DO NOT MISS THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL EVENT THIS YEAR IN CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS!

The IXth World Conference on Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics 2008 (CPT2008) is reaching new heights with nearly 1,100 approved abstracts originating from 82 countries so far. Clinical and basic pharmacologists from around the world have accepted the invitation to meet and discuss the latest science results at CPT2008 and to enjoy the 400th anniversary celebration events of Québec City. The attendance projection for graduate students and fellows has already been exceeded.

The stellar program put together by Dr. Patrick du Souich and the Scientific Program Committee explains the enthusiasm for CPT 2008. In addition to 10 plenary lectures and 39 symposia, there are 10 sponsored industrial symposia and special sessions scheduled for early evening. Six Meet-the-Expert Sunrise sessions have recently been added with a few more still in discussion. Several organizations are planning their business, scientific and social functions during CPT2008 to benefit from the critical mass of participants from around the globe.

Visit www.cpt2008.org/e_regist/registration_e.shtml to join the Conference!

To enjoy your stay in Québec City be sure to take advantage of all aspects of the Conference, including the social events. The Fun Night will take place on Thursday night, July 31st and you don’t want to miss this fabulous event. The evening will include dinner and refreshments as well as a unique performance of circus arts in the tradition of Cirque du Soleil. See page 2 for more information.

We look forward to welcoming you in Québec City for CPT2008!

Marc LeBel and Stuart MacLeod
CPT2008 Co-Chairs

REGISTER NOW TO VISIT QUÉBEC CITY DURING ITS 400TH ANNIVERSARY
FUN NIGHT

Thursday, July 31st at 19:00
Salon 200 ABC
Québec City Convention Centre
Ticket Cost: $65.00 CAD
includes dinner, refreshments, and the performance

Did you know that the famous Cirque du Soleil was born in the province of Québec, Canada, not far from Québec City? The incredible success of this entertainment organization stems from the many talents nurtured here over the last 25 years.

The organizers of CPT2008 wish to demonstrate the savoir-faire of the Québec City local talent and provide registrants with a taste of the creativity and

Continued on page 3...
inspiration that led to the world-renown circus tradition of Cirque du Soleil (“Circus of the Sun”). Such entertainment requires great daring, exhaustive effort and, above all, strong conviction. The incentive for this presentation was the availability in Québec City of talented young artists who graduated from the École de cirque de Québec.

The show weaves its own central theme and storyline which draws the audience into the performance. This unique production moves beyond the animals and rings of the traditional circus style. Be prepared to be dazzled - let the circus entertain you!

Tickets for Fun Night must be purchased in advance by calling +1-613-993-0414 or e-mail CPT2008@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca. The admission of $65 CAD includes dinner, refreshments, and the entertainment.

(Continued from page 2...)
LETS GO TO QUEBEC CITY!

Before you arrive

- Register for CPT2008 and Fun Night
  www.cpt2008.org/e_regist/registration_e.shtml

- Visa information
  www.cic.gc.ca or call +1-819-994-2424

- Aéroport International Jean-Lesage (YQB)
  www.aeroportdequebec.com

- Get the facts on customs, exchange rates, electrical currency, etc.
  www.canada.travel/selectCountry.html

- Plan your itinerary
  www.monquebec2008.com
  www.bonjourquebec.com
  www.travelcanada.ca

After you arrive

- Taxi fare from the airport to the Convention Centre area is a flat CAD$30 CAD.

- There are two taxes: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is 5% and the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) is 7.5% and added on top of the GST for a total of about 13%.

- Tipping in restaurants and bars is generally 15% of the total bill with 20% for exceptional service. Some restaurants automatically add 15% gratuity for larger groups (often 8 or more). Tipping is also customary for hairdressers (10%), taxi drivers (10%), and hotel staff that carry luggage ($1.00 CAD per piece) or valet cars ($1.00 CAD per trip).

- People commonly queue or line up to purchase items in stores or tickets.

- Smoking is prohibited in public places such as restaurants, bars, office buildings and casinos.

- For emergencies dial 911 from any telephone.

- For local telephone calls, dial the last 10 digits of the number (e.g., 418-555-5555). To reach a telephone number outside North America, dial 011 then the country code and telephone number.
Attention all Employers and Job Seekers!

The Organizers are pleased to present the

**CPT2008 On-Line Job Fair**

being held in conjunction with the

**9th World Conference on Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics:**

**Monday, June 2nd, 2008 - Saturday, August 2nd, 2008**

This is an excellent opportunity for employers to conduct in-person interviews with potential candidates and for job seekers to evaluate available positions. All CPT2008 registrants will be given access to a free Internet Café in the Québec City Convention Centre to view the latest on-line interview invitations and responses. Postings may be anonymous, if desired. **Sign up now for maximum visibility!**

For more information, please visit the

**IUPHAR Careers website:**

CHALLENGES OF PHARMACOLOGY IN AFRICA

IUPHAR is pleased to present a special CPT2008 symposium to help raise awareness for the PharfA initiative and pharmacology in Africa, in general. Novartis International and F. Hoffmann-La Roche SA donated generously to help underwrite this unique offering on Tuesday, July 29th from 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Quebec City Convention Centre.

Africa is faced with a high burden of infectious diseases and, increasingly, non-communicable diseases. Despite recent increases in financial resources to run public health programmes most of these diseases remain significant impediments to national development. One of the major challenges of treating these health conditions is the cost of available medicines, the development of resistance and other dimensions of access. At a recent meeting of the Ministers of Health of Africa held in Accra, Ghana the importance of developing health research as a tool for national development was stressed. A matter of concern in this regard was developing capacity to undertake discovery of new therapeutic interventions, especially from plant origins. There is increasing success in sequencing the genes of some of the important disease-causing organisms and their vector pharmacology becomes an important scientific consideration.

The discipline of pharmacology is vital to the aspirations of disease-endemic countries as well as to the pharmaceutical industry. Pharmacology, an important discipline in health research and human development, is taught mainly in faculties of medicine, nursing, pharmacy and veterinary medicine. However, there are very few institutions in Africa with well developed pharmacology and clinical pharmacology departments well positioned to respond to the continent’s needs. This has implications for human resource development and capacity to respond to the academic, regulatory, use and drug development needs of Africa.

An initiative for African pharmacologist called “Pharmacology for Africa” (PharfA) has been established based in South Africa. It is open to “pharmacologists involved with medicine in clinical practice, consultation, drug distribution/supply chain, drug registration, drug research & development, education (continued professional education), education (postgraduate), education (undergraduate), manufacturing, policy making, quality control, research (clinical trials), research (pre-clinical), sales & marketing among others “ Please visit http://www.iuphar-africa.org/ASPXPages/AdvantagesL1.aspx for more information. This initiative is supported by IUPHAR.

