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ISICR
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR INTERFERON AND CYTOKINE RESEARCH

January 2003
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Milstein Award

David Levy
Ganes Sen

Honorary Membership Award

Michel Revel

Special Recognition Award

Philip Marcus

The Christina Fleischmann Memorial Award

Deborah Hodge

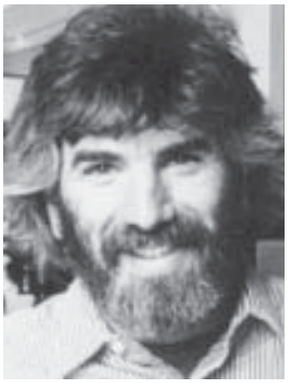
Milstein Young Investigator Awards

Kate Fitzgerald
Ana Gamero
Christopher D. Krause
Karen Mossman
Koen Vanderbroeck

An Interview with David Levy

Thomas Tan

Dr. David Levy is a member of the faculty of the Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences at New York University School of Medicine where he is Professor of Pathology and holds the Dr. Louis A. Schneider Endowed Chair in Molecular Pathology. He is also a member of the Adjunct Faculty of the Rockefeller University. He serves as Associate Director of the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Training Program, Codirector of the Training Program on Virus-Host Interactions, Graduate Advisor of the Molecular Oncology and Immunology Training Program, and as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Research Computing Resource. Dr. Levy obtained his PhD degree in Molecular Biology from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, in 1985. He was awarded a NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship for the period 1984-87, which was spent at the laboratory of Dr. James Darnell at the Rockefeller University. Dr. Levy is a co-recipient of the 2002 ISICR Milstein Award, which he shares with Dr. Ganes Sen (see article in this issue). Research in Dr. Levy's lab focuses on the biochemistry of IFN gene induction in response to virus infection, the signal transduction pathway through which IFN activates subsequent gene expression, the mechanism of action of IFN-induced proteins, and the role of STAT proteins in innate immunity, cell growth, and malignancy. He is the author of over 100 research publications, review and book chapters. He is currently co-editing a review book to mark the 10th anniversary of the biochemical characterization of STAT proteins, along with Pravin Sehgal and Toshio Hirano.



Dr. David Levy

1. Congratulations on receiving the Milstein Award this year. Can you recap for us how did you first find out about the news?

I received a phone call from Keiko Ozato, the president of the ISICR and a longtime colleague and collaborator. It was a particular honor to receive the Milstein Prize during her tenure as president, because of our longstanding scientific relationship relating to studies on IFN-γ signaling and the role of IRF proteins.

2. What was it like to be a biology student in Knoxville, and how did the experience influence you to choose molecular biology as your PhD focus?

Knoxville did not have a strong program in basic biology research, but I had the good fortune to work for a time with Alan Solomon, a hematologist at the University Hospital. Alan treated patients with multiple myeloma and studied the biology of immunoglobulin gene expression, particularly light gene expression that contributed to Bence-Jones proteinuria. He introduced me to the concept of using an "experiment of nature" to elucidate biological processes. Because of the monoclonal nature of the disease, we were able to isolate pure populations of individual immunoglobulin molecules for physical and biochemical studies. You must remember that this was in the days before hybridoma technology, so the use of myeloma patient samples was the only source of "monoclonal" antibodies. It was also Alan Solomon who first suggested studying at Rockefeller University, where he had been a fellow with Henry Kunkel. However, when it came time for me to choose a graduate program, I decided to try Caltech instead of Rockefeller, partly because of the excitement of the interdisciplinary nature of Caltech that included physics and engineering and partly to give living in California a try.

3. You had two advisors at Caltech and were a visiting graduate fellow at the department of Molecular Biology at the Research Institute of Scripps Clinic?

At Caltech, I actually worked with three different labs. I began my studies with Bill Dreyer, but soon the focus of my studies switched to the role of endogenous retroviruses in mouse biology. Therefore, I switched to Norman Davidson who was an expert retrovirologist, though his emphasis was on feline leukemia viruses at the time. Actually, during this time, Norman was nearing retirement and decided to switch the focus of his lab entirely to problems in neurobiology, particularly the molecular genetics and biochemistry of gated channels.

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Because I wanted to continue my studies of mouse retroviruses, he suggested that I study with Richard Lerner at the Scripps Clinic (now The Scripps Research Institute) in La Jolla. Richard, with his colleague Michael Wilson, were studying the control of endogenous retroviral gene expression in mice, and I joined their effort because it was very similar to the project I had undertaken at Caltech which was to understand the regulation and role of retroviruses in murine tumors.

4. Did you enjoy your time at Scripps?

I initially went to Scripps for the summer, to establish a collaboration with Richard and Michael on the study of retroviral gene expression. However, the work quickly expanded into a more comprehensive study, and I decided to remain at Scripps for the duration of my Ph.D. Perhaps it didn't hurt that our lab at Scripps overlooked the Pacific Ocean from high on the Torrey Pines plateau, allowing a daily run through Torrey Pines Park and along Blacks Beach. Actually, I spent a very exciting scientific time in La Jolla. Scripps and the La Jolla scientific community offered a very congenial but aggressive atmosphere for doing research, and I made many friends and colleagues during my stay there in addition to Richard and Michael, including Michael Oldstone, Ron Evans, Goef Rosenfeld, Rick Firtel, Ron Ogata, Greg Sutcliffe, and Frank Dixon, to name just a few.

We analyzed the basis for both global and tissue specific regulation of endogenous retroviral gene expression. We found that transcription of multiple, independent retroviral sequences in the mouse genome was controlled by a master regulatory gene that governed the overall level of gene expression from all loci. In addition, different individual viral integrations were expressed in distinct tissues, also through transcriptional control. We cloned and sequenced several of these viral sequences and found that the promoter/enhancer elements contained in their long terminal repeats differed from one another, correlating with their distinct patterns of tissue specific expression.

5. Where were you on Sept 11th?

On 9/11, I was in my lab at New York University School of Medicine, as usual for a Tuesday morning. I had just returned from holiday in Scotland and England two days before. I first heard about the terrorist attacks from an email news bulletin from CNN just before 9 (at that time, it was thought to be an accident involving a small private plane), and we spent the rest of the day monitoring the unfolding events, mostly through the BBC and NPR web sites. We soon lost phone service, including cellular service, but the internet remained functional, although many news sites became inaccessible due to the shear volume of internet traffic. NYU is responsible for Bellevue Hospital, the Manhattan county hospital. Throughout the day, the University and the Hospital stayed on high alert, waiting for the arrival of victims from the attack. First Avenue was closed to allow easy access of ambulances, and a system to use water ambulances on the East River was established. Unfortunately, due to the paucity of survivors, very few patients arrived, and we experienced an unreal and somewhat unnerving calm as the entire city became silent. Of course, no airplanes were flying except a few F-16s from the Air Force, all the bridges and tunnels into and out of Manhattan were closed, and soon a dark yellow cloud of smoke starting floating through the sky, so the whole city took on an eerie silence.

6. Can you give us your perspective on how New Yorkers coped with the tragedies that occurred on Sept 11? Was it tough going to work during such a time?

Everyone coped with this event in a different way. Of course, New York is a resilient city, and people are used to dealing with anything that comes along, but this has been very difficult. One of my colleagues in the lab spent the day waiting for news from her husband who worked in the financial district. Fortunately, he showed up in the lab late in the afternoon, having walked all the way after his building was evacuated. Of course, other people, both here at NYU and friends and acquaintances at other places, were not so lucky. In spite of the large and diverse nature of New York City, everyone was touched by these events in some way, many experiencing very personal losses. It is still difficult when a plane flies overhead.

7. Can you describe the Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences and what is its place in relation to NYU?

The Sackler Institute runs graduate education at New York University School of Medicine in association with

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the main campus of New York University. The Medical School is primarily responsible for undergraduate medical education and awards an M.D. degree, while the Sackler Institute awards a Ph.D. and administers all aspects of graduate education in basic biomedical sciences.

8. While a postdoc in the laboratory of Dr. James Darnell, what were your research projects?

I was fortunate to arrive in Jim's lab at a wonderful and productive time. His lab had just started working on IFN as a basic research problem. Jim's interest in IFN stemmed from a basic desire to understand how gene expression was controlled at the transcriptional level. He had been studying tissue specific gene expression with an emphasis on the liver, finding that a large number of genes are expressed uniquely in that organ. However, trying to elucidate the biochemical mechanisms underlying liver-specific gene expression was difficult, because there was no simple tissue culture model. In fact, when liver cells were dissociated into single cells for growth in culture, they quickly lost expression of most liver-specific genes, making biochemical analysis very difficult. The IFN system provided an alternative approach. Because IFN acts on most cell types by induction of a defined set of target genes, it was possible to use this system to study the mechanisms underlying transcriptional control in a more direct manner.

With my colleagues in Jim's lab, we defined the transcriptional induction of IFN stimulated genes (ISGs), cloned and mapped their promoters, defined the sequence element required for gene induction (the ISRE), and identified the *trans*-acting proteins that bind this element and are specifically regulated by IFN (ISGF3). Even after leaving his lab, Jim has remained a close and valued collaborator and friend, and we have gone on to identify the components of ISGF3 (Stat and IRF proteins), define their mechanism of activation and inactivation, and have expanded these studies of IFN into additional areas of antiviral, cytokine, and growth factor biology.

9. Any memorable experience that you can share with us?

I will never forget the excitement I felt the first time I developed a film that showed a gel-shift complex that later turned out to be ISGF3. We had been working so long to understand how the ISRE sequence regulated ISG expression in response to IFN, and we had tried many different biochemical and genetic approaches to this problem. Observing the beauty of a simple experiment that gave insight into an important biological problem, such as seeing this protein-DNA complex that fulfilled all the criteria we had predicted would be necessary for this process, was an enormously satisfying experience.

10. What do you feel are your most important contributions to the field of cytokine research?

The last 10 years have witnessed a revolution in our understanding of cytokine biology. What was essentially a "black box" in the late 80s ("IFN binds and then something happens") has yielded to the combined efforts of many scientists to reveal its underlying beauty and simplicity. It has been an honor to have helped define the basic mechanics of the JAK-STAT pathway, and its role in many important biological processes. Equally satisfying has been our work on IRF proteins, another family of transcription factors that help regulate the innate immune system. I am particularly pleased with our definition of a positive feedback loop that regulates the differential expression of distinct classes of IFN-α genes during the host response to viral infection.

