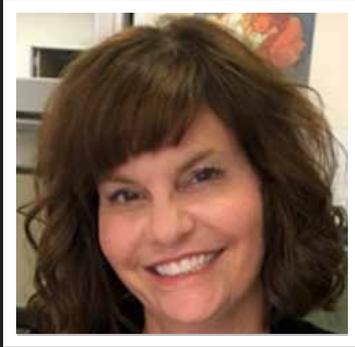


**JANUARY 2021
INFLAMMATION
RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Members, Colleagues, and Visitors,

What a time it is to be involved in inflammation research! In the midst of a global pandemic, we witness the horrific consequences of an emergent novel virus where the only certainty is the devastation it leaves in its wake. We are both relieved and excited by recent announcements on potentially efficacious vaccines developed by our peers across the globe. As inflammation researchers, drug developers and physicians, our collective knowledge, skills and expertise has never been more critically needed. On behalf of the Inflammation Research Association (IRA), I want to extend a warm welcome to all of you.

Just over 50 years ago, the IRA was founded with the singular goal of promoting greater collaboration and collegiality among scientists working in inflammation research. The IRA membership includes highly motivated and knowledgeable scientists from academic institutions, pharmaceutical and biomedical companies, and from clinical practice, representing bench to bedside and ensuring we remain at the cutting edge of inflammation research. The IRA is a 100% volunteer-run, nonprofit organization, its membership a community of experts serving, finding, promoting and advancing new therapeutic strategies to treat inflammation-related diseases. The scientific and technological discussions between our members remain fundamental to the discovery and development of new therapies for the expansive scope of inflammation-related indications. We deeply value the active participation and contributions from all our members, and we welcome new members at all stages of their career.

Like many scientific organizations, the IRA is adapting to the rapidly changing world around us – the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 nonprofits like ourselves. At the IRA, we see this as a unique opportunity to rejuvenate the association and our membership. We remain committed to bringing together researchers, clinicians and advocacy groups across the field of inflammation to advance the research and treatment of inflammation-related diseases. Indeed, in this strangest of years, 2020 marked the 50th anniversary of the IRA; this important milestone for our organization will be celebrated during our 21st International Conference, September 26-29, 2021 at The Elizabeth Hotel in Fort Collins, CO.

The 21st International Conference will provide a unique opportunity for networking, educational and scientific collaboration for academic, clinical, government, and industry professionals interested in inflammation research. Our conference will commence with a presentation from our distinguished keynote speaker, Dr. Jo Viney, PhD, President & CSO of Pandion Therapeutics. The Scientific Program will include high profile speakers presenting groundbreaking advances in both basic science research and clinical studies, and the always inspiring patient perspectives. We look forward to seeing you all at IRA2021 next September - in person!

On behalf of the officers and board of directors of the Inflammation Research Association, we sincerely appreciate your continued support and active participation.

With warm regards,
Caralee Schaefer

Caralee Schaefer, Ph.D..

President

Inflammation Research Association

President@inflammationresearch.org

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2020-2022 TERM OF THE IRA

Officers

President	Caralee Schaefer, PhD Xyphos Biosciences. president@inflammationresearch.org
Vice President	Alison O'Mahony, PhD Eurofins Discovery vicepresident@inflammationresearch.org
Secretary	Howard Kartstein Owlstone Medical Inc secretary@inflammationresearch.org
Treasurer	Dirk Smith, MSc. Cascadia Drug Development Group treasurer@inflammationresearch.org

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MEET THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Caralee Schaefer, PhD **IRA President**

Caralee is a translational research scientist with more than 20 years of pharmacology and drug development experience, and a particular focus on inflammation, autoimmunity, and fibrosis research. She has extensive in vivo proof-of-concept and target validation experience, including the establishment of robust and reproducible animal models for evaluating novel therapies. She has been a board member of the Inflammation Research Association since 2010, and in 2012 was elected an officer and is our current President. Caralee received her BA at Adrian College in Biology, and her PhD at Wayne State University in Immunology. After a post-doctoral fellowship at Parke-Davis/Warner Lambert, she joined Berlex Biosciences (1999-2007) and was responsible for leading a team of pharmacologists that evaluated novel therapeutics for inflammation, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, and inflammatory bowel disease. Caralee then joined Intermune (2008-2015), where she developed in vivo screening platforms for evaluating novel therapeutics for pulmonary, hepatic, dermal, and renal fibrosis. In 2015, Caralee joined Blade Therapeutics as the Senior Director of Pharmacology responsible for the preclinical development of novel antifibrotic compounds. She coordinated a diverse team of scientists to accomplish in vivo proof-of-concept and target validation studies for multiple fibrosis projects. She joined Indalo Therapeutics in 2018 as the Executive Director of Pharmacology and developed novel integrin antagonists for fibrotic diseases until Indalo's closure during the pandemic. Caralee then joined Xyphos Biosciences in 2020 as the Director of Preclinical Development where she is currently developing novel CAR-T cell therapies for cancer.



