INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
INTERFERON AND CYTOKINE RESEARCH
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Interview with 2004 Milstein Awardee Dr. Keiko Ozato

Hannah Nguyen

Keiko Ozato received a Ph.D. degree from Kyoto University and trained in the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Johns Hopkins University and the National Cancer Institute. She was tenured at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in 1986. She is also a Professor at the University of Maryland College Park campus. She served as President of the International Society of Interferon and Cytokine Research in 2002 & 2003. She is on the Editorial Board of Molecular and Cell Biology, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research, and Immunogenetics and teaches in several immunology classes in NIH graduate courses.

Congratulations on getting the Milstein Award! What does this award mean to you?

I am honored and humbled to receive the Award. There are many excellent scientists in our community who do wonderful, original research, and my work is a small part of the progress that has resulted from the efforts of this research community. I feel very fortunate to have been in the community and to be part of the ISICR. Wouldn't everyone want to affiliate with and be an active part of a decent society? The ISICR has been a friendly, nurturing kind of society, and I would like to think that my Award symbolizes it. It is an Award for everybody, for the community.

*(See **Milstein Awardee**, page 2)*

*(**Milstein Awardee**, cont. from page 1)*

What aspect of your research do you think has had the greatest impact in the interferon and cytokine field?

The interferon and cytokine field has an amazing history. The discovery of interferons (IFNs) in the 1950s opened many new exciting directions. With the history of the discovery of IFNs, I re-appreciate the original ways the initial IFN research scientists thought about antiviral activity and the courage with which they pursued their work. With this background, I feel that my contribution is indeed small and limited. What we are trying to do is to understand the mechanism of IFN and IFN-regulated genes. I am sure that there are yet many unknowns and surprises, and I want to stay in this field because of the many questions that remain to be answered.

What was the path that led you into interferon research?

I was working on major histocompatibility antigens (MHC class I), studying them from an immunological and not from an antiviral point of view; I did not know anything about IFNs or viruses. The link came when it was discovered that MHC Class I (and class II) are strongly induced by IFNs. Along with this I began to know people in the field, and this made my research much more exciting.

Your research interests include the bromodomain protein Brd4 and IRF-chromatin interactions. What is your view on the role of chromatin-binding proteins in IFN biology?

Because genomic DNA is bound to chromatin, and chromatin is diverse in its makeup and functions, our questions should be directed at least in part to understanding how chromatin affects the activity of genes that we study. Chromatin is fascinating, and I look forward to learning many new facts/concepts that will undoubtedly come from research in this area.

You are using several technologies to analyze the behavior of transcription factors in living cells, which is very exciting. In a nutshell, what do the technologies entail?

In my mind, studying mechanisms of action from a biochemical standpoint, the traditional, classic approach gives you a kind of static picture. Live cell technologies give a more dynamic picture on what molecules do as they function in living cells. Getting to know their "real behavior" is interesting. For example, we use FRET to detect protein-protein interactions in live cells. Basically, proteins of interest are labeled with unique fluorophores and transfected into cells. If the proteins become very close together (less than 50 angstroms apart), there is transfer of energy from one protein to the other, and this transfer can be measured using flow cytometry. This technique has been used by others as well - for example, Sid Pestka's lab has used it to study IFN-γ receptor interactions. Recently Tadatsugu Taniguchi's lab published a Nature paper using this technique to show an interaction between IRF-7 and MyD88. Imaging technologies have advanced so much in the recent past and one can take advantage of these advances to expand our understanding of protein interactions. These techniques are finding broader audience, e.g., some pharmaceutical companies are beginning to use these technologies for diagnostics.

What does a typical day entail as Section Chief of Molecular Genetics of Immunity at the NIH?

I have to do some administrative work, but I work hard in the lab and enjoy it a lot. I like to be in the lab and on occasion I work at the bench. This is the time I savor the most.

What was it like to be President of the ISICR?

Looking back, I am extremely thankful for the fact that people in the ISICR gave me so much help. I was inadequate for many tasks the President was supposed to do. The help I received from Howard Young and many other dedicated people was what kept the society afloat. I could not have done this job all on my own.

*(**Milstein Awardee**, cont. from page 2)*

What do you enjoy most about your career and why?

Science is the way of my life and I cannot think of any other way to live. Strangely, evolution, in my view the basis of all biology, has become an issue in the USA. I hope this will change soon.

What do you enjoy outside of science?

I love gardening, it makes you feel like you are part of the earth, part of the universe. I also enjoy listening to classical music.

What do you think the future holds for IFN and cytokine research?

I believe that IFN/cytokine research has a very bright future. The potential and current use of IFNs and other cytokines in clinical areas is exciting and expanding fast. There are so many basic questions that remain to be solved including: the mechanism of signaling, IFN action and short term and long term regulation at the molecular and cellular levels. Also there is much to understand in terms of chromatin in IFN action/regulation and we should incorporate chromatin biology into our thinking. There are lots of new technologies that allow us to study these diverse questions.

What advice would you have for aspiring young investigators, in particular aspiring female investigators?

I am very glad to see that female scientists are increasing all over the world and I am looking forward to their success. My advice is do not get discouraged, the future is bright - go for it!

NEW ISICR MEMBERS

Luis F. Acero
Cincinnati, OH

Latifa G. Al-Haj
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Adrien Breiman
Paris, France

Valerie Bressler-Hill
Camarillo, CA

Hao-Ming Chang
New York, NY

Kathleen M. Daddario
Bethesda, MD

Leanne E. Daly
Beaconsfield, Australia

Senad Divanovic
Cincinnati, OH

Elizabeth C. Downs
Chapel Hill, NC

Mary F. Erickson
Galway, Iceland

Thomas Fothergill
Queensland, Australia

Bin Gao
Bethesda, MD

Ning Gao
Dallas, TX

Guodong Hu
Baltimore, MD

Babl K. Jha
Cleveland, OH

Eugene S. Kandel
Cleveland, OH

*(**New Members**, cont. from page 3)*

Jianyun Liu
State University, AR

Youn-Jun Liu
Houston, TX

Rajat Madan
Cincinnati, OH

Giorgio Mangino
Rome, Italy

Diarmuid S. Manning
Dublin, Ireland

Catherine E. O'Doherty
Belfast, UK

Uday S. Pathania
Berkshire, UK

Taija E. Pietila
Helsinki, Finland

Graeme R. Quest
Alberta, Canada

Marta Sabbadini
New York, NY

Phillip J. Sanchez
Denver, CO

Niquiche Sangster-Guity
Baltimore, MD

Emiko Sano
Kanagawa, Japan

Jukka Siren
Helsinki, Finland

Young Song
Fullerton, CA

Mari Strengell
Helsinki, Finland

Vijayaprakash Suppiah
Belfast, UK

Ville Veckman
Helsinki, Finland

Myriam Vilasco
Paris, France

Damien Vitour
Paris, France

Youzhong Wan
Cleveland, OH

Wei-Bie Wang
Taipei, Taiwan

Yaming Wang
New York, NY

Beisheng Wu
Quebec, Canada

Liangtang Wu
Bethesda, MD

Hiroko Yamazaki
Morgan Hill, CA

Duen-Hwa Yan
Houston, TX

Tianyi Yan
Quebec, Canada

Jinbo Yang
Cleveland, OH

New Member Profiles

Thomas Tan

Ireland is known for its charm and traditional culture. Beautiful countrysides, wandering sheep on small back roads, friendly pubs, U2, and of course, *Riverdance* are just some of things that come to mind immediately. But did you know situated in the thriving and beautiful city of Galway, there is a new biotechnology company called Neutekbio? We neither! So, we asked new ISICR member, Mary Flynn Erickson, Executive Assistant to Neutekbio, to tell us more about the company.

