

PASPCR

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Newsletter



Introduction...

by *Bill Oetting*

Caroline Le Poole and her colleagues are working at a frenzied pace as they complete the final preparations for the 14th Annual Meeting of the PASPCR. They are all excited about hosting the meeting for the PASPCR membership and promise that this will be a great meeting for all. The meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois on September 13 - 16. Further information on the annual meeting can be found on page 3 of this newsletter, or at the official 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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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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New Members

by *Raymond E. Boissy*

The PASPCR would like to welcome a new member to the Society:

Abdel Belmadani

Northwestern University Feinberg School of
Medicine
Chicago, IL

PASPCR Annual Meeting

Chicago, September 13-16, 2007

Fellow Pigment Cell enthusiasts,

In September we will hold our 14th Annual Meeting in Chicago entitled 'Pigmentation and diversity' from Thursday the 13th through Sunday the 16th. Abstracts are currently under review by Dr. Norris' committee, and we are looking forward to a good turnout. Vijay and I have engaged several keynote speakers- and local organizing committee members, for that matter- who have a special interest in the biology of pigmentation but may not have attended our meetings before. I'm hoping we can draw them into our Society, because they may have new viewpoints and topics to bring to the table, and I'm sure we have positive feedback and support for their research as well. Take Nina Jablonski, our opening Keynote lecturer. She has written several books for the general public, one of which is entitled 'Skin: a natural history'. I found raving reviews for this book online, but one reader complained that it was really too much about pigmentation. Go figure. Dr. Jablonski is a paleoanthropologist and indeed, she takes great interest in the sociobiology of pigmentation. We can discuss the lecture during the cocktail party, or in one of the local blues pubs afterwards.

Carole LaBonne is a local expert on melanocyte development, and it will be very interesting to compare notes with Dr. Heinz Arnheiter' lecture on Sunday as both will address Mitf and melanocyte development. Be sure to enjoy both lectures, and take the time to enjoy Chicago for the rest of the weekend. It is a wonderful place to be on a Sunday afternoon in September. Dr. Barbara Gilchrest probably knows melanocytes better than they know themselves, and I for one am looking forward to her discussion on racial determinants of pigmentation. It will match beautifully with the topic of our meeting. Dr. Houghton will present to us from his hometown in New York. I have admired his work for so many years already. He has put the melanocyte on the map as an immunological entity

and helped us understand why and how to target melanoma cells by vaccination. It will be a day full of interesting lectures.

How better to absorb all that material than by looking at Chicago from a different angle as we sail the lake on a riverboat cruise, listening to the “Concert A Deux Violoncelles” by Couperin, played by our President Dr. John Pawelek and Dr. Richard Spritz. On Saturday morning we start off the day with a lecture by Dr. Victoria Holloway Barbosa, the Dermatologist who has helped initiate L’Oréal’s Institute for Ethnic Hair and Skin Research and has organized several well-attended meetings on this topic. Vicky is also a faculty member with Rush University’s Department of Dermatology. Next up is Dr. Mary Hendrix. Last year I traveled all the way to the Netherlands to hear my fellow Chicagoan present on a related topic, and I look forward to another wonderful presentation on melanoma plasticity.

If you have not yet taken the opportunity on Friday, now will be a good time to view the posters over lunch. We should have an impressive collection competing for the poster award: ‘The Pigmentary System’, donated by Blackwell Publishing for this event. My copy of the 1st edition is always within reach, and I use it to look up the answers to all my questions on rare pigmentary disorders, structural formulas for intermediates of melanin synthesis, you name it. The Aaron Lerner lecture will be very deservedly presented by awardee Dr. Beatrice Mintz. This lecture will have special allure as we commemorate Dr. Lerner’s life and works, as an example for so many of us. The closing lecture for the day is worth putting off your deep dish pizza for: Dr. Rick Kittles speaks to us about the genetics of pigmentation. Dr Kittles even has his own company that will trace your maternal ancestry back to African tribes through mitochondrial DNA, or your paternal ancestry through the Y chromosome. Women can ask their fathers for a swab, taking into account that some 10% of people may be asking the wrong person. . . . After giving that some thought, you may want to get a good night’s rest for the last leg of our meeting, starting with Dr. Denning. Mitch is a wonderful colleague within our cutaneous oncology