Alison O'Mahony, PhD **IRA Vice President**

Alison O'Mahony, PhD, is currently Vice President of Translational Biology in the Phenotypic Services Unit of Eurofins Discovery. In this role Alison serves on the leadership team for Phenotypic Services and



helps set commercial strategy and R&D initiatives. Alison is also a scientific lead supporting drug discovery and the application of the Eurofins BioMAP Phenotypic Platform. Alison has a PhD in immunology and over 25 years of expertise in cell biology, signal transduction, biomarker expression and phenotypic disease models. Her expertise in translational biology for autoimmunity, inflammation, fibrosis, immuno-oncology, oncology, cardiovascular, skin and pulmonary diseases and phenotypic safety has given Alison a uniquely effective perspective on drug discovery. Alison has led the development of numerous in vitro human disease models and is expert in analyzing and interpreting translational biomarker data in these model systems and providing valuable insights to collaborators. Prior to joining the BioMAP team, Alison was a Staff Investigator at the Gladstone Institutes at UCSF where her research focused on NF- κ B signaling in immune and neuronal cells. Alison received a PhD in Immunology from University Cork College, Ireland, and was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of California, Davis. She is a frequent speaker at national and international symposia, and serves on multiple Joint Steering Committees, Scientific Advisory Boards and other consultive roles. She has received multiple awards for her work and has published several peer-reviewed papers, book chapters and commentaries.

Fiona Kuo, PhD **IRA Director**

Fiona Kuo currently works as a Clinical Science Director in the Inflammation and Autoimmunity Group at Incyte Corporation. Dr. Kuo received her PhD in Pathology from the University of Rochester with a focus on understanding the mechanisms underlying inflammatory skin diseases. While at the University of Rochester, Fiona transitioned from basic to clinical science and supported clinical trials within the Department of Dermatology. Dr. Kuo has held positions of increasing responsibility at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Biogen Idec, and Akebia Therapeutics prior to joining Incyte. Throughout her career, Dr. Kuo has been committed to advancing our understanding of human disease and therapies for patients with unmet needs.



Howard Kartstein **IRA Secretary**

Howard Kartstein is part of the global business team at Owlstone Medical providing Breath Biopsy services and expertise to clinicians and researchers exploring breath-based biomarkers. Prior to joining Owlstone, Howard helped clinicians to identify Inherited Metabolic Disorders and resolve diagnostic odysseys at Metabolon Precision Medicine. Before (re)joining Metabolon, he managed a five-person sales team for Eurofins Pharma Discovery and directed client interactions for companies using Second Genome's microbiome profiling and analysis services. Howard was a member of the early business team at Metabolon developing the company's pharmaceutical and consumer health franchises and has worked in sales and marketing for product and service companies including Cerep, Genzyme, PerSeptive Diagnostics and Seragen. Howard received his degree in microbiology from the University of New Hampshire, his advisors including Richard Blakemore, William Chesbro, Denise Maratea, Tom Pistole and Robert Zsigray.



Wendy Peters, PhD **IRA Director**

Wendy has worked in Immunology research in the Bay area for over 20 years, first in academia, then in biotechnology companies and now large pharma. Wendy received her PhD in Immunology from Manchester University in the UK studying T cell subsets and susceptibility to Rheumatoid Arthritis. Her postdoctoral studies took place in the US at the Gladstone Institutes at UCSF, in the area of chemokines and infectious disease. She went on to join the Gladstone faculty and received NIH funding for her research on chemokines and Anthrax pathogenesis. In 2007 Wendy moved to industry and led research projects at Medimmune Vaccines working on the prevention of HSV-2, and at Bayhill Therapeutics examining the use of DNA vaccines for the treatment of autoimmune disease. This was followed by a position at the oral vaccine company Vaxart, Inc., where she led preclinical research on Influenza and HSV-2 vaccine programs. In 2015 she moved into business development and joined Sanofi's External Science and Partnering Group, where she was charged with the search and evaluation of external assets in the area of immunology and inflammation. Wendy is currently a Senior Director in the Emerging Science and Innovation group at Pfizer where she scouts for academic collaborations as well as partnerships in the preclinical biotech space.