Neutekbio
Contributed by Mary Flynn Erickson

Neutekbio Limited was founded in 2001 and received all of its financial backing from Irish investors. The business and commercial focus of the company is the development of products useful in clinical research and diagnostic medicine. Our area of concentration is the design and manufacture of tests and assays for the quantitative measurement of the biological activity of human cytokines in fluid samples. The technical platform for our initial products is based upon the "gene-reporter" format in which the presence of the cytokine of interest initiates the appropriate biosynthetic signaling cascade after the selective binding to the highly specific cell surface receptor. This interaction then elicits formation of the easily measured enzyme, firefly luciferase. Although the “gene-reporter” test format is a well-known technology, we have been able to devise a commercial format that is amenable to strict Quality Systems analysis. The use of our products allows the clinician to simply go to his freezer, remove our 96-well assay kit, add his fluid sample and obtain a reliable, reproducible result within a matter of hours.
Galway, in the West of Ireland, appeared to be the appropriate location for the company. Besides being an attractive and rapidly growing European city, Galway has some of the outstanding research and technical universities in Ireland. Of equal importance, the West of Ireland is the home of some of the world's most prominent and successful diagnostic, medical device and biopharmaceutical companies. This list includes Abbott Laboratories, Olympus Diagnostics, Beckman Coulter, Boston Scientific, Schering Plough and Roche Pharmaceuticals. The company has established collaborative research and development agreements with the Laboratory of Viral Oncology (UPR9045, Centre National Recherche Scientifique) in the Institute Andre Lwoff in Villejuif. These research programs have been carried out under the direction of Dr. Michael Tovey, a fellow member of this Society. The company also has technical development laboratories at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

To learn more about Neutekbio and products, visit their website: www.neutekbio.com
Neutekbio Limited
Galway Technology Centre
Mervue Business Park
County Galway, Ireland

Dr. Malathi Krishnamurthy
Project Scientist, Department of Cancer Biology
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Dr. Malathi Krishnamurthy received her Ph.D. in Molecular Microbiology, School of Life Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India in 1994 and did postdoctoral research at Columbia University. She became a Project Scientist, Department of Cancer Biology, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH in 2003. Her research focuses on the role of RNase L (Ribonuclease L) in innate immunity and cancer. She is trying to understand the role of RNase L as a tumor suppressor based on its involvement in antiproliferative activity of interferon and association of mutations in RNase L in prostate cancer cases. She is seeking to define the signaling pathways involved in RNase L mediated apoptosis in response to chemotherapeutic agents and to compare it to the pathways used in antiviral response. These approaches will be useful in designing drug targets for treatment and management of prostate cancer.

Dr. Krishnamurthy states: "I joined the ISICR so I can interact with scientists in the area of interferon and cytrokine signaling and build a network of researchers who can share common research interests. I believe that ISICR can provide a unique platform for meeting junior and senior researchers."

Dr. Xi Yang
Professor
Departments of Medical Microbiology and Immunology
University of Manitoba

Dr. Xi Yang obtained his medical degree and Master of Science degree in Shandong Medical University and Shanghai Second Medical University, respectively, in China. He received his PhD in Immunology from the University of Manitoba in Canada. He is currently a full professor in the departments of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at University of Manitoba. His current research focuses on the immunobiology of chlamydial infection, chlamydial vaccine development and the relationship between infections and allergic diseases,especially the role of cytokines in the regulation of immune responses to these diseases. His research is supported by several grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), National Research Council of Canada (NRC) and National Natural Sciences Foundation of China (NSFC). He serves as a grant panel member (Immunology and Transplantation) in CIHR and Chairman of Graduate Studies in the Department of Medical Microbiology at the University of Manitoba. He was granted the Canada Research Chair in Infection and Immunity Award by the federal government of Canada in 2002.

Reasons to join ISICR: "I have been working on cytokine research since 1989, mainly focusing on cytokine immune regulation in T cell responses. I attended the ISICR meeting last year and was impressed by the quality and representativeness of the society. I think joining the society will benefit my own research by establishing new connections and broader communications with colleagues in the cytokine research community".

Dr. Jianping Ye
Associate Professor
Pennington Biomedical Research Center

Dr. Jianping Ye is an Associate Professor at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, in the Louisiana State University System and has been at that Institute since 2001. He received his M.D. from Beijing University in 1989 and did postdoctoral research at the National Cancer Institute and Johns Hopkins University. Prior to joining the Louisiana State University System, he was in the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, a federal agency known for creating standards for hazardous material procedures and personal safety equipment. He joined the ISICR as his research has been focused on cytokines for quite some time and the ISICR offered him the ability to interact with other investigators with similar interests.

Currently, his research is focused on the role of inflammation in the pathogenesis of type 2 diabetes and obesity, which are a health threat to more than 30% of adults in US. He is using TNF-α as an inflammation model and focusing on the NF-κB signaling pathway. His lab is making an effort to understand the molecular mechanism of insulin resistance, a hallmark of type 2 diabetes that links obesity to many chronic diseases such as hypertension, atherogenesis and heart failure. Additionally, he is investigating the cellular and molecular mechanisms of an herbal medicine that prevents obesity and type 2 diabetes. Funding for his research comes from the NIH and the American Diabetes Association.

To promote collaboration and awareness of the newest advances in type 2 diabetes and obesity research, Dr. Ye has organized a network of colleagues at the Center called the "Insulin Resistance Interest Group". This network has now become a national effort, with members throughout the United States. Investigators can join his network by emailing him at "Jianping Ye" <YeJ@pbrc.edu>

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Last year, the Governing Council of the International Endotoxin Society (IES) polled its members and there was a consensus that the name of the Society be changed to reflect a broader interest in innate immunity and microbial stimulants in addition to endotoxin. Therefore, at our business meeting at the 8th Conference of the IES that was held in Kyoto, Japan in November 2004, the members voted to change the name of the Society to the "International Endotoxin and Innate Immunity Society" (IEIIS). This name change bridges our old and new goals and interests. While many in our ranks continue to study the chemistry of LPS and the regulation of its synthesis by microorganisms, many others are actively studying the role of LPS and other non-LPS TLR agonists in the innate immune response to infection. I hope that this change will encourage anyone who may have previously felt excluded because they study aspects of innate immunity distinct from those related to Gram negative LPS to join the IEIIS. In many ways, this is reminiscent of the change adopted by the International Society for Cytokine and Interferon Research some years ago. Many of members of the IEIIS are also members of ISICR, the Society for Leukocyte Biology (SLB), and the American Association of Immunologists (AAI). IEIIS biennial meetings alternate between the USA, Japan and Europe, providing truly international opportunities for scientific interaction with researchers in wide-ranging and related areas of work. Proceedings are published in the Journal of Endotoxin Research, the Society's official journal. We welcome all new members and provide travel grants to students to help defray meetings costs. For additional information, please go to our current website at http://www.kumc.edu/IES/.

