The PASPCR Newsletter is published three times a year and is intended to serve as a regular means of communication for the members of our Society. The PASPCR Newsletter is distributed via e-mail, in pdf format, on the first of April, August and December and it will continue to be posted on the web site of the Society.

Preparations for the XXIst IPCC, spear-headed by Alain Taïeb are progressing well. The meeting will be held in Bordeaux, France on September 21-24, 2011. Further information on the meeting can be found on pages 5-28 of this newsletter. Please take pictures during the meeting and share them with us for posting on our Society’s website and in our December number.

In this issue, we continue the “Let me introduce…” section with a column by Dr. Jennifer Kromberg who provides her perspective on albinism and the myths surrounding it. We also continue the “Industry Perspectives” section with a column by Dr. Akihiro Tada. The “Laboratory Updates” column in this number is written by Dr. Glynis Scott.

We hope you enjoy this issue. We encourage you to send us your comments at our email address paspcr.newsletters@gmail.com. Let us know what you would like to see in the letters, suggest sections you think would be useful to include, and recommend any changes that you would like to see.

We also encourage you to let us know about meetings that you think would be of interest to members of the Society. If you attend a scientific meeting at which you heard about work 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. Also, keep us updated on any “Members in the News” so we can spread the word of your successes.

This is your Newsletter, and we depend upon you to help us ensure it best serves the Society’s needs. We look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions and to continue working together to compile the Newsletters for our Society.

The PASPCR Newsletter Editorial Team would like to thank to all our contributors for their columns submitted to us for inclusion in the letters.

PASPCR Newsletter Editorial Team

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The PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research

C/O Andrzej T. Slominski, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine,
930 Madison Avenue, Room 525 (Clinical Office),
Memphis, TN 38163, U.S.A.

OFFICERS:
Greg Barsh
President
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The \textit{PASPCR Newsletter} is published three times a year (April, August and December) by the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research. All views are those of the authors. For further information or to submit articles, please use the e-mail address paspcr.newsletters@gmail.com.

**PUBLICATION COMMITTEE**

Gertrude-Emilia Costin, Ph.D., M.B.A.
Editor
Institute for In Vitro Sciences, Inc. (IIVS)
30 W Watkins Mill Road #100
Gaithersburg, MD 20878, U.S.A.
(301) 947-6524
ecostin@iivs.org

Prashiela Manga, Ph.D.
Associate Editor
New York University School of Medicine
Department of Dermatology
Smilow Research Center
522 First Avenue, Room 401
New York, NY 10016, U.S.A.
(212) 263-9086
prashiela.manga@nyumc.org

William S. Oetting, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
Department of Medicine - Genetics
MMC 485
420 Delaware St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455, U.S.A.
(612) 624-1139
oetti001@umn.edu

Andrzej T. Slominski, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Tennessee
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
930 Madison Avenue, Room 525 (Clinical Office)
Memphis, TN 38163, U.S.A.
(901) 448-3741
aslominski@uthsc.edu

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

2011
Gordon Research Conference
Barrier Function of Mammalian Skin
Date and place: August 7-12, Waterville Valley, NH, USA

2011
XXIst IPCC
Date and place: September 21-24, Bordeaux, FRANCE
E-mail: contact@ipcc2011.org
Web-site: http://ipcc2011.org/home

2011
Hampton University Skin of Color Research Institute Symposium
Date and place: October 7-9, Hampton Roads, VA, USA
Web-site: http://www.symposium.huscri.com

2011
The 11th LVMH Recherche Symposium
Date and place: October 27, London, UK
Web-site: http://www.lvmhrecherche-symposium.com/11th-symposium-skin-rejuvenation

2011
The International Melanoma Congress
Date and place: November 9-13, Tampa, FL, USA
Web-site: http://www.melanomacongress.com/

2011
The 51st Annual Meeting of American Society for Cell Biology
Date and place: December 3-7, Denver, CO, USA
Web-site: http://www.ascb.org
CORPORATE SPONSORS

by Dr. Andrzej Slominski

The PASPCR would like to acknowledge the continuous support of the Johnson and Johnson who contributed $5,000 to the XXIst IPCC to support the scientific content of the conference and $5,000 to the PASPCR to support costs connected with the AB Lerner Lectureship Award. Also we acknowledge the contribution of $4,500 from Procter & Gamble to the IFPCS to support travel grants for IPCC.

A detailed list of the Sponsors supporting the XXIst IPCC can be found in the Program of the Conference, on page 6 of this newsletter.