Michael Howell, PhD **IRA Director**

Michael Howell joined DermTech in August 2020 as Chief Scientific Officer. Prior to joining DermTech, Dr. Howell was the translational research lead at Incyte Corporation for Inflammation and Autoimmunity, where he drove the strategic expansion of the company's pipeline in dermatology and other immunological disorders. He has previously held roles within the pharmaceutical industry of increasing responsibility at Boehringer Ingelheim, Immune Tolerance Network, and MedImmune/AstraZeneca. Before transitioning to the pharmaceutical industry, Dr. Howell served as a faculty member in the Division of Allergy and Immunology at National Jewish Health where he was a Co-Investigator for the Atopic Dermatitis Vaccinia/Research Network. Throughout his career, Dr. Howell has combined clinical, translational, and basic science approaches to identify personalized medicine approaches to treat inflammatory and immunological diseases. His efforts have led to the approval of multiple therapies, novel diagnostic approaches to patient treatment, and have been highlighted in more than 50 publications and numerous patents. Dr. Howell received his PhD in Immunology from West Virginia University School of Medicine and completed his post-doctoral training at National Jewish Health.



Dirk Smith, MSc **IRA Treasurer**

Dirk Smith is a Founding Partner of the Cascadia Drug Development Group, a biotech consultancy established in 2017 and based in Seattle, Washington. Dirk was previously a Scientific Director in the Inflammation Research group at Amgen where he led research programs from discovery to clinical testing. He was Global Research Leader for AMG 282, a first-in-class, IL-33 receptor antibody for respiratory disease. He has a strong interest in innate immunity, mucosal biology, human genetics and cytokine-related pharmacology. Prior to Amgen, Dirk was in the Molecular Biology group at Immunex and also performed basic oncology research at The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. Dirk received his BSc. in Microbiology and Molecular Biology from Washington State University and his MSc. in Genetics from the University of New Hampshire. He has published over 45 scientific research and review articles, been granted several patents and is frequently invited to speak at international conferences. Dirk serves as an external committee member for WSU and Fred Hutchinson commercialization funds and is a member of the Life Science Washington Institute WIN Mentoring Program. He teaches a course on Drug Discovery of Biologics for the University of Washington Master's program in Pharmaceutical Bioengineering.



**Heather Jones, RN
IRA Director**

Heather Jones, RN is currently Senior Director, Global Medical Affairs Lead in Inflammation and Autoimmunity at Incyte Corporation. Heather has over 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry and has been in a Global Medical Affairs role for the past twelve years. In her current role, Heather provides medical and strategic leadership for Incyte's Immunology and Autoimmunity programs across multiple therapeutic areas, leading global launches and lifecycle management. She helps to understand major unmet medical needs and the evolving medical environment including Health Care Provider and patient perspectives, as well as regulatory and access dynamics to create a cohesive global medical plan. She leads evidence generation activities including independent research, research collaborations, non-interventional and interventional studies and post-hoc data generation. Heather has published extensively across rheumatology, dermatology and patient quality of life.



**Siquan Sun, PhD
IRA Director**

Siquan Sun, Ph.D. is a group leader within Janssen Immunology Discovery where he leads a team focused on early drug discovery in innate immunity. Siquan joined the Immunology team at Johnson & Johnson in La Jolla in 1998 to build and lead an in vivo pharmacology group. He has since led multiple programs in discovery of several New Molecular Entities accepted for clinical development. Siquan is a member of Janssen Immunology Discovery Senior Leadership Team, and contributed to a number of key internal and external efforts in the past years, including as a Janssen liaison in The RNAi Consortium 3 (TRC3) at Broad Institute, as the leader of JNJPRD/Sanford-Burnham Inflammation Screening Alliance, and research collaborations with academic KOLs at University of Michigan, NYU and HHMI. He has mentored three postdoc fellows and has 50 peer-reviewed publications and a book chapter, and 16 patents or patent applications. Siquan earned his undergraduate degree at University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China. He subsequently earned his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology at Mayo Graduate School, Rochester, Minnesota. Prior to join J&J, Siquan did his postdoctoral training in Cellular Immunology with Dr. Jon Sprent at The Scripps Research Institute.



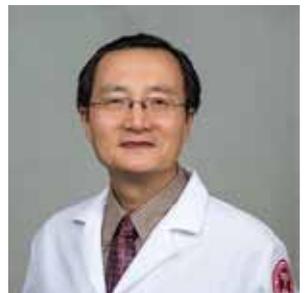
**Caitlin SL Parello, PhD
IRA Director**

Caitlin SL Parello, PhD is a translational immunologist with a strong background in preclinical experimental design and execution in hypothesis testing of therapeutic efficacy and mechanism of action. She has been a board member of the Inflammation Research Association since 2018. Caitlin received her BS in Biology from the University of Florida (Gainesville) and her PhD in Pathology/Immunology from Boston University School of Medicine, where she was an NIH-funded pre-doctoral fellow and Russek award winner. Her post-doctoral studies were completed under the mentorship of Eric Huseby at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where she focused on the development of a clinically relevant, humanized murine model of Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis (EAE) as a conduit for assessing interventions for multiple sclerosis (MS). Caitlin joined Biomodels, LLC, in 2016 as an Associate Scientist, where she led the establishment of Biomodels' germ-free/gnotobiotic murine isolator facility. She is currently a Senior Scientist and the Associate Director of in vitro Studies at Biomodels – she leads the in vitro team and designs, manages, and executes in vivo and in vitro modeling experiments in the autoimmune/autoinflammatory disease space, with a particular focus on the role of the microbiome in these illnesses.