research program, and he has recently joined the society after diving deep into melanoma research involving PKC isoforms. We all know Dr Arnheiter, who is delaying his travels to another meeting especially to present the closing lecture of the meeting. In between keynote lectures, you can enjoy abstract presentations on Cell biology and Pigmentation, Malignant Transformation, Stem Cell biology and Differentiation, Pathology and Treatment of Pigmentary Disorders, Immunobiology of pigment cells, Genetics and Gene Expression, and Biochemistry and Signalling Pathways. We hope the weather works with us to show you Chicago at its best. Enjoy the beaches, Navy Pier, Millennium Park and the beautiful botanicals, or the best place to buy the gifts you may need to take home. My daughters still won’t let me come home from a meeting without a souvenir, but from Chicago. . . they may be out of luck. If you prefer to stay inside, there are so many great museums to look around. The Art Museum, the Field Museum, the Adler Planetarium, or small and quirky ones such as the museum of holography. For Sweets lovers, Eli’s cheesecake festival will be held this weekend. Prepare for the festival with a free Millennium Park workout on Saturday morning during the coffee break, or take the \$5 Chicago Theatre tour on Saturday at 12. Restaurants of many cuisines in Chicago are out of this world. For your travels, you can make discounted arrangements with United Airlines under promotional code 564XR. For your arrangements with the Knickerbocker hotel, the promo code is PANAM. All this and more can be found on our website at www.paspcr2007.org. The local organizing committee is very much looking forward to meet with you in Chicago.

Caroline Le Poole

The meeting is supported by an R13 grant from NIH/NIAMS. Moreover, we wish to acknowledge very generous support by the following sponsors:

Diamond sponsors: Johnson & Johnson and Access Business Group.

Gold sponsors: Unilever and Procter & Gamble,

Silver sponsors: Pfizer & L’Oréal,

Bronze sponsors: Stiefel and Avon.

From the President

Dear PASPCR Members: As I write this President's Column I am preparing to depart for Singapore to represent our Society at the 2nd Meeting of the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research. It is exciting to know that pigment cell research is a vibrant, growing field that has captured the interest of scientists and physicians the world over. Our international journal, *Pigment Cell Research*, will soon change its name to *Pigment and Melanoma Cell Research*. This will surely expand the readership and promote pigment cell research to even higher levels than imagined but a few years ago. There is something about our research community that is very compelling. Maybe it is because pigment cell research is so wide in its scope, bringing together a true diversity of researchers. Its topics range from some of the most dreaded diseases of humanity to some of the most beautiful hues in nature. It affects everyone and virtually every living thing. This brings me to our own meeting—just over the horizon in September. In my 30+ years of pigment cell research I have attended all but only one or two of our meetings. They are always wonderful—really! The science is of a remarkably high quality and the enthusiasm and good nature of the participants permeates the room. This year's meeting in Chicago, "Pigmentation and Diversity", is the first to use the term "diversity" in its title—a largely overlooked aspect of our work yet a central theme of pigmentation. I have been privileged to see some of the abstracts (without names) and I assure you this promises to be an excellent forum, carrying our tradition forward in the finest fashion. I congratulate Caroline LePoole, VJ Setaluri, David Norris, the corporate sponsors, the NIH (who awarded us a \$20,000 grant due to Caroline's hard work) and many others who have worked so hard for more than a year to bring this off. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

John Pawelek, PhD
President, PASPCR
July 1, 2007

Pigment Cell Research - Update

Pigment Cell Research, the official journal of the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS), has now also become the official journal of the Society for Melanoma Research (SMR). To highlight the increased focus on melanoma research, the journal is changing its name from January 2008 to *Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research*.

Other journal developments to support the increased growth in melanoma research include:

New Executive Editors:

Ze'ev Ronai, Burnham Institute, La Jolla, USA
Shosuke Ito, Fujita Health University, Japan.

Revised and expanded Editorial Board of melanoma research specialists

New 'News & Views' section to be launched
Revised Aims & Scope

Revised Aims & Scope

Pigment Cell Research publishes manuscripts on all aspects of pigment cells including development, cell and molecular biology, genetics, diseases of pigment cells including melanoma. Papers that provide insights into the causes and progression of melanoma including the process of metastasis and invasion, proliferation, senescence, apoptosis or gene regulation are especially welcome, as are papers that use the melanocyte system to answer questions of general biological relevance. Papers that are purely descriptive or make only minor advances to our knowledge of pigment cells or melanoma in particular are not suitable for this journal.

Author Benefits

Publish your research papers in *Pigment Cell Research* and benefit from:

Email manuscript submission

Rapid review process – average 21 days from submission to first decision

Low cost colour figures

Author services – track your paper online from acceptance to publication

Online early – article by article publishing leading to rapid publication times

Reach into more than 5,500 institutions worldwide with access to the journal

Online 'virtual' issues for melanoma, vitiligo and development.

More information at www.pigment.org

Positions Wanted / Available

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

We are looking for an enthusiastic postdoctoral researcher interested in studying immune responses to melanoma tumors and autoimmune reactivity to melanocytes for NIH funded research.