11. How do you retain your passion for scientific research?

Being a scientist is the best possible career. It is an exciting and creative endeavor, in which we are allowed to let our imaginations run wide and far in pursuit of whatever interests us. Everyday in the lab there is another puzzle to unravel, and another intricate problem to solve, a new insight to be gained into the basic processes of biology. What could be better than that?

12. Do you bring work back to home?

Bringing work home (and its corollary, living in the lab) is both a joy and an affliction of science. It is the all-consuming nature of the work that keeps us here at nights and on weekends and compels us to always be thinking of how to solve the latest problem.

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13. Did you enjoy the meeting in Torino?

Torino was an exciting meeting. It is always a joy to spend an intense time thinking, hearing, and discussing nothing but cytokine biology, seeing old friends and colleagues, and meeting the many young people who newly joined the field.

14. Is there anyone whom you forgot to thank during your acceptance speech at the award ceremony?

This year, we did not have an opportunity to make an acceptance speech after receiving the Milstein Prize. It is a particular honor to me to have received this prize, because so many of my teachers who were so instrumental in my education in the field have preceded me with the same honor. To name just a few of the previous Milstein awardees, there was of course Jim Darnell, who introduced me to the whole field of IFN biology. George Stark and Ian Kerr have been both close colleagues as well as formidable competitors since my earliest forays into IFN. Michel Aguet introduced me to the joys of mouse genetics, Bob Schreiber first suggested the importance of paying attention to receptors, and Otto Haller taught me to pay attention to viruses. I am indebted to all of them. However, it is all the students and colleagues that I have had the privilege of working with over the years who deserve this award, because it was their imagination, creativity, and hard work that has allowed us to make some many discoveries over the years. I look forward to many of them receiving this same honor in the future.

15. What are your current priorities, both at the professional and personal level?

Currently, we are very excited about a number of scientific problems. On the IFN side, we are trying to understand the role of distinct classes of dendritic cells in the production of IFN during viral infections. We are also intrigued by the mechanisms of transcription control involved in responses to IFN that appear to be unique to ISGs, probably due to the requirement that these genes be expressed during the stressful condition of an ongoing viral infection. In other areas, we are particularly excited by the multiple and sometime contradictory roles of STAT3 in different tissues, particularly its requirement during malignant transformation. Finally, we hope to gain unique insight into STAT biology from a study of the nematode STAT orthologue in *C. elegans*. In this system, we have the opportunity to dissect the role of a primordial STAT in an organism that lacks the complexity of the multiple genes found in mammals but that retains sufficient biological complexity to allow comprehensive definition of an entire signaling and target gene pathway throughout development. ISICR

Time to Renew!

Check you address label to see if your paid membership ended in Dec. 2002. Remember, the ISICR offers discounted membership rates for multiple year memberships!

ISICR Election Results

The following people were elected to the ISICR Board of Directors for the Term of 2002 - 2004:

Eleanor Fish - Canada

Bryan Williams - USA

Adi Kimchi - Israel

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An interview with Ganes Sen

Thomas Tan

Dr. Ganes Sen is a professional staff member in the Department of Molecular Biology at the Lerner Research Institute, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. He is also professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Department of Physiology and Biophysics at Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine in Cleveland and serves as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the American Foundation for AIDS Research. Dr. Sen obtained his PhD degree in Biochemistry from McMaster University, Hamilton Ontario, Canada, in 1974. Dr. Sen was awarded a Medical Research Council (Canada) Postdoctoral Fellowship for the period 1974-77, which was spent at the lab of Dr. Peter Lengyel at the Yale University. He is the author of over 140 research publications, review and book chapters. Dr. Sen just accepted the position of Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Interferon & Cytokine Research. He serves on the Editorial Boards of J. Biol. Chem., Virology and J. Virol. as well.

Dr. Ganes Sen

1. Congratulations on receiving your well-deserved Milstein Award in Torino. What does the award mean to you?

   It is a great honor. I find special satisfaction in the fact that it comes from my peers, a knowledgeable but competitive group of scientists.

2. Whom would you have thanked if there were an acceptance speech at the award ceremony in Torino?

   The most important people to thank are my present and past colleagues in the lab, for whose work I receive the credit. It is also a great personal pleasure to thank Peter Lengyel, who introduced me to the Interferon field and has strongly influenced my scientific style. Other investigators in the field who are at CCF enrich my research every day and this is a good occasion to thank them publicly.

3. How was the Torino meeting given its size, which combined the meetings of ISICR, ICS, and ECS?

   It was an exciting meeting, with a lot of opportunities to attend diverse presentations. You miss the intensity of a focused ISICR meeting, but your horizon expands in these joint meetings.

4. What attracted you to the Lerner Research Institute (LRL) in 1988 and join the new Department of Molecular Biology, which was just established in 1987?

   I saw the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of participating in building a place, in a very meaningful way. In hindsight, it's one of the best decisions I ever made.

5. I see. What is the place of LRI in relation to academia and industry?

   LRI is a part of CCF which is a very prominent teaching hospital and research center. It has strong ties with biomedical industry and recently it started its new Medical College to train exclusively physician-scientists. This new college is affiliated with Case Western Reserve Medical School and it reemphasizes our commitments to teaching and research.

6. Let's time travel to 1974 when you received your Ph.D. Thinking back, how has the trajectory of your scholastic pursuit influenced your career choices and present position?

   Three things come to my mind. Great science in Peter's lab and in other labs at Yale set good standards for me. Expanding my research to the unrelated area of probing physiological functions of angiotensin-converting enzyme was an unconventional and challenging decision, which has kept me on my toes. Thirdly, the decision to avoid formal administrative positions but still provide

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important services to my institution, has served me very well.

7. While a postdoc in the laboratory of Dr. Peter Lengyel, you were among the first to describe and characterize the double-stranded RNA activated protein kinase, PKR. That was 1978. 20 years later your group at LRI identified the first cellular protein activator of PKR called PACT. What took you so long?

   My research took directions away from PKR and even the discovery of PACT was in the context of finding new dsRNA binding proteins. It seems that PKR won't leave me alone.

8. Your wife was with you at last year's ISICR meeting in Cleveland. What's her name and how did you both meet?

   Indira is a scientist and I met her when we were undergraduates in the Presidency College in Calcutta. When the time came, Indira found a post-doctoral position at Yale, because she had finished her thesis before me. We married and I followed her to Yale a few months later. So choosing Peter's lab was a part of this restricted choice.

9. Did she go to Torino with you?

   Yes, she did and we had a great vacation in Tuscany after the meeting.

10. How old are your two children?

    Our son, Srijan, 26, is following our footsteps. He is a M.D/ Ph.D student at Ann Arbor and works on the genetic basis of depression. Our daughter, Ritu, is 23. A recent graduate of Wesleyan, she finds joy in serving the causes of less-fortunate people. Currently she finds food for herself by working for a non-profit organization in New York. I really enjoy their company.

11. What was your experience at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) like? Who did you work with and what was your research project?

    It was a tough place and it was a character-building experience. It is a great institution that supports basic research for its intrinsic values and promotes extremely fruitful interactions between clinicians and scientists. I started my independent lab there in 1978 in the Molecular Biology Program. My research program continued the interferon interest but put more emphasis on its effects on retroviruses. I was not a member of the Interferon Group there but learned a lot from them regarding what not to do if you want to build a group.

12. Did you first meet Michael Katze in MSKCC? Can you describe your relationship to Michael in one word?

    Yes, when he was in Bob Krug's group. We are very good friends. He tolerates me in spite of my frequent appeal to him to be kinder to other scientists.

13. You mentioned during your talk at the last ISICR meeting in Cleveland, that you're one of the original "bad boys", including George Stark, Bryan Williams, and Robert Silverman, working in the field of IFN and cytokine research in LRL. Who did I miss?

    I was the first one to arrive in Cleveland. Opportunities, personal connections and hard work enabled us to assemble the group we have now. We are dispersed in different departments but enjoy and benefit from our social and scientific interactions. In addition to George, Bryan, Bob and myself, we have Tom Hamilton, Richard Ransohoff, Andy Larner and Ernie Borden, all of whom are senior members of the interferon community.

14. Who is considered the "ring bearer" of the bad boys and why?

    Nobody. Depending on the specific job, we send the baddest dude.

15. What do you feel are your most important contributions to the field of cytokine research?

    I feel good about keeping on working on the functions of IFN-induced proteins and coming up with new pathways of actions by P56, PACT and

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2-5(A) synthetases. That these proteins can also be induced by a variety of other stimuli, has been a major revelation to virologists and brought in new researchers to the field.

16. What's next for Ganes Sen, both professionally and personally?

More of the same, probably with more emphasis on biology. I am looking forward to running the journal and keeping my science exciting . Living in Cleveland is easy and drinking and talking science with the "gang" is always fun. ISICR

Young Investigator Awardees

Kate Fitzgerald, Ph.D.

Ph.D. -1999

Trinity College Dubin (Department of Biochemistry)

2001- present

Research Assistant Professor of Medicine & Wellcome Trust Fellow Division of Infectious Diseases & Immunology University of Massachusetts Medical School

Abstract

IRF-3 dependent signaling following ligand induced activation of TLRs-3, -4 and -7

Ana Gamero, Ph.D.

Ph.D.-1996

University of South Florida (Medical Microbiology & Immunology)

4/97-present

Postdoct. Fellow - Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Lerner Research institute (Immunology)

Abstract

Type I Interferons Utilize the JAK/STAT and Mitochondrial Dependent Signaling Cascades to Induce Apoptosis in a Jurkat-T cell Variant

Christopher D. Krause, Ph.D.

Ph.D. - 2002

University of Medicine & Denistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), Molecular Biosciences

6/02-present

Postdoct. Fellow - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, UMDNJ

Abstract

Probing Interactions Amoung Cytokine Receptor Chains with Fluorescence

Karen Mossman, Ph.D.

Ph.D. - 1997

University of Alberta, Department of Biochemistry

7/2001-present

Assistant Professor, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada, Department of Pathology & Molecular Medicine

Abstract

Herpes Simplex Virus Triggers and then Disarms a Host Anitviral Response

Koen Vanderbroeck, Ph.D.