**Xiao-Feng Yang, MD, PhD
IRA Director**

Xiao-Feng Yang is a physician scientist with over 40 years of broad research experience focused on the immunological mechanisms underlying regulation of vascular inflammation, endothelial activation, monocyte differentiation, atherosclerosis, lung inflammation, chronic kidney disease, diabetes/obesity, antigen-mediated immune responses, and CD4+Foxp3+ regulatory T cells (Treg). He has published 187 peer-reviewed publications in high impact journals with more than more than 8,500 citations. Dr. Yang has successfully trained more than 50 physicians, surgeons, post-doctoral fellows and PhD students. He is a tenured Professor at Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine and serves as Director, Faculty Mentoring Program and Director, Graduate Education, Cardiovascular Research Center. Dr. Yang received his MD from Nanchang University School of Medicine, China, and his PhD from University of Montreal and completed his post-doctoral training at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.



Providing Factual Information for the Non-Scientist: COVID-19

Over the years, friends and family have often asked me for guidance on inflammatory related conditions. At no time in my career have I received more inquiries than during this COVID-19 pandemic. There is so much information (and misinformation) out there it can be overwhelming even for us in the field. An obvious piece of advice I provide is to get your information from reliable sources such as the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/> and the World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>. Be careful with social media posts as these are rarely vetted. Information from CDC and WHO is prepared by scientific experts and geared to explain the complexities of the science to the general public and these sites also provide information on general precautions and travel advisories.

For tracking COVID-19 infections I recommend the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine site <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>. The most common questions I received over the summer were centered around the early clinical data from the first vaccine trials. I typically respond that I am cautiously optimistic as early trials rely on small numbers of volunteers and represent a narrow range of ages and

ethnicities. Only time will tell as these trials include larger and more diverse populations. Others ask about the side effects that have been reported. Generally, these have been mild and are often seen in many vaccine trials since what we are trying to do is boost the immune system and fever, chills, discomfort at the site of the injection and a general achy feeling can be considered a sign of inducing an immune reaction. Thankfully as the end of 2020 approached it looks as though there may be multiple options to vaccination. However, wearing masks, hand washing, and social distancing remain important to preventing the spread of this respiratory infection. Lastly, I always stress that any information I provide is my opinion only and please listen to qualified health professionals in the field of infectious disease and experts in viral diseases.

Stay informed and stay safe!

Lisa Schopf, PhD
Past President of the Inflammation Research Association
#istandwithfauci

Lisa Schopf, PhD IRA Director

Lisa Schopf has a broad drug development background spanning both small biotechnology and large pharma settings. She has had leadership roles in transitioning projects from early discovery into development with over 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry focused in inflammatory diseases, immunology, and pharmacology. Lisa is currently Senior Director and Project Lead at Pfizer in the Department of Inflammation and Immunology. Her work is focused on bringing new therapies for RA, IBD, vitiligo and fibrosis to the clinic. As Vice President and Head of Preclinical Development at Vedanta Biosciences her team was focused on pioneering a novel class of therapies that modulate pathways of interaction between the human microbiome and the host immune system. Lisa previously served as the Senior Director of Preclinical Development at clinical-stage pharmaceutical company Kala Pharmaceuticals, focused on innovative nanoparticle-based treatments for ocular diseases affecting both the front and back of the eye. She has worked at Virdante Pharmaceuticals, Abbott Bioresearch Center, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, The US Department of Agriculture and Genetics Institute. Lisa received her B.S. in Biology/Chemistry from Carroll College, her M.S. in Bacteriology and her Ph.D. in Immunology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Lisa has been a board member of the Inflammation Research Association since 2004, and served as Secretary (2010-2012), Treasurer (2012-2014), Vice-President (2014-2016) and President (2016-2018).



**21st International meeting of the Inflammation Research Association
Rescheduled to September 2021 | Fort Collins, CO**



The IRA board and organizing committee have made the decision to postpone our 21st International Conference originally scheduled in September 2020 to September 2021. We made this decision to ensure the safety of our speakers, attendees, and exhibitors as well as the success of the meeting itself. The rescheduled meeting will be hosted by the Elizabeth Hotel in Fort Collins, CO and Jo Viney, PhD, CSO and Co-Founder of Pandion Therapeutics will open the conference with the keynote address on September 26, 2021.



