

Newsletter 2008-2009

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It was my pleasure with the help of Prof. Koji Koyama, the President of the International Society for Immunology of Reproduction to prepare the Newsletter for 2008-2009. In the Newsletter are included the next short information: 1. Message from the President, 2. Report on the 6th Congress of the European Society for Reproductive Immunology, 3. Report on the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Reproductive Medicine, 4. Events of the Czech Society of Reproductive Immunology, 5. EMBIC activities in 2008, 6. Report on the 70th Anniversary of the Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction "Akad. K. Bratanov" 7. About 28th Annual Meeting of ASRI, and list of the Meetings in the year 2009-2010.

I wish all of you and your family Health, Success in your hard scientific work and Happiness !

Rayna Georgieva

Secretary General of ISIR
georgievar@hotmail.com

Message from the President

Dear Friends and Colleagues

It is my great pleasure to take this opportunity to greet all the members of our Society. It is hard to believe that a year and half has already passed since we had our very exciting Congress of ISIR in Opatija. I hope you are all doing well and working hard pursuing your dream of new discoveries in your scientific discipline. It was fortunate for me to have the opportunity to attend the annual meetings of both the American Society and European Society for Reproductive Immunology, which were held in Chicago and in Moscow, respectively, early this summer. The program of both meetings was excellent and contained many contemporary topics with up-to-date findings in the field of Reproductive Immunology. I am sure that all the participants, including eminent experts and active young scientists, were perfectly satisfied and strongly impressed with such a rapid pace of scientific progress in our research field. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Professor Judy Luborsky and Professor Gennady Sukhikh who organized such wonderful American and European congresses, respectively.

As mentioned on our website <http://www.isir-hyogo.com/links1.htm>, the next 11th Congress of ISIR will be held from August 15th to 19th 2010 in Queensland, Australia, under the chairmanship of Professor Sarah Robertson. We all appreciate her self-sacrifice and effort in the preparation of this traditional triennial International Congress. Following the 11th ISIR Congress, the 14th International Congress of Immunology (ICI) will take place from August 22nd to

27th 2010 in Kobe, Japan. On this occasion, we are planning to hold the 2nd Satellite Symposium on Reproductive Immunology in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction (JSIR) under the auspices of the ISIR and JSIR during the period of the 14th ICI in Kobe, as the 1st Satellite Symposium on Reproductive Immunology was held on the occasion of the 13th ICI in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2007. I hope you will all mark the dates on your calendar and start planning to participate in these triennial events of ISIR.

For the edition of this Newsletter, we are very much obliged to our Secretary General, Professor Rayna Georgieva. I deeply appreciate her contribution to our society and hope that this new edition will serve to keep all the member informed on what is going on in our society.

Finally, I wish you all the best for the coming New Year of 2009.

Koji Koyama
President of ISIR

ISIR Treasurer's Report – Dec 2008

The current paid membership of the Society stands at 114, with 11 life members. In the period 2007-2008, the total receipts of the Society were GBP 256.11, leaving a balance of GBP 553.84.

If the Society is to continue to support the provision of Congress bursaries for young scientists, we need more of our members to pay their subscriptions. The subscription currently stands at only GBP 30 for a three year period (which is excellent value with the current exchange rate between the dollar, euro and pound!). Remember that you are only eligible to vote in Society elections if you are a fully paid up member, which also entitles you to reduced registration fees for the Congress and receipt of the newsletter.

Payment cannot be easier. It can be done using your credit card via “Paypal” or by bank transfer (cheques and cash cannot be accepted). All the details with step by step instructions are given on the ISIR website <http://isir-hyogo.sakura.ne.jp>

Ian Sargent
ISIR Treasurer

Report on the 6th Congress of the European Society for Reproductive Immunology, June 30 – 04 July, 2008 Moscow, Russia

The 6th European Congress of Reproductive Immunology was held at the Crown Platza Hotel, Moscow, Russia on June 30 - July 3, organized by the European Society for Reproductive Immunology and the Scientific Center for Obstetrics, Gynecology and Perinateology, Federal Agency for High Technologic Medical Aid. The President of the International Organizing Committee of the Congress was Professor Gennady Sukhikh, Academician of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences.

