SPRING 2018
INFLAMMATION
RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
Dear Colleagues,

The Inflammation Research Association, a non-profit organization, has stayed committed to understanding the complexities of inflammatory processes for over 50 years. In this newsletter, we share some key highlights from our recent regional, international, and world congress meetings.

These highlights illustrate how IRA sponsored events uniquely combine elements of basic research AND drug development, providing a venue where academic, government, and pharmaceutical scientists can come together to discuss new therapies and approaches to treat a wide range of inflammatory diseases. In addition to delivering high quality scientific meetings, the IRA has built a reputation on facilitating a strong network of colleagues that share ideas, aid in job searches, and provide recommendations for expert consultants, key opinions leaders, and outsourcing advice. Last but not least we have demonstrated a commitment to mentoring scientists on a new or changing career path.

I hope that those of you that have been involved, stay involved, and bring in new members to experience and share in the growth and achievements of this organization. We are in the process of launching new initiatives such as expanding our social media presence and always need help with fund raising to support our continued success as a society that requires tireless and dedicated volunteers. Please get (more) involved and help us spread the word on the value of being a member and a regular attendee at our conferences.

Sincerely yours,

Lisa Schopf, PhD
President
Inflammation Research Association
President@inflammationresearch.org

www.inflammationresearch.org/member-login-renew/
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2016 - 2018 TERM OF THE IRA

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING

20th International meeting of the Inflammation Research Association
July 20-21, 2018 | Philadelphia, PA

LOCATION: Temple University School of Medicine Conference Center, Philadelphia, PA
Theme: Systems Inflammation in Chronic Disease

Plenary Sessions:
• Non-resolving inflammation in chronic diseases
• Intervention of systems inflammation and chronic diseases

Concurrent sessions *:
• Cellular and molecular mechanisms for inflammation (Chair: XiaoFeng Yang)
• Inflammation in Autoimmunity (Chair: Stefania Gallucci)
• Inflammation and Cancer (Chair: Mike McQueney)
• Microbiome in systems inflammation (Chair: Hui Wu, Co-chair: Cagla Tukel)
• Neuro-inflammation
• New Therapy for Chronic Inflammation (Chair: Caralee Schaefer)
• Junior Investigator Session (Chair: Erik Lubberts)

* All concurrent session speakers will be selected from submitted abstracts.

The Inflammation Research Association (IRA) is excited to announce the 20th international conference of the IRA, jointly organized with the Temple University School of Medicine on July 20-21 of 2018 at Philadelphia, PA. Every two years, the Inflammation Research Association (IRA) organizes an International Conference that attracts 200-300 pre-clinical and clinical research scientists working in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, and in academia. For more than 40 years the IRA has worked to bring scientists together for the sharing of scientific and technological advances, as well as collegial interaction. The scientific program of the 20th International Conference is designed to reflect the mission of the IRA:

Van Arman Award Competition:
Junior investigators/trainees are encouraged to submit a mini-manuscript that is comprised of an abstract, a brief introduction, materials and methods, results and discussion sections, for consideration of the Van Arman Award.

Click here to see the agenda.
The three main scientific themes of the Congress will be:
• New Therapeutic Targets in Inflammation
• Mechanisms of Inflammation (Initiation, Resolution & Signaling Pathways)
• Organ-Specific Determinants of The Inflammatory Response

With a focus to:
• Bring together some of the most influential scientists in this space
• Provide a forum for students and early career researchers to present their work and engage with a range of international experts in inflammation
• Identify new areas of translational research

Confirmed Plenary speakers include:
Janelle Ayres (Salk Institute)
Dan Cua (Merck)
Vishva Dixit (Genentech)
Ana Domingos (Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência)
Florent Ginhoux (Singapore Immunology Network)
Paul Kubes (University of Calgary)
Luke O’Neill (Trinity College Dublin)
Michal Schwartz (Weizmann Institute)
Carola Vinuesa (Australian National University)

Important Dates
• Registration Open March 2018
• Abstracts submissions Open October 2018
• Abstract submissions Close April 2019
• Abstract acceptance notification May 2019
• Early Bird and presenter registration deadline June 2019
• Accommodation booking deadline August 2019

Venue: ICC Sydney
ICC Sydney is a fully-integrated convention, events, exhibition and entertainment center. It is at the heart of its own Sydney harbour waterfront precinct, set amongst restaurants, retail and a vibrant public domain on Darling Harbour, and only a short walk to many of Sydney’s local universities, the Sydney Harbour Bridge and The Sydney Opera House.

