



**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
FOR
IMMUNOLOGY OF
REPRODUCTION**

NEWSLETTER 2010 -11

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The International Society for Immunology of Reproduction was founded in Paris in 1980, with the aim of bringing together scientists working in the field of Reproductive Immunology. Soon after, the Journal of Reproductive Immunology was established as the official Journal of the Society. Since 1980, eleven International Congresses of Reproductive Immunology have been organized in Europe, North America, Asia and Australia. The Society has been very successful in promoting the field. Immunology of reproduction – which for a rather long time was not considered as serious by the community “mainstream” immunologists, has gained reputation. More and more papers dealing with the feto-maternal immunological relationship are published not only in specialized journals, but also in high impact immunology journals and journals of general interest.

Soon after ISIR had been founded, the American Society and Japanese Society were established and, in 2006 as a merger of the former Alps Adria Society for Immunology of Reproduction and ESRADI, the European Society of Reproductive Immunology was formed. These very active societies, organize their annual meetings for scientists in the region. It is the task of the International Society, to bring together during its tri-annual meetings, scientists, from different parts of the world. ISIR as an affiliated member of IUIS is represented, and takes part in decision making at IUIS council meetings.

In Cairns, where the new council took office, we set our main goal to make Society life more active. As a means for achieving this, we decided to set up a new website, to strengthen our relationship with the regional societies, and for attracting young scientists; to offer reduced membership fees for students.

The strength of a society lies in active membership. Therefore, I ask all of you for your support.

Julia Szekeres Bartho

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



Dear Colleagues,

During the deliberation of 11th International Congress of Reproductive Immunology held at Palm Cove, Queensland, Australia from 15-19 August, 2011 newly elected council was announced which is as follows:

President: Julia Szekeres Bartho

Immediate Past President: Koji Koyama

President elect: Charles R Wira

Treasurer: Shigeru Saito

Secretary General: Satish Kumar Gupta

Council Members:

Ian Sargent

Joanne Kwak-kim

Philippe Le Bouteiller

Rayna Georgieva

Sarah Robertson

Shinji Komori

Udo Markert

Zdenka Ulcova Gallova

One of the important roles of newly elected council is to increase scientific activities of the society, in addition to triennial International Congress of Reproductive Immunology. I will appreciate receiving any suggestions from the members of the Society to this effect. If any member of ISIR is planning to organise either a Congress or Workshop and wish to announce at ISIR website, please let me know. This will help in wider circulation of the information. For any society to be viable, it is imperative to have good members base so that wide spectrum of scientific and clinical information is discussed and disseminated. We are seriously working in this direction to increase the membership of ISIR and I solicit your help in requesting your colleagues and students to become member of ISIR. You can find the details of the society on the website www.isir.org.in

Satish Kumar Gupta

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PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF ISIR



As stipulated in the constitution of ISIR, the purposes of our society are to advance the study of the immunological and genetic aspects of the reproductive process, to facilitate contact between persons interested in this and allied fields and to disseminate widely all information and new knowledge obtained.. For accomplishment of this purpose, the International Congress of Reproductive Immunology (ICRI) has been held every three years since the 1st congress was held in Paris in 1980, as shown below with congress places, years and organizers.

- 1st congress: Paris (France) in 1980, by G-A Voisin
- 2nd congress: Kyoto (Japan) in 1983, by S. Isojima
- 3rd congress: Toronto (Canada) in 1983, by D.A. Clark
- 4th congress: Kiel (Germany) in 1989, by L. Mettler
- 5th congress: Rome (Italy) in 1992, by F. Dondero
- 6th congress: Washington (USA) in 1995, by Thomas J. Gill
- 7th congress: New Delhi (India) in 1998, by S.K. Gupta
- 8th congress: Opatia (Croatia) in 2001, D. Rukavina
- 9th congress: Hakone (Japan) in 2004, by T. Makino
- 10th congress: Opatia (Croatia) in 2007, by D. Rukavina
- 11th congress: Cairns (Australia) in 2010, by S. Robertson

