Introduction...
by Bill Oetting

The PASPCR Membership contact list has been updated. It can be viewed both at the PASPCR Web Site and at the end of this Newsletter. Please check your contact information to make sure that it is correct. To see the membership page on the PASPCR web site, go to the PASPCR Home page (www.paspcr.org), then link to the PASPCR Information page. Membership contact information is found at the link: “listing of current PASPCR members”. If you notice any errors, please send your corrections to me at bill@lenti.med.umn.edu.

If you have not done so already, make sure that you register for the 13th Annual Meeting of the PASPCR. The emphasis for this year is ‘The Melanocyte and Its Environment’. The Scientific Program can be found on pages 5-11 of this newsletter. I hope to see you in Cincinnati.

The PASPCR Newsletter is published quarterly and is intended to serve as a means of communication for the members of our Society. You are invited to contribute articles, or other information you feel will be of interest to members of the PASPCR. If you attend a scientific meeting and have heard results which you think will be of interest to the membership of the PASPCR, please write a few paragraphs summarizing what was presented and share it with us. Any information on upcoming meetings of interest will be added to the “Calendar of Events”. This is your newsletter, and we depend upon you to help us make sure it best serves the Society’s needs. Contributions and comments can be sent to me, preferably by E-mail, to bill@lenti.med.umn.edu.

The PASPCR Web Site is the major, up-to-date source of current information for the PASPCR membership and for individuals who are interested in the PASPCR. This includes the new PASPCR Commentary Page. If there is additional information that you would like to see on the Web site, or you would like to include information of past PASPCR activities, please let me know and I will add them.

The IFPCS web site can be reached by using the domain name ifpcs.org. The domain name ipcc.info will take you to the IPCC web site, providing you the most up to date information on the International Pigment Cell Conference which will be held on May 7 - 12, 2008 at the Hotel Royton Sapporo, in Sapporo, Japan.

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2007 XIVth Meeting of the PASPCR
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2008 XXth International Pigment Cell Conference
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If you know of future meetings that you feel would be of interest to the PASPCR membership, please let us know.

The PASPCR Newsletter is published quarterly by the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research. All views are those of the authors. For further information or to submit articles, please contact members of the Publications Committee.

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Corporate Sponsors  
*by Raymond E. Boissy*

The PASPCR would like to acknowledge and thank our Corporate Sponsors; the list below reflects contributions over the past 2 years. Financial gifts from these sponsors have allowed our Society to increase benefits to the membership far out of proportion to the actual dues collected from members. Monies contributed by these sponsors have been used over the years to support various PASPCR functions including our Young Investigator Award program, meeting travel stipends, annual meeting expenses and this Newsletter.

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New PASPCR Members  
*by Raymond E. Boissy*

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Welcome to the PASPCR!
A message from our President

I hope that all your experiments are working, manuscripts accepted, grants funded and that you are now having a restful summer. Just kidding, since we all know that our scientific lives are filled with long hours, uncertainties, failed experiments, struggles for funding and revisions followed by revisions. But when it succeeds, when the “aha” happens, when the prediction is verified and the puzzle has another piece in place, there is nothing more exhilarating and rewarding. So we keep at it, even when it means that the summer is less restful than we might prefer. In our own special field, pigment cell research, the puzzle is the melanocyte and how it interacts with its larger world, the organism. And because none of us can figure out this puzzle alone, we periodically gather with our fellow enthusiasts to see what new pieces have been put in place since the last time. Our challenge is a particularly large one. It ranges from the basic chemistry of the melanins, their enzymatic deposit in melanosomes, the assembly, trafficking, and transfer of melanosomes, the genes and epigenes governing all of this, and the implications to the organism when everything goes right, or as is so often the case, wrong. And even when it’s right, when there is no albinism, vitiligo, or melanoma, nonetheless, individuals are judged throughout the world by the melanin content of their skin. As such, melanin can be a cause for social stratification, ostracism, poverty and even war. Thus we the pigment cell research community bear important responsibilities, “promises to keep, and miles to go before we sleep”. So please try and get some summer rest because the next puzzle fitting, the 13th Annual Meeting of the PASPCR, is scheduled for Cincinnati, September 7-10. We hope you are planning to attend this exciting event organized by Prashiela, Zalfa and Ray. See you there!

John Pawelek, Ph.D.
President, PASPCR

Dear Friends, PASPCR members,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee for the 13th Annual PASPCR Meeting, co-sponsored by the Department of Dermatology, University of Cincinnati, I am glad to announce that the Scientific Program is finalized. So far, we have 66 submitted abstracts, and 10 Keynote Presentations. We promise you a very exciting meeting in a very pleasant venue, the Marriott-Kingsgate conference Center. I would like to remind you that the deadline for early registration is June 30, 2006, and for hotel reservations August 17, 2006. For more information about the meeting, please visit the PASPCR website (www.PASPCR.org). I wish you a very pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you September 7-10, 2006 in Cincinnati.

