

PASPCR

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Newsletter



Introduction...

by *Bill Oetting*

Caroline Le Poole has informed the PASPCR board that preparations for the 14th Annual Meeting of the PASPCR are progressing and that she is excited about hosting the meeting for the PASPCR membership. The meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois on September 13 - 16. Further information on the meeting can be found on page 5 of this newsletter, or at the official meeting website at www.paspcr2007.org. This site contains information on the keynote speakers, registration information and an abstract submission page.

New articles are being added to the PASPCR Commentary Page. These articles contain the latest in pigment related research and thoughts on pigment cell biology and physiology. The link can be found at the PASPCR home page. If you would like to see a particular topic included, or wish to write one yourself, please contact John Pawelek at john.pawelek@yale.edu.

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. 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 now 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 in Sapporo, Japan.

The PASPCR Web Site can be found at:

<http://www.paspcr.org>

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IFPCS Representative:

Zalfa Abdel-Malek,

President, IFPCS

Past-President, PASPCR

Calendar of Events:

2007 XIVth Meeting of the PASPCR
Chicago, Illinois
Contact: Caroline Le Poole
E-mail: ilepool@lumc.edu

2007 The 21th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Pigment Cell Research (JSPCR) will be held on December 8 and 9, 2007 in Toyoake City, Japan
Contact: Prof. Kazumasa Wakamatsu

2007 2nd Conference of the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research (ASPCR). July 6-8, Singapore
Contact: Mrs Alice Chew
E-mail: training@nsc.gov.sg

2007 XIVth Meeting of the ESPCR, September , Bari, Italy
Contact: Prof. Rosa Cicero
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2008 XXth International Pigment Cell Conference and Vth International Melanoma Research Congress
Contact: Kowichi Jimbow
E-mail: Go to web page for contact information
www.ipcc.info

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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Thank you.....

Thank you to our past PASPCR Council Members for serving our society.

Greg Barsh
Murray Brilliant
Seth Orlow

And welcome to our new Council Members.

Caroline LePoole
Andrzej Slominski
Lidia Kos

PASPCR 2007

Dear Members and Friends of the PASPCR:

Welcome to 2007! This is a transition year for our Society. It is my final year as president and Frank Meyskens will assume the presidency in 2008. So we will need to choose a new President-Elect.

And after many years of service to the PASPCR, our wonderful and loyal Secretary-Treasurer, Ray Boissy, has decided to hand over the job to someone else. This is perhaps the most important position in a small society like ours and we need to fill it in the next few months so that Ray can help with the transition. We would very much appreciate any suggestions from the membership. Are you interested? Is there someone else you have in mind? Please contact John Pawelek (john.pawelek@yale.edu).

Congratulations to our three new council members: Caroline LePoole, Andrzej Slominski, and Lidia Kos. And many thanks to the other candidates—the voting was very close! We also offer appreciation to our outgoing council members—Greg Barsh, Murray Brilliant, and Seth Orlow.

We are pleased to announce that the website is now open for our 2007 meeting in Chicago, Sept 13-16: “PASPCR 2007”. The meeting is hosted by Caroline LePoole and Vijay Setaluri. Abstracts can now be submitted. The abstract deadline is May 15, 2007. The website is <http://paspcr2007.org/>.

Finally, I would like to offer a special acknowledgment to our Corporate Sponsors. You can see them listed in this issue of the Newsletter. We deeply appreciate the generosity of all. Very special thanks goes to Johnson and Johnson Skin Care Division for their consistent high level of support. For the past four years J&J has contributed to our annual meetings; underwritten the costs of the Aaron B. Lerner lectureship; helped fund the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies; and given considerable support our journal Pigment Cell Research. The total J&J contribution during this time has been \$80,000! Clearly, our corporate sponsors provide a crucial life-blood for our continued success.

Have a great year. See you in September!

John Pawelek, President, PASPCR

Letter from IFPCS President**By
Zalfa Abdel-Malek**

Dear IFPCS members,

Amazing how the year 2006 passed us by!! I hope it was a year of success to all of you. As for the IFPCS, it was a year of further growth, with the sister societies thriving and our research specialty continuing to be recognized and to have its place under the sun. The mere fact that we, as IFPCS, function as a close-knit community is something to be proud of. I had the immense pleasure to attend the PASCR and ESPCR annual meetings last September, and was thrilled to see the number of young scientists presenting and enjoying these conferences. These young scientists are we a generation ago, and will insure the continuity of our beloved specialty.