At the IXth World Conference on Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (CPT2008) in Québec, Canada a symposium will be held to discuss some of the issues related to Pharmacology in Africa. The symposium

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will look at the challenges facing Africa in pharmacology within the context of the changing demography, disease epidemiology, health care delivery and health research. A group of established African health professionals will talk on the specific areas of drug regulation, ethnopharmacology, rational use of medicines and HIV/AIDS in Africa and current efforts to address these challenges:

• Dr. Ossy Kasilo works with the World Health Organisation in Brazzaville, Congo and is responsible for Traditional Medicine.
• Dr. Richard Odoi-Adome is Professor of Pharmacology at Makerere University, Uganda and has extensive experience with drug regulation and pharmacy practice issues in Africa.
• Professor Ambrose Isah, Clinical Pharmacologist at the University of Benin City, Nigeria, has interests in optimal pharmacotherapy and promotes the concept of rational use of medicines.
• Dr. Gabriel Anabwani is a pediatrician at Botswana-Baylor Children’s Clinical Center of Excellence, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana and will discuss the management of pediatric HIV/AIDS.
• Prof. Ofori-Adjei is a former Director of the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and currently at the Center for Tropical Clinical Pharmacology of the University of Ghana. His work covers a wide spectrum of activities including pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacogenetics.

The symposium has been jointly facilitated by Professor David Ofori-Adjei and Professor Stuart MacLeod, who is the director of the Child & Family Research Institute in Vancouver and co-chair of CPT2008.

The outcome of the discussion of the presentations will provide additional information and insights into the challenges faced by pharmacologists and pharmacology in Africa. This will enhance current efforts to strengthen national and regional initiatives on pharmacology; and promote initiatives on drug discovery and access.

David Ofori-Adjei
University of Ghana Medical School
WINNERS CHOSEN FOR NIDA-IUPHAR YOUNG INVESTIGATOR TRAVEL AWARDS

The United States National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) presents a one-day mini-convention each year in conjunction with the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) annual meeting. This year the mini-convention, entitled “Frontiers in Addiction Research,” is scheduled for Friday, November 14th, 2008 in Washington, DC, and features four symposia and a poster session for early career investigators (graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty) that will take place during a two-hour extended lunch break. A website at www.sei2003.com/nida/frontiers2008 will be available in the coming months for more information.

IUPHAR has once again co-sponsored three international (non-U.S.) early career investigators who will receive travel awards of USD$1,000 each. The individuals chosen are:

Dr. Stephanie Borglund, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, Canada, was nominated by the Pharmacology Society of Canada. Her research focuses on drug addiction and neural mechanisms of appetitive motivation. The work she plans to present, entitled “Orexin A/Hypocretin1 promotes incentive motivation selectively for highly salient appetitive stimuli”, contains both behavioral and electrophysiological evidence in support of the role of the neuropeptide “orexin”, also known as “hypocretin”, in appetitive motivation.

Dr. Pouya Tahsili-Fahadan, Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Neurosciences of the Medical University of South Carolina, in Charleston, USA, was nominated by the Iranian Society of Pharmacology. In pursuing the cellular and molecular basis of addiction and reward, Dr. Tahsili-Fahadan has taken a particular interest in the neurobiology of reward and reward-related memory. His presented abstract will be “Modafinil blocks morphine-primed reinstatement of conditioned place preference” and explores whether modafinil may be an effective agent in the treatment of opiate abuse.
Dr. Leonardo Resstel Barbosa Moraes, Predoctoral Student in the Department of Pharmacology, University of São Paulo, Brazil, was nominated by the Brazilian Pharmacology Society. His current project is glutamatergic, nitrergic neurotransmission interaction and the modulation of the cardiovascular and behavioral responses evoked by contextual fear conditioning in rats. Dr. Resstel also has research interest in the relationships between behavior, the autonomic nervous system, and the cardiovascular system. His presentation is entitled “Activation of CB1 cannabinoid receptors in medial prefrontal cortex modulates the expression of contextual fear conditioning in rats”.

S.J. Enna
IUPHAR Secretary-General

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On 2 January 2008, Prof. MUDr. Helena Rašková, DrSc., Dr.h.c., the legendary figure of Czech and world pharmacology, celebrated her 95th birthday. A friendly meeting on 16 January 2008 for the occasion of this jubilee was arranged by the Czech Society for Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology of the Czech Jan Evangelista Purkynje Medical Society. The participants included representatives from the field of pharmacology and a number of other scientific disciplines as well as personal friends from Czechia, Slovakia and other countries.

Prof. Rašková and the participants were welcomed by Prof. Vladimír Geršl, Chair of the Czech Society for Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology. The contributions of Prof. Rašková to the development of science in the Czech Republic were recognized by the Medal of Honour of the Czech Jan Evangelista Purkynje Medical Society presented by Prof. Jaroslav Blahoš, President of the Society. The role of Prof. Rašková was described and praised by Prof. Václav Pačes, President of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, who delivered an official greeting from the Academy.

Prof. Jaroslav Květina, one of her closest collaborators, summed up the activities and importance of Prof. Rašková in the context of Czechoslovak and world pharmacology.

"Prof. Rašková has significantly contributed to the establishment of pharmacology as an independent scientific discipline in the world context and established the Czechoslovak Pharmacological School of the 1950s and 1960s. She graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of Charles University in Prague in 1937. Her career as a clinical university lecturer was interrupted by the closure of Czech institutions of higher education in 1939. During the Second World War she worked for a pharmaceutical manufacturer in Prague. There she had contact with the sciences connected with the development of new medications and was motivated for her later lifetime love, pharmacology.

"Soon after Czech institutes of higher education re-opened following the war, she became one of the restorers of the Pharmacological Institute of the Faculty of Medicine of Charles University in Prague. She accurately anticipated the trends in pharmacology and became recognized as an authority among her university collaborators as well as in pharmacological research in the pharmaceutical industry.
TRIBUTE TO PROF. RAŠKOVÁ

“She managed to maintain communication with world science even after political barriers were formed and thus, in the period of political pressures orienting Czechoslovakia exclusively to the East, she kept “more cosmopolitan” scientific contacts for Czech and Slovak pharmacology. Prof. Helena Rašková and the Swedish Prof. Börje Uvnäs were two of the European pharmacologists who substantially contributed to the establishment of the IUPHAR. In appreciation of these merits, Prof. Rašková was awarded the Gold Medal of the Federation of European Pharmacological Societies (EPHAR). It is also impossible to ignore her initiative in the history of European drug toxicology and she was significantly responsible for developing clinical pharmacology in Czechia and Slovakia.

