for this team in helping Conference participants to enjoy the meeting.

Marcia's organizational skills and attention to detail were legendary at Pfizer, and after hours she applied these skills to the business of organizing and improving the International Conferences. By 1990 such was the popularity of the meeting that over 500 people attended and the capacity of the White Haven site was exceeded. This caused some last minute anxiety and delicate negotiations by Marcia secured accommodation for the overflow. As always things went without a hitch.

In addition to her role on the organizing committee Marcia also became the historian of the organization and she also volunteered to be Editor of the Inflammation Research Newsletter, the inaugural issue of which was distributed at the 1992 Conference.

In addition to her official role, Marcia has provided wise counsel to every President and board over the past 30 years. There is no doubt that the longevity and success of the organization is in large part due to Marcia's passion and tireless efforts.



The IRA is grateful and honored that Marcia plans to continue her association with our organization!

Richard Griffiths (Pfizer) and Arpita Maiti (Vertex) contributed to this article.

17th International Conference of the Inflammation Research Association

Bolton Landing, NY, September 9-13, 2012

The 17th International Conference of the Inflammation Research Association was held September 9-13, 2012 at The Sagamore Resort on Lake George, Bolton Landing, NY. The outstanding and comprehensive Keynote Lecture, "Concepts of Driver Cytokines for T-Cell Skin Diseases" was delivered by [James G. Krueger, MD, PhD](#) (Rockefeller University), an expert in the immunobiology of inflammatory skin diseases.

Topical symposia on "New Technologies, Approaches and Models in Inflammation Research," "The Underappreciated Immune Cell," "Inflammation and Fibrosis," "Novel Pharmacological Approaches for IBD," "Kinases as Targets: Past, Present and Future" and "Novel Therapeutics" were standing-room only.

Meeting summaries are posted on the IRA website: [Click here](#) to access the Meeting Summary Reports.



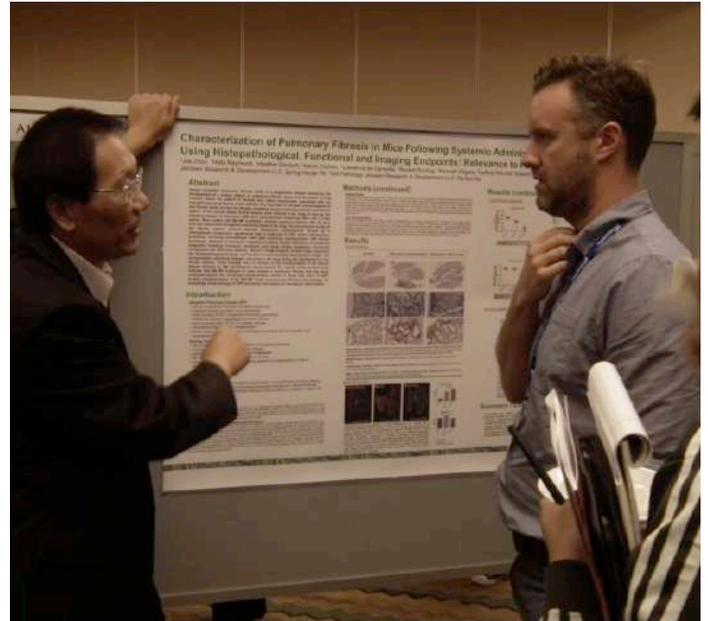


2012 Poster Competition

The Highest Scientific Impact

Always a focal point of the IRA Conference, the Poster Competition has been part of each IRA conference 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. The Poster Competition is open to authors of posters that describe previously unpublished work, excluding those presented by the C. Gordon Van Arman Award Finalists. Monetary prizes, sponsored at the 2012 Conference by Novo Nordisk, were awarded at the closing banquet.

Six representatives of the IRA formed the judging panel. They selected three posters that in their opinion, described work which has the highest scientific impact. Lisa Schopf (Kala Pharmaceuticals) – Chair, Beverley Moore (Janssen), Divya Chaudhary (Nimbus Discovery), Ed Yurkow (Janssen), Rupinder Kaur Kanwar (Deakin University) and William Westlin (Celgene Avilomics) had the enviable role of reviewing posters and selecting the winners.