At the Opening Ceremony Professor Gennady Sukhikh, President of the Congress and Director of the host Institute delivered the Welcome address to the participants.

The topics included in 6th Congress of ESRI were: 1. Gamete immunology, 2. Immunology of fetus and newborn, 3. Immune factors in implantation and pregnancy, 4. Recurrent pregnancy loss and repeated implantation failure, 5. Psychological and immunoendocrine aspects of reproduction, 6. Immunogenetics and reproduction, 7. Mucosal immunity, 8. Immunological aspects of gynecological diseases. The scientific program of the Congress was organized as plenary lectures by invited speakers and oral presentations. All presentations on different topics included in the program were extensively discussed by the participants from theoretical and clinical point of view. According to the participants and the officers of the European Society of Reproductive Immunology the presentations at the Congress were of high scientific level and accompanied by entertaining social events.

There were about 110 participants from different European and non-European countries, most of them well-known scientists and friends from the community of reproductive immunologists as well as obstetrics and gynecologists. There were presented more than 85 scientific reports. The abstracts and program were published in special books.

Well organized social events during the days of the Congress gave opportunity to the participants to have a look of new, well organized, and clean Moscow and the beautiful Moscow river. It was a great pleasure for us to visit the world-known Russian ballet, etc. We were very happy to share the interesting new data in science and the beautiful setting of Moscow with well known scientists and friends in immunology, reproductive immunology, obstetrics and gynecology.

The next 7th Congress of European Society of Reproductive Immunology will be held September 10-13, 2009, in Marathon, near Athens, Greece.

The president of the Congress will be Dr. Marighoula Varla-Leftherioti, Immunology Dept. "Helena Venizelou Sq, 11521, Athens Greece,
Tel.: +30-2106453759; Fax: +30-2106402149
e-mail: gr1bmdr@hol.gr The days of Congress as well the site will be known very soon and you can find its in the site of ESRI - www.es4ri.eu

With best regards,
Rayna Georgieva
Secretary General of ISRI
georgievar@hotmail.com

Message of

Prof. Gennady Sukhikh at Opening of the Congress

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are honored and happy to host the VI European Congress on Reproductive Immunology and to welcome you in the beautiful scenery of summer Moscow.

I greatly appreciate all who helped to organize this meeting, especially the Congress Scientific Committee, as well as those who responded to invitation to take part in this event. Due to our joint efforts the Congress scientific program looks really versatile and includes new issues of immunologic aspects of gynecologic and obstetric conditions, gametes immunology and immunogenetics, the role of immune cells in implantation and pregnancy, immune endocrine aspects of reproduction, etc. We do hope that discussion of the mentioned issues will contribute to further development of fundamental and practical trends of reproductive medicine.

I cordially wish to you a fruitful and pleasant meeting.

Gennady Sukhikh
Congress Chairmen

Message of Prof. Petra Arck at Opening of the Congress

Dear colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the European Society for Reproductive Immunology (www.es4ri.eu), it is my great pleasure to welcome you at the 6th European Congress for Reproductive Immunology in Moscow. Professor Sukhikh, the Local Organizing and the Scientific Committee have not only put together a highly inspiring scientific program, but as well as a spectacular social program. Let us all look forward to a very interesting meeting, which will likely leave enchanting memories.

Sincerely,

Petra Arck

ESRI President, Congress Cochairman



Report on the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Reproductive Medicine, October 22nd-24th 2008, Kobe

The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Reproductive Medicine (Professor Koji Koyama as chairman) was held from

October 22nd to 24th 2008 in Kobe. The scientific activities included one Special Lecture “Recent advances in innate immunity by Professor Shizuo Akira, Japan”, four Invited Lectures “Strategies to delineate novel sperm entities for possible use in immunological contraception by Professor Maciej K. Kurpisz, Poland”, “Evolution of concept in non-obstructive azoospermia by Professor Peter N. Schlegel, USA”, The BESST babies after IVF by Professor David L. Healy, Australia” and “Recent advances in controlled ovarian stimulation regimens in OI/ART by Dr. Colin M. Howles, Switzerland”, seven Educational Lectures, five Symposia, two Workshops, three Sponsored Symposia and eight Luncheon Seminars. Free Communications included 72 oral presentations and 309 poster presentations. The total number of attendants to the meeting was approximately 1,600. It was a rewarding and very successful meeting including a vast area of reproductive biology and medicine.