Dr. Jo Viney, PhD
President & CSO
Pandion Therapeutics

The theme of the conference is Inflammation 2.0: Unmet Needs in Inflammation Research, and the meeting will feature cutting-edge work in inflammation research with scientific sessions including basic science, early discovery, translational science and clinical research.

Preliminary Scientific Program

- Emerging Strategies in the Discovery of Inflammation Therapy
- Translational Research and Innovative Technologies
- New Frontiers in Systems Immunology: How new technologies and AI can guide therapeutics discovery & development
- New Approaches in Controlling IBD by Targeting the Epithelial Barrier
- COVID-19: A Special Session
- Novel approaches for immune modulation to boost immunity or prevent disease
- Emerging Therapeutic Strategies in Inflammation: New Drugs and Novel Approaches
- Networking/Meet the Professor and Professional
- Patient Perspectives in Atopic Dermatitis
- Selected Presentations from Award-winning Posters

Time	Day	Sunday Sept. 26 th , 2021	Monday Sept. 27 th , 2021	Tuesday Sept. 28 th , 2021	Wednesday Sept. 29 th , 2021
8:00 – 10:00 am	Arrival		Session I: Emerging Strategies in the Discovery of Inflammation Therapy - Liwu Li and Wendy Peters	Session V – Selected Talks from Poster Abstracts - Sharlene Velichko	Session IX: Novel approaches for immune modulation to boost immunity or prevent disease – Dirk Smith
10:00 – 10:30 am			Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
10:30 – 12:30 am			Session II: New Frontiers in Systems Immunology: How new technologies and AI can guide therapeutics discovery & development - Arpita Maiti and Kellie Kravarik	Session VI: COVID-19 - Siquan Sun and Joel Tocker	Session X: Emerging Therapeutic Strategies in Inflammation: New Drugs and Novel Approaches - Laura Carter, Xiao Hu and Miguel Sanjuan
12:30 – 1:30 am			Lunch & Learn (Sponsor Opportunity)	Lunch & Learn (Sponsor Opportunity)	IRA2020 Closing Remarks
1:30 – 3:30 pm			Session III: Translational Research and Innovative Technologies – Fiona Kuo	Session VII: Networking - MTP - Lisa Marshall	Departure
3:30 – 4:00 pm			Session IV: New Approaches in Controlling IBD by Targeting the Epithelial Barrier - Lisa Schopf	Session VIII: Patient Advocacy - Heather Jones	
4:00 – 6:00 pm					
6:00 to 6:30 pm			IRA2020 Opening Remarks	Poster Viewing Exhibitor Visits Cocktail reception	50 th Anniversary Banquet
6:30 to 7:30 pm			IRA2020 Keynote Address Dr. Jo Viney, PhD		
8pm – 11 pm			Cocktail reception		

We will communicate further guidance as it becomes available and look forward to your participation.

Providers and vendors – Contact the [IRA2020/21 Exhibits Committee](#) to register your interest.

Why I am a member of the IRA?

Michael Howell - As an immunologist, I believe that inflammation plays a central role in every known human disease including autoimmune diseases, allergic diseases, and cancer. I've personally spent more than 20 years investigating the mechanisms and inflammatory pathways underlying disease with a goal of identifying therapies to treat those suffering from disease. I'm a member of the Inflammation Research Association because it brings together individuals from different backgrounds and therapeutic areas who share a similar passion and goal.



Heather Jones - I joined the IRA after seeing my mentor's active participation in the organization. Lisa Marshall gave me the inspiration and direction to move forward in my career in immunology and the IRA was the perfect forum to elevate my passion and appreciation for the field. The IRA facilitates an avenue for industry to come together with academia, generating a unique opportunity to connect basic science with patient unmet needs. The Association has always been supportive of my development within the immunology community and offered me the opportunity to lead the "Patient Perspectives" sessions during the 2015 conference. Coming from a patient-focused clinical background, being indoctrinated into the world of discovery via the IRA has helped heighten my understanding of how to better collaborate from "bench to bedside" and develop better therapies for patients in need.

Fiona Kuo - It was in 2012 at the 17th IRA meeting that I presented my graduate research project in the Van Arman Poster Competition and received 3rd Prize. That was the moment I realized that sharing research ideas and engaging with a group of scientists with different research backgrounds can be such a joyful experience. Years after completion of graduate school training and then joining industry, with a passion for science, I first volunteered in 2019 and look forward to working with IRA colleagues supporting scientific programming and outreach activities.



