

## President's Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Inflammation Research Association, the IRA! This non-profit organization was founded almost 40 years ago to facilitate the interaction of scientists with a common interest in inflammation research. The IRA includes members from academia, industry and the clinic. A wholly volunteer organization, the IRA depends entirely on its membership to accomplish its goals.



Unlike most professional organizations, membership in the IRA is free! Through our Web site ([www.inflammationresearch.org](http://www.inflammationresearch.org)), members can access our membership list to contact other inflammation scientists, receive up-to-date information on upcoming IRA-sanctioned meetings and events, examine abstracts and reports from past meetings and link to other inflammation sites of interest. More useful tools to facilitate careers and opportunities for our members are planned for this Web site.

At the recent 15th International Conference of the IRA, the new Officers and Board of the IRA were installed. They include Andy Glasebrook (Vice-President), Joel Tocker (Secretary), Arpita Maiti (Treasurer), and Board of Director members Brydon Bennett, Jane Conner, Jim Ellis, Liwu Li, Tineke Meijers, Lisa Olson, Lisa Schopf, Bill Selig, Bruce Tomczuk

and Craig Wegner. This group is planning several regional meetings for 2009, a session at the IAIS meeting in Tokyo in 2009 and our 16th International Conference in 2010. Please visit our Web site often and use the MEETINGS tab to check on the status of these upcoming topical meetings.

In September 2008 the IRA successfully hosted its 15th International Conference. Based on feedback from attendees at the 14th International Conference in Cambridge, MD, we held this meeting at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, Virginia. We also reduced the length of the meeting by a full day while increasing the scientific content by using concurrent sessions on Monday and Tuesday mornings. As usual, the conference contained both applied and basic science presented by excellent industrial and academic speakers. Keynote speaker, Diane Mathis, gave an outstanding talk, presenting her unpublished work on "Regulation of Auto-Inflammatory Responses" with a focus on obesity, diabetes, and inflammation. Dr. Mathis was recognized by the IRA for her "Significant Contributions to Inflammation Research" and her "Exemplary Demonstration of Scientific Leadership." Beyond the scientific sessions, several social events facilitated the unique networking opportunities that IRA meetings are known for.

Our 16th International Conference will return to the Westfields Marriott, Sept. 26-29, 2010. Your Officers and Board are planning

### in this issue

page 2  
Officers and Directors

page 3  
International Meetings

page 4 - 5  
9th World Congress  
4th IAIS Women in Science

page 6-9  
15th International Conference  
New Investigator Mentoring  
GE Poster Award  
Van Arman Scholarship

page 10  
In Memoriam  
Company/People News



additional networking opportunities at this meeting. If you have ideas for scientific sessions or you would like to be involved in the planning of the meeting, please email Andy Glasebrook at [aglase@lilly.com](mailto:aglase@lilly.com).

The IRA has made significant efforts to mentor young investigators. Several activities were organized at the 15th International Conference, where "seasoned" scientists from both industry and academia shared their experiences and advice with young investigators, mentoring on career choices, opportunities and scientific direction in inflammation science. It was an interesting and fun networking time for all!

Over the next two years, your Board will be working to improve the efficiency of the IRA as an organization and to ensure the continuation of the IRA's mission and success, especially during this time of heightened competition for scientific interest and resources. We will be planning both regional meetings and our 16th International Conference, expanding member services available through our Web site and working to maintain the financial strength of our organization.

The IRA is a founding member of the International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS), the global organization that promotes inflammation research worldwide. The IAIS will hold its next biennial meeting, "The 9th World Congress on Inflammation," in Tokyo, Japan, July 6-10, 2009 ([www2.convention.co.jp/wci2009/](http://www2.convention.co.jp/wci2009/)). The IRA will sponsor a symposium titled "Translational Medicine in Inflammatory Disease" at this meeting co-chaired by Jim Winkler and Lisa Marshall. There are also opportunities for Young Investigators to present their work and win awards.

On behalf of the IRA, I encourage new membership to our association (remember, it is free). The IRA is a fun, dynamic mix of individuals who enjoy and benefit from our regular scientific meetings and social networking opportunities. We look forward to your participation during the 2008-2010 term, and volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in helping to organize a meeting or to work with the Board, drop an Officer or Board member an email (email addresses are found on the IRA Web site) and we will help you to participate in the organization.