“Prof. Rašková established two independent pharmacological institutes within Charles University and the Pharmacological Institutes of the Czech and Slovak Academies of Sciences. Her vitality and enthusiasm for science did not abate even in the 1970s and 1980s when the existing political situation forced her to leave the scientific institutes which she had helped to found. The network of her closest collaborators and first disciples was further increased with her scientific grandchildren and great-grandchildren, now holding important posts in pharmacological research both in Czechoslovakia and abroad.

“Prof. Rašková is also known for her efforts in forming the Czechoslovak Pharmacological Society in 1959, where she was repeatedly elected President. She has been the Honorary President of the Czech Society for Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology and has thus stayed, with her sustained vitality, in the middle of many pharmacological as well as non-pharmacological activities. The recognition of her merits is manifested in the dozens of honorary memberships and medals from a number of world scientific societies and university institutes, and other awards.”

This summary of the accomplishments of Prof. Rašková was followed by messages and greetings from various pharmacological societies, including a letter from IUPHAR, in which President Sue Duckles congratulated and thanked Prof. Rašková for, among other things, her contribution to the founding and activities of the IUPHAR; a congratulatory letter from the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium; and a birthday greeting from the German Society for Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology. Many other messages of greeting were read and many other awards were bestowed upon her from the representatives of Czech and Slovak pharmacologists, dignitaries of Faculties of Medicine, several scientific societies and her personal friends.

Prof. Rašková’s comments and recollections that accompanied the individual speeches brought back memories of the history of pharmacology as well as her role in our scientific community.

At the end of the official presentations, Prof. Rašková was crowded by a large number of well-wishers who wanted to express their thanks and esteem. Prof. Rašková thus was – quite in harmony with the credo of her life – surrounded by a large family of pharmacologists and friends. The most important tribute was the reverence of a large community of pharmacologists and scientists as well as personal friends.

Prof. Vladimír Geršl
Czech Pharmacological Society Chair
The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) was established on December 28, 1908 by John Jacob Abel and 17 fellow pharmacologists. ASPET celebrated its centennial anniversary during the Experimental Biology 2008 meeting in San Diego, USA from April 2nd – 5th, 2008. The extensive list of tribute activities was highlighted by 10 high-profile symposia, several presentations and awards, a street fair (see page 13), and publications. The symposia included the debut of the Julius Axelrod Symposium and a round-table discussion about the future of pharmacology by many of the Nobel laureates involved in the Society. The centennial publications are available through the various ASPET journals and website (www.aspet.org) and reflect the great discoveries in pharmacology, the contributions of the female members of ASPET, and a brief history of the Society.

During the business meeting, IUPHAR President Sue Duckles presented ASPET President Ken Minneman with a framed reproduction of John Jacob Abel in his laboratory to commemorate the founder of ASPET. The British Pharmacological Society Past President Graeme Henderson awarded Dr. Minneman a plaque for the occasion. Other dignitaries acknowledging this important milestone were the President of the United States, George W. Bush, the Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and the Director of the National Institutes of Health, Elias A. Zerhouni.

IUPHAR congratulates ASPET on the first 100 years of success knowing that the staff and officers of ASPET will work to continue offering their international membership another 100 years of advancement.

S. J. Enna
IUPHAR Secretary-General
What do you get when you combine 1 block of downtown San Diego, 100 years of pharmacology, 800 people, and 1,000 balloons? The ASPET party of the century!

On April 8th, 2008 ASPET rented J Street in the Gaslamp District of San Diego, USA for a centennial extravaganza. A band and street entertainers contributed to the festivities where participants enjoyed free food and beverages with friends from around the world. For more pictures, visit www.aspet.org.

Some of the ASPET staff relax after working all weekend at the centennial events (L→R) Harry Smith, Ron Hanks, Margie Arkin, Jill Filler, Dan Collinge, Suzie Thompson, Bobby Phipps, and Rich Dodenhoff

The Centennial Celebration included a live band and street performers.

(L→R) Harish Vasudevan (Univ. of British Columbia), Beatrice Hanaoka (Cleveland Clinic), Victoria English (Univ. of Kentucky), Vijay Sharma (Univ. of British Columbia) and Prahhakar Nagareddy (Univ. of British Columbia) voted the street fair to be their favorite aspect of the Centennial Celebration.

Zhinan Yin (Nankai Univ.) came to Experimental Biology 2008 to visit with a friend and enjoy the keynote ASPET Centennial Symposia.
Zany balloons and hats from the street entertainers kept everyone smiling.

Conversing with friends seldom seen was a particularly favorite part of the Centennial Celebration. (L→R) Sharon Steinsland (Galveston, Texas, USA), Paul Vanhoutte (Univ. of Hong Kong) and Walter Dixon (Univ. of Kansas)

The street was thick with people dancing, eating and visiting. (L→R) Arthur Christopoulos (Monash Univ.), Henry Lester (California Inst. of Technology), Nigel Birdsall (National Inst. for Medical Research) and Berry Birdsall (National Inst. for Medical Research)
Before the Second World War Belgian physiologists and pharmacologists met under the umbrella of the Société de Biologie, the respected scholarly society founded in 1848 by Claude Bernard and his Colleagues. Scientific communications were published in the Comptes Rendus. On 29 March 1947, less than two years after the end of the war, the Belgian Society of Physiology was founded by a group of twelve physiologists and pharmacologists from the four Belgian Universities existing at the time: the Governmental Universities of Liège (ULg) and Gent (RUG) and the Private Universities of Brussels (ULB) and Louvain (KUL/UCL). The twelve founders were: J.J. Bouckaert, C. Heymans, J. Van De Velde (RUG), Z.M. Bacq, M. Florkin, H. Frédericq (ULg), F. Bremer, J. La Barre, P. Rylant (ULB), J.P. Bouckaert, J. Hoet, and A. Simonart (KUL/UCL).

The aim of the Society was clearly defined in the first article of the statutes: “The organization of scientific meetings during which the Belgian Physiologists (and eventually their guests) can present and bring up for discussion the results of their recent researches in the fields of physiology and pharmacology”. The first meeting of the Society took place on Saturday, 22 November 1947 in the Laboratory of Physiology in Leuven at the invitation of J.P. Bouckaert. There were 4 demonstrations and 27 oral presentations on the programme. The hand-written account of the secretary, the pharmacologist A. Simonart, reported that the meeting lasted until late in the evening because the discussions had been lively and not limited in time. Accordingly, for the next meeting, held on 22 May 1948 at the invitation of C. Heymans in the Laboratory of Pharmacology in Gent, a time of fifteen minutes, including discussion, was allocated to each speaker as is still the case now. Between 1946 and 1960 two meetings were held per year but the frequency was increased to three or four per year between 1961 and 1999, to be reduced again to two per year beginning in 2000.