Koji Koyama



Events of the Czech Society of Reproductive Immunology in 2008

As every year, XIV th Symposium of Czech Reproductive Immunologists with international participation was held in a beautiful area of Radslav Kinsky castle in Zdar nad Sazavou under the supervision of prof. M.Buc, MD, famous Slovak immunologist. During May 30 to June 1, 2008, a lot of lectures were heard.

Prof. Buc (Slovakia) informed the audience about the role of the immune system mechanisms in foetus tolerance, dr.Aziz (Egypt) about the impact of peritoneal fluid from

healthy women and women with endometriosis on sperm DNA and its relationship to fertility, dr.Fijak (Germany) about dendritic cells based intervention effectively prevents the development of experimental autoimmune orchitis in rats, prof. Athanassakis (Greece) about differential activity of regulatory T cell populations during pregnancy. Next presentation of Slovak group reported on CD52 and CD46 on bovine spermatozoa, eight students from Zdenka Ulcova-Gallova`s group looked at the role of laminine-1 in endometriosis, of PGE1,2 and PG F 2_ in ovulatory cervical mucus, of various panel of autoantibodies being connected with infertility. Immuno - andrological problem was studied in various trends as clinical and desk research. Peknicova`s group composed from a lot of young perspective people demonstrated perfect research works (expression and localization of acrosin inhibitor in the boar reproductive tract, the effect of a low doses of vinclozolin on reproductive tract development in CD1 outbred mice, assessing modulation of estrogenic activity of hormones and endocrine disruptors using MCF-7 Focus assay and qRT-PCR methods, male infertility caused by T(16;17(43H chromosomal translocation, etc.).

XXV th congress of Czech and Slovak Societies of Immunology and Allergology were held in Prague, on October 29-31, 2008. This meeting (csaki2008.cz) has 28 various sections including of the section of reproductive immunology (six lectures, and 5 posters).

In this year, our society made a choice of five new young people as a new member for European Society of Reproductive Immunology.

Prof. Zdenka Ulcova-Gallova

Symposium in Zdar palace of prof. Radslav Kingski



EMBIC Activities During 2008

EMBIC is the first large-scale project funded by EU to reinforce European research on female infertility. Gerard Chaouat is a EMBIC Project Coordinator, INSERM U782 and Vice-Coordinator of EMBIC Project is Julia Szekeres Bartho, Pecs University Medical School. In this large Project are concentrated to the research potential of more than 200 scientists and clinicians from 21 leading European institutions in 11 countries.

One of the important activities of EMBIC every year are the organized Summer schools for young scientists. During 2008 the 4th EMBIC Summer school and EMBIC Workshop on sHLA and Embryo Implantation were organized.

The information about the EMBIC Summer School and Workshop as well as of the other activities can be found on the web-site: <http://www.embic.org>

Rayna Georgieva

Report on the 70th Anniversary of the Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction “Acad. K. Bratanov”, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

On the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction “Acad. K. Bratanov” an official celebration and a Jubilee scientific session were held on October 22nd and 23rd, 2008. The Director of the Institute, assoc. prof. Margarita Mollova, made a report on the history and scientific achievements of the Institute as well as on its future development.

The Institute was founded in 1938, as a Institute of Artificial Insemination and Reproductive Diseases and Prof. Georgi Nenkov was appointed as director. In 1943 Dr. Kiril Bratanov, who had just returned from specialization on the field of reproduction and artificial insemination in Italy, was appointed as a head of the Institute. In its long history the Institute had experienced a number of administrative changes including the name, but the major objective of the research was kept steady and that was biology of reproduction in animals and humans. Due to the extensive development of fundamental immunology it became a topic in the research activity of the Institute and in 1976 it was named Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction (IBIR). For the great contribution of Prof. K. Bratanov to the development, prosperity and international authority of the Institute, after his death in 1987 the Institute took his name - Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction “Acad. K. Bratanov”.