Sincerely yours,

John Somerville  
President,  
Inflammation Research Association

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE 2008-2010 TERM OF THE IRA

### Officers

President	John E. Somerville, Ph.D. Bristol Myers Squibb
Vice President	Andrew Glasebrook, Ph.D. Eli Lilly & Co.
Secretary	Joel E. Tocker, Ph.D. Amgen, Inc.
Treasurer	Arpita Maiti, Ph.D. Vertex Pharmaceuticals

### Directors

Brydon Bennett, Ph.D.  
Celgene Corp.  
Jane Connor, Ph.D.  
MedImmune, LLC  
James L. Ellis, Ph.D.  
Sirtris, a GSK Company  
Liwu Li, Ph.D.  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Tineke Meijers, Ph.D.  
TNO  
Lisa Olson, Ph.D.  
Abbott Bioresearch Center  
Lisa Schopf, Ph.D.  
Abbott Bioresearch Center  
Bruce Tomczuk, Ph.D.  
Arginetix, Inc.  
Craig Wegner, Ph.D.  
Pfizer, Inc.

Past President William Selig, Ph.D.  
CombinatoRx



# International Meeting Announcements

July 6 - 10, 2009 Tokyo, Japan	9th World Congress on Inflammation	<a href="http://www2.convention.co.jp/wci2009">www2.convention.co.jp/wci2009</a>
August 2 - 7, 2009 New London, NH	Gordon Research Conference: Periodontal Disease	<a href="http://www.grc.org">www.grc.org</a>
August 30 - Sept 4, 2009 Les Diablerets, Switzerland	Gordon Research Conference: Matrix Metalloproteinases	<a href="http://www.grc.org">www.grc.org</a>
September 10 - 13, 2009 Montreal, Canada	OARSI: 2009 World Congress on Osteoarthritis	<a href="http://www.oarsi.org">www.oarsi.org</a>
Oct 16 - 21, 2009 Philadelphia, PA	American College of Rheumatology, 73rd Annual Scientific Meeting	<a href="http://www.rheumatology.org">www.rheumatology.org</a>
October 17 - 21, 2009 Lisbon, Portugal	Cellular and Cytokine Interactions in Health & Disease Joint Meeting: Society for Leukocyte Biology, International Cytokine Society & International Society for Interferon & Cytokine Research	<a href="http://www.leukocytebiology.org">www.leukocytebiology.org</a>
October 25 - 29, 2009 Cancun, Mexico	Bioactive Lipids in Cancer, Inflammation & Related Diseases, 11th International Conference	<a href="http://www.bioactivelipidsconf.wayne.edu">www.bioactivelipidsconf.wayne.edu</a>
November 5 - 11, 2009 Miami Beach, FL	ACAAI: American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting	<a href="http://www.acaai.org">www.acaai.org</a>
February 7 - 12, 2010 Keystone, Colorado	Keystone Symposia: Role of Inflammation in Oncogenesis	<a href="http://www.keystonesymposia.org">www.keystonesymposia.org</a>
February 12 - 17, 2010 Banff, Alberta	Keystone Symposia: Advances in Molecular Mechanisms of Atherosclerosis	<a href="http://www.keystonesymposia.org">www.keystonesymposia.org</a>
June 6 - 11, 2010 Kyoto, Japan	Keystone Symposia: Bioactive Lipids: Biochemistry & Diseases	<a href="http://www.keystonesymposia.org">www.keystonesymposia.org</a>
August 22 - 27, 2010 Montreal, Canada	14th International Congress of Immunology	<a href="http://www.ici2010.org">www.ici2010.org</a>
August 29- Sept 2, 2010 Montreal, Canada	IASP: International Association for the Study of Pain® 13th World Congress on Pain®	<a href="http://www.iasp-pain.org/Montreal">www.iasp-pain.org/Montreal</a>
September 26 - 29, 2010 Chantilly, Virginia	16th International IRA Conference	<a href="http://www.inflammationresearch.org">www.inflammationresearch.org</a>