Undoubtedly, through these congresses, our society has significantly contributed to advance basic and clinical research in the field of reproductive immunology and biology. In recent years, an impressive progress has been made in our understanding of the cellular and molecular basis of various reproductive phenomena, including sperm-oocyte interactions in fertilization, trophoblast-endometrium cross-talk in implantation and successful gestation of histo-incompatible fetus in the uterus of an immunologically competent mother. Our understanding of the host defense mechanism through mucosal immunity in the reproductive tract has also been rapidly growing. Many new findings obtained through basic research in reproductive immunology have been promptly transferred to the clinical application for the treatment of infertility, the prevention of gestational disorders and the management of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The clinical application of HPV vaccines is giving us a bright

prospect toward the eradication of cancer of the cervix. The possibility of fertility control by immuno-contraceptive vaccines has also been extensively studied to tackle the problem of rapidly expanding global human population and to control wildlife. Thus, the Reproductive Immunology is now one of the most rapidly advancing fields of bio-medical science.

Most of the topics I mentioned here were included in the program of the last congress in Cairns. I am sure that this congress greatly contributed to promote intellectual exchanges in the various discipline of Reproductive Immunology and to provide a direction for the future investigation. Needless to say, the main task of our International Society is to advance the knowledge of reproductive biology, and to promote reproductive health, in collaboration with national and regional societies of reproductive immunology, which now include American society, European society, South American society, Japan society, British society, Israeli society, Czech society, Chinese society, Indonesian society and so on.

To promote reproductive health worldwide as a duty of our international society, it is important to encourage young scientists, medical and paramedical staffs, working not only in the advanced countries but also in the developing countries, to participate in the triennial ICRI to exchange up-to-date information. In this regards, the organizers of the past ICRI should be appreciated for their enormous effort to invite a large number of young scientists from all over the world. In our research field, the state of pregnancy is still left as an immunological enigma. In spite of the sufficient ability for maintenance of maternal host defense mechanisms to combat infections, the antigenically foreign fetus is not rejected. If this mechanism to prevent the fetal rejection is resolved by our effort through research, the results will contribute not only to prevent gestational disorders happening during pregnancy but also to develop new immunological approaches to prevent the acute and chronic rejections in the organ transplantation. Since the majority of sexually transmitted infections are acquired through the genital tracts, mucosal immunology of the male and female genital tracts is our major challenging research project. As the HPV vaccine has been successfully applied to prevent the uterine cervical cancer, our comprehensive studies on the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in the widely spreading infections such as HIV-1, chlamydia and gonorrhea are expected to lead the development of effective preventive measures against these serious infections. Today, global population has reached 7 billion with approximately 100 million being added each year. Over population has led to serious social and environment problems such as poverty, air and water pollution and food shortage. Successful application of effective, safe, inexpensive and long-lasting contraceptive vaccines surely contributes to solve the above mentioned global problems. Thus, the future of our discipline is bright. Let's GANBARO toward our future dream and look forward to participating to the XIIth International Congress of ISIR in Boston, USA, from May 29-June 2, 2013.

Koji Koyama

11TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF REPRODUCTIVE IMMUNOLOGY 2010



Sarah Robertson

The 11th international Congress of Reproductive Immunology was held at Palm Cove, Queensland, Australia from August 15-19, 2010. In addition to Presidential address on “Gamete Immunology: Achievements and Perspective”, the congress comprised of 43 symposia speaker. The symposia speakers covered various facets of Reproductive Immunology, which included: *The immune response and fetal programming; Immune regulation of endometrial receptivity and embryo implantation; Immune regulation of the maternal-placental interaction; Inflammation and innate immunity in reproductive events; T regulatory cells, Th17 cells and phenotype switching in reproduction; Cytokines and signaling in reproductive tissues; Immune regulation of infertility and endometriosis; Self or not self? Autoimmunity and microchimerism in reproduction; Miscarriage and Preeclampsia – old problems, new therapies; Reproductive tract infection and sexually transmitted diseases; Preventing reproductive tract infection – the promise of vaccines; The challenge of contraception and population control.* In addition, 104 free communications were received out of which 16 were selected for oral presentation. The congress was attended by delegate. The abstract of the above symposia speaker and free communication have been published in JRI volume 86 August, 2010. Subsequently, the full length manuscript has been published as a special volume of **Journal of Reproductive Immunology**, Volume 88, 2011.



13TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR IMMUNOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION



ReProForce FP7-REGPOT-2009-1



IHS, Varna

13TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR IMMUNOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION

“From roots to the tops of reproductive immunology”

IEIR-EAS

JUNE 22-24, 2012, VARNA, BULGARIA

**Organized under FP7 ReProForce Project
by International Coordination Committee for Immunology of Reproduction and
Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction**

The Symposium will offer an excellent opportunity to discuss a new basic and clinical results and problems in the reproductive immunology. A number of leading scientists will participate and will share their experience and achievements.



Preliminary topics: gametes antigenicity and gametes interactions; innate and adoptive immune mechanisms in reproduction; immune-endocrine interaction; mechanisms of immune regulation in implantation and pregnancy; mucosal immunity; immunological problems of infertility, pregnancy loss and implantation failures; stem cell in reproduction.

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DAIRY NOW!



contact: georgievar@hotmail.com; website: www.iccir1967.com

12TH MEETING: INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION



On behalf of my co-chairs, Drs. Surendra Sharma and Gil Mor and I would like to announce that the 12th Meeting of ISIR in 2013 will take place from May 29-June 2, 2013, hosted by the American Society of Reproductive Immunology. Our Congress location is the beautiful and newly restored Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Our theme “**Building Bridges in Reproductive Immunology**” sets a tone for a meeting that will be the First World Congress of Reproductive Immunology, one which will bring together scientists, clinicians, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students from many national Societies from several continents.

The Organizing Committee, which will be formed in the next year, will work with National Societies to assemble a world-class scientific program that will include cutting-edge topics in basic and clinical reproductive immunology. The program will include female and male reproductive function, covering gamete development, embryogenesis, pregnancy, placenta and the fetus; sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV; mucosal immunology; developmental immunology; and translational research in infertility and pathologies of pregnancy, as well as vaccines for STIs and fertility control.

This Congress is an opportunity for us to work together to build stronger scientific collaborations and to give our young and young at heart scientists the opportunity to interact and share ideas. Please be certain that we will seek your advice and ideas for making this a truly universal meeting, which will cover all major aspects of reproductive immunology, its applications to the challenges that interfere with reproductive health with special emphasis on HIV and other STIs.

Support from the ASRI and fund raising by the local Scientific Committee will allow us to offer a first class scientific and social program and will hopefully provide travel bursaries to young researchers to attend the meeting.

This Congress will be held in historic Boston Massachusetts, in a newly restored hotel in the center of Boston, but within walking distance to historic sites including the Boston Gardens, The Freedom Trail and Fenway Park, home of the Boston red Sox. This vibrant, thriving city is renowned for its cultural facilities, world-class educational institutions, championship sports as

well as its place at the very forefront of American history. Tourism is one of New England's largest industries; as the region's social and commercial "hub". Boston is willing to accommodate and entertain you as few other cities can.

For ease of travel, Logan International Airport is located approximately two miles from the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, with public airport transportation options from downtown and suburban locations. There are approximately 40 airlines that serve Boston.

This will be the first time the entire international reproductive immunology community comes together in this beautiful city. We expect to attract 400 plus delegates from the USA and overseas from Asia, Europe and South America.

We look forward to welcoming you to the XII International Congress of ISIR in Boston, Massachusetts, USA from May 29-June 2, 2013

**Charles R Wira
President-elect ISIR**