In 1949 Bratanov and coworkers published data on the relationship between infertility and antisperm antibodies in animals (“On the formation of spermantibodies in domestic animals”. Vet. Med. Fac. Annual book, SU, v.. XXVI, 321-334, 1949), that contributed to the development of a new interdisciplinary scientific field – Immunology of Reproduction.

In 1967 Professor Bratanov and his coworkers initiated the organization and carried out the First International Symposium of Immunology of Reproduction in Varna, Bulgaria. During this symposium the International Coordination Committee on Immunology of Reproduction (ICCIR) was established, registered in Paris, with headquarters in the Institute. The President of ICCIR was K. Bratanov, Vice Presidents – Sidney Shulman (USA), and Irina Sokolovskaia (Russia); Secretary General – Robert Edwards (England). So far 11 regular Symposia have been held; The next - 12th International Symposium of Immunology of Reproduction will be held, June 25th-27th 2009 by ICCIR and IBIR with President of ICCIR and of the Organizing committee - Prof. Rayna Georgieva.

The Institute is structured in 6 Departments: Immunobiology of reproduction, Molecular immunology, Immunoneuroendocrinology, Reproductive biotechnologies and cryobiology of gametes, Animal embryobiotechnology and Immunochemistry. For the last 10 years the researchers of the Institute have participated in 171 scientific projects (133 national and 34 international) and 5 financed from the EU. The scientists of the Institute are involved in education of students and PhD students and specialized courses for training young researchers are constantly organized at the Institute

In the recent years the scientific research in the Institute has been directed to the factors and mechanisms of gametogenesis and fertilization; immunoendocrine regulation of ovarian

function; regulatory factors and mechanisms in implantation and pregnancy; the mechanisms of autoreactivity and autoimmune response; interactions between steroid and epiphyseal hormones in the regulation of immune responses; structural and functional changes in gametes during storage and cryoconservation; human stem cells; biotechnological approaches for artificial insemination and embryo transfer in animals. The Institute has a priority in development and application of biotechnologies in animals, biotechnologies for preservation and cryoconservation of human and animal gametes and embryos and biotechnologies for artificial insemination and embryo transfer in farm animals.

An exhibition on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary was organized representing the history and the scientific achievements of the Institute. On the Jubilee scientific session with international and new data were presented.

During the celebration ceremony congratulatory addresses were presented on behalf of the vice Prime Minister and the Minister of Education and Science; the President of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the President of Union of Bulgarian Scientists and from many other government and scientific institutions from our country and from abroad. In these addresses the Institute was outlined as a leading scientific centre in Bulgaria in the field of biology and immunology of reproduction in animals and humans and with recognized national and international contribution as well.

For more information go to the Institute's website <http://www.ibir.bas.bg>

Margarira Mollova, Director of the Institute

Rayna Georgieva

Head of Dept. of Immunology of Reproduction in Institute





**WELCOME
TO
12TH INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM
OF IMMUNOLOGY OF
REPRODUCTION
JUNE 25-27, 2009,
VARNA, BULGARIA**

**President of ICCIR
R. Georgieva**



**Report on the 22nd Annual Meeting of Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction,
Nov.30 –Dec. 1, 2007, Tokyo, Japan**

The 22nd Annual Meeting of Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction (Prof. Tatsuo Yamamoto as President) was held in the Nichidai Kaikan, Tokyo, Japan on Nov.30 –Dec. 1, 2007. The topics included in 22th annual meeting were: 1. Gamete immunology, 2. Cytokines and signaling at the maternal fetal interface, 3. Mucosal immunity of the female reproductive tract, 4. NK cells in implantation and pregnancy, 5. Regulatory mechanisms in pregnancy, 6. Immunology of preeclampsia. The scientific program of the meeting was organized as special lectures by 2 invited speakers, a luncheon seminar by 1 invited speaker, a symposium and oral presentations (36 papers). The Special lecture 1 (Title: Inflammation, TLAs and Pregnancy) was presented by Prof. Gir Mor in Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Yale University School of Medicine. The Special lecture 2 (Title: Immunoglobulin Receptor (FcR) and Mast cell: Molecular Cellular Target for Inflammation, Immunity and Allergy) was presented by Prof. Tomoyasu La in Division of molecular cell immunology and allergology, Department of advanced medical science, Nihon University, School of Medicine.