Society dues are used to affiliate with the European Federations of Physiology (FEPS), of Pharmacology (EPHAR) and of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (EACPT). Memberships in the International Unions of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) and Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) are supported by the Royal Academies thanks to the National Committee for Physiology and Pharmacology of the Belgian Academies of Science, founded in 2002.

The Society held 158 meetings during the six decades of its existence (November 1947 to November 2007). The statutes of the Society stated that the meetings were to be held in turn in one of the four existing universities, and that was indeed the case until 1970. The foundation of new University Centres and the split of the two Private Universities according to French and Flemish
languages in the 1960s and 1970s increased tremendously (from four to twelve!) the number of potential meeting locations. In addition, one took place in the Research Department of Janssen Pharmaceutica (Beerse near Antwerp). From the onset the Belgian Society sought scientific contacts with sister European societies. Accordingly, some twenty “Joint Meetings” were organized between 1951 and 1997 with foreign Pharmacological and Physiological Societies (British, Dutch, French, Italian and German). Half of the joint meetings were held abroad and half in Belgium. The creation and conferences of EPHAR, EACPT and FEPS eventually replaced the individually organized joint meetings.

The principal aim of the meetings was, and still is, the presentation and discussion of the results of both experimental and clinical research in the field of Physiology and Pharmacology. Until the meeting in September 1973 this was only done through oral communications and demonstrations. The number of demonstrations decreased with time and disappeared entirely in the nineties for practical and technical reasons. By contrast, the number of communications increased with the expansion of the universities and their research groups. In order to keep the duration of the meetings within reasonable limits, poster presentations were adopted in 13 September 1973, starting with the Joint Meeting with the Dutch Societies of Physiology and Pharmacology in Gent. The poster presentations were from the outset a great success and allowed the traditional limit of 15 minute oral presentations. It is worth mentioning that since 1969 each meeting of the Society held in Belgium started with an “Invited Lecture” of 45 to 60 minutes on a contemporary subject in either physiology or pharmacology, delivered in most cases by an international speaker of prominence. These lectures have been supported since 1973 by financial aid from Belgian scientific organisations. Until 1994, reports of the Society appeared either in Archives internationales de Pharmacodynamie et de Therapie or in Archives internationales de Physiologie et de Biochimie. From 1994 until 2005 physiological abstracts appeared in Pflüger Archives and, since 2005, in Acta Physiologica, the official FEPS Journal, whereas pharmacological abstracts have been published since 1994 by Fundamental and Clinical Pharmacology, the official EPHAR Journal.

Approximately 500 scientists have been accepted as members of the Society since the founding in 1947. The Society maintains a high standard of scientific activity due to the faithful attendance of senior members, young PhDs, and graduate students. •

Theophile Godfraind and Eric Lacroix
Honorary Permanent Officers
Belgian Society of Fundamental and Clinical Physiology and Pharmacology
http://users.ugent.be/~jvdvoord/physiology&pharmacology
Sixty years ago a group of 14 pharmacologists met at the University of Helsinki to create a national society - the Finnish Pharmacology Society. Today, membership has grown to over 500 individuals which is quite remarkable in a country with just over 5 million citizens. Sixty years ago the impetus for creating the society was to lay the foundations for the Third Nordic Pharmacology meeting which was to be held in Helsinki in September 1949. Today, the society will also celebrate its birthday by organizing another major international meeting - the 5th International Endothelium-derived Hyperpolarizing Factor (EDHF) Symposium (http://www.edhf2008.org) which will be held in Tampere in June 2008. This meeting will mark another chapter in the long history of the Finnish Pharmacology Society playing host to major congresses and conferences. In fact, senior readers may well have attended the 6th IUPHAR Congress in Helsinki in 1975.

The 1975 IUPHAR congress was memorable for a number of reasons. At the time it was the largest gathering of pharmacologists ever assembled under one roof - almost three thousand active participants with over 500 social delegates. No one in Finland had ever organized such a major scientific meeting before and the local organizing committee headed by Prof. Matti K. Paasonen had to solve innumerable logistic problems. One advantage of Helsinki was its location at a crossroads between East and West. Due to the special ties of Finland with eastern European countries, it was possible for many pharmacologists from behind the Iron Curtain to meet colleagues from the West. However, the unique location of Finland almost brought disaster to the meeting. By the beginning of 1975, a thaw in East-West relations meant that for the first time since the end of the Second World War world leaders were embarking on a process of detente. It had been decided that the signing of the so-called Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) would take place in Helsinki in the summer of 1975. The date when leaders of 35 states would descend on Helsinki was a closely guarded secret but the IUPHAR organizers realized that should that date coincide with the IUPHAR meeting, then their meeting would be abruptly canceled and five years of work would have been in vain. Fortunately, the CSCE opened on the day after the IUPHAR meeting ended and the only disruption was a few delegates had to change hotel rooms.

Continued on page 18...
Continued from page 17...

**The Finnish Pharmacology Society 60th Birthday**

Today, there are five universities where students are taught pharmacology, with the University of Helsinki having two departments—one in the medical school and one in the faculty of pharmacy. The other departments are in the Universities of Kuopio, Oulu, Tampere and Turku. The tradition of neuropharmacology research initiated by the grand old man of Finnish Pharmacology, Armas Vartiainen, is continued by Professors Korpi, Männistö, Tuominen (all in various Helsinki departments), and Scheinin and Koulu (Turku). Cardiovascular and metabolic pharmacology are represented by Professors Ruskoaho (Oulu), and Mervaala and Paakkari (Helsinki). Drug metabolism research is conducted in Oulu by Professor Pelkonen and Professors Raunio and Pasanen in Kuopio, and chairs of clinical pharmacology are held by Professors Neuvonen (Helsinki), Huupponen (Turku), Kivistö (Tampere) and Keränen (Kuopio). Finally, the current chairperson of the society, Professor Eeva Moilanen, heads a successful group working on immunopharmacology in Tampere.

Professor Moilanen is also the chair of the organizing committee of the EDHF symposium to be held in June this year. On the final day of this meeting the Finnish Pharmacology Society will celebrate its 60th birthday with a symposium marking sixty years of drug discovery followed by a grand dinner. In conjunction with the EDHF meeting, several distinguished pharmacologists will be in Tampere to enjoy this dinner under the midnight sun. Thus, the society looks forward to welcoming the IUPHAR past-president Paul Vanhoutte and Federation of European Pharmacological Societies (EPHAR) president Arthur Weston, and the Head of the Wolfson Institute in London, Salvador Moncada. A report on the society’s 60th birthday celebrations and the EDHF Symposium will appear in a future issue of *Pharmacology International*.