With kind regards,

Stefanie N. Vogel, Ph.D.
President, IEIIS
svogel@som.umaryland.edu

NAMING INTERLEUKINS

This response was received based on an inquiry to the NIH Cytokine Interest Group

To the best of my knowledge Dr. John Schrader of the Univ. of British Columbia is the nomenclature representative of the cytokine community. He coordinates the naming of new Interleukins with the IUIS nomenclature committee to ensure that a newly discovered molecule qualifies. It has to be structurally defined and to have activities on leukocytes. He ensures that it is given a new number. We had no idea when the system of sequential naming was initiated that there would be so many interleukins and that there would be families. It is true that, as a result, the nomenclature is becoming increasingly chaotic and irrational. The numerical system established for the chemokines, although more rational, has the drawback of resulting in too many numbers so that only the professional chemokinologists can keep track of all the ligands and receptors. Since the cytokines do belong to families, they offer the opportunity of developing a more systematic and easier to remember naming system. John Sims has proposed a model naming system for the IL-1 family which unfortunately is being overridden by the Interleukin numbering system. I consider it high time to organize meetings of scientists interested in the nomenclature problem to discuss changing the approach to the naming of Interleukins at future Cytokine meetings.

Sincerely,
Joost J.Oppenheim

WWW

Send us websites that help your research so ISICR members can benefit from your experience.

2can Bioinformatics
http://www.ebi.ac.uk/2can/home.htm

This site provides short and concise introductions to basic concepts in molecular and cell biology and bioinformatics. The main emphasis is placed on making it as easy as possible for the user to understand which tools and databases are available from the EBI and from sites belonging to its collaborators. The site content aims to make these services easier and more accessible but also provides links to other sites where similar resources are maintained and well supported.

The BIODIDAC Project
http://biodidac.bio.uottawa.ca/

Objective
Create a bank of digital images, video, and animations that can be used and adapted for teaching Biology. Copying the material, modifying and adapting it to meet the professor's needs, and subsequent distribution to students is permitted with the condition that this is noncommercial, that the supplier (BIODIDAC) of the material is acknowledged, and that its use is registered. Why? There is too little digital material that can be freely used for teaching. BIODIDAC aims at filling this void, at least partially.

CCDS Database
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/CCDS/

The Consensus CoDing Sequence (CCDS) project is a collaborative effort to identify a core set of human protein-coding regions that are consistently annotated and of high quality. Annotation of genes on the human genome is provided by multiple public resources using different methods, resulting in information that is similar but not always identical. The human genome sequence is now sufficiently stable to start identifying gene placements that are identical, and to start making this data public and supported as a core set by the three major public human genome browsers. The long-term goal is to support convergence towards a standard set of gene annotations on the human genome.

Cytoscape
www.cytoscape.org

Cytoscape is a bioinformatics software platform for visualizing molecular interaction networks and integrating these interactions with gene expression profiles and other state data. Additional features are available as plugins. Plugins are available for network and molecular profiling analyses, new layouts, additional file format support and connection with databases. Plugins may be developed using the Cytoscape open Java software architecture by anyone and plugin community development is encouraged.
Cytoscape supports the following features:

<u>Input</u>
Input and construct molecular interaction networks from raw interaction files (SIF format) containing lists of protein-protein and/or protein-DNA interaction pairs. For yeast and other model organisms, large sources of pairwise interactions are available through the BIND and TRANSFAC databases. User-defined interaction types are also supported.
Load and save previously-constructed interaction networks in GML format (Graph Markup Language).
Input mRNA expression profiles from tab- or space-delimited text files.
Load and save arbitrary attributes on nodes and edges. For example, input a set of custom annotation terms for your proteins and create a set of confidence values for your protein-protein interactions.
Import gene functional annotations from the Gene Ontology (GO) and KEGG databases.

WWW (continued)

Visualization

Customize network data display using powerful visual styles.

View a superposition of gene expression ratios and p-values on the network. Expression data can be mapped to node color, label, border thickness, or border color, etc. according to user-configurable colors and visualization schemes.

Layout networks in two dimensions. A variety of layout algorithms are available, including cyclic and spring-embedded layouts.

Zoom in/out and pan for browsing the network.

Use the network manager to easily organize multiple networks.

Use the bird's eye view to easily navigate large networks.

Analysis

Plugins available for network and molecular profile analysis. For example:

Filter the network to select subsets of nodes and/or interactions based on the current data. For instance, users may select nodes involved in a threshold number of interactions, nodes that share a particular GO annotation, or nodes whose gene expression levels change significantly in one or more conditions according to p-values loaded with the gene expression data.

Find active subnetworks / pathway modules. The network is screened against gene expression data to identify connected sets of interactions, i.e. interaction subnetworks, whose genes show particularly high levels of differential expression. The interactions contained in each subnetwork provide hypotheses for the regulatory and signaling interactions in control of the observed expression changes.

Find clusters (highly interconnected regions) in any network loaded into Cytoscape. Depending on the type of network, clusters may mean different things. For instance, clusters in a protein-protein interaction network have been shown to be protein complexes and parts of pathways. Clusters in a protein similarity network represent protein families. More plugins available on the plugins page.

Cytoscape was initially made public in July, 2002 (v0.8). Cytoscape 2.1 is the latest release of the open source bioinformatics software program and includes: major performance improvements for loading, manipulating and managing large networks; new layout and visual attribute operations; support for new external data formats; usability improvements; and bug fixes.

Funding for Cytoscape is provided by a federal grant from the U.S. National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under award number GM070743-01. Corporate funding is provided through a contract from Unilever PLC.

Databases on Medicine and Molecular Biology
http://www.meddb.info

Compilation of numerous databases and information sources.

Dictionary of Cancer Terms
http://www.cancer.gov/dictionary/

Welcome to the NCI Dictionary of Cancer Terms, which contains more than 3,500 terms related to cancer and medicine. Type the word or phrase you are looking for in the Search box and click "Go". If you are not sure of the spelling, type in a few letters and click "Go". Or browse through the dictionary by clicking a letter in the alphabet. The search is set up to find terms that start with the words or letters you type. Use "Contains" when you want to find all terms in the dictionary that include a word or set of letters. For example, typing "lung" and choosing "Contains" will find terms like "isolated lung perfusion" and "non-small cell lung cancer" in addition to terms that start with "lung" (e.g., "lung metastases").

WWW (continued)

GeneNotes
http://bayes.fas.harvard.edu/genenotes/

GeneNotes assists biologists to collect and manage multimedia information related to cherry-picked of genes/ESTs. In genome-wide profiling project, researchers usually select many sets of genes (or ESTs) for further investigation based on the computational analyses of the experimental data. For example, a set of genes is selected because they are clustered together based on their mRNA levels. To generate or support biologically meaningful hypotheses, researchers need to selectively and systematically collect information about the genes/ESTs from various sources. For example, huge amount of gene annotations have been accumulated over decades in distributed databases. In addition, there are plenty of online computational tools (e.g., BLAST, TMHMM, MEME, etc.) that can be customized to generate invaluable information complementary to the local computational analyses of researchers. Most web-based databases and computational tools require direct human involvement. Sometimes, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to perform further computational analyses on the collected information. For example, a cellular image often contains large amount of important information that can be easily understood by human but is beyond the capability of existing computational tools. In addition, the computational results are often far from ideal. Therefore, the timely integration and interpretation of the collected information still relies heavily on the sensibility of biologists. However, it is a challenging task to effectively collect and manage various types of information of interest. Researchers often feel overwhelmed by not only vast amount of information but also the great diversity of information types. To facilitate this task, we developed GeneNotes that provides an integrated environment for surfing the Internet, recording information, annotating genes, and retrieving information in the form of text, HTML, image, PDF, word file, and so on.

