

Winter 2006-2007 Newsletter

From my desk to yours....

We are now about 6 months away from our next meeting, the X International Congress of Reproductive Immunology which will take place on June 10th-14th 2007 in Opatija, Croatia. Our president and committee have been extremely busy this past year in putting together an outstanding group of speakers for what will be an excellent meeting. As indicated in this newsletter below, we highlight much of the work that has gone on. Each of you received the second announcement of our meeting last month. We encourage you to go to ISIR website at: <http://medri.hr/isir/> for the most updated information.

One of the challenges that we have faced is getting all our members on email. Despite requests that email addresses be sent to me, less than a dozen people responded so that our active email list includes only 1/3 of the total number of people we have. If you receive this Newsletter by regular mail, it means that we do not have an up to date email address for you. Please take a moment to email me so that we may update our file. I ask each of you to consider sending me by email anything you would like to have communicated to our membership. We are happy to announce national and international meetings as well as events that may be of interest to our membership. This is routinely updated on our website.

In this issue we will focus on our upcoming meeting, events that have taken place in the last year and information on our upcoming elections. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes for a successful and productive year,

Chuck Wira

Secretary General

Charles.R.Wira@Dartmouth.EDU

Message from our President:

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Congress Committee I am pleased to invite you to participate at the X International Congress of Reproductive Immunology that will be held under the high patronage of Mr. Stjepan Mesic, President of the Republic of Croatia.

This Congress will bring together leading investigators from the fields of immunology and reproduction, both basic scientists and clinicians. The Congress will have many interesting contemporary themes with cutting edge international speakers in plenary sessions plus ample time for young investigators to present their work. Let me call your attention to scholarships that the Committee will award to outstanding young scientists to participate.

Besides summarizing the main achievements from the recent past, the Congress will open many new avenues for research in reproductive biology and immunology and will initiate and strengthen professional and personal contacts with colleagues throughout the world.

The Riviera Opatija, a pearl of the Croatian Adriatic coast, will provide an unforgettable setting for the meeting. We are delighted to host you, and we promise that you will have scientifically productive experience as well as a most enjoyable personal stay.

Daniel Rukavina

X INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF REPRODUCTIVE IMMUNOLOGY (ISIR)

Final details of the program for the ISIR Congress are nearing completion. As indicated below, eleven Main sessions (MS) have been defined and all speakers for each session invited.

There will be 2 Posters sessions with a number of abstracts selected for oral presentations. Please go to the ISIR web pages all details on abstract submission, registration, hotel reservations, speaker lists, etc.

Here are the important dates to remember:

February 25, 2007	Deadline for abstract submission
April 15, 2007	Notification to authors about abstract's acceptance and their selection either for oral presentation poster presentation
April 15, 2007	Deadline for reservation of hotel accommodation
April 15, 2007	Deadline for registration at reduced fee
June 10-14, 2007	Opatija, Croatia Meeting at Congress Center of the Grand Hotel Adriatic

Our scientific program includes the following topics:

1. Gamete immunology
2. MHC and reproduction
3. Immuno-endocrine interactions in reproduction
4. Cytokines and signaling at the maternal fetal interface
5. Mucosal immunology of the female reproductive tract
6. HIV and reproduction
7. NK cells in implantation and pregnancy
8. Regulatory mechanisms in pregnancy
9. Inflammation and implantation
10. Immunology of preeclampsia
11. Clinical immunology

The following is a list of invited speakers, session's chairmen and workshop organizers