Ph.D. - 1993

Rega Institute for Medical Research & Zoological Institute, University of Leuven, Belgium Molecular Biology SUMMA CUM LAUDE

1999- present – 2001- present

Allen J. McClay Lecturer in Biomolecular Sciences & Group Leader of Cytokine Biology and Genetics Program, McClay Research Centre for Pharmaceutical Sciences School of Pharmacy, The Queen's University of Belfast (QUB), Northern Ireland, U.K.Coordinator of 'Pharmaceutical Biotechnology' Module, The Queen's University of Belfast

Abstract

The conserved helix C region in the IFN-γ/IL-10 superfamily of cytokines corresponds to an atypical high-affinity binding site for the HSP70 chaperone DnaK

Reviews of Interest

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Yong VW. Differential mechanisms of action of interferon-beta and glatiramer aetate in MS. *Neurology*. 2002 Sep 24;59(6):802-8.

Christina Fleischman Award

Deborah Hodge, Ph.D.

Ph.D. - 1997

West Virginia University, Biochemistry

2002- present

Staff Scientist, National Cancer Institute-Frederick, Frederick, MD

Abstract

IL-18 upregulation of TRAF1 expression is coincident with decreased apoptosis and TNF activation of NFkB in primary NK cells

New Members

The ISICR welcomes the following new members to the society. We look forward to their active participation in the Annual Meeting and in those ISICR committees that they wish to serve on.

Meztli Arguello
Montreal, Canada

Marita Bosticardo
Bethesda, MD

Allen I. Bruce
Saint Louis, MO

Ladislay Burysek
Ulm, Germany

Robert A. Byrd
Frederick, MD

Christopher J. Clarke
Victoria, Australia

Helene Collandre
Paris, Francis

Kristina Domeika
Uppsala, Sweden

Cheu Dong
Seattle, WA

Delphine M. Duguay
Montreal, Canada

Heather J. Ezelle
Miami, FL

Jennifer E. Fenner
Victoria, Australia

Kate Fitzgerald
Worcester, MA

Gillian A. Gilmore
Londonderry, Northern Ireland

Joanne Goral
Maywood, IL

Kenji Harada
Tokyo, Japan

Toshio Hirano
Osaka, Japan

Christophe Lallemand
Villejuif, France

Leopoldo Laricchia-Robbio
Bethesda, MD

Andre Limnander
New York, NY

Tanja Lovgren
Uppsala, Sweden

Zora Melkova
Prague, Czech Slovak

Jean F. Meritet
Villejuif, France

Michael N. Oxman
La Jolla, CA

Theresa T. Pizarro
Charlottesville, VA

Richard E. Randall
St. Andrews Fife, KY

Mariantonietta Ricci
Montreal, Canada

Gurveer K. Saberwal
Chicago, IL

Abu A. M. Saleh
Irvine, CA

Antonella Sassano
Oak Park, IL

Sonia Sharma
Montreal, Canada

Dennis D. Taub
Baltimore, MD

Benjamin R. Tenoever
Montreal, Canada

Sandrine Truchet
Paris, France

Amit K. Verma
Chicago, IL

Friedemann Weber
Freiburg, Germany

Zhi-Hong Yang
Piscataway, NJ

ISICR Member, **Charles E. Samuel** Receives Prestigious Humboldt Award!

ISICR member, Charles E. Samuel, Professor and Chair of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, Univ. of California at Santa Barbara has been awarded the 2002 Humboldt Research Award for his work on the interferon system and virus-host interactions. The Humboldt Forschungspreise award is given annually in several disciplines to foreign scientists and scholars who have gained international eminence and honors "lifetime achievement in research and training".

THE ISICR NEWSLETTER CELEBRATES ITS 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!!!!

This issue begins the 10th year of the ISICR Newsletter. Many thanks to the Associate editors, past and present, who have contributed to make this newsletter an important benefit of ISICR membership. As always, we welcome input (especially chocolate) from the membership. If you have any information or news that you would like to see included in the newsletter, please send it via email to any of the editors. If you would like to become an Associate Editor, your name will appear on the front cover of this publication!! Just think of the fame and glory, not to mention the potential publishing contracts (we made that up). Just contact Howard Young for your assignments.

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Clinical Trials

More information on this list can be obtained at http://clinicaltrials.gov [CT], http://www.centerwatch.com/search.asp [CW], or http://clinicalstudies.info.nih.gov [CCNIH]

Association of serum factors (incl. **chemokines**) with diabetic retinopathy. Protocol # 00-EI-0135. *Contact:* Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Building 61, 10 Cloister Court, Bethesda, MD, 20892-4754; Toll Free: 1-800-411-1222; TTY: 301-594-9774 (local), 1-866-411-1010 (toll free); Fax: 301-480-9793; Email:prpl@mail.cc.nih.gov

The role of inflammatory **cytokines** on growth hormone (GH/IGF-1) suppression in premenopausal women with rheumatoid arthritis and the effect of treatment with **Etanercept (soluble p75 TNF receptor)**. Study ID Numbers 020170;02-AR-0170. *Contact:* Raphaela T. Goldbach-Mansky, M.D., National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), Bethesda, MD 20892. Email: goldbacr@exchange.nih.gov

The effects of estrogen therapy (i.e. inhibition of **cytokines** e.g., **TNF-alpha**, **IL-1beta**, **IL-6**) on postmenopausal women with congestive heart failure. Study ID Number 1181. Contact: Steven Reis (no phone given). Sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). *Contact:* Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Building 61, 10 Cloister Court, Bethesda, MD, 20892-4754; Toll Free: 1-800-411-1222; TTY: 301-594-9774 (local), 1-866-411-1010 (toll free); Fax: 301-480-9793; Email:prpl@mail.cc.nih.gov

Effects of blood transfusions containing Epoetin Alfa (**erythropoeitin**), with or without Filgrastim (**G-CSF**) in Patients With Myelodysplastic Syndrome. Study ID Numbers 199/12990; E-1996. Evaluation and contacts in 13 states in the USA and in South Africa. *Main contact:* Kenneth B. Miller, Study Chair, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (no Tel# given).

Study of Sequential Vaccinations With Recombinant Vaccinia-CEA(6D)-TRICOM, and Recombinant Fowlpox-CEA(6D)-TRICOM (B7.1/ICAM-1/LFA-3) With Sargramostim (**GM-CSF**), In Conjunction With Standard Adjuvant Chemotherapy in High Risk Breast Cancer Patients. Protocol # 03-C-0005. *Contact:* CSSC, Clinical Studies Support Center/NCI,164 Rollins Avenue, 2nd Floor, Rockville, MD 20852, Tel: (888) 624-1937, Fax: (301) 881-8239, Email: ncicssc@mail.nih.gov

Genetic Basis of Primary Immunodeficiencies: Evaluation of patients with primary immunodeficiency disorders to identify those with mutations in **Jak3**, **STAT1**, **STAT4**, **interleukin-7**, **interleukin-7 receptor**, **interleukin-12 receptor subunits**, and others. Study ID Numbers 990004; 99-AR-0004. *Contact:* Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Tel: 1-800-411-1222, TTY: 1-866-411-1010, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), Bethesda, MD, 20892, Email: prpl@mail.cc.nih.gov

Effectiveness of **hu14.18-interleukin-2** fusion protein in treating children who have refractory or recurrent neuroblastoma or other tumors. Study ID Numbers 199/14063; COG-ADVL0018; CCG-ADVL0018; POG-ADVL0018. Evaluation and contacts in 26 states in the USA and several cities in Canada and Australia. *Main contact:* Paul M. Sondel, Study Chair, Children's Oncology Group (no Tel# given).

Intravenous **Interleukin-4 PE38KDEL Cytotoxin** in Treating Patients With Recurrent or Metastatic Kidney Cancer, Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, or Breast Cancer: Phase I trial to study the effectiveness of intravenous interleukin-4 PE38KDEL cytotoxin in treating patients who have recurrent or metastatic kidney cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, or breast cancer that has not responded to previous treatment. Contact: Arizona Cancer Center, Tucson, AZ, 85724; Recruiting Linda Garland Tel: 520-626-3434; Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1781; Recruiting Robert Alan Figlin Tel: 310-825-5788; Study chair: Henry Pan, Neurocrine Biosciences

Efficacy of Humanized **Anti-Interleukin-5** Antibody (SCH55700) in Reducing Eosinophilia in Patients with

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Hypereosinophilic Syndrome or Eosinophilic Gastroenteritis Refractory to or Intolerant of Conventional Therapy. Protocol # 01-I-0155. Contact: Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Building 61, 10 Cloister Court, Bethesda, MD, 20892-4754; Toll Free: 1-800-411-1222; TTY: 301-594-9774 (local),1-866-411-1010 (toll free); Fax: 301-480-9793; Email:prpl@mail.cc.nih.gov

Study of orally administered **Interleukin 11** for the treatment of active Crohn's Disease. Trial # 32969. *Contact:* Marcia Childs, RN, Clinical Research Nurse, Capital Gastroenterology Associates, P.A.,10801 Lockwood Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20901, Tel: 301-593-2002 x269, Fax: 301-593-4781; Email: mlchilds16@yahoo.com

Rituximab With or Without **Interleukin-12** in Treating Patients With Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Study ID Numbers 199/16254; NCCTG-N0087. Evaluation and contacts in 12 states in the USA and Saskatchewan, Canada. Stephen M. Ansell, Study Chair, North Central Cancer Treatment Group. *Florida contact:* Edith A. Perez, Tel: 507-284-2511, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL, 32224. *Canada contact:* Muhammad Salim, Tel: 306-766-2203, Allan Blair Cancer Centre, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4T 7T1.

PEG-Intron Plus Rebetol Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C Patients with Liver Fibrosis Who Failed to Respond to alpha-Interferon Plus Ribavirin. Study ID Numbers P02370. Evaluation and contacts in 18 countries. Contact: K. Rajender Reddy, Tel: 215-349-8352, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. E-mail: rajende.reddy@uphs.upenn.edu

Combination Chemotherapy Followed By Antiviral Therapy and **Interferon alfa** in Treating Patients With Adult T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma. Study ID Numbers 199/16709; AMC-033. *Contact:* Lee Ratner, Study Chair, Tel: 314-362-8836, AIDS Associated Malignancies Clinical Trials Consortium.