Ewen MacDonald
Finnish Pharmacological Society Vice President
http://www.helsinki.fi/jarj/farmakologia/
The Chilean Society for Pharmacology was founded in December 26th, 1978 by a group of 60 members that approved the statutes. The first board of officers was elected in September 1979 and in October of the same year the Chilean Society for Pharmacology acquired official legal status (Supreme law 1396 of the Chilean Government). During the same period the academic staff from the Universities of Chile, Concepcion, Temuco, Valparaíso, Valdivia and the Catholic University of Chile was incorporated into the Society in order to share knowledge, updates, stimulate the scientific research in pharmacological sciences and to discuss the developments in the area.

The initial organizing was done by Dr. Jorge Mardones Restat, first President of the Society, who was a full professor in Pharmacology of the University of Chile and ex-ministry of Health of Chilean Government.

Since its founding, many distinguished members of the Society have participated in the generation of National Public Health policies and drug guidelines. Thus far, 14 executive boards have directed the Society overseeing the organization of 29 national scientific meetings in addition to several international meetings, conferences, workshops and courses, where Chilean researchers have presented their work.

The Chilean Pharmacology Society is currently a member of the Chilean Association of Scientific Societies, the Latin American Pharmacology Society, and a full member of IUPHAR. It also maintains permanent relationships with many other international societies around the world. At present, the Society has more than 100 individual members around the country and is characterized by its easy accessibility by undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Many members of the Society are primary researchers on grants in diverse areas of the discipline, including both government and private financial support. The main objective for the 30th anniversary is the organization of the Latin American Congress of Pharmacology between October 12th and 15th in Coquimbo, Chile (www.biologiachile.cl/socfarmch). This meeting will include scientist from all countries of Latin America and from Spain and Portugal.

Dr. Hernan E. Lara
Chilean Pharmacology Society President
The *Current Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Medicine* (*CPPM*: formerly “*Current Pharmacogenomics*”) is an international peer reviewed biomedical journal that publishes expert reviews and original research on all aspects of pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine under a single cover. The *CPPM* is the official journal of the Pacific Rim Association for Clinical Pharmacogenetics (PRACP), an IUPHAR member society. The journal is published by Bentham Science Publishers, a recognized publishing house with broad international circulation. We would like to invite the IUPHAR member societies to consider *CPPM* as a multidisciplinary forum and publication avenue for their most recent research and expert reviews.

The *CPPM* publishes four issues each year and now is in its sixth successful year of publication. We give priority to manuscripts that present original ideas or new ways of treating concepts related to personalized health interventions (e.g., pharmacogenomics, nutrigenomics, systems biology, diagnostics) and enabling omics health technologies (e.g., genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics). Integration of molecular and clinical research, social science, ethics, economics and policy dimensions in personalized medicine is highly desirable. The journal offers an exciting new option for open access publication providing the maximum dissemination of articles to the largest audience.

For *CPPM* instructions to authors, journal subscription information and the PRACP membership, we invite IUPHAR members to visit the journal website at [www.bentham.org/cppm](http://www.bentham.org/cppm) and the PRACP society home page at [http://www.med.niigata-u.ac.jp/psy/PRACP](http://www.med.niigata-u.ac.jp/psy/PRACP). An important benefit of the PRACP membership is the significantly reduced subscription rate to the *CPPM*, for both online and print editions, offered by the Bentham Science Publishers.

We thank you in advance for your interest and possible contribution to the *CPPM*. We look forward to hearing from you. •

Toshiyuki Someya¹ and Vural Ozdemir²

*Current Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Medicine* Editors-in-Chief

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²Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada (vural.ozdemir@umontreal.ca)
International Funding Opportunity
ICSU-TWAS-UNESCO-UNU/IAS Visiting Scientist Programme

What is TWAS?
TWAS, the academy of sciences for the developing world – www.twas.org – is an autonomous international organization founded in Trieste, Italy, in 1983. TWAS represents the best of science in the developing world. Its principal aim is to promote scientific capacity and excellence for sustainable development in the South. Since 1986, TWAS has been supporting scientists and institutions in developing countries through a wide range of programs that focus on scientific capacity building.

The administration and financial operation of TWAS is undertaken by UNESCO in accordance with an agreement signed by the two organizations.

General Information on the Program
Partners in the Visiting Scientist program, which is administered by TWAS, are:
• The International Council for Science (ICSU) - www.icsu.org
• The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - www.unesco.org
• The United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU/IAS) - www.ias.unu.edu

1. The ICSU-TWAS-UNESCO-UNU/IAS Visiting Scientist program supports visits of internationally renowned scientists to institutions located in developing countries, especially those located in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
2. The objective of the program is to provide institutions and research groups in developing countries, especially those with limited outside contacts, with the opportunity to establish long-term links with world leaders in science and so help develop capacity-building in their country.
3. Under the program, prospective host institutions can invite internationally renowned experts in areas of science other than mathematics and physics to collaborate in research and training. The visiting scientist will be expected to interact closely with faculty and students of the host institution with the aim of strengthening its existing activities and/or assisting in the establishment of new lines of research. The visiting scientist could also deliver lectures and seminars to research students, supervise students, conduct research and discuss future collaborative partnerships.
4. The visit should have a minimum stay of two weeks at the host institution. Applications to renew successful visits will be considered in the following year(s). The sponsoring organizations, through TWAS, will provide the Visiting Scientist with the most direct economy class travel (round-trip). An honorarium of US$500 is provided by the sponsoring organizations, while the host institution is expected to cover local expenses.
5. On completion of the visit, the visiting scientist and the host institution should provide comprehensive reports outlining the impact the visit has had on the educational and research programs of the host institution.
6. Institutions wishing to be considered for this program should fill in the request form also available from the TWAS and ICSU secretariats and via Internet: www.twas.org and www.icsu.org. As the program is striving towards providing equal opportunities, nominations of women will be particularly welcomed. Only persons who have attained international recognition in their fields of science will be considered for support under this program.