Grace Aldrovandi, USA; **Petra Arck**, Germany; **Aydin Arici**, USA; **Irene Athanasakis**, Greece; **Ken Beagley**, Australia; **Kenneth D. Beaman**, USA; **Alexander G. Betz**, UK; **Gerard Chaouat**, France; **Victor P. Chernyshov**, Ukraine; **David A. Clark**, Canada; **Carolyn Coulam**, USA; **Silvia Daher**, Brasil; **Gottfried Dohr**, Austria; **Daniel Dufort**, Canada; **Shirley Ellis**, UK; **Rayna Georgieva**, Bulgaria; **Thomas J. Gill III**, USA; **Guillermina Girardi**, USA; **Satish K. Gupta**, India; **Herman Haller**, Croatia; **Peter J. Hansen**, USA; **Akiko Hasegawa**, Japan; **John Herr**, USA; **Susan Hiby**, UK; **Akiko Ishitani**, Japan; **Shinzo Isojima**, Japan; **Peter Johnson**, UK; **Charu Kaushic**, Canada; **Radslav Kinsky**, Czech Republic; **Susan Kovats**, USA; **Koji Koyama**, Japan; **Heinz Kunz**, USA; **Maciej Kurpisz**, Poland; **Joanne Kwak Kim**, USA; **Philippe Le Bouteiller**, France; **Nathalie Ledee**, France; **Tsunehisa Makino**, Japan; **Alberto Mantovani**, Italy; **Udo Markert**, Germany; **Paz Martinez**, Spain; **Andreas Meinhardt**, Germany; **Elisabeth Menu**, France; **Pier-Luigi Meroni**, Italy; **Jiri Mestecky**, USA; **Lucia Mincheva-Nilsson**, Sweden; **Gil Mor**, USA; **Takahide Mori**, Japan; **Biserka Mulac-Jericevic**, Croatia; **Haruki Okamura**, Japan; **Marie-Pierre Piccinni**, Italy; **Eckhard R. Podack**, USA; **Ljiljana Randic**, Croatia; **Christopher Redman**, UK; **Melissa Robbani**, USA; **Sarah Robertson**, Australia; **Ken Rosental**, USA; **Daniel Rukavina**, Croatia; **Shigeru Saito**, Japan; **Angela Santoni**, Italy; **Ian Sargent**, UK; **Gabriella Scarlatti**, Italy; **Peter Sedlmayr**, Austria; **Barbara Shacklett**, USA; **Surendra Sharma**, USA; **Anil Suri**, India; **Julia Szekeres-Bartho**, Hungary; **Pran Talwar**, India; **Chandrakant Tayade**, Canada; **Francesco Tedesco**, Italy; **Vladimir Toder**, Israel; **Kenneth Tung**, USA; **Zdenka Ulcova-Gallova**, Czech Republic; **Marighuola Varla-Leftherioti**, Greece; **Charles R. Wira**, USA; **Wayne Yokoyama**, USA.

Nominations for the six (6) elected positions of Councilor.

As stated in our constitution (See below), preparations for voting for Councilors are underway. In early January, all members received ballots either by email or letter notifying that nominations for councilors are now being received. Submission of candidates will be completed in the next 2-3 weeks with ballots sent out shortly thereafter. Thus far we have received 4 names that have been seconded with written confirmation of his or her willingness to stand for election. Please send your nominations to me as soon as possible: Email: Charles.R.Wira@Dartmouth.edu; Fax: ++603 650-6130 or Hard copy: Charles R. Wira PhD, Department of Physiology, Dartmouth Medical School, 1 Medical Center

Drive, Lebanon, NH 03756-0001 USA. **Application forms are on our website at:**
<http://medri.hr/isir/index.htm>

ARTICLE 6: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section (i) The Society shall be directed by an executive Council of five (5) Officers and eight (8) Councilors. The Officers, except for the President and Immediate Past President, and six (6) Councilors will be elected by secret ballot of all paid-up members, and two (2) Councilors will be appointed by the President. The Officers are: President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary-General and Treasurer. The Councilors may be reelected for one further term after which they must stand down for a minimum of one term before being eligible for re-nomination. The Chairman of the Congress Organizing Committee for the international congress that occurs during the tenure of the New Executive Council will be an ex officio member of the Executive Council (without vote).

Section (ii) Nominations for the six (6) elected positions of Councilor shall be called for by the Secretary-General not less than six (6) months prior to a meeting of the General Assembly. Each candidate must be proposed and seconded by two (2) paid-up members of the Society, be members of the Society and provide written confirmation of his or her willingness to stand for election.

Section (iii) A nominating committee composed of the President (chairman), Immediate Past President and President-Elect shall propose two (2) or three (3) candidates for each of the positions of President-Elect, Secretary-General and Treasurer (see Section (iv) for an exception in the case of Treasurer). The candidates for President-Elect must have served previously as an Officer, Councilor or Chairman of the Congress Organizing Committee. All nominees must confirm their willingness to stand for office.