The miRNA Registry
http://www.sanger.ac.uk/Software/Rfam/mirna/index.shtm

The miRNA Registry has been established with two broad aims: to provide miRNA gene hunters with unique names for novel miRNA genes prior to publication of results to provide a searchable database of published miRNAs. Each entry in the miRNA Registry represents a predicted hairpin portion of a miRNA transcript (termed mir in the database),with information on the location and sequence of the mature miRNA sequence (termed miR). Both hairpin and mature sequences are available for searching using BLAST, and entries can also be retreived by name, keyword, references and annotation. All sequence and annotation data are also available for download from our ftp site. Please note that the predicted stem-loop sequences in the database are not strictly precursor miRNAs (pre-miRNAs), but include the pre-miRNA and some flanking sequence from the presumed primary transcript. To receive email notification of data updates and feature changes, please subscribe to the miRNA mailing list. Any other queries about the website or naming service should be directed at microrna@sanger.ac.uk .
If you make use of the data presented here, please cite the following article in addition to the primary data sources:
The microRNA Registry.
Griffiths-Jones S.
NAR, 2004, 32, Database Issue, D109-D111

The following publication provides guidelines on miRNA annotation:
A uniform system for microRNA annotation.
Ambros V, Bartel B, Bartel DP, Burge CB, Carrington JC, Chen X, Dreyfuss G, Eddy SR, Griffiths-Jones S, Marshall M, Matzke M, Ruvkun G, Tuschl T.
RNA, 2003, 9(3), 277-279

Ligand Screen Experiments
http://www.signaling-gateway.org/data/cgi-bin/table.cgi?cellabbr=RW

The Ligand Screen is a strategy for detecting the inputs and, in time, the combinations of inputs that are most relevant to regulation of the behavior of the cells chosen as our experimental targets. The initial goals are (1) to determine which ligands give functionally unique responses and (2) to determine which combinations of ligands interact in ways that are not simply energetically additive. Definition of the extent of the interactions among ligands is a significant goal. The combinations of inputs that display the most robust interactions will be analyzed rigorously in later stages of the Alliance's life, since these interactions define the level of complexity of the signaling network.
We are using a modest number of information-rich assays to identify unique inputs and interactive inputs. The assays have been chosen to sample broadly the signaling capability of the cell and the complexity of the response. Measurements for this phase of experimentation have not been chosen to yield critical mechanistic information. Assays will include mRNA profiles, immunoblots to detect phosphorylation at specific sites within a panel of signaling proteins, and time-dependent changes in concentrations of cyclic AMP and Ca2+. Other assays will be added in the future. The ligand names in the first column are linked to descriptions of the ligands and the entries in the table are linked to the data for that ligand/assay combination.

The NIH Tetramer Facility
http://www.niaid.nih.gov/reposit/tetramer/overview.html

The NIH Tetramer Facility was established in 1999 to provide custom synthesis and distribution of soluble MHC-peptide tetramer reagents that can be used to stain antigen-specific T cells. MHC class I/peptide tetramer reagents are produced at the NIH Tetramer Facility contract site located at Emory University. MHC Allele protein production, folding and quality control are free to approved investigators (see Request Prioritization). Requestors incur the cost of peptide production, which they supply to the facility (see General Guidelines) and shipping. All reagents are quality controlled (see General Guidelines) and are labeled with commercially manufactured streptavidin-allophycocyanin or streptavidin-phycoerythrin fluorophores. The NIH Tetramer Facility will not provide tetramers sold by Beckman Coulter, Inc.-Immunomics Operations (BCI). For a listing of the commercially-available tetramers, please refer to the Request Form. Pre-assembled MHC Class II tetramers produced in collaboration with Drs. Gerald Nepom and William Kwok, Virginia Mason Research Center are now available in limited trial lots for the following specificities: DR4/HA; DR4/GAD; DR4/HSV; and DR1/HA (see Request Form).

The Vega Science Trust
http://www.vega.org.uk/

The Vega Science Trust aims to create a broadcast platform for the science, engineering and technology (SET) communities, so enabling them to communicate on all aspects of their fields of expertise using the exciting new TV and Internet opportunities.

<u>Programme Production</u>
To date Vega has made more than 60 programmes, over half of which have been broadcast on the BBC2 Learning Zone. These include the Royal Institution Discourse Lectures, Science Masterclasses, Reflections on Science series, Royal Society Public Lectures, archival interviews and discussions. Vega's programmes uncover the principles which are the key to a fundamental understanding of nature and the physical world. Outstanding scientists/communicators are directly involved so that they can guide the form and content of the programmes with which they are associated. Science is presented in a natural way as an intellectually challenging discipline and the films fill the gap in TV coverage by presenting well-informed analyses on serious science-related ethical, economic, social, health and other issues. They

reflect the overwhelmingly positive contribution that scientists have made to the well-being of society. We are also developing broadcasts for the Internet and are actively expanding our library of archive recordings.

Internet Broadcasting
We have now relaunched our Website as the first completely free "Internet Science TV Channel" on the Web. We intend to have all our programmes freely available over the next few months, initially as lower bandwidth streams suitable for home computer users around the world. Later we will be expanding this to include high bandwidth broadcasts more suitable for viewers with faster connections such as those in the UK HE/FE community.

Workshops and Distance Learning
Jonathan Hare and Harry Kroto are developing a series of workshops for groups of school children from the ages of 6 to 18. One of the trust's latest initiatives is to expand this programme to cover "virtual workshops" using the Internet. This will allow presentations to many schools simultaneously, as well as regular video feedback for ongoing schools projects. We hope that these projects will act as pilots for other groups interested in developing similar schemes; please contact us for advice and links.

The Vega Awards
In 2001 the Trust initiated a series of "Vega Awards", designed to showcase the best in science broadcasting from around the world and raise the profile of smaller production groups and alternative production styles.

Scinematheque, the Science Cinema
Each year at the British Association Festival of Science we organise "Scinematheque", a science cinema. This shows some of the best science television from around the world, much of which would normally be hard to see. In addition Vega provides information and advice to scientists and organisations wishing to get involved in science broadcasting. We actively engage with those in positions of influence in order to promote quality science broadcasting. The Trust acts as a focal point for groups elsewhere in the world engaged in similar activities including the US, Mexico, Japan, India, Korea and Taiwan.

The Trust aims to provide well-informed views on technical issues, and so make science more accessible and understandable to the widest possible range of target audiences. In areas of public concern we want to help ensure the best possible advice is available and so ensure that decisions may be made judiciously.

siRNA Database
http://www.proteinlounge.com/sirna_database.asp

Protein Lounge has created a comprehensive siRNA database that contains siRNA targets against all known mRNA sequences throughout a variety of organisms. The database has also been subdivided into folders for siRNA against Kinases, Phosphatases, Transcription Factors and Disease genes in order to provide a total solution for your RNAi research needs. All siRNA targets in the database are linked to Protein Lounge's web-based siRNA cloning tool that allows users to chose from a wide variety of vectors and also search for specific repeat patterns in complete genomes.

The siRNA Database will save you a great deal of time in your research, “since targets against all known genes have been pregenerated in this database”, by simplifying the search for your genes and getting the siRNA targets. All genes in the siRNA database are also linked to our Protein and Pathway databases, giving you detailed information about the genes which the siRNA target. This is a necessary database for anyone working with gene expression analysis and high-throughput screening.