Alison O'Mahony - Connections, contacts, content, collaboration, collegiality – benefits listed for most, if not all professional organizations. These are not only priority goals for the Inflammation Research Association but are guaranteed deliverables. My introduction to this organization was at the 2008 International Conference in Chantilly, VA. Not knowing a single person in the association my expectations were low and I ended up meeting people who were engaged, informed and interested in all aspects of inflammation biology. I joined and became an active member right then and there. The IRA membership truly spans the inflammation pipeline from the lab to the market and bridges the scope from bench to bedside with members from academia, industry and in my case, the scientific service/CRO side. This means the organization serves as

360° hub of researchers, developers and clinicians enabling connections and collaborations to explore inflammation biology and improve patient outcomes. Looking for a collaborator, connecting with a client or networking for a new position, all are supported through IRA membership. While the biennial International Conference is the pinnacle event of the organization, these resources are available all year round. Hands down, the IRA is the organization I enjoy and participate in the most. I look forward to connecting with new and existing members virtually in the hope that we can all meet in-person at the next conference in Fort Collins, CO in September 2021.

Wendy Peters - I was inspired to join the IRA as it provides a unique environment for academic scientists and industry researchers to exchange ideas and further scientific understanding of chronic inflammatory diseases. Through my current role in pharmaceutical business development I appreciate more than ever that collaboration is essential to bring new and improved therapies to patients. It's clear that the discovery and development of transformational therapies is not achieved by working in silos, but by communities of scientists working together. It's also apparent that mentoring and being mentored are crucial to developing talented passionate scientists that will bring about new breakthroughs. The IRA is the perfect forum to initiate these interactions and I'm excited to be a contributor.



Siqian Sun - I have attended several IRA meetings including the one hosted by Janssen at its La Jolla campus, and have always enjoyed sharing ideas and learning from industrial and academic colleagues at these meetings. The IRA has always provided opportunities to interact with leaders in the field of inflammation research, and several Janssen scientists including Alison Budelsky, Anne Fourie and Joel Tocker, when they were working at JNJ, served on the IRA Board. Following in the footsteps of my JNJ colleagues, I hope to contribute to the common goal of improving the understanding and therapeutic control of inflammatory diseases.

5 great reasons to join the Inflammation Research Association

1. We embrace all areas of research relevant to inflammation

Inflammation is a core process of immunology and our members research multiple areas relevant to inflammation science including oncology, tissue homeostasis, autoimmune and infectious diseases

2. The IRA lies at the intersection of industry and academia

Our membership is made up of academics, clinicians and industry scientists who share an interest in advancing inflammation research - both basic and applied. Joining the IRA is a great way to tap into this fruitful cross-pollination among our membership

3. The IRA is a great source of camaraderie, mentoring and connections

Our organization is all about connections, both professional and social. We offer access to mentoring and career opportunities, and our regional, national and international meetings are great opportunities to expand your inflammation network

4. Opportunity for leadership

The IRA provides several opportunities to take on leadership roles, to help organize meetings and to share your ideas. We welcome all input and support a holistic appreciation for inflammation research

5. 50 years of history!

The IRA celebrated 50 years in 2020 and this is perfect time to join, to participate in our anniversary meeting in 2021 and to join us in celebrating the science of inflammation



Letter from the outgoing President

Dear Colleagues,

It has been an exciting journey together with you over the last two years. Along the way, the inflammation research community witnessed tremendous growth responding to ever-changing challenges, some of which I will highlight briefly in this letter.

With the collective effort from our board members as well as fantastic local organizers headed by Dr. Xiao-Feng Yang and Dr. Hong Wang at Temple University, we held a successful and highly integrated scientific meeting in Philadelphia, with an enthusiastic attendance from both the academic and industrial research communities. Our meeting featured exciting topics that not only described fundamental advances in inflammation research, but also provided practical guidance for inflammation-related issues of human health and disease such as the benefit of high quality sleep, balanced diet, as well as tried-and-true friendship and good spirit.

We also put tremendous efforts into organizing the 50th anniversary meeting originally planned for the autumn of 2020 and coordinated by Caralee Schaefer and Alison O'Mahony. The unprecedented global pandemic forced us to delay the much-anticipated gathering and celebration to September 2021, however, it also presented a unique opportunity for the inflammation research community to unite for

the common cause of exploring the intriguing connection between infection and inflammation.

The IRA, to better reflect our committed value, re-vamped our organization's logo, improving on the traditional design by infusing our mission of "connecting discovery & cure". Together with the new officers and board members, I am confident that the IRA mission will be carried to new levels in future years.