APPLICATIONS MUST ARRIVE IN TWAS OFFICE
NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1ST, 2008
TWAS, the academy of sciences for the developing world
ICTP Campus, Strada Costiera 11, 34014 Trieste, Italy.
Phone: +39 040 2240387 - Fax: +39 040 2240689
E-Mail: exchanges@twas.org - Web: www.twas.org
### Upcoming Events

#### July

**17th International Symposium on Microsomes and Drug Oxidations**  
Saratoga, New York, USA  
July 6 - 10, 2008  

**The Congress of the Federation of European Pharmacological Societies (EPHAR 2008) hosted by the British Pharmacological Society**  
Manchester, England, United Kingdom  
July 13 - 17, 2008  

**Annual Meeting of the Serotonin Cub in conjunction with EPHAR 2008**  
Oxford, England, United Kingdom  
July 17 - 20, 2008  
[http://www.serotoninclub.org](http://www.serotoninclub.org)

**9th World Conference on Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (CPT2008) sponsored by IUPHAR Division of Clinical Pharmacology**  
Québec City, Québec, Canada  
July 27 - August 1, 2008  

#### August

**7th International Bern Summer School on Inflammation, Immunomodulation, and Inspiration, sponsored by the Swiss Societies of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Experimental Pharmacology, and Allergology and Immunology**  
Bönigen, Switzerland  
August 10 - 12, 2008  
Send inquiries to anita.daehler@pki.unibe.ch

**6th James Black Conference - New Pain Concepts and Future Treatments sponsored by the British Pharmacological Society**  
St. Andrews, Scotland, UK  
August 16 - 17, 2008  
[http://www.bps.ac.uk/site/cms/contentCategoryView.asp?category=258](http://www.bps.ac.uk/site/cms/contentCategoryView.asp?category=258)

**21st Congress of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology**  
Barcelona, Spain  
August 30 - September 3, 2008  
[www.ecnp.eu](http://www.ecnp.eu)
Upcoming Events

September

37th Annual Meeting of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
September 14 - 16, 2008
http://www.accp1.org

Sao Paulo Research Conference on “Molecular Medicine Pharmacogenetics” sponsored by the IUPHAR Section on Pharmacogenetics
São Paulo, Brazil
September 18 - 22, 2008
http://www.eventus.com.br/bioconferences

2008 Annual Meeting of the Safety Pharmacology Society
Madison, Wisconsin, USA
September 22 - 25, 2008
http://www.safetypharmacology.org/am2008

October

Focused Meeting: Lysophospholipid Receptors, Role in Health and Disease sponsored by the British Pharmacological Society
West Sussex, United Kingdom
October 1 - 2, 2008
http://www.bps.ac.uk/site/cms/contentCategoryView.asp?category=258

8th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance: Strategies for Developing Pharmacovigilance
Buenos Aires, Argentina
October 5 - 8, 2008
http://www.isoponline.org/annual-meeting.html

International Symposium on Drug Discovery and Development for Gastrointestinal Tract and Liver Diseases presented by the IUPHAR Gastrointestinal Pharmacology Section
Nanjing, P.R. China
October 12 - 14, 2008
http://www.iuphar-gi.org

18th Congress of Latin American Association of Pharmacology and 30th Congress of the Chilean Society of Pharmacology
Coquimbo, Chile
October 12 - 16, 2008
http://biologicachile.cl/socfarmch

To include your events here, please e-mail the details to iuphar@kumc.edu.
## Upcoming Events

### November

- **60th Anniversary Celebration of the Korean Society of Pharmacology**
  - Bexco, Busan, Republic of Korea
  - November 6 - 7, 2008
  - [http://www.kosphar.or.kr](http://www.kosphar.or.kr)

- **18th Neuropharmacology Conference in association with NC-IUPHAR as a satellite meeting to Neuroscience 2008**
  - Washington DC, USA
  - November 12 - 14, 2008
  - [http://www.neuropharmacology-conference.elsevier.com](http://www.neuropharmacology-conference.elsevier.com)

- **Annual meeting of the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists in conjunction with the Australian Health and Medical Research Conference**
  - Brisbane, Australia
  - November 16 - 21, 2008

- **Riksstämma 2008 - annual meeting of the Swedish Society of Medicine and Centennial Celebration of the Swedish Section for Pharmacology**
  - Göteborg, Sweden
  - November 26 - 28, 2008

- **8th National Congress of Pharmacology and Therapeutics (CENTROFARMACOL 2008) and the 2nd National Workshop on Clinical Pharmaceutical Services (SERVIFARMA 2008) sponsored by the Cuban Society of Pharmacology**
  - Santa Clara, Cuba
  - November 26 - 29, 2008
  - Send inquiries to [servifarma@iscm.vcl.sld.cu](mailto:servifarma@iscm.vcl.sld.cu)

### December

- **Winter Meeting of the British Pharmacological Society**
  - Brighton, United Kingdom
  - December 16 - 18, 2008
  - [www.bps.ac.uk/site/cms/contentCategoryView.asp?category=258](http://www.bps.ac.uk/site/cms/contentCategoryView.asp?category=258)

- **International Conference on Translational Pharmacology and 41st Annual Conference of the Indian Pharmacological Society**
  - New Dehli, India
  - December 18 - 20, 2008
  - Send inquiries to [ips2008.aiims@gmail.com](mailto:ips2008.aiims@gmail.com)
18th *Neuropharmacology* Conference  
**IN ASSOCIATION WITH IUPHAR**  
November 12-14, 2008 | Washington DC, USA  
Satellite to the 2008 meeting of the Society for Neuroscience

**DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION**

Register by **September 15, 2008** for reduced delegate fees.  
Coverage includes: Ionotropic glutamate receptors • GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors • Glycine receptors • Nicotinic ACh receptors • P2X receptors • 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors.

**INVITED SPEAKERS**

Heinrich Betz, *Germany*  
Jean-Pierre Changeux, *France*  
Graham Collingridge, *UK*  
Daniel Choquet, *France*  
Cindy Czajkowski, *USA*  
Richard Evans, *UK*  
David Jane, *UK*  
Michael Jarvis, *USA*  
Bal Khakh, *USA*  
Juan Lerma, *Spain*  
Robin Lester, *USA*  
David Lodge, *UK*  
Sarah Lummis, *UK*  
Joe Lynch, *Australia*  
Bob MacDonald, *USA*  
Husseini Manji, *USA*  
Mark Mayer, *USA*  
Neil Millar, *UK*  
Christophe Mulle, *France*  
Roger Nicoll, *USA*  
Richard Olsen, *USA*  
Chris Parsons, *Germany*  
John Peters, *UK*  
Uwe Rudolph, *USA*  
Peter Seeburg, *Germany*  
Trevor Smart, *UK*  
Michael Spedding, *France*  
Martin Wallner, *USA*  
Susanne Zukin, *USA*  

**Conference Secretariat**  
Tel: +44 1865 843089  
Email: ch.wilkins@elsevier.com

www.neuropharmacology-conference.elsevier.com
Dr. Craig January, internationally recognized clinician-scientist in arrhythmia, will be the Keynote Speaker at the Safety Pharmacology Society Annual Meeting to be held in Madison, Wisconsin, USA, September 22-25, 2008. This year's meeting will offer a variety of new cutting-edge topics including a half-day session dedicated to the complexities of developing biologic molecules. To learn more about the Annual Meeting agenda and to register for the meeting, please visit the SPS Annual Meeting Web site at: http://www.safetypharmacology.org/am2008.