WWW (continued)

UMR cDNA Resource Center
http://www.cdna.org/
A non-profit organization providing full-length cDNA clones encoding human signal transduction proteins to the research community. The fee of $80 per clone reflects our direct costs for producing, verifying, and distributing these clones.
The Center provides clones of human proteins that are:
Full-length
Sequence verified
Expression verified in most cases by coupled in vitro transcription/ translation assays
Propagated in two versatile vectors:
Mammalian expression vector pcDNA 3.1 (InVitrogen).
Cre-recombinase mediated transfer vector PDNR-1r (Clontech)
Free of extraneous 3' and 5' untranslated regions
Available in wild-type, epitope-tagged and common mutant forms (e.g., constitutively-active or dominant negative)
Shipped the day of order by courier delivery (Federal Express)

ISICR members your help is needed!!!

The ISICR has once again been invited to organize a symposium in conjunction with the 2006 American Association of Immunologists meeting in Boston, May 12-16. The ISICR is looking for members who will be attending and would be willing to organize the ISICR symposium. The session lasts for 2 hours and can accommodate 4-5 speakers. Organizers are encouraged to include themselves among the speakers. While the ISICR does not have travel funds to support members' attendance to this meeting, AAI meeting registration will be reimbursed to members who participate in this symposium, if requested. Note that symposium participants can register for the AAI meeting at AAI member rates.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS (ACTUAL QUOTES)

1. "Since my last report, this employee has reached rock-bottom and has started to dig."

2. "I would not allow this employee to breed."

3. "This employee is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definite won't be."

4. "Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap."

5. "When she opens her mouth, it seems that it is only to change feet."

6. "He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle."

7. "This young lady has delusions of adequacy."

8. "He sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them."

9. "This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot."

10. "This employee should go far, and the sooner he starts, the better."

11. "Got a full 6-pack, but lacks the plastic thingy to hold it all together."

12. "A gross ignoramus...144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus."

13. "He doesn't have ulcers, but he's a carrier."!

14. "I would like to go hunting with him sometime."

15. "He's been working with glue too much."

16. "He would argue with a signpost."

17. "He brings a lot of joy whenever he leaves the room."

18. "When his IQ reaches 50, he should sell."

19. "If you see two people talking and one looks bored, he's the other one."

20. "A photographic memory but with the lens cover glued on."

21. "A prime candidate for natural de-selection."

22. "Donated his brain to science before he was through using it"

23. "Gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train ain't coming."

24. "He's got two brains, one is lost and the other is out looking for it."

25. "If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week."

26. "If you give him a penny for his thoughts, you'd get change."

27. "If you stand close enough to him, you can hear the ocean."

28. "It's hard to believe he beat off 1,000,000 other sperm."

29. "One neuron short of a synapse."

30. "Some drink from the fountain of knowledge; he only gargled."

31. "Takes him 2 hours to watch '60 Minutes'."

32. "The wheel is turning, but the hamster is dead."

NEW ON THE WEB: Job postings

ISICR Members LIST your available positions for free!!!!

Go to www.isicr.org and click on ISICR Job Finder to take advantage of this new service for members

Open Positions:

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Division of Cell & Molecular Biology, Toronto General Research Institute
Department of Immunology, University of Toronto, Canada

A postdoctoral research position is available immediately in the laboratory of Dr. Eleanor Fish. The successful applicant will study various aspects of the immunobiology of Type I interferons, interferons-α/β, including characterizing their mechanisms of action as therapeutics against different viral infections - e.g. SARS, influenza. Additionally, the applicant will collaborate with a multi-disciplinary team focusing on the design and development of non-peptide interferon mimetics. The successful candidate will join a friendly, dynamic, well-funded group. Salary will be commensurate with experience. The applicant must possess a PhD or equivalent and experience in molecular biology and/or immunology. Applicants should forward a CV and personal statement to: Dr. Eleanor Fish <en.fish@utoronto.ca>

Postdoctoral Fellow
Signal Transduction Laboratory,
St Vincent's Institute, Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia

St Vincent's Institute is a centre of excellence in medical research. The Signal Transduction Laboratory has a position available for a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to work on regulation of the immune system by Suppressor of Cytokine Signalling (SOCS) proteins. The major focus will be on the analysis of T cell development and function in genetically modified mouse models lacking SOCS proteins. The successful applicant will possess a PhD degree in a relevant scientific area. Experience with multi-color FACS analysis is essential. Other desirable skills include in vitro T cell purification and culture, mouse handling, molecular biology techniques and Western blotting. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The position will be available from October 2005 until December 2007, although the start date is flexible. Generous superannuation and attractive salary packaging is offered to staff. For further information regarding this position, please contact A/Prof Robyn Starr: +61 (3) 9288 2480 or email rstarr@svi.edu.au. Please forward your CV, and the names of three referees to:
Human Resources Manager
Mrs. Gayle McMurray
St Vincent's Institute
41 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia
Fitzroy VIC 3065 or by email to
gmcmurray@svi.edu.au.
Applications close June 24, 2005.

Postdoctoral Fellow
Gene Therapy Program and Center for Molecular and Tumor Virology (CMTC), Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Shreveport, Louisiana

A postdoctoral position is available immediately in the Gene Therapy Program and Center for Molecular and Tumor Virology at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center located in Shreveport, Louisiana. We are investigating the use of an "oncolytic" RNA virus - a virus that specifically targets and destroys cancer cells - for prostate cancer gene therapy. The project will focus on the inability of many tumor cells to make or respond to secreted type I interferon; a property which renders them extremely susceptible to virus infection and killing. Findings will be applied to the development of novel therapeutic strategies for hormone-resistant-prostate

(*Job postings continued from page 15***)**

tumors. It is expected that the incumbent will work together with the P.I. to design and execute experiments and present findings in national/international conferences and peer-reviewed journals. State of the art facilities and equipment support these projects in the LSUHSC-S Research Core Facility and CMTV. The position is funded by the Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy and the Louisiana Gene Therapy Consortium. Salary for this full-time position is competitive and commensurate with experience. Applicants must have a Ph.D., M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. in Microbiology, Immunology, Molecular Biology or a closely-related field. Strong molecular biology and virology skills and knowledge of mouse tumor models are desirable.

For more information about the postdoctoral position please contact Dr. Kate D. Ryman by email at kryman@lsuhsc.edu. For more information about the research program and other available positions, please visit our websites at http://www.sh.lsuhsc.edu/gene_therapy/ and http://www.sh.lsuhsc.edu/microbiology/microbiology.html

LSUHSC-S is an Equal Access/Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer

Biologist in cancer research
Eli Lilly

You will participate in research involved in developing cell-based assays and mechanism of action studies focused on targets related to stress responses and inflammatory pathways, especially those that impact tumor cell growth and survival.

Responsibilities
1. Help design, then implement research experiments and analyze data.
2. Develop and validate assays for screening inhibitors using cell lines or primary cells, as well as some mechanistic analysis of inhibitors.
3. Apply knowledge of signal transduction techniques, cell biology experience and cell culture experience (cell lines and primary cells) to achieve goals.

Requirements
1. demonstrated record of achievement with experience of cellular biology with cell lines, primary human and rodent cells. Experience and knowledge of enzymology and protein biochemistry will be a plus.
2. experience and knowledge of inflammation and cancer cell biology-related assays.
3. able to work and apply knowledge independently.
4. BS or MS in biology or a related area.
5. able to work with small rodent animals.