Sydney, Australia, is one of the world’s most picturesque cities. Surrounded by a majestic Harbour and scattered with beaches, national parks and green areas, this is a city that entices you to explore. Take a ferry and see Sydney Harbour from the water, lose yourself in the cobbled streets of the historic Rocks district and learn about the area’s rich heritage at one of the cities fantastic cultural institutions.

Sydney is Australia’s largest and oldest city, with a rich multicultural history. The city surrounds the largest natural harbour in the world, Port Jackson, which includes Sydney Harbour, Manly and Darling Harbour. This multi-cultural city has a vibrant dining scene that includes Quay and Sepia, which feature on the prestigious S.Pellegrino World’s 100 Best Restaurants List.

Beyond the city you will find historic wine regions, such as the Hunter Valley, coastal retreats and forest landscapes, including the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains.

Sponsorship & exhibition: sponsorship@wci2019.org
Registration & Accommodation: registration@wci2019.org
www.wci2019.org
Review: The 12th World Congress on Inflammation 2015: Harnessing Patterns of Inflammation in the Pursuit of Novel Therapeutics

The 12th World Congress on Inflammation 2015, Harnessing Patterns of Inflammation in the Pursuit of Novel Therapeutics was held August 8-12, 2015, at the World Trade Center in the heart of Boston's rejuvenated Seaport District. The beautiful Seaport Hotel, the official Congress hotel located adjacent to the venue provided convenient and superb accommodations.

The Congress was co-organized by the Inflammation Research Association and the IAIS by Drs. Lisa Marshall and Arpita Maiti of Pfizer and presided over by the congress president, Dr. Rod Flower, Saint Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry.

The Congress was very well attended by more than 800 basic and clinical researchers from industry, clinical sites and academia. More than half the participants came from outside the United States revealing the international appeal of the Congress. Forty different countries were represented: notably, 81 from Brazil; 42, UK; 38, Japan; 25, Australia; 24, Canada; 22, Germany; 16, South Korea; 7, Russia. Interestingly, three delegates came from Saudi Arabia, two from South Africa, and one each from Peru, Kuwait, Cyprus, Poland, Croatia, Argentina, Finland and Hungry.

The goals of this 12th World Congress on Inflammation were: 1) to cover the current state of development of medicines targeting the inflammatory and immunological components of diseases; 2) to provide a “bench-to-bedside” perspective on research, development and the clinical practice of disease intervention; and, 3) to identify new therapeutic concepts across a spectrum of autoimmune diseases that might better integrate preclinical endpoints and clinical observations. These goals were clearly exceeded as evident from the quality of the speakers, the topics they covered, and contributions made by the attendees. Notable examples include the scientific contributions made by the winners of the IAIS scientific awards and in the quality of the many individual presentations. As the goal of the sponsoring organizations is to provide education, training and networking opportunities to new inflammation scientists, other highlighted activities including networking and career planning rounded out the congress activities.

The meeting opened with an inspirational message by Congress President Rod Flower entitled “Harnessing Patterns of Inflammation in the Pursuit of Novel Therapeutics” which was enthusiastically received. Dr. Flower revealed insightful observations from mechanistic studies leading to pivotal discoveries in the development history of immunologic and anti-inflammatory therapeutics. He illustrated his theme by highlighting the discoveries of corticosteroid action, NSAIDS, selective COX inhibitors, and the anti-TNF and anti-IL-1 biologics; and their applications to rheumatic diseases and inflammatory bowel diseases. It was the perfect prelude to the Congress, piquing one's interest and eagerness for the following days of abundant medical science. The scientific program that followed included more than 130 speakers delivering six keynote lectures, 41 symposia (nine of which were sponsored by the IAIS member societies) and six poster tour sessions led by field experts.