Ingested **interferon-alpha**: efficacy for the prevention of cognitive decline in Alzheimer's disease and effects on acute phase reactants and pro-inflammatory cytokine **Interleukin-6** in mild to moderate cases of Alzheimer's disease. Study ID Numbers NCRR-M01RR02558-0120. Contact: Staley A. Brod, M.D., Principal Investigator; Tel: 713-500-7046; University of Texas - Houston, Gerontology Center of the UTMSI, Houston, TX, 77030. E-mail: staley.a.brod@uth.tmc.edu

The Genetics of Environmental Asthma: identification of genes that are differentially expressed by airway epithelial cells following challenge with stimuli that induce acquired (house dust mite) or innate (**Lipopolysaccharide**) immune responses, and determination of whether polymorphisms in these genes are associated with the development of asthma in a separate, well characterized, familial cohort of asthmatics. Study ID Number NCRR-M01RR00030-0183. *Contact:* David A. Schwartz, M.D., MPH; Tel: 919-668-0380; Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC 27710

Safety, Tolerability, and Pharmacokinetics of CAT-192 (Human **Anti-Transforming Growth Factor-β1** Monoclonal Antibody) in Patients with Early Stage Diffuse Systemic Sclerosis. Study ID Numbers ATGFB1-001-01. Contacts in California, Massachussetts, New Jersey and Texas. *California contact:* Jules Kessler, Tel: 310-794-9504 & Daniel Furst, MD, Principal Investigator, UCLA-Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Los Angeles, CA, 90095.

Safety and Efficacy of ISIS 104838, an **antisense inhibitor of Tumor Necrosis Factor**, for Active Rheumatoid Arthritis. Study ID Numbers ISIS 104838-CS7. Evaluation and contacts in 32 states in the USA and Canada. *Main contact:* Jennifer Oliver, MD, Tel: 1-800-679-ISIS. ISICR

Quote to Remember

"Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician."

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Bioexplorer Toolbar
http://www.bioexplorer.net/toolbar/

We developed a new Internet Explorer toolbar for biologists. It allows you to get an information directly from NCBI databases (PubMed, Protein, Nucleotide, and Taxonomy) and search Google, iProtocol, ProtocolOnline and other Web resources. If you have comments on the Bioexplorer Toolbar, ideas on how to improve it or any problems with it, please let us know.

Bioexplorer Team
http://www.bioexplorer.net

Center for Computational Biology
http://www.cudenver.edu/ccb/

The Human Genome Project has transformed molecular biology into an information science. A science that was once data poor now has so much data that new methods of computation are needed to obtain useful information from the data banks that have emerged. Content-based searches for proteins, genes, and other elements require large-scale modeling, analysis and algorithm design. To meet this new challenge, The University of Colorado at Denver and the UC Health Sciences Center have launched the Center for Computational Biology (CCB).

This is an interdisciplinary structure, bringing together researchers in biology and other natural sciences, medicine, computer science, mathematics, and statistics. The CCB acts as matchmaker in arranging new collaborations. The CCB has a second mission: to create courses and programs in computational biology, drawing from resources at CU-Denver and the Health Sciences Center.

While the primary missions are research and education, the CCB approach fosters unification in at least three dimensions. First, research and education is integrated, giving new opportunities to students and faculty. Second, UCD and HSC have strengthened their ties by forming this partnership and working collaboratively, bringing complementary strengths to the projects. Third, connections with industry and government serve to unify efforts to share knowledge with those who can bring research results to people.

Please visit our website and participate in our activities, notably our workshops.

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http://www.cudenver.edu/~hgreenbe/

The GeneX Gene Expression Database
http://genex.ncgr.org

The GeneX team is happy (well, relieved anyway) to announce a public release of the National Center for Genome Resources GeneX Gene Expression Database system.

The GeneX project is an Open Source endeavor to provide the gene expression community a way of designing a system that best meets their needs. The system can be downloaded from Sourceforge (http://genex.sourceforge.net) or from NCGR's GeneX web site (http://genex.ncgr.org) and is licensed under the GNU LGPL.

We hope this provides a partial outlet for those labs that have experience with expression analysis, some coding ability, and the desire to contribute to project that can, with a little effort, add the feaures that they want but doesn't require a build-from-scratch effort.

It provides a basic working system including:
- installation scripts
- a small amount of example data
- the Genex.pm Perl wrapper API to the database
- utilities to manipulate the XML transport format
- analytical tools which can be used with data from the database or with data uploaded directly. They include apps for significance & permutation testing as well as several kinds of clustering.

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  * CyberT - a significance testing tool which uses repeated t-tests (with Bonferonni correction) and an optional Bayesian estimation of variance. CyberT also uses xgobi (an XWindows app) to perform 3D visualizations of the results, Principle Component Analysis, and linked maps.
  * Rcluster - an interface to the R cluster libs (several clustering approaches, using several metrics)
  * xcluster - Gavin Sherlock's speedy and memory-efficient clustering app which also includes KMeans clustering and Self-Organizing Maps (we provide the interface - you have to license the xcluster code directly from Stanford: http://genome-www.stanford.edu/~sherlock/cluster.html)
- an interactive tool to load & annotate data (& a scriptable one is under development to load multiple experiments in bulk, albeit with less annotation).

Its advantages are that it:
- is freely available in source code (tarball and anonymous CVS).
- has relatively small hardware requirements.
- requires no proprietary software to run.
- is relatively simple to install .. operative word 'relatively' ;) .
- supports multiple kinds of array data (Affy, Cy3,Cy5, radiolabeled blot).
- can incorporate commandline analytical routines very easily as CGIs.
- can share data via an XML for which there are free tools available.
- it has been developed using a number of R (aka GNU S) libs: (http://cran.r-project.org/) and will continue to add more support for this Open Source Software approach.
- can export data in a variety of formats for use with other tools.
  * J-Express (http://www.ii.uib.no/~bjarted/jexpress) can directly import one std format.
  * with a local installation, you can export the data in xgobi format and with minimal scripting in R, you could export in a number of other formats as well. Use the source, Luke!
- it has a fairly active development community.

Its disadvantages (hey! it's free; there ARE disadvantages!) are:
- the user interface is crude.
- the query interface is crude and simple (but pretty easy to customize).
- we do not yet provide for easy normalization, although such an interface is under development (contributed by an external user) and more input would be most welcome.
- it uses a heterogeneous (albeit standard) mix of software components.
- it requires some knowledge of Linux and Postgres (or whatever RDBMS in which you want to implement it) to make it work. It is definitely *NOT* Plug and Play.
- it is a relatively young project and therefore will probably not support some critical operations.
- the current data loader is functional, but sub-optimal (and is being re-written from scratch with the input of several labs).
- there are some known security issues (and certainly more unknown ones)
- its scalability is largely untested.

We're hoping that with enough interested, engaged users, each contributing what they can (suggestions, bug descriptions, & especially code), useful features can be suggested and implemented, bugs can be killed quickly, ports to additional RDBMS can be completed, useful applications can be added, the Data Model and XML feature set improved and contributed back to make the MGED MAML XML as robust as it needs to be.

We welcome your feedback (really!) [genex@ncgr.org]

The GeneX Team

* Bill Beavis	> William Anderson
* Greg Colello	> Andrew Dalke
* Harry Mangalam	> Carol Harger
* Lonny Montoya	> Peter Hraber
* Michael Pear (honorary)	> Karen Schlauch
* Todd Peterson	> Mark Waugh
* Jason Stewart	> Jennifer Weller
* Jiaye Zhou	
** current*	*> alumni (thanks guys!)*

IFTI –Mirage
www.ifti.org

A java-based tool, tmapViewer, is available as a pre-release (beta) downloadable file. This tool accesses two types of transcription factor binding site sequence analysis files: (a) those produced by Tfsitescan (http://www.ifti.org/cgi-bin/ifti/Tfsitescan.pl), and stored on ifti.org servers (b) those produced using GCG Findpatterns using IFTI tfsites.dat. tmapViewer accesses additional information from IFTI

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servers associated with TF binding site matches. To use this tool, you will need to be registered as a beta-tester, and this service will only be accessible from registered IP address(es) at your site. If you are interested in keeping (ie making a continued use of) this tool, you may be asked to complete a marketing survey or other evaluation.

Improvements to IFTI-Mirage services since the last mailing include: (1) an updated Tfsites dataset (6297 entries), accessible through Tfsitescan or available to licensed subscribers; (2) additional structure-related information at the IFTI-Mirage structures page (2) facilitated linking to additional information from Tfsitescan results, such as direct linking to the associated NCBI Entrez Pubmed entry, as well as a precomputed dataset of EPD matches to ooTFD/Sites sequences. Further developments and other proprietary datasets may also become available through java-based tools such as tmapViewer.

David Ghosh

MentorNet
www.MentorNet.net

You already know that women are underrepresented in engineering, mathematics, and science careers. For example, in today's U.S. workforce, women are just over 9% of the engineers and approximately 30% of the scientists. Here's something you can do today to help increase those numbers:

Become an online mentor for MentorNet, the Presidential Award winning E-Mentoring Network for Women in Engineering and Science! Mentoring is a proven strategy for increasing the retention rates of women in engineering, mathematics, and science. This year, we have a particularly strong need for mentors in biological science and biotechnology fields.

Below, you can find out more about the MentorNet program and how to sign up. And please pass this message along to your friends and colleagues, so they don't miss out on this great volunteer opportunity!

What is MentorNet?
* MentorNet is an electronic mentoring network. Our award-winning One-on-One Mentoring Program pairs women engineering and science students with professionals all over the world. We match community college, undergraduate, and graduate women with engineers and scientists working in corporations, national laboratories, and government.

How does it work?
* During the school year, mentors and students communicate by email about career goals, balancing work and life, course work, and many other topics of their choice. There's no need for previous mentoring experience: mentors and students receive topics and training online to ensure a successful e-mentoring relationship. This is a great way for employees to receive free training in mentoring and staff development skills.

What other benefits does the program offer?
* MentorNet also offers you the opportunity to take part in an online e-community which focuses on issues of interest to our mentors and students. It's a perfect opportunity to expand your own network and to share your experiences with engineers and scientists worldwide.

What if I don't have much time?
* As an e-mentor, you can make a big difference in a student's life with a relatively small time commitment. Mentors who participated in last year's One-on-One Mentoring Program reported spending an average of just 20 minutes per week. Because you communicate entirely by email, you can write whenever and wherever it's convenient for you.

Who can serve as mentors?
* We encourage applications from both women and men, with an educational or professional background in engineering, science, or related technologies, who are currently employed in private industry or government sectors.

How do I sign up?
* Go to www.MentorNet.net and follow this 2-step process:
  1) Join the Community: Click on "Community" and register/sign in as a new/returning Community member.
  2) Apply for the One-on-One Program: Follow the One-on-One Mentoring Program links to the Mentor section and fill out the application. The deadline is October 31, 2002.