Members Society Reports:

1. American Society of Reproductive Immunology

The 27th Annual Meeting of ASRI will take place on May 14-16, 2007 at the Westin Harbor Hotel, Toronto, and will be Hosted by the ASRI and McMaster University. Plenary Sessions will include the immunology of infertility, endometriosis, viral and bacterial sexually transmitted infections, HIV, reproductive cancers, innate immunity in genital tract, new approaches to prevention of sexually transmitted infections, NK cells, pregnancy immunology, pre-eclampsia, fetal programming, male reproductive tract immunology, and translational research. The Abstract deadline is Feb 15, 2007. There will be poster sessions and some of the abstracts will be selected for presentation during the plenary sessions. Accepted abstracts will be available at the meeting and will be published in American Journal of Reproductive Immunology. For more information, contact the local meeting organizer: Charu Kaushic, McMaster University, Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, MDCL 4014, 1200 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada Tel: 905-525-9140; e-mail: kaushic@mcmaster.ca

2. Japanese Society of Reproductive Immunology

The 21st Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction (Prof. Masahiro Itoh as chairman) was held in Tokyo on December 2-3, 2006. The scientific activities included two invited lectures, one symposium and luncheon seminar each and 48 oral presentations. The invited lectures were given by Prof. Charles R. Wira (Lebanon, USA) under the title "Immune Defense Mechanisms in the Human Female Reproductive Tract: Role of Sex Hormones in Innate Protection by Mucosal Epithelial Cells" and by Prof. Yoshinori Otsuki (Osaka, Japan) under the title "Apoptosis in Female Reproductive Organs? Especially, in Human Endometrium". The Title of the symposium was "Research Up to Date Surrounding Cytokine and Reproduction", which were presented and discussed by 6 invited speakers from various reproductive view points including spermatogenesis, ovulation, premature labor and endometriosis. The luncheon seminar was given by Prof. Hiroaki Shibahara under the title "ART and Reproductive Immunology". The oral presentation included various topics in biological and immunological studies on (1) Sperm and Spermatogenesis, (2) Ovary and Ovulation, (3) Fertilization and Pregnancy, (4) Fetus and Placenta and (5) Uterus and Fallopian Tubes, which were extensively discussed from basic and clinical points of view. The total number of attendants to the meeting was 211. The next 22nd Annual Meeting of the JSIR (chaired by Prof. Tatsuo Yamamoto) will be held in Tokyo on November 30- December 1, 2007.

3. ESRADI

The 4th European Congress in Immunology of Reproduction took place in Graz (Austria), 5-9th July, 2006. The congress encompassed 12 Oral Sessions and 3 Poster sessions. Almost 50 oral presentations (in 12 sessions) were given and 63 posters. Approx 150 participants from 20 countries were present, also from USA, Canada, Japan and India. Leading themes were: Gamete Immunology, Regulation of Implantation and Trophoblast Invasion, Materno-Fetal interphase - cellular elements and cytokines, MHC and Reproduction, Complement and Reproduction,IDO Metabolism, Mucosal Immunology, Placental Immunopathology, IFV and Stem Cells. It was carefully prepared Congress, one of the most representative in past several years, in Europe. At present, we are slowly approaching unification of different European movements in reproductive immunology into one organization. We hope to reach this goal during next European Congress in Reproductive Immunology, Berlin, August 30 to September 2, 2007.

4. AASIR

The XIth Symposium of Czech Reproductive Immunologists was organized and took place at Zdar Castle, on May, 2005 (international participants included -Prof. Lefkovits, Poradowska, Skamene, and Chaouat). XIIth Symposium of Czech Reproductive Immunologists was again organized traditionally in Zdar castle, in May, 2006. Prof.G. Dohr et al. organised the Graz meeting of Immunology of Reproduction, on July 5-9, Austria. The XIIIth Symposium of Czech Reproductive Immunologists with international participation will be held on May 24-27, 2007 (contact: Zdenka Ulcova-Gallova, Ulcova@fnplzen.cz). At present, the AASIR has 121 members.

5. The British Society for Immunology – Reproductive Immunology Group (BSI-RIG)

BSI-RIG is an Affinity Group of the British Society for Immunology for workers researching in the field of reproductive immunology. Its membership, currently standing at around 120, encompasses basic laboratory scientists, hospital clinicians and veterinarians. It holds regular meetings on all aspects of the field and particularly encourages presentations by young postdoctoral scientists and PhD students. These are usually half or one day symposia, held either in conjunction with the annual BSI congress or as joint meetings with other British or European events.