Our resolution for the year 2007 should be to continue with the existing collaborative spirit within the IFPCS. Our specialty is best served by collaborative efforts that always create synergism and excellence. Supporting our pigment cell societies by participating in their various activities should be both a responsibility and an honor. It is the duty of all members, not a selected few, to strengthen the pigment cell societies and in turn the IFPCS. In our research careers, we face challenges that are sometimes overwhelming. Through strong collaborations, such challenges become easier to conquer. We should not let financial hardship to stand in the way of supporting our annual or our international meetings. Individual societies should find solutions to reduce the cost of attending meetings, particularly to students and young investigators.

Our scientific conferences are an important forum that allows for interactions and collaboration. Also, they are a means to increase our membership by reaching out to colleagues that are interested in pigment cell research yet do not belong to any of our societies.

We should take it upon ourselves to recruit new members into our societies, and that is how we can grow.

Our journal Pigment Cell Research (PCR) is the voice of the IFPCS. We should be proud of it, and our duty is to support it by publishing our research findings in it. Without the commitment of the members to submit their research findings to PCR, the journal cannot survive. Every research laboratory should pledge to submit at least one manuscript a year to PCR. This will increase the readership scope, as well as the impact factor of the journal. Speaking of the impact factor, each of us can help increase it simply by citing recent papers published in PCR. It is as simple as that.

We are thankful to our corporate sponsors, without whom we would not be able to afford fabulous conferences like the past IFPCS in Ruston, Virginia, or to maintain the cost of PCR.

This year, the IFPCS suffered the tragic loss of a prominent pigment cell researcher that many of us knew and appreciated. Professor Mac E. Hadley, my mentor, was murdered in his house in Tucson, Arizona, on November 15, 2006. The shock of his death reverberated throughout the pigment cell societies. Mac was Professor Emeritus at the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy at the University of Arizona, where he served on the faculty for 40 years. While we mourn his loss, we also celebrate his legacy and extensive achievements, particularly in the field of melanocortins. Mac is also known for his textbook, entitled "Endocrinology". He was exemplary in his devotion to science and teaching. Mac attended the PASPCR meeting in Cincinnati last September. He had a great time interacting with all the participants, young and old, and specifically was impressed by the number of young scientists that attended. He was planning to attend the upcoming IFPCS meeting in Sapporo in 2008. I am sure he will be there in spirit. I traveled to Tucson to attend Mac's memorial service that was held at the University on December 6. There was a tremendous outpour of sympathy and support from

everyone that attended. I mention specifically Murray Brilliant and Joseph Bagnara of PASPCR, who hosted me and showed one more time how close-knit a community we are. I offer my sincere condolences for all of us that knew Mac, and hope that we will continue with his legacy.

I end by wishing you all a very happy, healthy and successful 2007.

Sincerely,

Zalfa Abdel-Malek, Ph.D.
Your proud President

The '07 Chicago PASPCR meeting.



Picture courtesy of Dr. Hans Bergmans

From the 14th Annual Meeting Website--

Pigmentation has an impact on many aspects of life. Pigmentation is at the root of ethnic diversity among humans, and at the base of a colorful world of plant pigments and animal distinction. Pigment is a parasol for the DNA in our skin, and the lack thereof has dire, malicious consequences for cell survival and expansion in skin tumors. Since the pigmentation phenotype is readily visible, this avenue of research helps us connect a genotype to a phenotype. Whatever your favorite topic may be, we hope you find it among the major lines of interest we hope to tackle at the '07 Chicago PASPCR meeting.

SAVE THE DATE

September 13-16, 2007 Chicago, IL

PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research
14th Annual Meeting

Topic: 'PIGMENTATION AND DIVERSITY'

The topic of pigmentation has interesting connotations. The melanocyte is a major determinant of skin and coat color. This color in turn helps define appearance, attractions and interactions between individuals of the same, or of different species. Humans have a limited array of colors to choose from. By contrast, insects, birds, lizards and plants manage to generate a wide spectrum of colors. As we identify the molecular pathways associated with pigmentation, we can also ask ourselves: how does color affect our behaviour? Can we manipulate color? Is color an indicator of health and disease? Any related topic is open to discussion in the meeting rooms and hallways of the Knickerbocker Hotel in downtown Chicago. The tentative meeting program includes exciting keynote speakers including Drs Heinz Arnheiter, Mitchell Denning, Barbara Gilchrest, Mary Hendrix, Alan Houghton, Victoria Holloway Barbosa, Nina Jablonski, Rick Kittles and Carole LaBonne. On Saturday afternoon, parallel sessions cover a variety of topics. Plenary sessions are planned throughout the meeting. We hope to attract many clinicians willing to take a day of their weekend to contribute and learn about novel developments in pigmentation abnormalities. The local organizing committee is working hard to provide you with a meeting to remember. Find information on the Knickerbocker Hotel, United airlines travel deals, the Mystic Blue dinner cruise and more at www.paspcr2007.org