# 9th WORLD CONGRESS ON INFLAMMATION

RETURNS TO TOKYO, JAPAN JULY 6-10, 2009

Make your plans to attend the 9th World Congress on Inflammation in Tokyo, Japan, scheduled for July 6 - 10, 2009. The main theme of this congress is INNOVATIVE RESEARCH OF INFLAMMATION, REPAIR AND REGENERATIVE MEDICINE. Dr. Kouji Matsushima, President of the 9th World Congress on Inflammation, wrote in his welcoming letter that "Progress in inflammation research over the last decade has been great. Molecular bases of various inflammatory responses have been revealed and numerous novel potential therapeutic targets have been uncovered. Humanized antibodies have been applied for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and various inflammatory diseases, and custom-made medicine is now expected in the post-sequencing era. In addition, although it is a long-lasting dream of inflammation researchers to regenerate the impaired organs due to excessive chronic inflammation, we consider it is time to integrate regenerative medicine into inflammation research."

Six Keynote Lectures, four Morning Symposia including

- 1) Inflammation and Innate Immunity
  - 2) Inflammation-associated Tissue Injury and Repair
  - 3) New Strategies for Drug Discovery
  - 4) Clinical Development of Novel Anti-Inflammatory Drugs
- and numerous Society-sponsored Symposia and Workshops will encompass the whole of inflammation research from disease models to novel therapeutics to late-breaking clinical news.

Dr. Matsushima, the Organizing Committee and Chairs invite you to visit Tokyo and hear from world-class scientists, exchange information and ideas with delegates, find business partners and to delight in this unique venue.

This World Congress, organized by the International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS) and the Science Council of Japan is a Joint meeting alongside the 30th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Inflammation and Regeneration.

Register for this exciting meeting through the Congress Website <http://www2.convention.jp/wci2009/>.

## CONGRESS AWARDS

Always a highlight of the Conference, three prestigious prizes will again be awarded during the Congress:

IAIS YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD  
IAIS WOMEN IN INFLAMMATION SCIENCE AWARD  
THE BEST POSTER AWARD

## TOURS & EXCURSIONS

The World Congress represents an excellent opportunity to interact with your colleagues from academia, clinical centers and industry, and a full social program has been planned around the many spectacular sites and venues of Tokyo.

Tokyo, the capital of Japan, is one of the largest cities of the world with a population of over 12.5 million. Tokyo is Japan's center for political, economic and cultural activities. Located geographically at about the center of the Japanese archipelago there are hills, plateaus, and mountains scattered around the city. Tokyo's geographical features are rich in variety, comprising low lands of only four meters above the sea-level and mountainous areas of over 2000 meters.

The Congress Organizers have created various outings for your enjoyment, from experiencing traditional Japanese food to exotic shopping to exploring this picturesque country. Tour titles include:

Tokyo Old & New  
Mt. Fuji and Hakone Excursion  
Kamakura Day Trip  
See the details and find more tours at [www.kingtour.com/wci2009/](http://www.kingtour.com/wci2009/)

Congress Website: <http://www2.convention.jp/wci2009/>  
Congress Venue: Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo  
Tokyo 2-2-1, Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku, Tokyo 160-8330, JAPAN  
Telephone: +81-3-3344-0111  
Fax: +81-3-3345-8269  
Web <http://www.keioplaza.com/index.html>

Congress Secretariat:  
c/o Japan Convention Services, Inc.  
Daido Seimei Kasumigaseki Bldg.  
1-4-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0013, Japan  
Tel: +81-3-3508-1214  
Fax: +81-3-3508-1302  
E-mail: [wci2009@convention.jp](mailto:wci2009@convention.jp)

## 4th IAIS Women in Inflammation Science Award to be Presented at 9th World Congress

First presented at the 6th World Congress in 2003, the Women in Inflammation Science (WIS) Award recognizes and honors an individual 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. The Fourth Award will be given in July at the 9th World Congress on Inflammation in Tokyo, Japan. The winner will make a Distinguished Scientist Presentation on the inflammation-related topic of her choice and participate in the Young Investigator Award Reception.