Sincerely,

Zalfa Abdel-Malek, Ph.D.
Meeting Organizer

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Pan American Society for Pigment Cell Research

The Melanocyte and Its Environment
September 7-10, 2006
Scientific Program
PASPCR Meeting, Sept. 7-10, 2006
The Melanocyte and Its Environment

Thursday, September 7, 2006

1:00-1:15  Welcome and Opening Remarks
Zalfa Abdel-Malek, John Pawelek

1:15- 4:30 Symposium I
Genetic Regulation and Developmental Aspects of Pigmentation
Moderators: William Pavan, Lidia Kos

1:15-1:45 Keynote Presentation I
KL01 Daniel Nebert
Interindividual Susceptibility to Environmental Toxicants—How Can This Be Measured, and How Certain of Such Risk Assessments Can We Be?

1:45-2:15 Invited Presentation I
IL01 M.H. Brilliant
Gene polymorphism and human pigmentation

2:15-2:45  Selected oral presentations


OP 02. SLEV1, a Major Gene for Vitiligo and Associated Autoimmune/Autoinflammatory Disease. R. Spritz, Y. Jin¹, C. Mailloux¹, G. LaBerge¹, D. Bennett², P. Fain¹.

2:45-3:15  Coffee Break

3:15-3:45 Keynote Presentation II
KL02 Polly Matzinger
Conversation between tissues and the immune system

3:45-4:30 Selected oral presentations


OP 05. Early pathfinding in chick melanoblasts is Ednrb2 dependent. M. Harris, C. Erickson.

5:00-6:30 Poster Viewing I
Even-numbered posters

7:00-9:00 Welcoming reception

Friday September 8, 2006

8:30-9:15 Aaron B. Lerner Lecture
Moderator: John Pawelek, PASPCR President
Keynote Presentation III
KL03 Zalfa Abdel-Malek
Being in the “Red”, the Price of MC1R variants.

9:15- 12:00 Symposium II.
Stress Signaling and Survival Pathways in Melanocytes
Moderators: Ana Luisa Kadekarro, Richard Niles

9:15-9:45 Keynote Presentation IV
KL04 Al Fornace

9:45-10:15 Invited Presentation II
IP02 Ruth Halaban
Epigenetic changes in chromatin and gene expression in melanocytic lesions

10:15-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-11:15 Keynote Presentation V
KL05 Erik Knudsen
Action of the Retinoblastoma Tumor Suppressor Pathway: Cell Cycle Control, Genome Stability and Carcinogenesis
11:15-12:00  Selected oral presentations


OP 07. Anti-oxidants does not influence the cytotoxic response of 4-TBP in melanoma cells. R. Sarangarajan, S. Kerr.


12:00-2:00  Lunch Break

2:00-5:15  Symposium III. Sensing the Environment: Cellular Interactions
Moderators: Miri Seiberg, Prashiela Manga

2:00-2:30  Keynote Presentation VI
Steve Boyce
Transplantation of human melanocytes as a model of skin pigmentation.

2:30-3:15  Selected oral presentations

OP 09. Cardiac and Skin Melanocytes Develop in Response to the Same Environmental Signals. F. Brito, L. Kos.


3:15-3:45  Coffee break

3:45-4:15  Invited Presentation III
IP03  Glynis Scott
Secretory phospholipases: new mediators of melanocyte dendricticy and melanosome transfer

4:15-5:15  Selected oral presentations


**OP 014.** Comparative Biochemistry of eumelanogenesis and sclerotinogenesis. M. Sugumaran, J. Evans.


7:00-11:00 Banquet

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**Saturday September 9, 2006**

8:30-12:30 Symposium IV.

**Photobiology, Melanocyte Transformation, Melanoma**

Moderators: Frank Meyskens, Suzie Chen

8:30-9:00 **Keynote Presentation VII**

KL07 Maria Teresa Landi

Melanocortin 1 receptor gene and melanoma susceptibility

9:00-9:30 **Invited Presentation IV**

IP04 Sancy Leachman

Hereditary melanoma

9:30-10:15 **Selected oral presentations**


**OP 017.** Endothelin-1 expression correlates with melanoma invasion. S. Jamal.


10:15-10:45 **Coffee break**

10:45-11:15 **Keynote Presentation VIII**

KL08 Ze’ev Ronai

ATF2 at the crossroads of transcription and DNA damage response: implications for melanoma development

11:15-11:45 **Invited Presentation V**

IP05 Suzie Chen
Oncogenic potentials of Grm1

11:45—12:30 Selected oral presentations

**OP 019.** Modulation of ROS by ATN224 and BSO in Melanoma. J. Fruehauf, V. Trapp.

**OP 020.** GnT-V, a glycosyl transferase, regulates melanogenesis and motility in melanoma fusion hybrids. J. Pawelek, J. de Frietas Sousa, D. Chakraborty, Y. Funasaka, M. Bhattacharya, A. Chatterjee, A. Chakraborty.