A theme within the Congress “Bench to Bedside” focused on inflammatory processes occurring in a wide range of diseases and organs as studied by an equally diverse group of researchers—some of whom provided evidence for differences in regional patient populations revealed through study of their associated immunological disease manifestations. This latter topic ignited considerable discussion and debate among the attendees considering the uniqueness and commonality among mechanisms, therapeutic targets and future medicines. This was inspired each morning by keynote presentations ranging from discussions of the extensive knowledge of IL-1 and applications of anti-IL-1...
agents in a broad spectrum of diseases (Charles Dinarello, University of Colorado, Denver); “Inflammation and Homeostasis and Disease” (Ruslan Medzhitov, Yale) to future areas “New Frontiers in Inflammation Research” (Luke O’Neill, Trinity College Dublin) and highly focused studies “Functions of Co-Inhibitory Pathways in Controlling T Cell Responses and Inflammation” (Arlene Sharpe, Harvard Medical School, Boston); emerging areas, “Immunological Control of Non-Immunological processes” Dianne Mathis, Harvard Medical School, Boston; and “Inflammation in Atherosclerosis – A translational tale” (Peter Libby, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston). These scientific presentations emphasized the understanding that common vital and opposing pathological pathways share many inflammatory, immunologic, oncologic, and genetic components of many diseases.

An inspiring and emotional addition to the Program were three morning “Patient Perspective” sessions in which a patient with either psoriatic arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease or lupus, along with a practicing physician, presented their journey through their individual description of the disease burden, diagnosis process, treatment, and outcome. This proved to be a very touching, poignant engagement in the personal lives and personal consequences of these diseases. It offered a rare perspective for research scientists showing, front and center, the extensive unmet needs of the patients they are working so hard to find new improved medicines.

At the Awards Banquet, Dr. Jeffrey Drazen, Editor in Chief of NEJM gave a very relevant, albeit entertaining overview of the development of medicine from the American Colonial Period and the history of the New England Journal of Medicine, supporting his claim that NEJM is the oldest medical journal still operating from its beginning in 1812. The awards highlighted scientific excellence and significant contributions to the inflammation research community including the IAIS Woman in Inflammation Science Award, the IAIS Life Time Achievement Award and the New Investigators Competition. A poster competition of all posters submitted resulted in three cash award winners.

We thank all of our sponsors, all IRA committee volunteers and of course the participants for making this Boston 2015 world Congress on Inflammation a success.

Doug Morgan (retired)
Lisa Marshall (Pfizer)
Arpita Maiti (Pfizer)
New Investigator Competition and Awards

As a long standing tradition of both the IRA and the IAIS, New (Young) Investigator Competitions are a hallmark of our conferences. To highlight the up and coming scientific talent is always refreshing and invigorating to the attendees and their new colleagues. For the 2015 IAIS 12th World Congress on Inflammation it was no different, as there was the typical pool of highly qualified candidates from which the selection committee was to pick the five finalists. The instruction from the meeting co-chairs was to focus on selecting finalists that presented the best science!

Application for the competition was limited to scientists currently in graduate school or first year postdoctoral trainees. Applicants submitted a mini-paper describing their research and the mini-paper was used by the NI Committee to select the five finalists. The five scientists selected were from laboratories around the globe, a testament to how strong inflammation research is around the world.

The World Congress sponsored the attendance of each of the five finalists to Boston to present their work. In an early session at the meeting of only the finalists and the NI Committee, each candidate presented a poster and answered questions from the committee members. Later in the meeting each finalist gave an oral presentation at a session open to all congress attendees. The NI Committee then used the mini-paper, poster presentation and oral presentation to decide the winner of the competition and ranking of the finalists.

First Place - Jun Tanaka (Japan) Identification of CD44bright, a Novel Subset of Uterine NK Cells Correlated to Abortion in Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Model Mice.

Second Place - Zoe Schofield (Australia) Acetate Protects the Ischemic Intestine from Reperfusion Injury.

Third Place - Houda Benabdoune (Canada) The Role of Resolvin D1 in the Regulation of Inflammatory and Catabolic Factors in Osteoarthritis.

Honorable Mention - Dayana Abboud (France) Combating Skin Inflammation with CXCL12 Chemokine Neutral-ligands.

Honorable Mention - Minae Yoshida (United Kingdom) A Novel Role for BK Channel in Regulating Metalloprotease Activity.

In addition to monetary awards for each of the finalists, the first-place finisher also received a special medal from the William Harvey Research Institute, presented by the Congress President Rod Flower.

I thank the NI Committee members Ian Adcock, Brydon Bennett, Bev Moore, Doug Morgan and Ann Welton for their significant time commitment and dedication that made this competition a success. I also thank the Congress Co-chairs, Lisa Marshall and Arpita Maiti, as well as Congress President Rod Flower for their support of the New Investigator Competition.