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ISICR Ph
from
Torinto Me

KATE FITZGERALD, MILSTEIN YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDEE

ANA GAMERO, MILSTEIN YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDEE

CHRISTOPHER D. KRAUSE, MILSTEIN YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDEE

KAREN MOSSMAN, MILSTEIN YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDEE

KOEN VANDERBROECK, MILSTEIN YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDEE

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CR Photos from nto Meeting

GANES SEN, MILSTEIN AWARDEE, KEIKO OZATO & MRS. VIVIAN MILSTEIN

DAVID LEVY, MILSTEIN AWARDEE, & MRS. VIVIAN MILSTEIN

DEBORAH HODGE, CHRISTINA FLEISCHMANN AWARDEE

PHIL MARCUS, SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDEE & KEIKO OZATO

ISICR MEETING ORGANIZER SANTO LANDOLFO

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MentorNet has been growing rapidly since its inception in 1997. Since then we have paired over 6,500 students with mentors. We hope you will be one of them!

MentorNet's sponsors include 3M, Alcoa Foundation, AT&T, Elizabeth and Stephen J. Bechtel Jr. Foundation, Cisco Systems, Engineering Information Foundation, EMC, Google, IBM, Intel, The International Society for Optical Engineering, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Maui Economic Development Board, Motorola, NASA Ames Research Center, National Science Foundation, Sandia National Laboratory, SAP Labs, Schlumberger, University Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Education's FIPSE, and U.S. Department of Transportation.

ModBase database of comparative protein structure models
http://guitar.rockefeller.edu/modbase/

ModBase is a queryable database of many annotated comparative protein structure models. The models consist of coordinates for all non-hydrogen atoms in the modeled part of a protein. They are derived by an automated modeling pipeline relying mainly on the program MODELLER. The database currently contains 3D models for substantial segments of 15-23% of proteins in the genomes of M. genitalium, M. jannaschii, E. coli, S. cerevisiae, and C. elegans. In total, there are models for 3,732 proteins. The database also includes fold assignments and alignments on which the models were based. In addition, special care is taken to assess the overall quality of the models and their accuracy at the residue level. In the future, ModBase will grow to reflect (i) the growth of the sequence databases, (ii) the growth of the database of known protein structures, (iii) and improvements in the software for calculating the models. ModBase is introduced in R. Sanchez & A. Sali. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 95, 13597-13602, 1998.

Roberto Sanchez and Andrej Sali

Readseq version 2.0.3
http://iubio.bio.indiana.edu/soft/molbio/readseq/java/

Readseq is a program to read & reformat biosequences, and a packageof methods for rogrammmers to incorporate into their softwarefor this end. This program is designed to utomatically detect input sequence format, and produce output formats compatible with different sequence analysis software.

Version 2 adds the ability to parse and translate documentation and feature tables found in GenBank and EMBL formats, as well as extract sequence based on features. A simple graphic user interface is included, for use without learning command-line options. Also included is a CGI interface for web servers. This is version is written in the Java language, and source code is freely available.
Home of this package
http://iubio.bio.indiana.edu/soft/molbio/readseq/java/
An instance of the Web form for this is at http://iubio.bio.indiana.edu/cgi-bin/readseq.cgi

d.gilbert—bioinformatics—indiana-u—bloomington-in-47405
gilbertd@bio.indiana.edu

STACKdb v3.1
www.sanbi.ac.za/CODES

The STACKdb Human Gene Expression Index, provided free to academics, is now provided with a comprehensive full-length mRNA index and additional output reports containing potential alternate expression forms.

The latest version of the STACK database of reconstructed human expressed transcripts, STACKdb v3.1, has been released by The South African National Bioinformatics Institute (SANBI), in collaboration with Electric Genetics.

STACKdb v3.1 is an exhaustively processed set of transcripts based on all human EST and mRNA sequences from GB125.0, 24 August 2001, downloaded from NCBI as of 25 August 2001. 1,761,079 new EST and 87,085 new mRNA sequences have been added to the STACKdb v3.0 data to form 270,515 clusters and 5,711 clonelinks in total. The database is organized into 15 tissue-based categories and a disease category.

This is the first STACKdb release that includes:
- Alternate consensus sequences in FastA format that represent

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potential alternate expression forms.
- A comprehensive full-length mRNA index consisting of all mRNA sequences within HTD, MGC and RefSeq as a preview to the next release of STACKdb. STACKdb v4.0 will consist of a whole body index with the mRNA index acting as a scaffold for the EST sequences.

Please refer to the STACKdb v3.1 release notes for a list of all new features and improvements.

AVAILABILITY
The database is available free of charge to academic and non-profit institutions.

To download STACKdb register at www.sanbi.ac.za/CODES. The Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics collaborates with SANBI to serve STACKdb download from the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics web site ensuring faster download times.

The database may also be searched from 15 October 2002 on-line by comparing a query sequence to any of the STACKdb categories at http://juju.egenetics.com/cgi-bin/stackpack/blast.py

CONTACT DETAILS
Electric Genetics develops and maintains STACKdb v3.1 and provides technical support for both academic and commercial users. Your feedback is greatly valued and any comments, questions or suggestions can be sent to support@egenetics.com.

For further information on STACKdb, please refer to the Electric Genetics website: www.egenetics.com/db.html

For further information on research at the South African National Bioinformatics Institute, please visit: http://www.sanbi.ac.za/Research.html

TeXMed
http://www.sbg.bio.ic.ac.uk/~mueller/TeXMed/

I found it rather difficult to export scientific references from the NCBI PubMed database to BibTeX. I've created a little tool (a web-site) that is a front-end to PubMed. It allows to query PubMed as usual, list your choice of references and allows you to export them in BibTeX format. The short keys for citations is the PMID (a number representing the PubMed Identifier). Only article types are supported.

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email: a.mueller@cancer.org.uk | arne.muller@gmx.net
web: http://www.sbg.bio.ic.ac.uk

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!!!!!

More than ever, the ISICR needs active members in order for our society to flourish and grow.

Encourage your colleagues who work in interferon/cytokine/chemokines/growth factor research to join our society!!

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UnNatural Laws

(from http://paul.merton.ox.ac.uk/science/unnatural-laws.html)

The Unspeakable Law

As soon as you mention something ....
... if it's good, it goes away
... if it's bad, it happens.

Nonreciprocal Laws of Expectations

Negative expectations yield negative results.
Positive expectations yield negative results.

Howe's Law

Every man has a scheme that will not work.

Zymurgy's First Law of Evolving Systems Dynamics

Once you open a can of worms, the only way to recan them is to use a larger can.

Etorre's Observation

The other line moves faster.

DeVrie's Dilemma:

If you hit two typewriter keys simultaneously, the one you don't want to hit the paper does.

Skinner's Constant (Flanagan's Finagling Factor)

That quantity which, when multiplied by, divided by, added to, or subtracted from the answer you get, gives you the answer you should have got.

Murphy's Law of Selective Gravity

An object will fall so as to do the most damage.

Hofstadter's Law:

Everything takes longer than you think it will, even when you take into account Hofstadter's Law.

Corollary to Hofstadter's Law:

Everything takes longer than you think it will, even when you take into account Hofstadter's Law

Jenning's Corollary to Murphy's Law of Selective Gravity

The chance of the bread falling with the buttered side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet.

Hoare's Law of Large Problems

Inside every large problem is a small problem struggling to get out.

Boren's First Law

When in doubt, mumble.

The Golden Rule of Arts and Sciences

Whoever has the gold makes the rules.

Barth's Distinction

There are two types of people: those who divide people into two types, and those who don't

The Ninety-Ninety Rule of Project Schedules

The first 90 % of the task takes 90 % of the time, and the last 10 % takes the other 90 %

Farber's Fourth Law

Necessity is the mother of strange bedfellows

Postdoctoral Fellow Opening

Dear Colleagues:

I am seeking a well-trained, hard-working post-doctoral research associate to work on various aspects of LPS signaling in murine or human macrophages and the cross-talk between TLR signaling pathways. Our laboratory combines various molecular, genetic, and cell biology approaches to cell signaling problems (e.g., see Toshchakov et al. Nature Immunol 3: 392-398 (2002). I have a wonderful group of people here and the environment is excellent. We relocated within the past year to the University of Maryland, Baltimore. If you know of someone who is looking, or are interested yourself, please send a CV and letter of interest to:

Dr. Stefanie N. Vogel
Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology
University of Maryland, Baltimore
655 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: (410) 706-4838
FAX: (410) 706-8607
email:
svogel@som.umaryland.edu

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ISICR COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes for the ISICR Board of Directors Meeting
October 10, 2002
Torino, Italy

Members present: Samuel Baron, Eleanor Fish, Paul Hertzog, Ara Hovanessian, Keiko Ozato, Sidney Pestka, Paula Pitha-Rowe, Nancy Reich, Bryan Williams, Howard Young

Fiscal matters

The ISICR treasurer Dr. Baron reported that although the financial support from corporate members is likely to be smaller this year, the ISICR remains fiscally sound through next year due to the reserve fund. For this reason, it is not likely that a substantial cut in Travel Awards will be necessary next year. The Travel Awards are the major expenditure of the society.

The Board has noted that chairpersons of some of the ISICR committees could not attend the meeting because they were unable to receive travel funds from their own organization. In light of the importance of the Chair for the functioning of productive committees, the board has agreed to consider provisional travel support of up to $1,000 for chairpersons who request such funding beginning with the 2003 annual meeting. Board members expressed the need to explore alternative source of funding for the annual meeting, including the US Federal Government and NIH. A potential source may be found within the recent Government emphasis on Biodefense research resulting in substantial increased funding for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Contract with the FASEB

Through yearly contract, the Federation of American Associations of Experimental Biology (FASEB) office takes care of ISICR administrative business, including collection of membership dues, issuance of ISICR Directory, assistance of ISICR officers in having effective communications with other officers/members and assistance in the publication of the ISICR Newsletter. In renewing the contract, board members have pointed out the need (1) to clarify the basis of the fees charged by the FASEB item by item (particularly membership fees) and (2) to define the role of the FASEB office in assisting the ISICR board/ officers (particularly, the office of Secretary) in order to ensure a productive ISICR/FASEB relationship[2].

Online JICR to all ISICR members

Thanks to the successful negotiation of Dr. Robert Fleischmann, the Chair of the ISICR Publication Committee, with the JICR publisher Mary Ann Liebert, the ISICR will have the opportunity to offer an online subscription to the Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research to all ISICR members for the cost of ~ $22. This cost would be in addition to the ISICR $50 annual membership fee and be required. The board feels that the cost is reasonable and online access may serve as an opportunity to solidify the ISICR membership and to improve the quality of the JICR. The Board is generally in favor of the action, pending additional clarifications and evaluation of the final proposal from the Publication Committee as well as the endorsement of the proposal by the Membership Committee.