As we pass the torch to the next board, we rest assured that our cherished Inflammation Research Association will be in good position to heed the challenges and changing landscape of translational inflammation research. Together, this community will make a lasting impact through the incubation and exchange of novel ideas that are necessary for solving the pressing issues of both acute and chronic inflammatory diseases, as well as training the next generation of inflammation scientists in academic institutions and the pharmaceutical industries.

Sincerely yours,

Liwu Li

Liwu Li, PhD

Immediate Past President,
Inflammation Research Association



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

The Inflammation Research Association is a collegial, dynamic non-profit organization dedicated to engaging and encouraging scientists, researchers, students, teachers and clinicians with an interest in inflammation biology. Our mission is to foster and facilitate a more informed, connected and collaborative community researching and developing new therapeutic strategies for complex and diverse inflammation-related diseases. IRA members include a mix of industry, academic, government, and non-profit scientists dedicated to cutting edge inflammation research. As a member, you will be part of a large and supportive network

and community. Membership provides discounted registration fees for IRA hosted meetings, access to the interactive jobs board, and affiliation in the community of researchers and clinicians at the cutting edge of science in the broad field of inflammation. Your membership also includes access to the IRA networking platform connecting peers for career advancement and research expertise and knowledge; voting privileges in society elections; opportunities to join the IRA Board and take part in leading the IRA into its next 50 years; and opportunities to develop regional symposia and workshops.

Existing member? Update your profile so colleagues with similar interests can connect.





15th World Congress on Inflammation

New Frontiers in Inflammation:
from Translational Research to Clinic

September 5th-8th
2021 Rome
Ergife Hotel Palace



PLENARY LECTURES

Inflammation, a metanarrative
from cancer to COVID-19
Alberto Mantovani, Italy

Gilz and Gitr in control of inflammatory
and autoimmune reactions
Carlo Riccardi, Italy

The 15th World Congress on Inflammation (WCI2021) is scheduled 5-8 September 2021 in Rome, Italy with sessions taking place at the Ergife Palace Hotel and Conference Center. The Congress, co-organized by the International Association of Inflammation Societies (IAIS) and the Italian Society of Pharmacology (SIF) will bring together researchers, clinicians, industry representatives, advocacy groups, and decision-makers across the field of inflammation. WCI2021 will feature the latest developments in basic, translational and clinical research on inflammation, including cell biology, signalling, genetic, inflammatory/autoimmune diseases, new biomarkers and new therapeutic approaches for human diseases.

The biennial WCI Congress brings together the member Scientific Societies within the International Association of Inflammation Societies and represents a key opportunity to share knowledge across borders and professional disciplines as we work toward a common goal of improving the understanding and therapeutic control of inflammatory diseases.

The congress will enhance the international community's knowledge base and will provide new opportunities for international collaboration.

**IMPORTANT DATES
TO REMEMBER**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND REGISTRATION ARE OPEN

<https://wci2021.org/call-for-abstracts/>

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS CLOSING

January 31st 2021

NOTIFICATION TO AUTHORS

April 30th 2021

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE

April 30th 2021

SPEAKER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

June 15th 2021

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

June 30th 2021

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Andy Glasebrook, past President of the IRA (2010 – 2012) retired from Eli Lilly & Co., after nearly 33 years of service and is sharing his expertise through his consulting company AGbio Consulting LLC. The lure of drug development was strong, however, and Andy accepted the position of Vice President, Autoimmune Drug Development at Toralgen in July 2020. Contact Andy via LinkedIn.

Caralee Schaefer, IRA President, joined Xyphos Biosciences in 2020 as the Director of Preclinical Development where she is currently developing novel CAR-T cell therapies for cancer. Contact Caralee at president@inflammationresearch.org.

Jim Mobley is Founder and CEO of Inflammix in Jackson, MI. You can contact Jim using jmobley@Inflammix.com.

Joel Tocker, past President of the IRA (2014 – 2016) is now Project Leader Innate Immunity Research Unit at GSK in Philadelphia. Joel's email address is joel.x.tocker@gsk.com.

Michael Howell has joined DermTech in La Jolla, California as the Chief Scientific Officer. Email Michael using mhowell@dermtech.com.

Richard Griffiths, past President of the IRA (2004 – 2006) has retired from Pfizer after 28 years spanning research to business development. Richard is helping to look after his four-year-old granddaughter until life gets back to normal and traveling the world resumes. Contact Richard at richardgriffiths778@gmail.com.

In Memoriam – Wes Westlin

William F. “Wes” Westlin, III, Ph.D., passed away on Oct. 20, 2020, at age 60. Wes was a long-time member of the IRA, a Board Member and an active participant in our biennial meetings.