Presented biennially, the Award recognizes scientists who help female colleagues achieve and succeed in a field that is still hampered by gender inequities. 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. A 2007 survey (2007 Census of Woman Corporate Officers and Top Earners ([www.catalystwomen.org](http://www.catalystwomen.org))) indicated that women held only 14.8% of Fortune 500 board seats, 15.4% of corporate officership and 6.7% of the top earning positions. The IAIS is proud to join other large scientific organizations, including AACR and AAI, in providing their membership an award to those individuals who advocate equal treatment of inflammation scientists on the basis of merit, and who enhance awareness and provide excellent mentoring.

The winner of the 2009 IAIS Women in Inflammation Science Award will follow a distinguished group of past recipients, including Professor Susan Brain from the Centre for Cardiovascular Biology & Medicine and Pharmacology & Therapeutics Division, New Hunt's House, King's College, Guy's Campus, London, UK, who won the first award in 2003 for her scientific contributions to the investigation of the cardiovascular and inflammatory activities of vasoactive mediators alongside her exemplar development of about 20 young women and men who successfully continued post-graduate careers in academia and industry. An article providing more information on Professor Brain's success and achievements was published in the September, 2004, issue of the IRA Newsletter.



*Professor Brain accepts the first IAIS Women in Science Award from Lisa Marshall*

Professor Carol Getsy, head of the Inflammation Disease Research Unit, Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia was presented the second award in 2005 for a distinguished 37-year career providing "out of the box" scientific thinking and non-risk adverse approaches to research. Professor Getsy's key scientific contributions include the understanding of the function of macrophage migration inhibition factor in delayed

type immune reactions and the role of S100 in inflammatory disease. She has been a mentor and profound influence on the research careers of approximately 20 young investigators and holds several leadership roles in scientific societies and academic appointments. At the 7th World Congress on Inflammation, Professor Getsy provided an interesting perspective on how a woman could pursue a successful career in her talk entitled "Looking Back, Moving Forward: the Excitement of the Unknown".

Professor Francesca Levi-Schaffer, Chairperson, Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, received the third award at the 8th World Congress in Inflammation in 2007. Dr. Levi-Schaffer is well known for her contributions in the area of allergic inflammation. She pioneered the concept of mast cell-eosinophil cross talk as a key component to the inflammatory process in lung disease and defined the specific function of CD300a, a key negative regulator of mast cells and eosinophils. She has also supported the careers of many women in science through her mentoring of multiple graduate and post-graduate students and with her participation on numerous committees, including the Women's Involvement Committee at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and immunology; the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; and the Israeli Parliamentary Committee Discussing Status of Women in Science in Israel.

The IAIS has had the honor of recognizing these extraordinary individuals who offer both scientific leadership and a commitment to foster the development of the next generation of women scientists. All winners receive an honorarium and commemorative plaque.

We look forward to awarding the 4th Women in Inflammation Science Award at the upcoming 9th World Congress on Inflammation in Tokyo, Japan, July 2009.

The IAIS appreciates the generous support of GlaxoSmith-Kline and Centocor for sponsoring the IAIS Women in Science Awards

Lisa Marshall PhD., Senior Director, J&J PRD



## 15th International Conference Summary

### Scientific Summaries Available Online

Thomson Reuters, the official media partner to the Inflammation Research Association for the 15th International Conference, summarized and reviewed the daily scientific sessions and research presented at the Conference. Written by a Thomson Reuters on-site reporter, these reviews were available daily during the meeting and can now be accessed anytime via the IRA website, [www.inflammationresearch.org](http://www.inflammationresearch.org).

To access the summaries, go to the IRA Homepage and click on the button for Archives. Open the menu bar for "Meeting Summary" and select the links under Inflammation Research Association - 15th International Conference (September 21 - 24, 2008) - Thomson Reuters Overnight Reports.

### New Investigator/Mentoring IRA helps new Researchers through New Investigator Forums

The IRA sponsored two New Investigator Forums at the 15th International Conference last September to foster development of inflammation scientists who are still in training or beginning new positions in academia or industry.. One was our "Speed Mentoring Session" and the other was a "New Investigator Breakfast Networking/Discussion Session". Both sessions provided new investigators with the opportunity to meet successful, established scientists who provided their experienced perspectives on career development.