Zalfa Abdel-Malek, Trudy and Mac Hadley

A GIANT HAS FALLEN
by
Zalfa Abdel-Malek, Ph.D.
President of the IFPCS
November, 2006

It is with deep sorrow that I inform you of the departure of Professor Mac E. Hadley, a pillar in the international pigment cell research community. Sadly, after attending a meeting in the Cancer Center at the University of Arizona, Mac was murdered last Wednesday, November 14, 2006, when he returned home in the afternoon and confronted a burglar. Mac was shot in the head and his house was set on fire. His wife Trudy was not at home at that time, and when she returned and saw the house in flames, she suffered a heart attack, and is currently in the hospital. The murderer who has a criminal record was arrested by the police in the border town of Nogales last Saturday.

Many of us knew Mac as a scientist, and some of us, including me, were very fortunate to know him as a mentor. Mac got his Ph.D. in 1965 from Brown University. His advisor was no other than Walter Quevedo, a star in pigment cell research. Mac was a comparative endocrinologist. When I first joined his laboratory in 1978, he had five different grants from NIH and NSF to study not only pigmentation, but also the effects and mechanism of action of glucagon and oxyto-

cin. He is best known for his pioneering research on melanocortins, and was the first to experience first hand and report on the "other" non-pigmentary effects of melanocortins on humans, before the different melanocortin receptors were even discovered. Mac was very proud of his endocrinology textbook, and told me recently that the revised edition was almost complete.

To us, his students in Biology, as well as Chemistry, Mac was the ultimate teacher. His devotion and dedication to science had no boundaries, and he instilled these qualities in us. Among the scientists that he mentored are Bryan Fuller, Tomi S. Sawyer, Carrie Haskell-Luevano, Ana Maria Castrucci, and James Knittel, all of whom have made remarkable contributions to pigment cell research. On a personal level, Mac was a second father to me. He pushed me hard to excel, and from him I learned discipline and hard work. His enthusiasm and energy were infectious, and procrastination was not in his dictionary.

Mac loved science, yet this did not distract him from caring for his family and the ones he loved. He cherished his wife Trudy and his daughter Martha (M.S.H), and was devoted to them and to his extended family, including his students and friends and more recently his grandchildren. I remember meeting authorities in pigment cell research that visited him in Tucson, Anthony Thody, the late Fritz Anders and his wife Ana Rosa, to name a few. Mac was the ultimate scientist, honest to the core, and persistent till the end. My own research on melanocortins was inspired by him, and was started upon his insistence.

The last time I saw Mac was last September, 2006, when he came to Cincinnati to attend the PASPCR meeting. Having him there was a personal honor and joy. Meeting him and Trudy was a special pleasure for my entire family. My twenty-six year old son, Rami, who was born in Tucson, asked Mac if he had brought him Twinkies, as Mac always had Twinkies for him and for Carolina, Ana Castrucci's daughter, in the refrigerator (the one for food only) in the laboratory twenty some years ago. Mac enjoyed the PASPCR meeting tremendously, and commented how impressed he was by seeing young scientists present. He also

was happy to reconnect with old friends whom he had not seen for several years. He promised to continue attending PASPCR meetings and was planning to be in Saporu, Japan, for the upcoming IPCC. At the age of 76, the untiring Mac was very excited about getting back to research. He told me about his new office and laboratory space in the Cancer Center at the University of Arizona. On the last day of his life, he was attending a meeting there with several collaborators, including our colleague Murray Brilliant. His dream and precious life were stolen by the hand of crime and brutality. His departure is painful for all of us we knew him, but we also celebrate his life and that we were part of it. His death is a very personal loss for me and my family. I wish Trudy regains her health, and offer my deepest sympathy and condolences to his entire family and to all of you that know him. A giant has fallen, but his legacy will remain.

Reflections on Mac Hadley

by Robert Dorr, PhD,

Professor of Pharmacology
Arizonian Cancer Center

My last paper with Mac was a review in the journal *Peptides* that came out just this June. Mac was working on creating a pigmentation and skin cancer research institute here that we would contribute our “excess” royalties to. He felt we would all be so rich from Melanotan-I and II that we wouldn’t know what to do with all the money. We had actually started interviewing some local scientists to be inaugural awardees of institute funding.