To apply, please refer to the job code 776928 at www.lilly.com

Training in Neuroimmunoendocrine Effects of Alcohol
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), NIH
Training Grant for Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellows
Loyola University Chicago

Immediate opening for pre- and postdoctoral fellows: Join an interdisciplinary group of biochemists, cell biologists, endocrinologists, gastroenterologists, immunologists, neuroscienticsts, orthopaedic and trauma surgeons, to study neuroimmune, immunoendocrine, and neuroendocrine effects of alcohol in a dynamic research environment in the Chicago area. Postdoctoral candidates must have a Ph.D. or M.D. in a related field and all trainees must be United States citizens. Please send curriculum vitae and three references along with a short letter describing research interests and career goals, to:
Elizabeth J. Kovacs Ph.D., Director Alcohol Research Program,
Loyola University Chicago, 2160 South First Avenue, Maywood, IL 60153,
Phone 708-327-2477, FAX 708-327-2813.
email: ekovacs@lumc.edu.

(*Job postings continued from page 15***)**

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Loyola University of Chicago is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator.

Assistant Professor
Graduate Institute of Immunology Natl Taiwan

http://www.mc.ntu.edu.tw/department/iim/
1, Jen-Ai Rd, Section 1, Rm 513
Taipei 100, TAIWAN
Phone: +886-2-23955913
Fax: +886-2-2321-7921
Email: leeck@ha.mc.ntu.edu.tw
Position: Assistant Professor
Availibility: 07/01/2006
Education: MD and/or PhD with background related to Immunology are welcome to apply for this position. Please send CV, letter of intend and three letters of recommendation to the indicated address by Dec. 1st, 2005.

Senior Scientist- Virology
InterMune, Inc.
http://www.intermune.com
3280 Bayshore Blvd , Brisbane, CA 94005
Fax: (415) 508-0472 Email: hr@intermune.com
Availibility: ASAP
Education: PhD
About InterMune, Inc.. InterMune is a world leader in the development and marketing of innovative therapeutics for unmet medical needs in Hepatology and Pulmonology. InterMune has three marketed products (Infergen®, Actimmune® and Amphotec®) and a robust development pipeline. We are committed to creating and sustaining a community of professionals that value honesty, open communication, teamwork, accountability and creativity.

Description
We seek a team-oriented, Ph.D. level scientist who possesses the following skills

Expertise in virology from molecular, cellular, immune and disease perspectives

Self-motivated, hands on experimentalist

Ability to communicate sophisticated scientific principles to non-specialists and convey scientific basis of clinical strategy to clinical investigators and key opinion leaders

Ability to use his/her knowledge to develop and test novel clinical strategies using in vitro models and to critically evaluate pre-clinical drug candidates

Possess necessary skills to discern molecular mechanisms of drug action and identify relevant markers of response.

Requirements
The ideal candidate will have the following: Ph.D. with 4 to 8 years of experience in virology

Record of productivity in relevant areas demonstrated by publications and/or patent filings

Clinical Trials

Hannah Nguyen

Additional information on this list can be obtained at **http://clinicaltrials.gov**

Study of the Human Anti-TNF Monoclonal Antibody Adalimumab for the Induction of Clinical Remission in Subjects with Moderate to Severe Crohn's Disease who Have Lost Response or are Intolerant to Infliximab. Main Contact: Marie Nickle, BA, Tel: 973-394-5513, e-mail: marie.nickle@abbott.com. Contacts in 26 US States, 6 Canadian provinces, Belgium and France. Study ID Number: M04-691. ClinicalTrials.gov identifier NCT00105300.

Phase I Study of Tumor Vasculature-Targeted Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha (NGR-TNF; tumor necrosis factor combined with a fusion protein) in Patients With Advanced Solid Tumors. Contacts in Germany and the Netherlands. Study chairs or principal investigators: Cornelis J. A. Punt, MD, PhD, Nijmegen Cancer Center at Radboud University Medical Center. Study ID Numbers: CDR0000396507; EORTC-16041; MOLMED-EORTC-16041; EUDRACT-2004-000950-21; NCT00098943. ClinicalTrials.gov identifier NCT00098943.

Phase III research study to observe the safety and effectiveness of MRA (investigational drug, tocilizumab, humanized antibody against the IL-6 receptor) compared to placebo when combined with methotrexate in patients with moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis and a poor response to anti-TNF therapy. Contacts in 35 US States, Australia, Belgium, 5 Canadian provinces, France, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, Sweden and 19 cities in the United Kingdom. Study ID Numbers: WA18062. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00106522

Arsenic Trioxide and Etanercept in Treating Patients With Myelodysplastic Syndromes. Study chairs or principal investigators: Bart L. Scott, MD, Principal Investigator, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Seattle, Washington, 98109-1024, Study ID Numbers: CDR0000380742; FHCRC-1888.00; NCT00093366 ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00093366

Clinical Study of Muenke Syndrome (FGFR3-Related Craniosynostosis). Contact: National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland, 20892; Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Tel: 1-800-411-1222, e-mail: prpl@mail.cc.nih.gov, TTY 1-866-411-1010. Study ID Numbers: 050131; 05-HG-0131. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00106977

Etanercept for Treatment of Hidradenitis. Contacts: Jennifer Williams, RN, CCRP, Tel: 215-662-2540, e-mail: jennifer.williams@uphs.upenn.edu; Deborah Leahy, LPN, CCRP, Tel: 215-662-6722, e-mail: deborah.leahy@uphs.upenn.edu; Joel M. Gelfand, MD, MSCE, Principal Investigator, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Dermatology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19104. Study ID Numbers: 0305. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00107991

Safety and Effectiveness of Two Doses of ABT-874 (Human monoclonal antibody against IL-12) as Compared to Placebo in Subjects with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Contact: Dulari Menon, MS, Tel: 973-394-5479, e-mail: dulari.menon@abbott.com. Contacts in 20 US States, 4 Canadian provinces and multiple locations in Germany, the Netherlands and United Kingdom. Study ID Numbers: M03-654. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00086671

Interleukin-7 to Treat HIV-Infected People Receiving Antiretroviral Treatment. Contact: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland, 20892; Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Tel: 1-800-411-1222, e-mail: prpl@mail.cc.nih.gov, TTY 1-866-411-1010. Study ID Numbers: 050112; 05-I-0112. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00105417

A Phase III, Three-Arm, Randomized, Open-Label Study of Interferon Alfa Alone, CCI-779 Alone, and the Combination of Interferon Alfa and CCI-779 in First-Line Poor-Prognosis

(*Clinical Trials continued from page 18*)

Subjects With Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma. Contacts in 25 US States and 5 Canadian provinces. Study ID Numbers: 3066K1-304-WW. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00065468

Interferon-Beta Gene Transfer (Ad.hIFN-ß) as Treatment for Refractory Colorectal Carcinoma with Liver Metastases. Contacts: Karen Holst, Tel: 617-679-3969, e-mail: karen.holst@biogenidec.com; Tony Reid, M.D., Ph.D, Principal Investigator, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California, 92037, Tel: 858-657-7020. Study ID Numbers: 201-20. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00107861

VISN 20: Prophylactic Treatment of Interferon-Induced Depression in Hepatitis C Patients. Contacts: Peter Hauser, M.D., Principal Investigator, Tel: 503-220-8262 Ext. 54450, e-mail: peter.hauser2@med.va.gov, VA Medical Center, Portland, Oregon, 97239. Study ID Numbers: CLIN-012-0. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00108563

Safety and Efficacy of Avonex (Interferon Beta-1a) in Subjects with Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyradiculoneuropathy (CIDP). Study chairs or principal investigators: Allan Ropper, MD, Principal Investigator, Tufts University School of Medicine, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center; Martin Toal, MB, MFPHM, Study Director, Biogen Idec. Contacts in 13 US States, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. Study ID Numbers: C-870. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00099489

Help our society.