We utilize primary cell cultures established from mice and humans, including T cells lines and clones. Keywords frequently used in the lab are TCR affinity, vaccines, murine models, depigmentation, T cell cloning, and HSP70. Send inquiries, resume and/or contact information to:

I. Caroline Le Poole Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Pathology
Loyola University Chicago
2160 S. 1st Ave, Bldg 112, Rm 203
Maywood, IL 60153
Tel. 708-327-2032
Email ilepool@lumc.edu

Senior Scientist

For over a century Avon has been a leading global beauty company for women, with a commitment to innovation through research and development.

We are currently recruiting for a Sr. Scientist role. The candidate's focus will be to conduct laboratory research for the validation and characterization of new molecular targets related to skin biology and evaluation of technologies for cosmetic product development.

The candidate will work with Avon scientists to determine areas of research and independently design and carry out the experimental phase of the research. A successful candidate will demonstrate the ability to independently design, execute, and evaluate experimental protocols. In an interpretable manner, the candidate will be required to archive all results in written and computer format as well as communicating the experimental outcomes to other scientists and/or team members to guide the progression of research projects. The candidate will also be expected to provide scientific input into the on-going projects of other scientists and/or teams in Avon R&D.

The Candidate requires a Ph.D degree in Biology, Immunology, Cell Biology or other related field. The candidate must have at least 5 years of experience in cell and tissue culture techniques, experimental design and data analysis. Knowledge and experience with qPCR, non-radioactive in situ hybridization, and cell co-culture would be an advantage. Experience or exposure to medicinal chemistry or natural products would be helpful. The candidate must have a proven record of productivity in their field of research. The candidate must also demonstrate strong communication and writing skills. The candidate must act professionally in all situations, and function well in a matrix and team-oriented environment. Flexibility and adaptability to changes are also key characteristics.

To apply for this position please send a resume to jobs40@avon.com. or visit our website at www.avon.com and refer to Job ID 4119.

Lisa Platek
Human Resources Recruiter
Avon Products Research and Development
1 Avon Place
Suffern, NY 10901
Phone: (845)369-2679
email: Lisa.Platek@avon.com

Senior Scientist

The Senior Scientist will be responsible for basic and applied research in the areas of skin pigmentation and UV protection. The candidate will be involved in the design, performance and analysis of in vivo and in vitro studies, including the use of microscopic image analysis of histological data. Experience in both in vivo and in vitro studies is desired, including in vivo treatments, and techniques such as enzymatic activity analysis, DNA/RNA/protein extraction, and Immunohistochemistry. Responsibilities for the position also include documenting studies in clinical records, research notebooks and reports, presenting research data, reading scientific literature and participating in research discussions and seminars.

Qualifications

BS/MS in biology or related sciences with hands on experience required in both in vivo and in vitro work. Molecular biology and/or biochemistry knowledge and experience in various biological research techniques (RT-PCR, Western blot, IHC, enzymatic activity analysis, DNA/RNA/protein extraction) are desired. Microscopy and computerized image analysis experience is a plus. Ability to design studies, execute and analyze data, make conclusions and suggestions for next steps is required, as well as the ability to learn new techniques and procedures. Ability to engage in both individual studies and in teamwork is a must.

To apply for this position, contact:

Miri Seiberg, PhD
Principal Research Fellow
Skin Biology and LAS

The Johnson & Johnson Skin Research Center, CPPW,
a unit of Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc
199 Grandview Rd, Skillman, NJ 08558
Phone: 908-874-2325
Fax: 908-874-1254
e-mail: MSEIBER@CPCUS.JNJ.COM

Assistant/Associate/Full Clinical Professor Medical Oncology and Hematology University of California, Irvine

Two new positions in medical oncology and hematology are available at the Assistant/Associate/Full Health Sciences (Clinical) Professor level (rank dependent on qualifications) in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology at the University of California, Irvine, site of an NCI designated comprehensive cancer center. Applicants must have MD or MD/PhD and be BE/BC in Medical Oncology. These positions are for Academic Clinicians who, in addition to patient care activities, are interested in participating in established clinical trials and teaching. Time and resources to assist in the development and execution of novel translational research and develop investigator-initiated trials will be made available. One position is for an individual with interest in melanoma and the other for an individual with interest in pancreatic and hepatobiliary cancers.

UCI is an equal opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity. Send curriculum vitae with names and telephone numbers of three references and a statement of your academic goals to:

Randall F. Holcombe, M.D.
Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Associate Director, Chao Family
Comprehensive Cancer Center
c/o Krista Hollinger, Divisional MSO
101 The City Drive
Bldg 56, RT 81, ZOT 4061
Orange, CA 92868
Tel: 714-456-5153
Email: kholling@uci.edu

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, Affirmative Action Employer

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-](http://www.fccc.edu/news/2003/Best-Places-for-Postdocs-02-20-2003.html)

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

PASPCR Annual Meeting
Chicago, September 13-16, 2007

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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