I started working with Mac in 1985 and our first paper together was published in 1987. We published the phase I trial of melanotan-1 in *JAMA* in 1990 with Norm Levine. Against all advice, Mac personally took all the drugs we worked on and the erection discovery came when he mistakenly overdosed on Melanotan II when he used the molecular weight of MT-1 (a 13-mer peptide), instead of the correct MW for MT-II which is only a 7-mer peptide. He had an erection that

lasted on/off for almost 24 hours. He was nauseated but ebullient over the possibilities that it was a new CNS-based treatment for erectile dysfunction. Mac was a Navy corpsman assigned to a Marine combat unit in Korea and he had a rather pugnacious personality. He got into college late in life after working as a truck driver for many years before he got a break to attend the university. He truly cherished being a professor, coming as he did from a very humble background.

I always liked Mac because he said exactly what he was thinking, no matter how politically incorrect it might be. He actually dropped his pants at an international pigmentation meeting in Japan to show how dark his scrotum was to Professor John Pawelek of Yale, who argued that his noticeable tan could have been induced by sunlight and not MT-1. Pawelek was both amazed and convinced that the drug actually worked. (The gonads of course have an excess of melanocytes and Pawelek knew that would be a place where “the sun rarely shines”).

Piecing together the final story, Mac confronted someone in his house on Wednesday afternoon (just after our meeting here at the cancer center). Knowing his personality, he was not going to let anyone off the hook easily. The house fire was surely set to erase evidence. The shocker is that I may have been one of the last people to have seen Mac alive. What a tragedy for Gertrude, she loses her husband and her home and all the memorabilia. Mac had been collecting a lot of information on genealogy. Gertrude actually typed all of his manuscripts including all the recurrent editions of his classic textbook “Endocrinology”, which is still used the world over in college classes. He was working on the (7th) edition up to his death. It’s a real shame because Mac was truly enjoying his lab research. Despite his bombast, he was a very careful scientist and he actually spent a lot of time training students, including many of Victor Hruby’s chemists over the years since at that time, Victor worked almost exclusively on peptide hormone chemistry. It’s a real loss for the scientific community and for me personally: he was such a character.

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.

Positions Wanted

Postdoctoral Position Wanted

Postdoctoral level position wanted for a Scientist with more than 3 years of postdoctoral experience with expertise in primary melanocyte culture, cell signaling in melanocytes, developing transgenic mouse models. Available to join immediately. Please respond at daizeus@yahoo.com.

Positions Available

Postdoctoral Position

A postdoctoral position available in the laboratory of Dr. Andrew Aplin in the Center for Cell Biology and Cancer Research at Albany Medical College, NY. Research will focus on the critical signaling proteins involved in anchorage-dependent cell growth of melanocytes and that may be aberrantly regulated in melanoma cells. Further details and recent publications can be obtained at <http://www.amc.edu/academic/research/CBCResearcher.cfm?ID=170>

Albany Medical College is located in the scenic Hudson River Valley, offering affordable housing, easy commutes and quick access to cultural (e.g., Saratoga, 45 min; Tanglewood, 1 hr), and outdoor activities (Adirondack State Park, 2 hr).

Candidates with a recent PhD or MD/PhD with a strong background in molecular and cellular biology are encouraged to apply. Excellent financial compensation and benefits are provided. Please

submit a resume and the names of references to:

Andrew E. Aplin, Ph.D.
Center for Cell Biology & Cancer Research
Albany Medical College,
47 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
Email: aplina@mail.amc.edu

The Albany Medical College is an equal opportunity,
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Postdoctoral Research Associate

Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Two NIH-funded postdoctoral positions are available to work on the development of neural crest-derived melanocytes and enteric neurons in mice. We are interested in the signals required for proper migration and differentiation of these lineages during mouse embryogenesis and use various genetic manipulation techniques and existing mutants for our studies. Fox Chase Cancer offers competitive salaries to its postdocs and was recently named one of the best places to work for Postdocs (<http://www.fccc.edu/news/2003/Best-Places-for-Postdocs-02-20-2003.html>). Candidates with a recent PhD or MD/PhD with strong background in molecular biology, genetics or developmental biology are encouraged to apply. Please submit CV, and names of 3 references to:

Dr. Myung K. Shin
Program in Cellular and Developmental Biology
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Philadelphia, PA 19111, USA
Email: MK_Shin@fccc.edu

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.

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