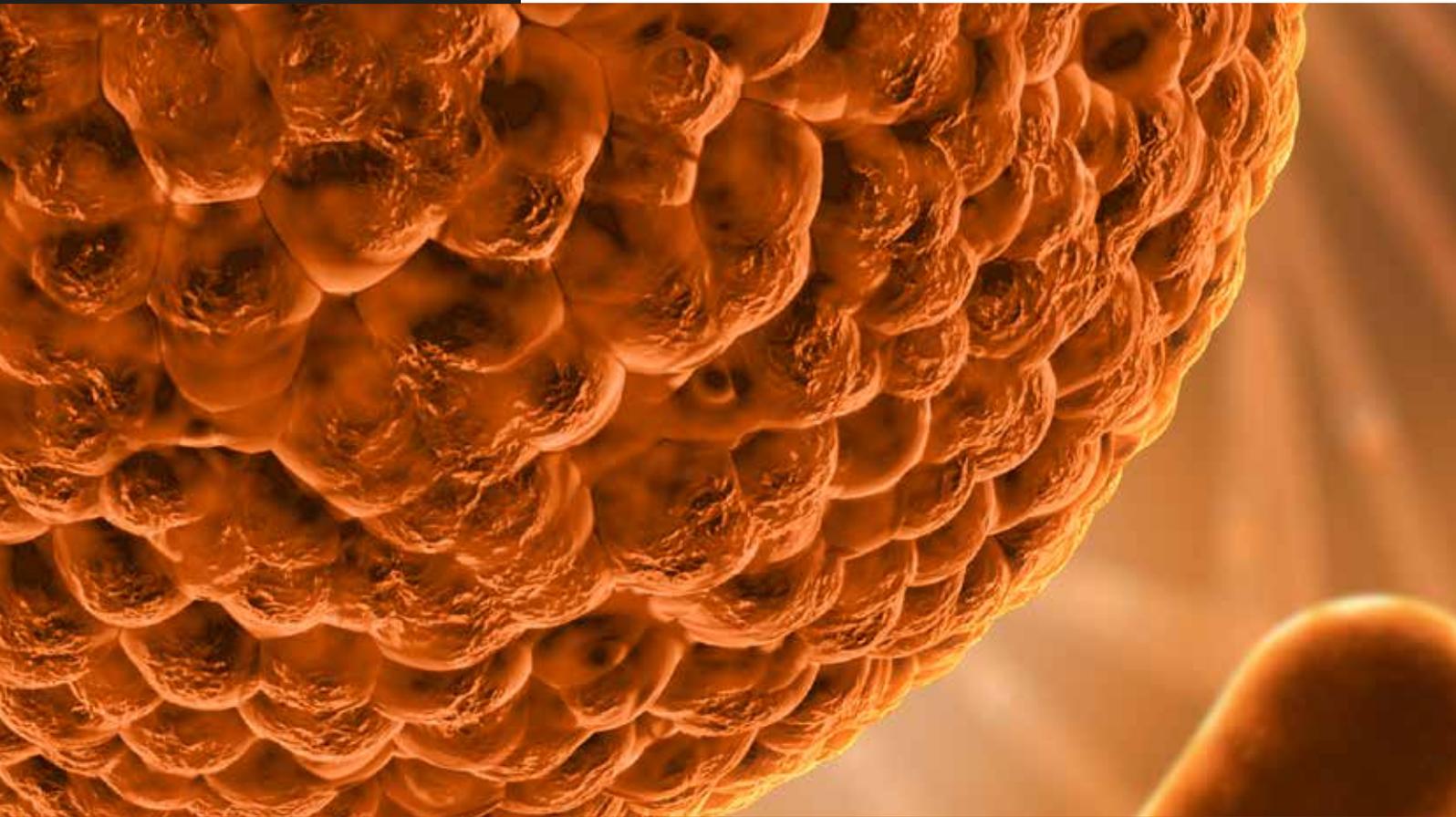
A graduate of the University of Richmond who received his Ph.D. in Pharmacology from New York Medical College, Wes built an impressive scientific career working for several pharmaceutical and biotech companies, including Searle, Monsanto and Pharmacia in Missouri, and Praecis Pharmaceuticals, Avila Therapeutics and Nimbus Therapeutics in Massachusetts. Most recently, he served as Chief Scientific Officer at eGenesis.

According to his obituary on Legacy.com, “One of Wes’s proudest achievements was developing a drug at Nimbus to treat liver disease, the condition that took his mother’s life. Wes was passionate about his work and dedicated himself to improve the lives of others through science.”

Wes is survived by his wife Marisa; his son William and daughter Christiana; his sisters Robin, Heidi and Holly and many other family members and friends. Donations in his memory can be made through <http://because.massgeneral.org/WilliamWestlin>.



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.



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