Twenty mentors and mentees participated in the Speed Mentoring Session that was chaired by Lisa Schopf, (Abbott Bioresearch; IRA Board member), and was a fun way for the attendees to make key contacts. The mentors, all IRA meeting attendees, comprised a group with a variety of job functions, degrees of experience, and academic or industrial backgrounds. Six sequential, one-on-one, 10-minute conversations offered an opportunity for each participant to speak with each mentor. Participants were given advance reading materials from the IRA and a general question guide from Dr. Schopf. The mentees prepared a brief history of their careers to date and mentors provided insight into career paths, key elements of a good interview, and shared examples of leadership from their careers.

These conversations provided new associates of the IRA a glimpse into a variety of career paths.

The second session was a breakfast panel in which the

critical steps to get a first job after post-graduate training were discussed. This informal gathering of established IRA members and New Investigators was facilitated by Dr. David Howat. General questions were put forth by the New Investigators and then the IRA members were asked to provide their experience and insight. General networking was a key theme stressed by all the mentors present, both for first posts and also for continued career progression.

This was not the first time the IRA has held these mentor/mentee sessions; it has long been a mission of the organization to foster connections between members and to provide those in the early stages of their careers with links that can aid in their professional development. We will continue to strengthen our New Investigator Forums.

A special thanks to all those who contributed in 2008 and, as always, input and participation from our IRA members is essential in this process.

Lisa Schopf  
David Howat  
Lisa Marshall



## GE Healthcare® Poster Award

International Team of Scientists wins 2008 GE Healthcare® Poster Award at the 15th International Conference

### The Most Therapeutic Potential

Always a focal point of the conference, the Inflammation Research Association once again held a competition to select the posters that describe work “with the most therapeutic potential”.

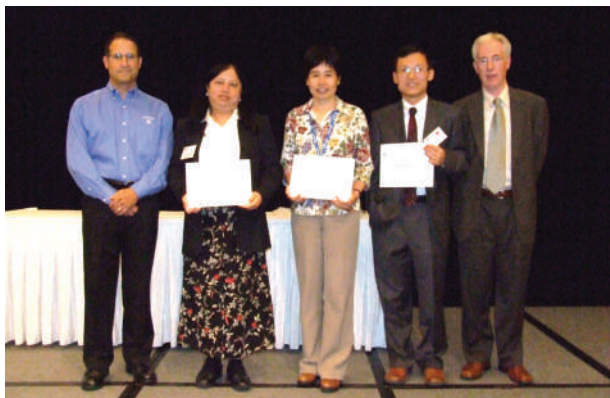
Richard Griffiths (Pfizer) chaired the judging team, and Joel Barrish (BMS), Jane Connor (MedImmune) and Cindy Willis (Amgen) had the honor of reviewing the posters and judging the competition at the Chantilly, Virginia Meeting. Monetary prizes were awarded at the Conference Banquet on September 23, 2008 by Nick Maragos of GE Healthcare.

First prize of \$2,500, for the poster representing research with the most therapeutic potential was awarded to L. Ruan et al, a team of scientists from the Institute for Nutritional Sciences, SIBS, Chinese Academy of Science and the Laboratory of Molecular Immunoregulation, NCI-Frederick for Poster A124: Formylpeptide receptor-like-1 mediates amyloid  $\beta$  induced inflammatory responses in Alzheimer's disease

Second prize of \$1000 went to the authors of Poster A126, written by L. Li and colleagues from Virginia Tech: Inflammatory signaling processes and cardiovascular complication.

Researchers representing Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals were awarded Third prize (\$500) for Poster A163: Protein kinase C $\theta$  regulates encephalitogenic autoimmune T cells in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis.

The IRA thanks GE Healthcare® for their ongoing support of this important tradition and competition that was open to authors of all posters detailing previously unpublished work, excluding those presented by the C. Gordon Van Arman Award Finalists. The first competition was held at the 9th International Conference in 1996 when three representatives of the IRA Board formed the judging panel and selected the three winners.



The GE Healthcare® Poster Awards: (L-R): N. Maragos, S. Desai, L. Ruan, L. Li, Richard Griffiths

## Acknowledgements

The Inflammation Research Association is grateful for the support of the following companies for the 15th International Conference and other scientific meetings throughout the year.