17th International Conference of the Inflammation Research Association Poster Competition & Prize

1st Prize (\$2,000)

Miranda Hanson (National Cancer Institute)

LACTOCOCCUS LACTIS EXPRESSING IL-27: A POTENTIAL THERAPEUTIC FOR INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE (A113)

2nd Prize (\$1,000)

Chang Cheng (National University of Singapore)

ANTI-ALLERGIC ACTIONS OF ANTI-MALARIAL DRUG ARTESUNATE IN EXPERIMENTAL MAST CELL-MEDIATED ANAPHYLACTIC MODELS (A152)

3rd Prize (\$500)

I-Hsin Kuo (University of Rochester Medical Center)

ACTIVATION OF EPIDERMAL TOLL-LIKE RECEPTOR 2 ENHANCES TIGHT JUNCTION FUNCTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR ATOPIC DERMATITIS AND SKIN BARRIER REPAIR (A118)



Social Science at the 2012 IRA Conference

Winners Named for the 2012 C. Gordon Van Arman Scholarship Awards

The Inflammation Research Association sponsors a competition to encourage young scientists to perform exploratory and applied research in the general area of inflammation. Through this award, the IRA hopes to develop an interest and commitment to high quality inflammation research in young scientists.

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

Contestants include candidates for advanced degrees: M.S., Ph.D., M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M., or first year post-doctoral fellows. Prior to the Conference, the Scholarship Committee - chaired by Jane Connor (MedImmune) and comprised of Annalisa D'Andrea (SRI International), Beverley Moore (Janssen), Caralee Schaefer (InterMune), Erik Lubberts (Erasmus Medical Center) and Laura Carter (MedImmune), selected the five finalists based on their submitted mini-papers. The Finalists attended the Conference with their expenses paid, and discussed their research via poster and oral presentation. Awards were granted at the Conference Banquet.

17th International Conference of the Inflammation Research Association Van Arman Competition

1st Prize (\$2,000)

Preeta Dasgupta (University of Maryland)

ABSENCE OF THE γ_c CHAIN, A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF THE TYPE 1 IL-4 RECEPTOR, INCREASES THE SEVERITY OF ALLERGIC INFLAMMATION (VA01)

2nd Prize (\$1,000)

Brittany Sexton (Florida State University)

DNA DIRECTS NUCLEOSOME REDISTRIBUTION IN THE RESPONSE TO KSHV (VA05)

3rd Prize (\$750)

Kwesi-Frimpong-Boateng (Scripps Research Institute)

NEONATAL THYMECTOMY PROLONGS THE PERMEABILITY OF ENTERIC ANTIGENS AND PROMOTES THE STRONG ACTIVATION OF PERIPHERAL CD4+ T CELLS (VA03)

Honorable Mentions (\$500)

Yelena Lerman (University of Rochester)

INFECTION-DEPENDENT VLA-3 INTEGRIN UPREGULATION REVEALS TWO NEUTROPHIL SUBPOPULATIONS IN SEPSIS FOR MICE AND HUMANS (VA04)

Willam Farver (University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine)

ABNORMAL LIPOPROTEIN PARTICLES AND CHOLESTEROL EFFLUX CAPACITY IN PATIENTS WITH PSORIASIS, AN INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASE (VA02)





International Meeting Announcements

Sept 21-25, 2013, Natal	11th World Congress on Inflammation (IAIS)	www.inflammationsocieties.org
Sept 29 - Oct 3, 2013, San Francisco	Cytokines 2013	www.cytokines2013.com
Oct 20-22, 2013, Newport	46th Annual Meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology	www.leukocytebiology.org
Oct 25-30, 2013, San Diego	American College of Rheumatology	www.acrannualmeeting.org
Nov 3-6, 2013 San Juan	Bioactive Lipids in Cancer, Inflammation and Related Diseases, 13th International Conference (sponsored by Eicosanoid Research Foundation)	www.bioactivelipidsconf.wayne.edu
Feb 28 - Mar 4, 2014, San Diego	American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, 2014 Annual Meeting	www.annualmeeting.aaaai.org
April 24-27, 2014, Paris	2014 World Congress on Osteoarthritis	www.oarsi.org
April 26-30, 2014, San Diego	Experimental Biology	www.experimentalbiology.org/2014/home.aspx
May 2-6, 2014, Pittsburgh	Immunology 2014, The American Association of Immunologists	www.aai.org
June 11-14, 2014, Paris	EULAR Annual European Congress on Rheumatology	www.eular.org
June 25-28, 2014, Chicago	FOCIS Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies Annual Meeting	www.focisnet.org
Sept 16-17, 2014, Palo Alto	17th International Congress of the Inflammation Research Association (IRA)	www.inflammationresearch.org
Nov 14-19, 2014, Boston	American College of Rheumatology	www.acrannualmeeting.org
2014, Melbourne	Cytokines 2014	www.weizmann.ac.il/cytokine/planned_conference
2015, Boston	12th World Congress on Inflammation (IAIS-IRA)	www.inflammationsocieties.org

The Newsletter

Newsletter Editor:

Howard Kartstein
hkartstein@metabolon.com



Newsletter Design:

Amy Clausen
amy@mbiosciences.com