Awards

The Board discussed the Award process, particularly with regard to the Milstein Award. It is anticipated that the Milstein Foundation will continue to support the Award. There was some discussion regarding the Award selection process and whether or not a committee of established scientists that are non-ISICR members should be involved in the selection process. It was stressed that there is an important need to have more international nominees to ensure that the process is perceived to be fair and equitable.

Footnotes

[1]Because of rescheduling Drs. Tadatsugu Taniguchi and Ganes Sen were unable to participate in the meeting.

[2] These issues have been brought to the attention of Delores Francis and George Galasso, FASEB employees affiliated with the ISICR, and most of issues have been satisfactorily clarified. Following approval of the Board, a new contract (for 2003) was signed on December 4, 2002.

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Annual Meeting

Nancy Reich summarized the Meetings committee proceedings followed by an update regarding the 2003 meeting from Paul Hertzog. The 2003 meeting is on track with a number of Australian immunologists participating. Concern was raised regarding the costs of travel and lodging. Paul Hertzog indicated every effort is being made to obtain travel support and that the lodgings in Cairns will be most reasonable and affordable.

Minutes of the ISICR Awards Committee
October 9, 2002
Torino, Italy

The Awards Committee held a breakfast meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2002 since several of the committee members did not arrive in time for the regular meeting held on Sunday.

Present	Absent
P. Pitha	M. Katze
B. Lebleu	I. Kerr
R. Schreiber	C. Schindler
A. Hovanessian	J. Kirkwood

Also in attendance were Keiko Ozato, President and S. Baron, Treasurer.
The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. and finished at 8:50 a.m.

Awards Update

A. The motion was made to interview this years awardees for the ISICR Newsletter. An additional recommendation will be made to the editor of the ISICR Newsletter, H. Young, to publish interviews with M. Revel and P. Marcus who were the honorary member and special awardee, respectively.

B. The motion was approved for a recommendation to solicit review articles for the JICR from the Milstein Awardees.

C. Motion was made and approved to ask the International Council for Milstein Award nominations.

Travel Award

The society awarded 49 travel awards for a total amount of $50,000. A motion was made and approved to limit the travel awards to students, postdoctoral fellows and young faculty.

Exceptions to this rule will require special circumstances and approval by the Awards Committee.

2003 Australia Meeting

The committee discussed with S. Baron the travel awards for the 2003 meeting in Australia and the expected funds available. S. Baron pointed to the fact that the contributions for the meeting by companies are substantially decreased. The committee discussed the need for generation of additional funds from newly available federal funds as an alternative or parallel strategy for the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Pitha-Rowe
Chair ISICR Awards Committee

Meeting of the ISICR Meetings Committee
October 6, 2002
Torino Italy

The meeting was called to order on Sunday, October 6, 2002 at 2:30 p.m.
Present for all or part of the meeting were members and Ad hoc members: Joan Durbin, Yoichiro Iwakura, Santo Landolfo, Nancy Reich, Yuichiro Satoh, Giorgio Trinchieri, George Stark, Gianni Garotta, Paul Hertzog, and representatives from the ISICR Board of Directors, Eleanor Fish, Keiko Ozato, and Howard Young

The meeting was chaired by Nancy Reich in the absence of Chair, Christine Czarniecki.

Introduction of new Committee Members

Nancy Reich welcomed two new members to the ISICR Meetings Committee. Dr. Yoichiro Iwakura is currently at the Center for Experimental Medicine, Institute for Medical Science, University of Tokyo. Dr. Giorgio Trinchieri is currently at Schering-Plough Laboratory for Immunological Research in Dardilly France.

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2001 - Cleveland, Ohio
George Stark presented the final report for last year's ISICR Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

There were 360 Meeting attendees. Dr. Stark was asked if he could provide information as to the number of attendees that were ISICR members, students, and non-members. He will obtain that information for us. (Post meeting information from George Stark: There were 198 ISICR members, 91 non-members, and 71 students).

Total income was reported as $321,802.44. Dr. Stark was asked to provide a breakdown of income sources (Sponsors/Exhibits/Registrants) and will do so.

> ***(Post meeting note: A list of Sponsors and Exhibitors and their contributions has been provided to the Committee and will be forwarded to Paul Hertzog as Organizer of next year's meeting.)***

Dr. Stark provided to the Meetings Committee and the Treasurer a descriptive list of expenses for the Meeting in Cleveland. Expenses plus the return of $10,000 seed money from ISICR allowed the contribution of $26,886.76 in the form of a check to ISICR Treasurer, Samuel Baron.

Dr. Stark was pleased with the company that managed the meeting, AD-PRO, which also managed the past San Diego and Toronto meetings.

The conference 'Wrap-Up' description provided to the Committee by Dr. Stark listed some specific concerns and suggestions such as:

Use of the Internet
Conference registration on-line is the most efficient method of receiving registration information for future contact of individuals. Abstracts should also be provided on-line and this means that the web site needs to be modified to accept Greek letters. The web site also needs to be modified to enable the generation of receipts to registrants that provide credit card payments on-line.

2002 – Torino, Italy
Gianni Garotta presented a report on the current meeting. This meeting is a joint meeting of the ICS, ISICR European Cytokine Society and SLB (Society for Leukocyte Biology) and is progressing well.

Income as of October 2, 2002 was estimated at $470,000 Euro ($360,000 from Registrants and $165,000 from Sponsors). Estimated expenditures are $450,000.

Abstracts	
Plenary speakers	26
Workshop Speakers	25
Oral Presentations	138
Posters	421
	610
Registrants	
Plenary speakers	34
Workshop speakers and Chairs	52
Registered participants	573
	659
Sponsors	36

It was requested that a breakdown of ISICR members, ICS members, etc. be provided, however this information may be misleading since many are members of multiple organizations and may have only listed one on the registration forms.

Dr. Garotta explained that the ISICR was the only Society that provided seed money and this will be returned to ISICR (~$11,000). After the return of this money, the profits will be equally distributed among the organizations.

Several issues were discussed:

Meeting Rooms
A suggestion was made that there be one person appointed from each Society that serves as an interface between Society members and the Organizers. The interface person would advise the Organizers ahead of time as to needs for number of meeting rooms (Standing Committees), times scheduled for these meetings, and projection/overhead requirements. The ISICR Meetings Committee requests that the ISICR President (Keiko Ozato) consider this suggestion and provide to Christine Czarniecki and Paul Hertzog the name of such a contact person for next year's meeting in Australia.

Registration/Abstract Deadlines and Award Notification
This year one needed to register for the meeting in order to submit an abstract and this can be problematic for some people that relied on a travel award to attend the meeting.

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Since awards for travel supplements often determine whether the applicant will attend the meeting, it is imperative that the abstract deadline be enforced (at least to be considered for an Award). There must be sufficient time for the ISICR Awards Committee to meet and evaluate the abstracts and contact the recipients. It can be problematic if abstract deadlines are extended since it does not allow time for the Awards Committee to identify recipients and for the recipients to register for the meeting prior to a deadline. A deadline at the beginning of June should be adequate to allow evaluation by the Awards Committee, notification of the recipients, and registration for the meeting prior to a deadline. A notification date to the award recipients should be pre-determined and be prior to the registration deadline.

There should be an email reminder to all Society members as to the abstract deadline and the registration deadline. The Committee recommends that the ISICR Secretary could generate a distribution list and use it for this purpose.

Awards

This year there was a new funding source, Awards to Citizens of the European Community to attend the meeting. This award stimulated a discussion as to whether a person should be able to receive travel support or an award from more than one society in future meetings. The Meetings Committee recommends that the Chair of the ISICR Awards Committee interface with the Chairs of Awards Committees of the other organizations involved in the meeting to ensure that one person does not receive multiple similar awards from different societies.

Involvement of Four Societies

Each of the Societies wanted an allocation of talks. It was suggested by Dr. Garotta that for future meetings the number of talks allocated to each Society be determined far in advance. The number of slots might be determined by number of members in the Society (this is problematic with ICS since they list all attendees of their meetings as members and it is therefore an inflated number not based on paid membership).

Chairs of sessions should represent more than one Society and this was strived for at this meeting

Speakers

It was noted that some laboratories have multiple talks at the meeting whereas other labs have no talks. This is always a problem and is defended by the concept of presenting the 'best science'. The recommendation is made to organizers of future meetings that a critical eye should be used to ensure that it is truly the best science and not an oversight due to predetermined categories of topics.

Lunches and Banquet

The banquet was included in the registration fee this year, although many thought that the registration fee was high (700Euro). Lunches purchased in advance or at the time of the meeting was a satisfactory method.

Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

The Organizers were displeased with Liebert publishers of the abstract book. There was an original agreement for a set number of abstracts, and then a specific cost for each additional abstract. However, Liebert publishers changed the agreement after abstracts were received and this required the Organizers to contact many of the registrants and ask them to re-submit a shortened abstract to reduce the total number of pages. This was discussed at the Publications Committee meeting. The publisher should not be able to change a deadline or the size of an abstract following an agreement. It was proposed that another cheaper publisher possibly be used even if the abstracts cannot be cited.

Confirmation of Abstract/Registration Receipt

Instances were noted that registrants did not receive a confirmation of their abstract or registration, and had to register again on site.

Satellite meeting

Dr. Garotta organized a short meeting offsite following this year's meeting on the topic of Cytokine Delivery Systems. He encouraged this in the future since it was very valuable for obtaining Sponsorship from companies. Some of the Sponsors had presentations at the satellite meeting, and were in general interested in a clinical application topic.

(Post meeting note: The ISICR Meetings Committee reminds future ISICR Meetings Organizers that as stated in the Guidelines: "A description of any proposed satellite meeting(s), including a draft of the program, must be

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submitted by the Organizing Committee for review for scientific merit and balance and must be approved by the ISICR Meetings Committee and the ISICR President. A written recommendation will be issued by the ISICR Meetings Committee chairperson to the ISICR President who will notify the Organizing Committee of the approval").

2003 – Cairns, Australia

Paul Hertzog provided an update on the status of next year's meeting in Cairns, Australia. The theme of the meeting will be "Cytokine Signaling and Disease".

A meetings organizing company called ACN has been appointed to manage the meeting. ACN, has managed many international meetings, including a recent signal transduction meeting with 5,000 attendees last year.