John Somerville (Retired)
Chair, New Investigator Committee

Regional Meeting Review:
Tissue Homeostasis, Repair, Regeneration, and Fibrosis
Sponsors: Inflammation Research Association and National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The Inflammation Research Association, in partnership with National Institutes of Health (NIH) and MedImmune sponsored a one-day symposium: “Tissue Homeostasis, Repair, Regeneration, and Fibrosis” on May 2, 2016 in Bethesda MD, at the Lipsett Amphitheater. This 1-day meeting featured three plenary speakers: Cory Hogaboam (Cedars-Sinai) speaking on “Progenitor Cells in Lung Remodeling”, Shahim Rafii (Cornell University) on the “Role of Vascular Niche in Organ Regeneration” and Pamela Gehron Robey (NIDCR) on “Skeletal Stem/Progenitor Cells in Health and Disease.” Fifteen additional speakers spanning academic, government and industry positions covered topics in pulmonary and liver fibrosis, inflammation and repair following infection, intestinal immune homeostasis and epithelial cell repair. Disease areas included idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, emphysema, influenza, polycystic kidney disease, NASH, osteoporosis and osteoarthritis.
“Science remains institutionally sexist. Despite some progress, women scientists are still paid less, promoted less frequently, win fewer grants and are more likely to leave research than similarly qualified men.” This was a quote from the editorial entitled “Science for All” which introduced the special issue of Nature that “took a hard look at the gender gap — from bench to boardroom — and at what is being done to close it.” (Nature vol 495, pg 5, (07 March 2013) doi:10.1038/495005a). One activity is called out and that is the public recognition of the successes of women in science. To that end, the International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS) 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. This award represents the IAIS commitment to progressing the careers of women in inflammation science by sharing the science and career stories of successful woman scientists.

At the World Congress on Inflammation 2015 (WCI’15) in Boston, the IAIS was excited to announce that Dr. Stephanie Vogel, Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, was the 2015 Women in Inflammation Science award winner. Dr. Vogel’s scientific expertise and leadership skills are exemplified by directing multiple concurrent projects, multi-component projects, and a training program. The recognition of her scientific acumen is demonstrated by her main NIH grant being funded continuously for 32 years, during which time, it was designated an NIH “Merit Award.” Dr. Vogel’s laboratory has led the field in the understanding of the molecular underpinnings of the inflammatory response to lipopolysaccharide and other microbial products in macrophages. Dr. Vogel’s studies in mouse genetics ultimately led to the identification of TLR4 as the LPS signaling receptor. More recently she has been focused on the identification of novel approaches to mitigate the potent inflammatory responses induced by influenza or respiratory syncytial virus that cause acute lung injury. This was the focus of her WIS award keynote lecture “Novel Host-oriented Treatments of Viral Respiratory Infections” presented on Sunday August 9th 2015 at the Seaport World Trade Center.

In addition to more than 280 publications, Dr. Vogel has been a role model for young women in science, mentoring more than 40 postdoctoral fellows and graduate students. Her strong insistence on ethical behavior in science and in life, coupled with her business acumen, writing and presentation skills, and the clear understanding that family issues take priority, are among the many additional skills that she has imparted to her trainees. If one looks at the many successful women trained by Dr. Vogel, it is truly a testament to her ability to identify individual strengths in young women and to nurture these for the success of the trainee.

The IAIS gives special thanks to the judging panel: Dr. Leslie Croxford, Dr. Rod Flower, and Dr. Graham Wallace for reviewing the many outstanding nominations and to BioSeek Inc., for their financial support.

Ellen Berg (BioSeek)
Lisa Marshall (Pfizer)
A Review of the WCI

On July 8th 2017, colleagues from around the world came together for the 13th World Congress of Inflammation at the Hotel Metropole in London. The themes for the meeting covered the wide-ranging field of inflammation with an emphasis on ageing and immunometabolism. This was shown in the symmetry of the Congress with the opening plenary speaker Janet Lord (University of Birmingham) discussing mechanisms of ageing, and the final plenary by Peter Barnes (Imperial College London) discussing senolytics for mediating ageing. In between these lectures, a very high standard of plenary speakers, including Michal Schwartz (Weizmann Institute), Luke O’Neill (Trinity College Dublin), and Fiona Powrie (Oxford University) discussed neuroinflammation, immunometabolism, and the microbiome respectively. Highly informative and entertaining talks were given by Mihail Netea (Radboud University) and Adrian Hayday (Crick Institute) on regulation of inflammatory responses in response to infection and tissue damage. Emphasising the breadth of the presentations, Tom Holvoet (Ghent University), and Fiona Watt (Kings College London), spoke on intestinal fibrosis and inflammation in cancer. All the plenary speakers gave excellent presentations that set the intellectual and scientific basis of the Congress and were supported by 14 symposia sponsored by IAIS member societies or industrial partners.