Renew your membership and recruit colleagues working in the area of interferons/ cytokines/chemokines to the ISICR.

Our future depends upon it!!!

NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE ISICR

Lifetime Membership for individuals 55 or older 1 time payment of $500

Reviews of Interest

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The 2005 Annual Meeting of the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research (ISICR)

20-24 October, Shanghai, China
http://www.sibcb.ac.cn/ISICR2005.html

Important dates:

Deadline for early registration	June 30, 2005
Deadline for abstract submission	June 30, 2005
Deadline for fellowship application	June 1, 2005
Date for cancellation	
refund 80% registration fee	Before Aug. 30, 2005
refund 60% registration fee	Before Sept. 30, 2005
no refund of registration fee	After Oct.1, 2005

Registration

Registrations should be submitted only online (http://www.conference.ac.cn/isicr.html). All participants are kindly requested to complete the online registration form and to send their payment at the time of registration. **No registrations will be accepted without evidence of payment.**

	Before June 30, 2005	**After June 30, 2005**	**On site registration**
Member	US$ 450	US$ 500	US$550
Non member	US$ 500	US$ 550	US$600
Students	US$ 250	US$ 280	US$320
Accompanying persons	US$ 150	US$ 200	US$250

The Registration fee includes conference bag, program and abstract book, lunch and coffee breaks during the conference, welcome reception, farewell dinner and complimentary tour.

Registration fee for accompanying persons:

Welcome reception and farewell dinner.
Complimentary tour in Shanghai.

Visas and Invitation Letter

We will issue an official invitation letter to those who have paid the registration fee and completed the online registration. You should go to the nearest Chinese Embassy or Consulate with this invitation letter to apply for an entry visa(s). If any problem arises, please contact the Secretariat of the Conference

Payment

All payments must be in US dollars without bank charges.

- Bank cheques payable to: Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences,CAS

The bank draft of the registration fees should be sent to Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, SIBS, CAS. Mail to: 320 Yue Yang Road, Shanghai, China Zipcode: 200031

- Bank transfer of the registration fee should be made to: Agricultural Bank of China, Shanghai Branch
  Swift: ABOCCNBJ090
  A/C No.: 033924-00801048006
  Payable to: Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences,
  Chinese Academy of Sciences
  Address: 320 Yue Yang Road,
  Shanghai, P. R. China

1. Make sure to indicate the name of " The 2005 Annual Meeting of the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research" and your full name on the money transfer.
2. Please send us a copy of the receipt of the bank transfer.
3. Please remember to keep a copy for your own records.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Hua Ting Hotel *****	US$ 140	15 mins by taxi to conference venue
Everbright Convention Center****	US$ 85	Conference venue
Hua Xia Hotel***	US$ 50	Next to conference venue
Xian Heng**	US$ 30	15 minute walk

All hotel rooms are standard room with one breakfast. To confirm your choice, **a first night deposit** is required for each hotel room reserved.

Hotel reservation deadline: August 10, 2005.
After this date, the hotel accommodation cannot be assured. No reservation will be accepted without receipt of the payment for the first night.

Written cancellations must be submitted to the organizing secretariat not later than September 30, 2005. In this case, the first day deposit will be refunded. No cancellation requests will be accepted after the above mentioned deadline

The Editors' Top Ten-and-Plus Things to do in Shanghai

Thomas Tan

If this is your first visit to the "Paris of the Orient," arguably the coolest city in Asia, be ready to be dazzled by the endless skyscrapers and crowded, neon-draped streets of a metropolis with some 16 million inhabitants. The choices of where to go and what to do are bewildering and can be overwhelming for first-time visitors. So, we gave Thomas the assignment to come up with a list of sites to see in Shanghai. He searched the Internet and consulted with his Chinese colleagues, and here's what he came up with:

1. Walk through the pages of Chinese history by visiting the **Shanghai Museum**, which features 11 state-of-the-art galleries housing China's finest collections of Chinese relics and artifacts. The Museum is shaped like a giant urn and is situated in downtown Shanghai's **People's Square**.

Shanghai Museum

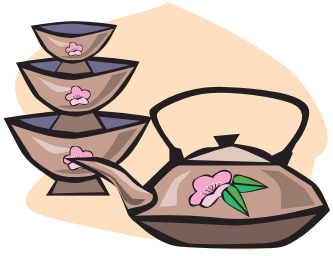
2. Catch a performance inside a glistening exterior of glass and chrome in the stylized Chinese pagoda design of the **Shanghai Grand Theater**, the city's premiere performing arts venue for both local and international artists. The Theater is located in **People's Square** (a.k.a. Renmin Guang Chang), a cultural and political center that houses other impressive monuments, including the Municipal Building and the Urban Planning Exhibition Hall.

3. Want to try a good way to freshen up your mind and body in preparation for sitting through the long hours of oral presentations? Forget coffee. Instead start your morning early by doing T'ai Chi by **Nanjing Lu** (Nanjing Road) known as "China's No.1 Street". Then have breakfast at one of the many establishments that line both sides of the Street.

4. Also located on the Street is **Peace Hotel** (once known as the Cathay Hotel and the Palace Hotel), a historic hotel with art deco look and ornate woodwork. But forget the trivia, the outdoor cafe on the rooftop is a good vantage point to watch the action in the city below. The Old-Time Jazz Bar, which plays in a beautiful English-style bar in the Hotel, is legendary.

5. Sip authentic Chinese tea with friends at **Yu Garden / Hu Xin Teahouse**. The five-acre Garden is ingeniously laid out to imitate the style of imperial gardens in Beijing, surrounded by placid pools, pavilions, a maze of alleys, bridges and rock sculptures, and to create the feeling of spaciousness within a small area.

Hu Xin Teahouse



6. Talk a stroll on the **Bund** (Wai Tun), a famous waterfront dotted with various colonial buildings. Also called the Zhongshan Road, the Bund is regarded a landmark as well as the birthplace of Shanghai. Or experience a different perspective on Shanghai -- from the water. Cruise on the **Huangpu River** for remarkable views of the Bund.

7. Climb the **Oriental Pearl TV Tower** for panoramic views of Shanghai. The ground floor features a shopping area, cafe and an international city exhibit. We checked but NO bungee jumping from the Tower. Sorry.

8. Celebrate any event (on receiving the Milstein Award, your paper being accepted for publication by JICR, a rare standing ovation for your graduate student's presentation at the ISICR meeting, etc) at any of these fine restaurants on the Bund - **Tianfu Legend** (for a sizzling hot Sichuan experience), **M on the Bund** (for the hopeless romantic), or **New Heights** (for those who want to take Shanghai dining experience to, well, new heights, literally). Then, wind down at nearby **Glamour Bar** for drinks to cap off the night.

9. So, you want to get away from the metropolis and go to the countryside, with pastures, forests, and birds? After all, you're in China, right? The **Gongqing Forest Park** is only a short cab journey from Jiangwan Town (Zhen) station - the end of the Pearl Line. A stroll through the park, you can gaze on pagodas, fruit trees and various plants, and still get a glimpse of the busy harbor. Or, you can lie down on the grass and have a long, quiet nap.