The dates of 26-30 October 2003 have been established. Accommodations are very affordable and estimated to be half the cost of hotels in the U.S.

A local organizing committee has been established to do a lot of the ground work, importantly composed of scientists from different States to ensure a strong local attendance. They have begun to invite speakers. They have begun to raise funds from local companies in Australia.

The meeting announcement fliers appear to have been delivered by Federal Express to a wrong location and may not be available for distribution at the Torino meeting.

Discussion of future advertising for the Cairns Meeting included both Societies and Journals.

Dr. Hertzog projects that there will be approximately 360 Australian registrants and 350 international registrants.

2004 – San Juan, Puerto Rico

Nancy Reich provided an update report on the 2004 Joint Meeting with ICS. The theme of the meeting will be "Cytokines in Immunity and Cancer". An advertising flyer has been included in the registration materials for the Torino meeting.

The Organizing Committee includes Nancy Reich and John Hiscott representing ISICR and Matt Fenton and Nancy Ruddle representing ICS. They will meet in Torino with Sherwood Reichard, the ICS Executive Manager, to begin to discuss logistics and potential plenary speakers.

The Caribe Hilton in Puerto Rico has been reserved for meeting dates of October 21-25, 2004. This date starts on a Thursday and continues over the weekend to Monday. The Caribe Hilton has extensive meeting facilities and Infrastructure and is located in downtown San Juan, near both the airport and the Old City. 350 rooms have been reserved at the Caribe Hilton and 40 rooms at the adjacent Normandy Hotel.

Thursday October 21 will be scheduled for Council Meetings, Keynote Addresses, the Milstein Award Seminar and the ICS Lifetime Membership Award Seminar. These will be followed by a Welcome Reception. October 22, 23 and 24 are full days with general sessions, breakouts, poster sessions and miscellaneous small meetings. October 25 will be scheduled for a partial day of sessions. Additionally a theme banquet will be held on the night of October 24. The additional Society Awards will be presented to recipients at the banquet.

2005 - Shanghai, China

Xin yuan Liu was unable to attend the meeting due to an illness, but sent an email and expressed his continued plans to host a meeting in Shanghai, China in 2005.

Dr. Liu previously proposed the Sheraton-Hua Ting Hotel and Towers as a possible meeting venue. It is described as a 5-Star Hotel, conveniently located with excellent transportation links to city center and the main airports. Information regarding possible accommodations in a variety of price ranges was also provided.

He proposes a 5-day meeting with 300 full-price participants, 300 local and student participants with a reduced registration fee and 100 accompanying persons.

The Meetings Committee recommends that Dr. Liu be contacted and encouraged to form a local organizing committee. These committee members can support the mission of Dr. Liu. The Committee recommends that Keiko Ozato as President contact Dr. Liu and suggest that Dr. Xietao Cao and Dr. Allan Lau be added to the organizing committee. George Stark suggested that Dr. Xietao Cao be a potential member of this committee since he organized an Immunity meeting in Shanghai at the 2nd Military Medical University several years ago and it was a well-organized meeting. Dr. Allan Lau is a good choice

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because he is a member of the Meetings Committee and he is located in Hong Kong.

Concepts for 2006

There was a proposal provided to the Meetings Committee for a meeting in Vienna in 2006 as a written letter from Josef Schwarzmeier on behalf of the Austrian organizing committee.

The 2002 meeting was originally scheduled to be in Vienna, however the nature of the political atmosphere at the time was a concern in 2000 and for this reason it was scheduled in Torino.

Vienna would like consideration from the Meetings Committee as the venue for the Joint ICS/ISICR meeting. Since 2006 could be a joint meeting with ICS, the Meetings Committee recommends that the ISICR President, Keiko Ozato contact the ICS and discuss the possibility of Vienna as a meeting site for 2006. Based on the locations of meetings in 2003 (Australia), 2004 (US), and 2005 (Asia) a meeting site in Europe would be desirable for 2006.

The Meetings Committee recommends that the ISICR President, Keiko Ozato, inform the Society Members that we are soliciting proposals for meeting sites in Europe for 2006.

Other business: **Editorial Review of Meeting Programs**

As per the "Guidelines for Organizers of the Annual ISICR Meeting": Christine Czarniecki, as Chair of the Meetings Committee, proof-reads the final Program for the meetings. This is a critical responsibility to ensure proper English grammar is used, and words, titles, or institutions are not missing, etc. Apparently this type of proof-reading is not consistently done by the publishers of the Meeting Program.

The problem has been that sufficient time has not been provided to allow proof reading and correction prior to publication. How can this be remedied? And who should be responsible?

It was suggested by the Committee that a deadline be agreed to in advance with the Organizing Committee and the Publisher of Abstracts that would allow a span of time for editorial review. Responsibilities for this task were discussed. The Committee recommends that the ISICR President take the issue to the attention of the Board to determine a remedy for next year's and all future meetings.

There was no other new business and the Meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Reich
Acting Chair, ISICR Meetings Committee

Internet Meeting, ISICR Membership Committee

November 6th, 2002

1. Membership Statistics:

Current paid membership (as of 18/09/2002) 647

a) Members who renewed – 545
b) New members- 94
c) Renewed with bad addresses- 8

Status

a) Regular members- 511
b) Student members- 121
c) Corporate sponsors- 5
d) Emeritus members- 10
e) Honorary members- 21

2. Membership Analysis:

The ISICR has lost 218 members over the last two years while gaining 94 in the last year. The breakdown of the losses is as follows:

8 corporate
80 students/postdocs
126 regular members
4 emeritus members

Some corporate loss was due to the fact that the corporations gave money to the meeting and would not give money to the ISICR as well. However most corporate loss was due to the economy.

Of the non-renewals, 30 were from industry and 108 were non-US/Canada members. 22 of the non-renewals (10%) were from the Cleveland Clinic (16 students/postdocs, 6 regular members). This number is reflective of the fact

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members of the Cleveland Clinic staff are strong supporters of the ISICR and that when students/postdocs leave a lab, they tend not to maintain their membership.

3. Proposed Action Items:

- Reconsider a small 2-page flyer describing ISICR and the benefits offered to members. The copy number of such flyers should be sufficient that copies can be distributed at 5-10 major international scientific meetings per year (by attending ISICR members), e.g. annual antiviral/ AIDS meetings, AACR, ASCO, EORTC, AAI, ASM, FASEB or specialized Keystone/Gordon conference meetings. If financing of the printing is an issue, these flyers may be printed once a year instead of one newsletter edition. Alternatively, a special newsletter edition with a page addressing new members, and with a higher copy number than usually printed, could be distributed to members at the beginning of each year asking them to take sufficient copies to annual meetings for distribution.
- FASEB should track non-renewals earlier and more efficiently. Perhaps a specific person at FASEB should take care of this matter and also notify (as has been done in previous years) the international councilors of ISICR.
- A specific ISICR membership committee member should take the responsibility to ensure that newsletter and membership application are included in the annual meeting materials upon registration. This particular membership committee member should be participant of the annual ISICR meeting organizing committee. If noone else will volunteer to do this, the acting chairperson of the ISICR membership committee should take over this responsibility.
- The ISICR membership committee proposes to actively look into a merger with ICS in 2006. In a first step the ISICR membership committee asks for feedback from the individual ISICR committee chairpersons and board of directors. If the response is favorable, discussions with ICS officials should be initiated (first ISICR and ICS board of directors; later on also chairpersons of the individual ISICR/ ICS commitees) in order to set up a steering committee with members from both societies (5 selected members from ISICR and 5 from ICS). The steering committee should be empowered to be the driving force of the merger discussions ; it should meet at least twice yearly and should report status/progress of the negotiations to the ISICR/ICS board of directors and at the annual meeting. Polling of the ISICR memebership on this issue is strongly encouraged in order to get a sense of support or opposition to a merger.

Respectfully submitted,
Heinz-Kurt Hochkeppel
Chair, ISICR Membership Committee

Minutes of the ISICR Nomenclature Committee
October 6, 2002
Torino, Italy

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 6, 2002 at the Annual Meeting of the ISICR in a hallway of the Lingotto Congress Center in Turin, Italy. Members present were Erik Lundgren (chair), Eleanor Fish, Richard Pine, and Margaret Sekellick. The decisions taken were confirmed by Gideon Schreiber later during the meeting.

The following issues were considered:

1. The Committee reviewed the status of mouse Limitin, discussed at last year's meeting. There has been no new published data on the subject and, thus, the committee considered its status unchanged from last year's report.

2. A paper reporting the characterization of 3 IFN-α13 variants cloned from Sendai induced human placenta cells was discussed *[T. Fink, V. Zachar and P. Effessen. (2001). Biological characterization of three novel variants of IFN-α13 produced by human placental trophoblast. Placenta 22:693-680*]. The committee noted that the information presented did not include any genomic sequence information nor did it demonstrate the ability of these IFNs to bind to and activate an IFN receptor, criteria that should be fulfilled by a new molecule in order to be designated as a type I IFN. The possibility was considered that these sequence variants were PCR generated variants.

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3. The committee discussed the need to disseminate information regarding existing rules for naming interferons. It was agreed that a letter summarizing the relevant information should be developed and distributed to all members of the editorial board of the Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research. We would seek to have this summary published as a short note in the journal (possibly on an annual basis) in order to make it more readily accessible to potential authors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret J. Sekellick
Erik Lundgren

Meeting of the ISICR Publications Committee
October 6, 2002
Torino, Italy

The Meeting of the Publications Committee was called to order at 12:45 pm on October 6, 2002. Committee members present included Manfred Beilharz, Bob Fleischmann, Milton Taylor, Jerry Tilles, Deborah Vestal, and Phil Marcus (ex officio). Ganes Sen was an invited guest. There were several items of new business.

1. Phil Marcus was recognized for his outstanding service as Editor-in-Chief of the Interferon Section of the Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research (JICR). On behalf of the Publications Committee, a letter was read that outlined Phil's exceptional contributions to the JICR and congratulated him on the wonderful legacy that he leaves behind. An additional letter from Mary Ann Liebert was read that thanked Phil for the skill, professionalism, and dedication to high standards that he exemplified during his many years of valuable service to the JICR. Then, Phil was presented with a plaque from the Publications Committee that recognized him with an "Editorial Excellence Award".