Sessions included resolution and repair, microbiome autophagy and redox therapeutics and all had a very high standard of presentation and information. Similarly, the poster sessions were very enjoyable and gave everyone the opportunity to present their data and discuss with fellow delegates. The Congress used electronic posters for the first time and after a few teething problems this proved to be a popular choice.

The World Congress allows our members to come together and discuss their research and provides IAIS the opportunity to award prizes in recognition of current and past achievements. This year four young scientists, Thomas Cowley (University of Birmingham), Elina Nummenmaa (University of Tampere), Hannah Isles (Sheffield University) and Rana Herro (La Jolla Institute) were recipients of the Young Investigator awards. In a close contest, Hannah was awarded the William Harvey medal for the best presentation from the four finalists. The Woman In Science award, sponsored by Johnson and Johnson, was presented to Jane Mitchell (Imperial College London) who gave a super presentation on her work on cyclooxygenases in pulmonary disease. Last but by no means least, the IAIS Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Boris Vargaftig (Institut Pasteur and University of Sao Paulo) for his extensive contributions to both the field of inflammation and to IAIS. Boris treated the Congress to a wonderful presentation discussing his life in science and his many contributions to the field.

No WCI is complete without a Gala Dinner and 2017 was no exception. An excellent evening was had with fanfares from trumpeters, excellent food and shorts speeches. The passing of the ceremonial baseball cap from IAIS President Steve Stimpson (University of North Carolina) to myself has given me a very hard act to follow. Steve receives a well-deserved send off after a sterling job over the last two years. Plaudits were also due to Lisa Marshall (Pfizer) and John Hamilton (University of Melbourne), who stepped down from the IAIS committee after many years of excellent service in many roles. The evening was completed when the baton was passed from the London organising committee to our colleagues in Sydney who will organise the 14th World Congress of Inflammation in 2019, to which we extend a warm invitation to join us discussing inflammation, making contacts and developing friendships.

Graham Wallace (University of Birmingham)
A one-day scientific conference sponsored by the Inflammation Research Association and organized by Dirk Smith (Insight Bioconsulting, LLC.) and Chris Mehlin (FHCRC), focused on inflammation as a central physiologic process that contributes to tissue homeostasis, immunity, chronic disease and immunologic response to cancer. Novel therapeutic approaches to modulating inflammation hold great promise across many aspects of health and disease. This one-day meeting brought together scientists to share new ideas and science relevant to this topic.

Speakers included:
- John Babcook, Senior VP, Zymeworks, Inc.
- Mark Bazett, Director, Preclinical and Translational Research, Qu Biologics
- Santanu Bose, Professor, Washington State University
- Lili Cheng, Research Fellow, Protagonist Therapeutics
- Gabriela Hernandez-Hoyos, Senior Director of Immunobiology, Aptevo
- Chris Mehlin, Director, Peptide Drug Discovery Initiative, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- Fred Ramsdell, VP, Research, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy
- Mike Wittekind, CEO, Olympic Protein Technologies
- Wei Yan, CEO, Sound Biologics
- Steven Ziegler, Director of Immunology, Benaroya Research Institute

More than 50 scientists, from both industry and academia enjoyed interesting and informative talks and exchanges, all while enjoying the 180-degree views of the Olympic Mountains, Mt. Rainier, Puget Sound’s Elliott Bay and the Seattle skyline.

Coffee breaks, lunch and reception afforded plenty of time for networking with friends and colleagues, both existing and newly made. Attendee feedback included these comments:

“Thank you so much for a wonderful day of engaging scientific exchanges. It was very well organized and I enjoyed meeting a wide spectrum of attendees.”

“I heard a lot of interesting talks and met new interesting scientists.”

“I thought it was an excellent conference and was very useful and informative.”

“I enjoyed the meeting. It gave a new perspective about the “application” side of basic science research. It is amazing how novel tools and agents are being developed for various diseases.”

- Dirk Smith (Insight Bioconsulting)
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.