Abbott	Metabolon
Amgen	MD Biosciences, Inc
Array BioPharma	National Institutes of Health
Bristol-Myers Squibb	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases
Calvert Laboratories	Pfizer
Celgene	Rules Based Medicine
Charles River	Signal Pharmaceuticals
CombinatoRx	The Scientists
Lilly	Thomson Pharma
GE Healthcare	
HistoTox Labs, Inc	
Johnson & Johnson	

The Inflammation Research Association gratefully acknowledges the support and participation of these vendors during the 15th International Conference

Active Motif, Inc	HistoTox Labs
Amnis Coporation	Lovelace Respiratory Inst.
BIOMOL International, Inc	MD Biosciences, Inc
Bio-Quant, Inc	Metabolon
Birkhauser Publishing	MIR Preclinical Services
Calvert Laboratories	Premier Laboratory, LLC
Cayman Chemical Company	Ricera Biosciences, LLC
Charles River	Rules Based Medicine
eBiosciences	Seventh Wave
Emka Technologies, Inc	TNO
GE Healthcare	Ugo Basile North America, Inc
Helica Biosystems, Inc	Washington Biotechnology



## C. Gordon Van Arman Scholarship Winners

### Winners named for 2008 C. Gordon Van Arman scholarship awards

The C. Gordon Van Arman Scholarship Competition has become one of the highlights of the IRA International Conference. At the 2008 meeting in Chantilly, VA, a total of twenty-two entries were received from countries around the world, including the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, India, Iran, Pakistan, Kuala Lumpur, Nigeria and the United States. Several months prior to the meeting, each of the contestants submitted a mini-paper describing his or her work and after review of the mini-papers, five finalists were selected by the IRA Scholarship Committee.

The five finalists received financial support to attend the meeting and were welcomed by members of the Scholarship Committee and members of the IRA Board at a reception luncheon on Sunday, September 21, the opening day of the meeting. After lunch, the committee met with each of the contestants and engaged in a spirited scientific discussion of their work as described through a poster presentation. The final section of the competition involved a fifteen-minute oral presentation the following day that was open to all meeting attendees. This was particularly well attended and was a chance for the contestants to not only display their prowess with PowerPoint but also for them to demonstrate their breadth of scientific knowledge in response to questions from the audience.

The entries for the 2008 competition were of a very high standard making the Scholarship Committee's task of choosing a winner based on the mini-paper, the poster and oral presentations very difficult. However, after much discussion and a recount of the scores to make sure, Adam Hartigan from the University of Michigan was awarded the first prize of \$2000 for his work titled: The role of CC chemokine receptor 7 during invasive Aspergillosis. Second prize of \$1000 went to Ryan M. Porter, from Harvard University, for his presentation: Pro-inflammatory cytokines inhibit chondrogenesis of human mesenchymal stem cells through NF- $\kappa$ B dependent pathways. In third place (\$750) was Shahla Abdollahi-Roodsaz from Radboud University Medical Centre Nijmegen, The Netherlands for her presentation titled: Differential modulatory effects of TLR2 and TLR4 on T cell balance in experimental arthritis: possibilities for new therapeutic strategies.

Honorable mention awards of \$500 went to Daniel R Wahl from the University of Michigan who described his work on a new anti-inflammatory drug: Bz-423 Improves GVHD-associated Tissue Damage and Mortality by Specifically Targeting

