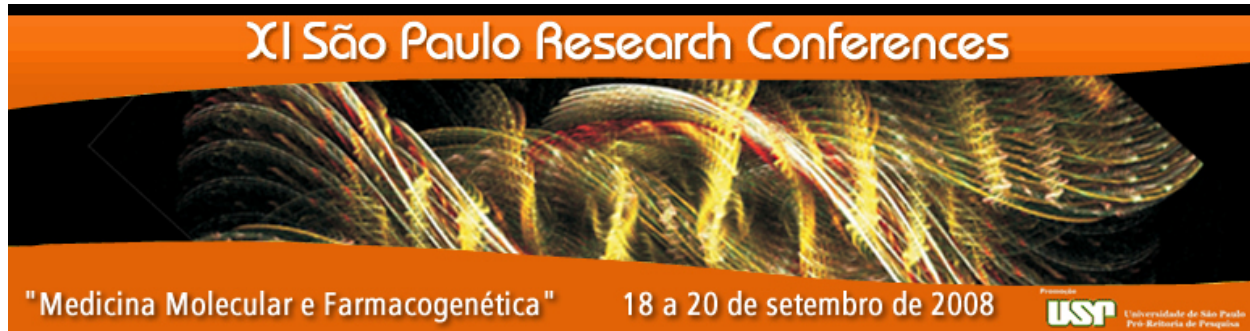


## CONFERENCE REPORT

**São Paulo Research Conference on Molecular Medicine and Pharmacogenetics**, A Joint Meeting with the **IUPHAR Sub-Committee on Pharmacogenetics** and the **Brazilian Pharmacogenetics Network**, São Paulo, Brazil, September 18-20, 2008



Pharmacogenetics/-genomics (PGx) was a major topic of the XI. São Paulo Research Conferences (SPRC, 18-20 September, 2008), sponsored jointly by the IUPHAR Sub-Committee on Pharmacogenetics and the Brazilian Pharmacogenetics Network (Refargen), in collaboration with the University of São Paulo, Brazil. The conference, chaired by Prof. Boris Vargaftig (University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil), attracted nearly 450 participants, the vast majority from Brazil. The scientific program included plenary sessions on topics of general interest - including a keynote lecture by Prof. Oliver Smithies, laureate of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine – and parallel activities directed to either the PGx or Molecular Medicine audiences.

The PGx program was comprised of a keynote lecture, four symposia, poster exhibits, an oral communication session and a meeting of the IUPHAR Subcommittee of Pharmacogenetics.

The PGx program was opened by an excellent keynote lecture delivered by **Matthias Schwab** (Margarete Fischer-Bosch Institute of Clinical Pharmacology, Stuttgart, Germany) on Clinical aspects of pharmacogenetics: Promises and future. He outlined the limited efficacy of major pharmacotherapy regimens and discussed how PGx-guided decisions may amend this therapeutic predicament.

The first symposium, entitled “Pharmacogenetics in clinical practice” dealt with the impact of PGx on cardiovascular diseases and on the genetic background of adverse drug events in HIV treatment. Talks were presented by **Heyo K. Kroemer** (Institute of Pharmacology, University of Greifswald, Germany) on “pharmacogenomics of statin transport and action”; **José Eduardo Krieger** (University of São Paulo, Brazil) on “impact of pharmacogenetics in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases”; **Ann Daly** (University of Newcastle, Newcastle, United Kingdom) on pharmacogenetics of oral anticoagulation”, and **Vanessa S. Mattevi** (UFRS, Porto Alegre, Brazil) on “genetic markers associated with highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) adverse effects in HIV-infected patients”.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> symposium dealt with **pharmacogenetics in special populations**. The peculiarities of “pharmacogenetics in pediatric patients” were discussed by **J. Steven Leeder** (Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, Kansas City, MO, USA). Population diversity in PGx was discussed by **Eduardo Tarazona-Santos** (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil) on “pharmacogenetics of native American” whereas **Adrian Llerena** (University of Extremadura, Badajoz, Spain) presented an overview of **Pharmacogenomics in Hispanic populations**.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> symposium was devoted to **Pharmacogenetics in clinical practice**. The “pharmacogenomics of opioids” was initially discussed by **Andrew Somogyi** (University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia); **Ingolf Cascorbi** (University of Kiel, Kiel, Germany) gave a presentation on the “pharmacogenetics of chronic pain treatment”, and **Matthias Schwab** discussed the pharmacogenetics in cancer”.

The 4<sup>th</sup> symposium focused on **Pharmacogenetics of drug disposition**, but addressed also ethical aspects of ethnicity and genetic diversity. An overview of “recent developments in the pharmacogenetics of cytochrome P450 (CYP) enzymes, was given by **Magnus Ingelman-Sundberg** (Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden). The “pharmacogenomics of ATP-Binding Cassette (ABC) transporters”, was reviewed by **Deanne Kroetz** (University of California San Francisco, USA); and “race as a variable in pharmacogenomics science: From empirical ethics to publication standards” was discussed by **Vural Ozdemir** (Université de Montreal, Montreal, Canada). Finally, **Guilherme Suarez-Kurtz** (National Cancer Institute, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) offered an overview of “**Pharmacogenetics in Admixed Populations**”

**Short oral communications** was designed to provide PhD students with the opportunity to present their research projects. Four projects were selected for presentation by Alice. C. Rodrigues, Jamila A. Perini, Vinicius. A. Sortica and Mariana S. Silva. The SPRC traditionally awards prizes for the best posters: J. A. Perini et al. and E. F. Costalonga et al. were selected.



The IUPHAR Sub-Committee on Pharmacogenetics (photo) met at the last day of conference and it was unanimously agreed that the conference format provided a valuable model for future educational initiatives of the committee directed at increasing the global awareness of the role of PGx in personalized drug therapy. Overall, the conference was a hallmark for promoting PGx research in Brazil.

Written by Ingolf Cascorbi and Guilherme Suarez-Kurtz on behalf of the IUPHAR Subcommittee of Pharmacogenetics and the Brazilian Pharmacogenetics Network