**OP 035** SKI is essential for melanoma tumor progression. E. E. Medrano, D. Chen, N. Box, D. Roop, J.A. Reed.

12:30-2:00 Lunch break

2:00-5:30 Symposium V.

**Regulation of Pigmentation, Growth Factors, Hormones**
Moderators: Greg Barsh, Francois Rouzaud

2:00-2:30 Keynote Presentation IX
**KL09 Desmond Tobin**
Neuro-endocrine regulation of human follicular melanocyte biology.

2:30-3:00 Invited Presentation VI
**Tom Hornyak**
Mechanisms of hypo- and hyperpigmentation: lessons learned from mouse models of Waardenburg syndrome and neurofibromatosis

3:00-4:00 Selected oral presentations


**OP 024.** Corticotropin releasing hormone signaling system in melanocytes: an overview. A. Slominski, B. Zbytek, M. Zmijewski, J. Wortsman.
4:00-4:30 Coffee Break

4:30-5:00 Invited Presentation VII
IP07 Vijay Setaluri
On the road to the melanosome: TYRed and TRPed by the traffic

5:00-5:30 Selected oral presentations

5:30-7:00 Poster Viewing II
Odd-numbered posters

Free Evening
Dinner for Keynote and Invited Speakers

Sunday September 10, 2006

8:00-11:00 Symposium VI Pigmentary Disorders
Moderators: Raymond Boissy, Marjan Huizing

8:00-8:30 Keynote Presentation X
KL10 Jerry Kaplan
Regulation of organelle size: studies on the function of the Chediak-Higashi/ Beige protein

8:30-9:00 Invited Presentation VIII
IL08 Marjan Huizing
Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome and related disorders

9:00-9:45 Selected oral presentations


9:45-10:15  **Coffee Break**

10:15-11:30  **Selected oral presentations**

**OP 030.** (-MSH sensitizes melanocytes to chemical induced oxidative stress. P. Manga, R. Boissy.


**OP 032.** Smyth line chicken autoimmune vitiligo model revisited. G. Erf.

**OP 033.** Differential cytokine expression in feathers from vitiliginous Smyth line chicken. B. Plumlee, G. Erf.


11:30-12:00  **Business Meeting, Presentation of Young Investigators Awards**

Meeting Adjourns

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**Positions Available / Positions Wanted**

Postings for **Positions Available** will be open to all individuals and institutions so long as the position is related to pigment cell research. Postings for **Positions Wanted** will be open only to members of the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research or its sister societies (JSPCR and ESPCR). Send postings to Bill Oetting at bill@lenti.med.umn.edu. Please provide an expiration date for any submitted postings. Final decisions will be made by the Publications Committee of the PASPCR.
The Pigmentary System gathers into one convenient all-inclusive volume a wealth of information about the science of pigmentation and all the common and rare clinical disorders that affect skin color. The two parts, physiology (science) and pathophysiology (clinical disorders), are complementary and annotated so that those reading one part can easily refer to relevant sections in the other.

New features of the second edition include:

- Completely new and up to date first part on the basic science of pigmentation and the integration of melanocyte functions with other epidermal cells and with various organ systems like the immune system
- New chapters on pigmentary disorders related to intestinal diseases, the malignant melanocyte, benign proliferations of melanocytes (nevi) and phototherapy with narrow band UV
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Bibliography:
The Bibliography published in this issue covers the period December, 2005 through March, 2006. If you notice a paper that was not detected by this search that should be included, please send it to us and we will include it in the next issue. By its very nature, assignment of a reference to a particular category is arbitrary and we urge you to read through all categories to make sure you don’t miss any pertinent to your field.

PHYSIOLOGY/BIOLOGY


Pigmentation Intensity and Patterning in the Genus *Antirrhinum*. *Plant Cell*.


PATHOLOGY


vitiligo. Arch Dermatol Res


**MELANOMA**


Packer, L., Pavey, S., Parker, A., Stark, M., Johansson, P., Clarke, B., Pollock, P., Ringner, M.
Osteopontin is a downstream effector of the PI3-kinase pathway in melanomas that is inversely correlated with functional PTEN. *Carcinogenesis.*

O(6)-methylguanine DNA-methyltransferase (MGMT) overexpression in melanoma cells induces resistance to nitrosoureas and temozolomide but sensitizes to mitomycin C. *Toxicol Appl Pharmacol* 211(2), 97-105.


Thin primary melanoma: are we all treating it the same? *Br J Dermatol* 154(3), 564-5.


Scanning transmission X-ray microscopic analysis of purified melanosomes of the mouse iris. *Micron*.


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