10. If you have some extra time in Shanghai and really want to get away from the pressures of city living, consider visiting nearby **Suzhou** or **Hangzhou**. There you can breath clean air and see what it's like to live inside those beautiful Chinese scroll paintings hanging in your office! Enjoy stunning landscape gardening surrounded by lakes, streams, canals, bridges, and boats. A Chinese proverb once declared, "Above there is Heaven, below there are Suzhou and Hangzhou". But, we'll let you be the judge.

Extra:
Try the maglev train to/from the airport if you get the chance. 431km/h!! Faster than a Ferrari, if you ask us. Take photos of the speedometer during the ride as proof!

Tip:
If you happen to take a walk on the streets, you've got to keep an eye out for bicycles and motorcycles coming from every direction.

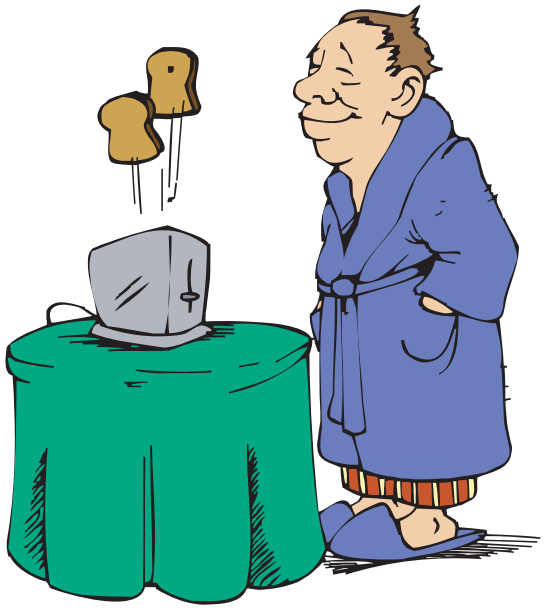
BRAIN EXERCISES

It's that time of year to take our annual mental strength test. Exercise of the brain is as important as exercise of the muscles. As we grow older, it's important that we keep mentally alert.. The saying; "If you don't use it, you will lose it" also applies to the brain, so...

Below is a very private way to gauge your loss or non-loss of intelligence. So, take the following test presented here and determine if you are losing it or are still "with it." The spaces below are so you don't see the answers until you have made your answer.

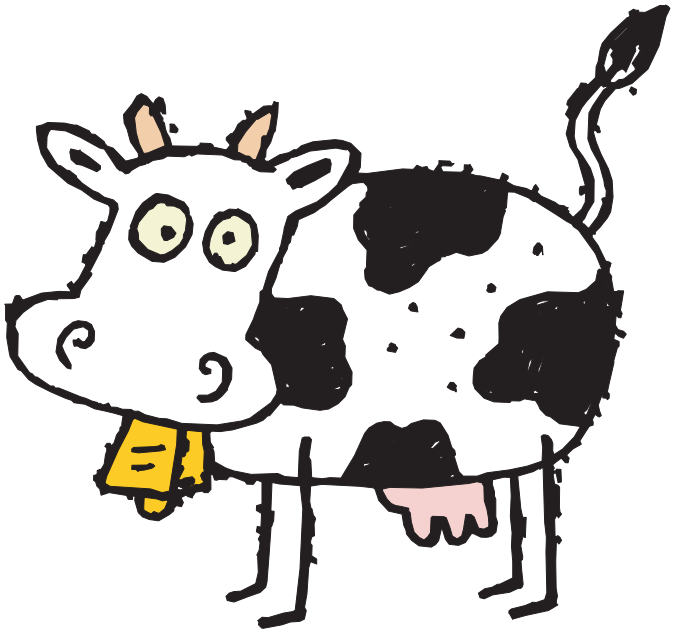
OK, relax, clear your mind and... begin.

1. What do you put in a toaster?



Answer: "bread." If you said "toast," then give up now and go do something else. Try not to hurt yourself. If you said, "Bread," go to Question 2.

2. Say "silk" five times. . . . Now spell "silk" out loud. . . What do cows drink?



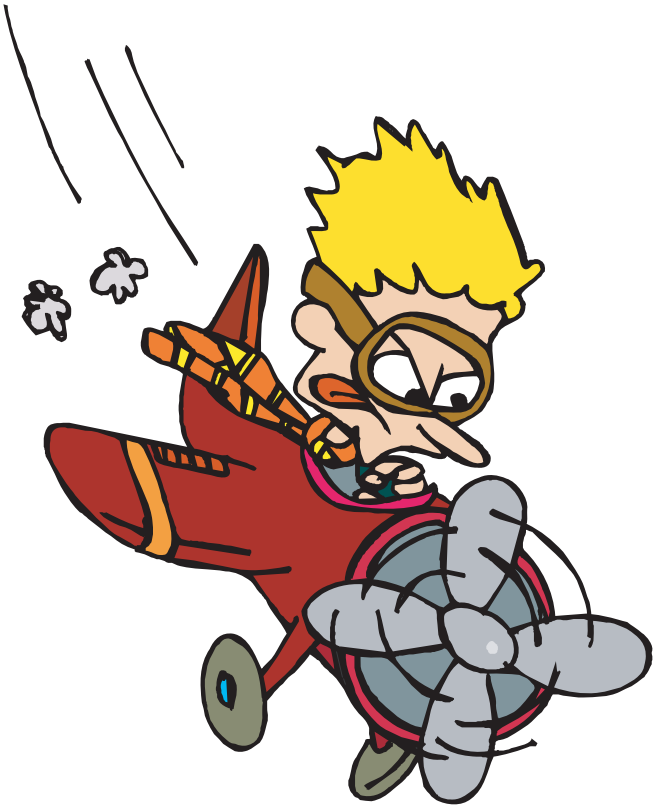
Answer: Cows drink water. If you said "milk," please do not attempt the next question. Your brain is obviously over stressed and may even overheat. It may be that you need to content yourself with reading something more appropriate such as Children's World. If you said "water" then proceed to question 3.

BRAIN EXERCISES (continued)

3. If a red house is made from red bricks and a blue house is made from blue bricks and a pink house is made from pink bricks and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a green house made from?

Answer: Greenhouses are made from glass. If you said "green bricks," what the devil are you still doing here reading these questions????? If you said "glass," then go on to Question 4.

4. It's twenty years ago, and a plane is flying at 20,000 feet over Germany. (If you will recall, Germany at the time was politically divided into West Germany and East Germany..) Anyway, during the flight, TWO of the engines fail. The pilot, realizing that the last remaining engine is also failing, decides on a crash landing procedure. Unfortunately the engine fails before he has time and the plane fatally crashes smack in the middle of "no man's land" between East Germany and West Germany.. Where would you bury the survivors? East Germany or West Germany or in "no man's land"?



Answer: You don't, of course, bury survivors. If you said ANYTHING else, you are a real dunce and you must NEVER try to rescue anyone from a plane crash. Your efforts would not be appreciated. If you said, "Don't bury the survivors," then proceed to the next question.

BRAIN EXERCISES (continued)

5. Without using a calculator - You are driving a bus from London to Milford Haven in Wales.. In London, 17 people get on the bus. In Reading, six people get off the bus and nine people get on. In Swindon, two people get off and four get on. In Cardiff, 11 people get off and 16 people get in. In Swansea, three people get off and five people get on. In Carmathen, six people get off and three get on. You then arrive at Milford Haven. What was the name of the bus driver?

Answer: Oh, for crying out loud! Don't you remember your own name? It was YOU!!

Now pass this along to all your "smart friends" and hope they do better than you did.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR INTERFERON and CYTOKINE RESEARCH
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814-3998
U.S.A.