Continuing Education courses will also be offered the day prior to the meeting. The meeting will be a great opportunity for you to expand your knowledge base about safety pharmacology and network with colleagues from around the globe. We are a very friendly Society and truly welcome new faces from around the world. We rotate the meeting venues to seek out a slightly new target audience with our programs reflecting the scientific focus and training needs of the host industries nearby. We cordially invite you to become a member, get involved in our ongoing activities and join us in Madison, Wisconsin for our 8th Annual SPS Meeting this September!

As well as three parallel scientific sessions, we have some additional activities during the SPS Annual Meeting. These include the Society’s Opening Reception at the conclusion of the Continuing Education Courses in addition to Junior Travel Awards, invited Oral Communications, new Posters (by online submission); plus the winner of the 2008 Distinguished Service Award. The SPS exhibitors provide attendees with information about the latest technologies and services available in the safety pharmacology field.

We are earnestly seeking corporations and businesses to assist our Society's financial future scientific activities by means of a financial donation in the run-up to the Annual Meeting. Those new and established partners who wish to donate should contact our AIM Executive colleagues based in Reston, Virginia - they can work with you to define the process that suits your business needs plus the specific level of contribution you wish to provide amongst the many 2008 donation levels.

With very best wishes on behalf of the 2008 Safety Pharmacology Society Board of Directors, we very much look forward to seeing you in Madison in September.

Ian MacKenzie
Safety Pharmacology Society President

Richard Briscoe
Vice President and Program Chair
Dear Colleagues,

The 41st Annual Conference of the Indian Pharmacological Society (IPS) is being organized at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The emphasis will be on the contemporary issues in Basic Pharmacology, Toxicology, Clinical Research and Herbal Medicines. There will be brainstorming sessions on issues of concern in the national scenario such as pharmacology curriculum, use of large animals, etc.

The laboratory research in drug development is only worthwhile when it is translated into drugs for masses or drugs for incurable diseases and in this process, the academic institutions, scientific laboratories and drug industries, all play a crucial role.

With this background, the annual conference of IPS has been clubbed with International Conference on Translational Pharmacology. Several leading national and international experts have already consented to attend and deliberate.

To attract the young pharmacologists, special programs like national quiz program, round table dinner discussion groups with dignitaries are being arranged.

Pre-conference workshops on different themes for a limited number of young participants have also been planned.

We cordially invite all of you in the cold to the warm weather of Delhi.

YK Gupta
Organizing Secretary
The British Pharmacological Society Gears Up for Another Great Year of Conferences

6th James Black Conference
The 6th James Black Conference: New Pain Concepts and Future Treatments will be held at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland from the 16 – 17 August 2008. The aim of the conference is to present cutting edge research on pain mechanisms in relation to novel analgesics. Since many promising results for preclinical candidates are not replicated in human studies, a major objective is to discuss the source of these discrepancies, and identify strategies for successful translation to the clinic. The focus will be on new pain therapies in the clinical phase of development, and new classes of compounds which target unmet clinical needs.

To view the full programme, register or submit an abstract please visit the BPS website (www.bps.ac.uk).

Continued on page 29...
Focused Meeting: Lysophospholipid Receptors
The BPS Focused Meeting Lysophospholipid Receptors, Role in Health and Disease will be held at the Novartis Horsham Research Centre & Effingham Park Hotel, West Sussex from 1 – 2 October 2008. Topics to be covered include:
- Molecular pharmacology of phospholipids
- Metabolism of phospholipids
- Phospholipids and cellular activation
- Phospholipids in disease

To view the full programme, register or submit an abstract please visit the BPS website at www.bps.ac.uk.

BPS Winter Meeting
The BPS Winter Meeting will be held at the Hilton Metropole Hotel in Brighton from the 16 – 18 December 2008. Confirmed symposia include:
- Pattern recognition receptors as therapeutic targets for disease
- Regulators of gene expression as new therapeutic targets
- Disposition and safety of biopharmaceuticals
- Receptor structure/function studies and drug design
- Obesity
- Pharmacogenomics: from drug development to clinical application
- Molecular pharmacology of Cys-loop receptors
- Cytokines, depression and 5-HT
- Mending a broken heart: Advances and challenges of stem cell therapy

Online registration and abstract submission will open on the BPS website (www.bps.ac.uk) on 4 September 2008.

For further details on any of these meetings please email: meetings@bps.ac.uk
Meeting Reports

International Conference on Pharmacogenomics & 14th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Rim Association for Clinical Pharmacogenetics

The 2008 International Conference on Pharmacogenomics was held in Busan, Republic of Korea, on April 9-11, 2008. This was the 5th Annual International Conference on Pharmacogenomics organized by the Pharmacogenomics Research Center, Inje University (PGRC, Director, Jae-Gook Shin) and the Korean Pharmacogenomics Research Network (KPRN, Network Leader, Sang-Goo Shin) since the inaugural conference held in 2004. The 2008 International Conference on Pharmacogenomics was jointly organized with the 14th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Rim Association for Clinical Pharmacogenetics (PRACP). The conference was Co-Chaired by Professor Sang-Goo Shin (Seoul National University) and Professor Min-Soo Lee (Korea University). The conference attracted a large participation from academic scientists, trainees in personalized medicine research, clinicians, regulatory experts, social scientists, biomedical publishing companies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry representatives. The Organizing Committee (Executive Chair: Jae-Gook Shin, Inje University) developed an outstanding scientific program in close collaboration with the Pharmacogenetics Research Network (PGRN, Rochelle M. Long, NIH; and Eileen Dolan, University of Chicago).

Over 650 participants from 20 countries (from Asia, North America, Europe, Middle East and other global regions) were present at the conference, with 48 speakers across 11 symposia, and 191 poster presentations that collectively made for an exciting and very informative scientific program. This was complemented by four State-of-the-Art Plenary Lectures. Professor Michel Eichelbaum opened the conference with the Plenary Lecture on “Pharmacogenomics in the Translational Research and Personalized Medicine”. Other Plenary Lectures were delivered by Dr. Lawrence J. Lesko (“Successes in Pharmacogenomics: Progress to Date and Future Opportunities”), Professor Siegfried Kasper (“Integrated Approach in the Treatment of Depression and Anxiety Disorder”) and Professor Dan M. Roden (“Pharmacogenetic Approaches to the Study of Abnormal Cardiac Rhythm”).

Continued on page 31...
An important theme in the conference was on translational research in pharmacogenomics to bridge the gap between molecular discoveries and applications at the bedside. To this end, Professor Toshiyuki Someya (PRACP President) emphasized the unique focus of the PRACP on (1) population pharmacogenetics and (2) translational clinical pharmacogenetics. As pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine research become increasingly global, the spirit towards international collaborations was self-evident among the conference participants. In addition, the exciting social program made for an excellent opportunity to establish new friendships, sustain and enrich the existing collaborations among different stakeholders in pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine.