The luncheon seminar (Title: Immunology of Premature labor and Pregnancy Induced Hypertention) was presented by Prof. Shigeru Saito in Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Toyama University, School of Medicine. In a symposium, "Immunology of Pregnancy Induced Hypertention" was discussed. The best three oral presentations were awarded.

The topics in the program were extensively discussed by the participants from theoretical and clinical point of view. The Meeting was a complete success, having a high scientific level and nice social events.

There were 186 participants. The abstracts and program were published in the Reproductive Immunology and Biology (Vol. 22.No 2, June 2007).

The next 23th Annual meeting of Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction will be held in 2008, with President Shigeru Saito.

With best wishes,

Tatsuo Yamamoto

President in the 22nd Annual meeting of Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction.
Prof. and Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Nihon University, School of Medicine.

28th Annual Meeting

June 11-14, 2008

**The Congress Plaza Hotel and Convention Center
Chicago, Illinois**

and

Post Graduate Course

June 10-11, 2008

**Reproductive Immunology
Congress Plaza Hotel and Convention Center,
Chicago, Illinois**



MEETING CHAIR'S WELCOME

Welcome to the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology. This year's program is comprehensive and reflects advances both in reproduction and immunology. A balanced mix of new developments in clinical and basic research in the field of reproductive immunology will provide a wealth of information and scientific stimulation for attendees. The facilities in Chicago are outstanding and the charm of the Windy City is waiting. We should like to thank all who helped to make this meeting successful, especially to Rush University Medical Center and Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science for their help in preparation of this meeting and to the sponsors for their generous support. We look forward to a stimulating meeting where we will see old friends and make new ones. Thank you all for your contributions and support.

Judy Luborsky, Ph.D.
Chair, 28th Annual Meeting

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

I would like to welcome you to Chicago for the 28th annual meeting of our society. We can expect to be joined by clinicians and basic scientists to discuss contemporary topics in reproductive immunology and share their research results concerning important new developments in the field. For the first time, we are offering a Post Graduate course to young investigators and trainees. The students and mentors Round-Table-Discussions promise to be another huge success and the President's Symposium features current topics on autoimmunity, inflammation, and pregnancy. The consensus meeting on "the relationship of ASRI to mainstream organizations" will be another highlight of this year's meeting. I expect this meeting to promote intellectual exchange in the various disciplines of reproductive immunology as well as provide mentorship for new scientists interested in reproductive immunology. I look forward to seeing you in Chicago – the perfect destination. You can shop along the Magnificent Mile; sample the culinary offerings at Chicago's world-renowned restaurants, take in a musical, theatre or dance performance, or visit one of Chicago's museums.

Sincerely,
Joanne Kwak-Kim MD
President, American Society for Reproductive Immunology

Meetings in the year 2009-2010

1. The 29th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology, June 5-9, 2009, Orlando, Florida, USA
2. The 12th International Symposium of Immunology of Reproduction, June 25-27, 2009, Varna, Bulgaria
3. The 7th Congress of European Society of Reproductive Immunology, September 17-20, 2009, Marathon, near Athens. For more information contact with Dr. Marighoula Varla-Leftherioti, e-mail: gr1bmdr@hol.gr
4. The 24th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction, November 27-28, 2009, Tokyo, Japan.
5. The 11th Congress of International Society of Immunology of Reproduction (ISIR), August 15-19, 2010, Queensland, Australia.
6. The 14th International Congress of Immunology (ICI), August 22-27, 2010, Kobe, Japan