2. A new Editor-in-Chief of the Interferon Section of the JICR was named. The Publications Committee had previously reviewed the credentials of Ganes Sen as a candidate for the position as Editor-in-Chief. The members of the Publications Committee enthusiastically supported his candidacy and unanimously voted by e-mail to name him as the new Editor-in-Chief. Ganes was asked to say a few words about his vision for the future of the journal. A motion was then made to endorse the previous e-mail vote. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Phil Marcus presented a review of the status of the JICR. Highlights of his review include the following.
   a. The JICR is now the top-ranked journal in its field with an impact factor of 2.281.
   b. The current year is running ahead of recent years in the number of pages published.
   c. The establishment of Tony Meager as Reviews Section Editor has been a success with a number of reviews in progress.
   d. The JICR is in excellent shape.

4. A proposal by Mary Ann Liebert to provide the JICR on-line was discussed. Features of the proposal include the following.
   a. Subscription to the on-line journal would be tied to membership in the ISICR.
   b. The price for the on-line subscription would be $22 per member.
   c. Archival issues of the JICR would be placed on line, but in order to place them on-line with search and cross-linking features, it would cost an additional $10,000.

   The price of $22 per member was considered to be very reasonable. This modest cost should be affordable to all members. A motion was made to strongly recommend to the ISICR that it pursue a contract with the Mary Ann Liebert that is based upon her proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

   The search and cross-linking features for archival issues were considered by committee members to be essential. A motion was made to strongly recommend to the ISICR that it seek a donor to provide funds to cover the $10,000 cost.

With no other business, the Publications Committee adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Fleischmann
Chair, ISICR Publications Committee

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Meeting of the ISICR Standards Committee
6 October 2002
Torino, Italy

Attendees: Guido Antonelli*, Ronald Bordens*, Norman Finter*, Kenji Harada, Wendy Jones*, Yoshimi Kawade, Masayoshi Kohase*, Aida Prync*, Shingou Sakurai, Louis Westreich, and Sidney Grossberg* (Chairman)

Dr. Grossberg opened the meeting at 1415 hours and asked the attendees to introduce themselves and state their affiliations. Drs. Ron Bordens and Lou Westreich agreed to take the minutes of the meeting. Additional copies of the agenda and its attachments were distributed to those who had not received them.

1. Old Business.
At its last meeting in Cleveland (7 October 2001) the Committee had agreed to forward to the World Health Organization (WHO) its recommendation to establish as a common unit for expressing neutralizing antibody potency the Ten-fold Reduction Unit (TRU), to be presented possibly at the next meeting of the WHO Informal Consultation on Standards for Cytokines, Growth Factors, and Endocrinological Substances. However, no meeting of that consultation group has been held. It was recently announced that Dr. Elwyn Griffith, Head of the Biologics Division at WHO, had retired 30 September 2002, and no replacement has been named. It was suggested that the recommendation could be sent to the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS) but the annual meeting, usually scheduled in October, has been deferred, possibly until spring 2003. It was agreed that the Committee recommendation regarding neutralization unitage be prepared so that it can be brought to ECBS at its next meeting, the time of which was to be determined.

2. Approval of Minutes.
The minutes of the previous Committee meeting on 7 October 2001 in Cleveland, Ohio were approved as distributed.

3. Update on the Interferon-beta International Collaborative Study.
The circumstances of the current WHO interferon-beta international collaborative study were briefly reviewed, as summarized by Dr. Tony Meager of NIBSC in last year's Standards Committee meeting minutes. In the first phase study, 17 laboratories had assayed six different IFN-beta preparations, including current WHO International Standards (I.S.) and new candidate I.S. preparations. This study was stopped in 1999 because of concerns about the stability of reconstituted preparations. The second phase study was begun when it was shown that formulation with human serum albumin and bovine casein resolved the instability problems. The second study included four new candidate IFN-beta standard preparations prepared at NIBSC along with the two existing I.S. as well as the Japanese national standard for IFN-beta and a reference preparation from the first phase, for a total of ten samples. The data from the 16 participating laboratories had been received by NIBSC for analysis by the end of August 2002 and included antiviral assays from 12 laboratories, antiproliferative assays from four laboratories, and reporter gene assays from three laboratories. Wendy Jones noted that the reporter gene assay does not give the same relative results from one preparation to another as the antiviral assay. Dr. Prync felt that it was very important to have the analyses undertaken according to types of assays as well as by other parameters, for which there was general agreement. Dr. Grossberg indicated that Dr. Meager had generously agreed to send to him the raw data from the second phase study for statistical analysis, primarily of dose-response curve slopes. Dr. Meager had informed Dr. Grossberg that the data from the participating laboratories on the 10 IFN-beta preparations in this second phase study had indeed been received by NIBSC, but the analysis of the data has been assigned a relatively low priority for processing and therefore would be delayed for an undetermined period. There was considerable discussion about the urgent need by the pharmaceutical industry to have the results analyzed and shared by the participating laboratories with appropriate prior consultation so that the ECBS could be provided at its next meeting a consensus report with data analysis and recommendations regarding IFN-beta standardization.

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The question was raised during discussion whether ECBS can receive input from international scientific societies, and Dr. Grossberg commented that when he was an *ad hoc* member of ECBS, the advice from an international hematological society presented to ECBS was well received, seriously considered, and formed the basis for a recommendation. Ron Bordens suggested that financial support to NIBSC from industry might advance the proposed analysis of data to a much earlier completion time, a suggestion which was favored by the Committee.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that the ISICR Standards Committee petition the NIBSC to process the data and produce a report for distribution and review by the study participants at the earliest possible time, preferably by 31 December 2002.

4. Issues concerning the International Standards for Human Lymphoblastoid Interferon.

Dr. Norman Finter had detailed in a document, circulated with the agenda to the members of the Committee, concerning the problem of discontinuity in the unitage for human lymphoblastoid interferon (HuIFN-alpha N1). Dr. Finter reported that this type of interferon is now only made by four companies in Japan, namely, Hayashibara, Mochida, Otsuka, and Sumitomo. These companies have for several years issued their products for clinical use in containers labelled with their interferon content in International Units (I.U.) as standardised against the 1st I.S. for HuIFN-alphaN1, labeled Ga23-901-532. For reasons that regrettably have not been recorded (see below), the ECBS withdrew this standard in 1999 and replaced it with a 2nd I.S., code 95/568, with an assigned potency of 38,000 I.U. per ampoule. This value was derived from analysis of the data obtained for the 1st I.S. and 95/568 in a very large international assay study in 1997 and two adjunct studies, including one by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers in which Wellcome participated as a major producer; Wellcome no longer produces IFN-alphaN1. Unfortunately, the four Japanese manufacturers of lymphoblastoid interferon have found in two collaborative studies a discrepancy of approximately 30% between the units defined by the 1st and 2nd I.S.

The Committee discussed two ways in which continuity in the unitage for this type of interferon could be maintained either: (1) by carrying out further collaborative assay studies in which the four Japanese companies would take part, and so derive a new value for 95/568, which would maintain continuity of the unitage with the 1st I.S., and which could then be recommended to the ECBS to be assigned to the 2nd I.S., or (2) by recommending that the ECBS should withdraw 95/568 and reinstate the 1st I.S., Ga23-901-532.

In a letter Dr Tony Meager (unfortunately unable to attend this meeting) had previously given possible reasons for the withdrawal of the 1st I.S. He had suggested that the interferon batch used to make the 2nd I.S. was purer that that used for the 1st I.S. Dr Finter had been ultimately responsible for the production of both batches at Wellcome Laboratories and explained that they were produced identically, and due to technical analytical advances, the second batch had been better characterised in terms of subtype composition. Dr. Meager also felt that the 3% moisture content in containers of the 1st I.S. suggested possible long-term instability, but Dr Grossberg reported that long-term stability studies which were ongoing had shown no loss of activity and testing had predicted a very long storage life. At the current rate of usage, the > 2000 containers held by the NIAID, NIH, Bethesda, USA would suffice for more than 15 years. In response to a question posed by Dr. Bordens as to when Ga23-901-532 was calibrated, it was noted that the NIH Reference Reagent #30 was undated, but it was subsequently determined that WHO had approved its unitage of 25,000 I.U. in 1983 (WHO Technical Report Series 725:28-64, 1985). Dr Meager had favoured recalibration of 95/568 because there was no precedent for the ECBS reinstating an I.S. once withdrawn.

After additional discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed that to reinstate the 1st I.S., Ga23-901-532 was both an easier and more reliable way of solving the unitage problem than to try to derive a new and acceptable potency to be assigned to the 2nd I.S. They agreed that the Chairman should pass a recommendation to this effect to the ECBS for consideration at their next meeting.

5. New Cytokine Standards.

Dr. Meager provided *in absentia* the following update on new cytokine standards. Presently, NIBSC is concentrating its efforts on developing reference materials for IL-17 and IL-18, and is planning to develop reference materials for TNF-related, apoptosis-inducing ligand

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(TRAIL), B-lymphocyte stimulator (BlyS) and some pegylated cytokines, e.g. pegylated IFN-alpha 2, and possibly soluble cytokine receptors.

6. Participation in Committee Proceedings.
Dr. Kohase announced that he will be retiring soon from his position in Japan. Dr. Harada expressed the need for involvement of Japanese company representatives in the Committee. Dr. Grossberg explained that membership on the Committee was limited by ISICR rules but that attendance and participation in its meetings has always been open to Society members and welcomed by the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1600 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Louis Westreich
Ron Bordens
Sidney Grossberg

ISICR BUDGET

DESCRIPTION - EXPENSES	**2002**	***PROPOSED 2003***
Accounting	$ 2,700	$ 2,700
Administrative Expenses - FASEB	$ 35,800	$ 35,800
Administrative Expenses – Miscellaneous	$ 500	$ 500
Awards Travel to 2003 Meeting	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
Bank Charges	$ 250	$ 250
Consulting	$ 1,800	$ 1,800
Meeting Expenses (Annual and AAI)	$ 11,000	$ 6,000
Office Expenses: President	$ 500	$ 500
Secretary – General	$ 6,500	$ 6,500
Wages	$ 10,500	$ 10,500
Treasurer	$ 250	$ 250
Travel – President's Office	$ 4,000	$ 4,000
TOTAL	**$123,800**	**$118,800**
INCOME		
Dues	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
Corporate Sponsors	$ 50,000	$ 30,000
Annual Meeting Advance Reimbursement	$ 10,000	$ 11,000
Annual Meeting Income	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
Grants (Fleischmann Scholarship)	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
Interest Income	$ 336	$ 336
Other (Advertising, Rent Mail List, etc.)	$ 4,000	$ 3,000
TOTAL	**$115,336**	**$ 95,336**

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