Presentations from the conference are now available at the conference web site (http://www.pgx2008.org). These include slides (in a pdf format) from speakers who previously agreed to release their presentation file to the organizing committee and the scientific community. Importantly, the photos from the conference are also available on this conference web site for your enjoyment. The PRACP meeting report by Dr. Toshiyuki Someya is uploaded separately on the PRACP Society web page (http://www.med.niigata-u.ac.jp/psy/PRACP).

At the 2008 International Conference on Pharmacogenomics, Professor Leif Bertilsson (Karolinska Institute, Sweden) and colleagues recognized the enduring and enormous contributions made to the field of pharmacogenetics by Professor Werner Kalow who passed away in early 2008. Professor Kalow was one of the founders of the PRACP and the study of the population-to-population differences in pharmacogenetics. A tribute in memory of his work and contributions will be posted on the PRACP web page by Vural Ozdemir (PRACP Secretary) later in 2008.
We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of the distinguished speakers for their outstanding presentations and attendance at the 2008 International Conference on Pharmacogenomics and the 14th Annual Meeting of the PRACP. There remains much to be accomplished in the field of pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine. However, we view this as an exciting challenge that can only be met with long term commitment and international collaborations. The 2008 International Conference on Pharmacogenomics & the 14th Annual Meeting of the PRACP were a meaningful and significant step on this arduous path to personalized medicine.

Jae-Gook Shin, Min-Soo Lee, Sang-Goo Shin, Toshiyuki Someya, and Vural Ozdemir
on behalf of the Organizing Committee
http://www.med.niigata-u.ac.jp/psy/PRACP
During April 19th – 22nd, 2008 the Cuban Society of Pharmacology held IMMUNOPHARMACOLOGY 2008, at Varadero Beach, Cuba. The Opening Remarks were delivered by Prof. Hartmut Wekerle, President of the International Society of Neuroimmunology (Germany), who spoke on autoimmune pathogenesis in multiple sclerosis.

Dr. Silvio Perea (Cuba) updated participants with the latest research in protein kinases as promising pharmacological targets for cancer therapeutics and the development of CIGB-300 as a novel proapoptotic synthetic peptide that impairs the protein kinase CK2-mediated phosphorylation.

Dr. Angus Dagleish (United Kingdom) reported on the immunotherapy of cancer as being more than just antibodies and vaccines in the importance of synergy and sequential management in cancer.

IMMUNOPHARMACOLOGY 2008 offered a superior scientific program:

- 16 Plenary lectures
- 55 Lectures divided into 14 workshops on immunopharmacology, 13 on inflammation & pain, 17 in neuroimmunology, and 11 symposia focusing on cytochrome P450
- 120 Posters were presented with half representing immunopharmacology, and the rest concerning inflammation & pain, neuroimmunology, and cytochrome P450. Seventeen awards were presented to the best investigators. For a complete list of winners, please visit http://www.scf.sld.cu/impharmacology08/impharmacology08.htm.
IMMUNOPHARMACOLOGY 2008 featured the 1st International Symposium on Cytochrome P450 Pharmacology. The lecturers and participants of this forum included (L→R) Genaro G. Ortiz (Mexico), Adrián Lerena (Spain), William Casley (Canada), Diadelis Remirez (Cuba), Javier Espinosa (Mexico), Juan C. Sepúlveda (Colombia), Idania Rodeiro (Cuba, president of the Organizing Committee of this symposium), Graham Robertson (Australia), Usoa Busto (Canada), Ioanna Martínez (Cuba), and Bárbaro Pérez (Cuba).

The plenary lectures included presentations from predominant Cuban immunopharmacology research institutions such as the Center of Toxicological and Biomedical Investigation (TOXIMED) from Santiago de Cuba, the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB), the Center of Molecular Immunology (CIM), the Finlay Institute, the Center of Pharmaceutical Chemistry (CQF) and the International Center of Neurological Restoration (CIREN) from Havana.

More than 190 research projects were presented among the lectures, plenary lectures and poster presentations in addition to the debate, the analyses, and reciprocal exchange of pertinent information. This high level of interchange allowed institutions from 20 countries to share their acquired knowledge, reinforcing the need to continue the search for new solutions and medicines stemming from, and related to, immunopharmacology.

The Closing Plenary was led by Prof. Jack Antel (Canada) who summarized the most recent findings on the mechanisms of immune mediated injury and repair in the central nervous system. Dr.
Gregorio Martínez presented an alternative approach to autoimmune mechanisms in neurodegenerative disease therapy. Dr. Rolando Pérez (Cuba) reported on ganglioside-based cancer immunotherapy and two vaccination approaches. Dr. René Delgado concluded with a lecture about the current state of immunopharmacological research in Cuba including a perspective on its impact on the Cuban health care system.

The conference included 81 participants from such diverse countries as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Taiwan, Turkey, the United States, the United Kingdom and Venezuela. Their presence and quality presentations left an indelible mark on the history of IMMUNOPHARMACOLOGY 2008.

Around 120 Cuban scientists from universities, medical science facilities, investigation institutes, assistance centers, and hospitals participated in the event. This large representation signifies a qualitative jump for the Cuban Society of Pharmacology and demonstrates the realization of the Society’s goals and strategies aimed at developing integration, collaboration and professional science advancement for those working in this important field in Cuba.

IMMUNOPHARMACOLOGY 2008 was an exceptional opportunity to enhance the knowledge, scientific exchange, and on-going collaboration among professionals that devote their daily activity to the field of the pharmacological sciences and, most particularly, in the disciplines of immunopharmacology, inflammation, pain, neuroimmunology and cytochrome P450.

Gabino Garrido  
Scientific Committee President  
Cuban Society of Pharmacology  
http://www.scf.sld.cu
Better Medicines through Global Education and Research

Pharmacology International
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Editor-in-Chief
Dr. S.J. Enna, Secretary-General

Editorial Board

The IUPHAR Executive Committee serves as the Editorial Board for Pharmacology International.
Clockwise beginning in lower left: Drs. Mohamed Khayyal, Petra Thürmann, Sérgio Ferreira, Zhi-Bin Lin, David Webb, Sue Duckles, S. J. Enna, Paul Vanhoutte, Salomon Langer, Kim Brøsen, Gabrielle Hawskworth, Masayoshi Mishina, Donald Birkett, Urs Ruegg, and Patrick du Souich

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Contributions:
We welcome contributions from member societies, divisions, and sections. Please submit articles and photographs to iuphar@kumc.edu.

Membership:
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