Two meetings were held in 2005. The first was a very successful one-day meeting at the University of Essex on 12th September 2005 entitled "Immunogenetics in Reproduction" in association with the 3rd European Congress of Reproductive Immunology. The programme consisted of invited speakers and a number of 10 min presentations selected from the abstracts (published in the American Journal of Reproductive Immunology) submitted by delegates. There were 95 participants for the whole meeting, from 24 separate nations, 77 of whom attended the RIG day.

A session on the "Comparative Immunology of Reproduction" was held at the BSI 2005 Congress in Harrogate on Wednesday 7th December 2005. The session brought together experts in reproductive immunology from human, mouse and veterinary species to compare and contrast the immunological features of pregnancy in different species and to discuss how that knowledge can be used to improve experimental design of models of pregnancy-associated diseases and the interpretation of data derived from those models. The meeting addressed to what extent data can be extrapolated from non-primates to humans and whether modern genomic and proteomic methods allow a better definition of the differences across species. The speakers were Lois Salamonsen (Australia), Peter Hansen (USA), Roger Searle (UK) and Elisabeth Innes (UK).

BSI-RIG are running a joint session, entitled "Innate and adaptive immune responses to microbes at mucosal surfaces", with the BSI Mucosal Immunology Group on Thursday 22nd February 2007 at the BSI Congress in Glasgow. The speakers are: Joost Oppenheim (USA), Vikki Abrahams (USA), Denise Kelly (UK), Duncan Maskell (UK), Tracy Hussell (UK), Catherina Svanborg (Sweden), Kevin Maloy (UK), Nils Lycke (Sweden), Zhou Xing (Canada) and Gary Entrican (UK).

Upcoming meetings

1. May 24-27, 2007, The XIIIth Symposium of Czech Reproductive Immunologists with international participation, Zdar nad Sazavou. Contact: Dr. Zdenka Ulcova-Gallova: Ulcova@fnplzen.cz.

2. June 17-22, 2007, 2nd International Conference on Crossroads between Innate and Adaptive Immunity to be held at Aldemar Knossos Royal Village Conference Center in Crete, Greece. The deadline for receipt of abstracts, early registration, and hotel reservations is March 15, 2007. For more information contact: <http://aegeanconferences.org/>

3. July 9-12, 2007, 13th Annual Meeting of International Congress of Mucosal Immunology in Tokyo, Japan. The ICMI is organized by the Society of Mucosal Immunology, which leads basic and clinical research in the field of mucosal immunology. For more information: <http://www2.convention.co.jp/icmi2007/welcome.html>

4. August 17 – 22, 2007, 13th International Federation of Placenta Associations (IFPA) Congress will be held in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. This congress will also be the forum for the 2nd Annual PAA meeting. The theme of the meeting “Placenta: Platform for Life” reflects not only the placenta’s essential role during pregnancy but the life-long impact of this organ. For more information: www.ifpa2007.com/welcome.htm Or, contact Dr. Anne Croy: acroy@ovc.uoguelph.ca

5. August 21-25, 2007, The 13th International Congress of Immunology will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For more information about ImmunoRio2007 contact: <http://www.immunorio2007.org.br/home.html#>

6. August 26 to 28th, 2007 1st Satellite Symposium on Reproductive Immunology of International Congress of Immunology-2007 to be held in Rio das Pedras, Mangaratiba ñ Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This Symposium will explore the recent advances in basic and clinical reproductive immunobiology, by discussing pregnancy and the placenta, female reproductive tract mucosal immunity, and cytokine and leukocyte regulation of reproductive organs physiology. For more information: www.sbi.org.br/reprodimmuno
Deadlines: Discounted Registration: February 16th, 2007 Abstracts: March 16th, 2007.

7. December 13-15, 2007. 4th International Dominique DORMONT Conference, which will be held in Paris, France. For more information contact: v.bufferet@vbce.fr

8. August 22 to 27, 2010. 14th International Congress of Immunology. This Congress be held at Kobe International Conference Center. It was decided in the IUIS Council and General Assembly held in Montreal in July 2004 that the Japanese Society for Immunology will host the 14th International Congress of Immunology in Kansai (Kobe). For more information: <http://www.ici2010.org/>

ISIR Leadership

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