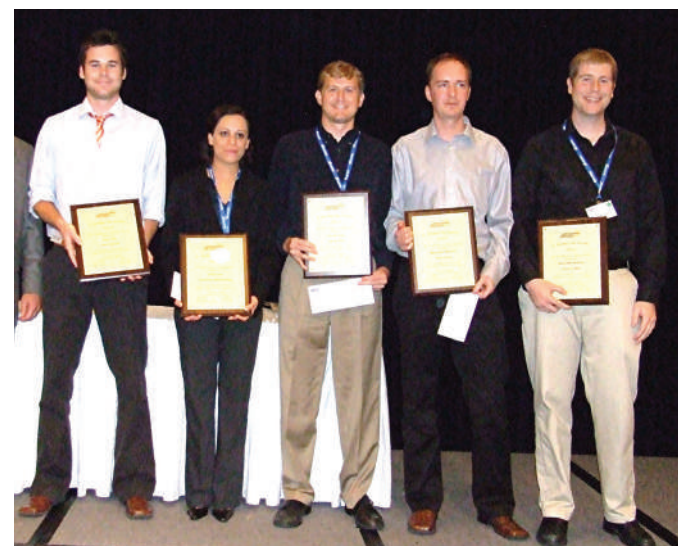
Effector T Cells, and to Swen Zierow, Yale University: Mapping the Binding of Macrophage Migration Inhibitory Factor (MIF) to the Chemokine Receptor CXCR4.

The prizes were presented at the conclusion of the Conference banquet on the final day of the meeting. The Scholarship Committee, Brydon Bennett, Joe Cornicelli, Matt Devalaraja, Dick Dyer, Jia En Chin, Loran Killar and Caralee Schaefer dedicated many hours before and during the Conference to the selection of the winners and my thanks go to both them and the contestants for making the competition this year an extra special one.

Jim Mobley, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee.



*Jim Mobley explains the Van Arman Scholarships*



*The 2008 Van Arman Scholars (L-R): Adam Hartigan, Shahla Abdollahi-Roodsaz, Ryan Porter, Swen Zierow and Dan Wahl*



## 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. Exciting topics are planned for the upcoming meetings so be sure to visit the IRA Web site, [www.inflammationresearch.org](http://www.inflammationresearch.org) for up-to-date information. Current plans include:

### INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

Sept. 16-18, 2009, St. Louis

The IRA is co-sponsoring a regional meeting with Seventh Wave Laboratories in St. Louis (MO) on September 14-16, 2009. The meeting will focus on Inflammatory Bowel Diseases and is co-chaired by Drs. John Sagartz from Seventh Wave and Tineke Meijers from TNO. Topics include Pathogenesis of IBD, Animal Models of IBD, Patients' Perspectives, Pharmacologic Intervention and Therapeutic Approaches. The meeting will be held at a down town hotel in St. Louis. Several social networking events are planned, including a baseball game (Florida Marlins vs. St. Louis Cardinals). Future announcements will be forthcoming as speakers and seminar titles are confirmed. To receive further announcements and meeting details, please send an email to [info@inflammationresearch.org](mailto:info@inflammationresearch.org). Cost is expected to be no more than \$125 per attendee.

### RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

November 2-3, 2009, San Diego

An IRA-sponsored meeting is planned for Nov 2-3, 2009, in La Jolla, CA, on the subject of "What underlying mechanisms cause rheumatoid arthritis?" Supported in part by Johnson & Johnson and chaired by Drs. Ann Welton and Lars Karlsson, Johnson & Johnson, the meeting will focus on exciting topics, including Lessons from Genetic Studies, Predictability of Animal Models, Translational Medicine and Future Directions. The meeting will be held at the Johnson & Johnson Research and Development site conference center in La Jolla, and features a plenary lecture/reception the evening of day 1, followed by a full day of meetings. Future announcements will be forthcoming as speakers and seminar titles are confirmed. Please send an email to [info@inflammationresearch.org](mailto:info@inflammationresearch.org) to receive further announcements and meeting details as they become available. Cost is expected to be no more than \$100 per attendee.

Do you have an idea for a relevant topic but don't know how to get started? Contact Andy Glasebrook ([AGLASE@LILLY.COM](mailto:AGLASE@LILLY.COM)) with your ideas for topics, presentations and relevant speakers, and see [www.inflammationresearch.org/meet-howto.html](http://www.inflammationresearch.org/meet-howto.html) for suggestions and guidelines as to initiating a Focused Topic Meeting.





## In Memoriam



**Santosh Nigam**, an internationally renowned researcher and physician, passed away on October 2, 2007, in Berlin. He was 65. Dr. Nigam had sarcoidosis and died while awaiting a heart/lung transplant.

Dr. Nigam was a founding member of the Eicosanoid Research Foundation and also of the International Conference on Bioactive Lipids in Cancer, Inflammation and related Diseases. His research interests were in studying the role of eicosanoids in breast and cervical cancers and the regulation of 12/15-lipoxygenase enzymes. He authored more than 120 research publications, was editor of 14 books and was an editorial board member of several scientific journals.

Born in Kanpur, India, Dr. Nigam received degrees in Food Technology and Chemistry and Biochemistry from the Technical University Berlin, and a degree in Medicine from the Free University Berlin. He received his PhD in Radiation Biology in 1976 from the Technical University of Berlin.



**Ronald L. (Ron) Magolda**, vice president for medicinal chemistry at Wyeth Research and member of the IRA, died unexpectedly on June 1, 2008. He was 54. Ron fell while riding his bicycle, ruptured his spleen and died while being flown to the hospital.

Ron was born in Vineland, N.J., and earned his B.S. in chemistry from Villanova University and his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania in 1981 under K. C. Nicolaou.

Ron worked for 18 years at DuPont Pharmaceuticals, advancing to director of anti-inflammatory disease research. From 1999 through 2003, Ron worked for Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals in Danbury, Conn., as director and head of discovery chemistry. He was most recently a vice president of medicinal chemistry at Wyeth Research. Ron organized and chaired sessions at many IRA-sponsored meetings, coauthored many scientific publications and held more than 50 patents.

## The Newsletter

Newsletter Editor:  
Howard Kartstein  
Metabolon  
[hkartstein@metabolon.com](mailto:hkartstein@metabolon.com)

Newsletter Design:  
Amy Clausen  
MD Biosciences, Inc  
[amy@mdbiosciences.com](mailto:amy@mdbiosciences.com)

## Company News & People on the Move

**Jim Ellis**, IRA Board Member, joined Sirtris, a GSK Company, in Cambridge, MA as Vice President of Preclinical Research. He is responsible for target research, pharmacology and safety/toxicology. Jim's new contact information is by email at [jellis@sirtrispharma.com](mailto:jellis@sirtrispharma.com).

**Lisa Marshall**, (former IRA Board Member & Officer) reports that she was voted Vice President of the International Association of Inflammation Societies at the 2007 World Congress. Email Lisa using [LMarsha8@its.jnj.com](mailto:LMarsha8@its.jnj.com).

**Bruce Tomczuk**, IRA Board Member, has joined Arginetix, Inc. as Vice-President, R&D. Arginetix is a start-up company focused on therapeutics for endothelial dysfunction, including pulmonary hypertension, ED, and atherosclerosis. Email Bruce at [btomczuk@arginetix.com](mailto:btomczuk@arginetix.com).

**Loran Killar** (former IRA Board Member & Officer) is entering the Physician Assistant program at Western Michigan University in September 2009. Loran remains involved in community service activities and is pleased to be starting her second career in Kalamazoo—the same city where she started her first career with The Upjohn Company! Stay in touch with Loran using [lorankillar@msn.com](mailto:lorankillar@msn.com).

**Dick Dyer** (former IRA Board Member & Officer) was appointed Executive Vice President of Product Development at Velcura Therapeutics in Ann Arbor. Dick leads Velcura's initiatives in inflammatory diseases and oversees programs to develop second-generation therapies for bone diseases. Previous to joining Velcura Dick was Vice President of Scientific Affairs and Development at TCH Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and prior to TCH, he was Director of Inflammation Molecular Sciences and Technology at Pfizer in Ann Arbor. He is also the sole proprietor for Dick's Pretty Good Garlic, an Ann Arbor based company that grows and markets organic garlic and other vegetables to local restaurants and farmer's markets. Dick's e-mail is [DrDickDyer@yahoo.com](mailto:DrDickDyer@yahoo.com) and he blogs at [NoTime4BlandFood.blogspot.com](http://NoTime4BlandFood.blogspot.com).

**Arpita Maiti**, Treasurer of the IRA, has relocated to Boston, Massachusetts to take the position of Associate Director, Strategic Research Alliances at Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Arpita can be reached at Vertex using [Arpita\\_Maiti@vrtx.com](mailto:Arpita_Maiti@vrtx.com) or by e-mailing [arpitamaiti@yahoo.ca](mailto:arpitamaiti@yahoo.ca).