- // -

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

by Dr. Andrzej Slominski

Renewals

Elizabeth A. Grimm
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX, USA

Gopinathan Menon
ISP Corporation
Wayne, NJ, USA

Randall L. Morrison
McDaniel College
Westminster, MD, USA

Manpreet K. Randhawa
Johnson & Johnson Consumer Products
Skillman, NJ, USA

The PASPCR would like to welcome these new members to the Society:

New Members

Andrew R. Cullinane
NHGRI/NIH
Bethesda, MD, USA

Yana Sun
University of California, Irvine
Orange, CA, USA

Anand K. Ganesan
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA, USA

Julio Cesar Valencia
NIH/NCI
Bethesda, MD, USA
LETTER FROM PASPCR SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dear PASPCR members,

As we have been faced by many environmental disasters including tornados, flood of the century along the Mississippi river and most recently floods in North Dakota, I would like to express my solidarity with Greg Barsh family, whose house was damaged by the tornado. I can assure you that despite this difficulty our President is active in the Society matters either through phone or electronic communications. You will receive more e-mails from him directed to the Council, its study group as well as to all members. Dr. Barsh prefers electronic communication over traditional teleconferences.

I hope that everybody is ready to attend the XXIst IPCC meeting in Bordeaux, France, 21-24, September, 2011 (http://www.ipcc2011.org) and has already made his/her registration. The IPCC Chaired by Dr. Alain Taïeb as well as IFPCS led by Dr. Shigeki Shibahara, were generous in distributing several travel grants with names of awardees listed on the IFPCS website. We congratulate members of PASPCR who received IFPCS awards (Dr. Robert Cornell and Dr. Tsing Chen) as well as those who received IPCC awards (Jeffrey Mosenson, BS, Anne von Koschembarh, BS, Tae-Kang Kim, PhD and Ling Hou, BS). The highly ranked applications of other investigators were sent to the Secretary/Treasurers of regional Societies with recommendation to fund if possible.

We are very pleased to inform you that I was able to fund all of the applicants who are members of the Society in good standing, given the availability of the residual funds from the PASPCR meeting in Memphis in 2009. The awardees are Deborah Lang, Jared Klarquist, Zorica Janjetovic, Zoran Pavicevic, Jason Belitsky, Ryan Dellinger, Cezary Skoboviat, and Lifang Xie. Congratulations to all awardees for their outstanding scientific contributions and devotion to the field of pigment cell biology!

I am also pleased to announce that PASPCR Selection Committee has selected Dr. C. Goding as the recipient of the AB Lerner Special Lectureship for 2011. He will give a lecture entitled “Signaling and transcription in melanoma stem-like cells” on September 22, 2011.

We are also honored that IFPCS Selection Committees awarded Myron Gordon Award to Dr. Zalfa Abdel-Malek and Dr. Ruth Halaban, and Seiji Memorial Lecture to Dr. Richard Spritz. Zalfa, Ruth and Richard we are proud of you and cherish your active membership in the PASPCR!

I am also pleased to report that our Society has a comparatively good membership with a total 114 members including 21 students/fellows, 84 regular members, 2 joint IFPCS members from JPCS and 5 honorary members.

Next PASPCR conference will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 19-22, 2012 and will be chaired by Dr. Sancy Leachman. Also I am pleased to announce that 2011 International Melanoma Congress will take place in Tampa, FL on November 9-13, 2011. For more information, visit http://www.melanomacongress.com. There will be a joint SMR and PASPCR session on November 10, 2011 during this conference. The conference is hosted by Moffitt Cancer Center and is sponsored by USF Health. Please mark your calendars.

Lastly, since our community is underrepresented in decision making concerning funding at NIH I appeal to all prospective reviewers to give very strong support to all pigment cell related applications that have merit. The reviewers outside of melanin pigmentation field (especially immunologists) usually are critical because of the lack of proper expertise. Therefore, they have to be educated in the melanin pigment science and importance of pigment cell biology in medicine and biology.

Thank you for your continuous support of our Society,

Andrzej Slominski
PASPCR Secretary/Treasurer
Dear pigment cell colleagues and friends,

The IPCC 2011 programme is now online (http://docs.ipcc2011.org/ipcc2011_programme.pdf) with contributions coming from 37 countries (41% Europe, 33% Asia, 20% Americas, 3,5% Africa/Middle East, 2,5% Pacific). The final programme includes 5 special/named lectures, 8 guest lectures, 50 invited lectures, 118 oral communications (22 plenary), and 171 posters on display during the meeting. Note that selected oral presentations will be limited to 10 minutes plus 2-5 minutes discussion according to session. The practical details for mounting posters are available at http://ipcc2011.org/abstract. A guided poster walk with a discussion with authors will be organized during lunch break from 12.30 to 14.00 pm on Thursday 23rd, 2011. Lunch will be served close to the poster area. The poster presenter or a co-author should be available for discussion.

The coverage of our field will be quite extensive with a strong focus on dermatologic disorders especially vitiligo, melasma and focal hyperpigmentations, albinisms, xeroderma pigmentosum and giant congenital nevi. A full day (joint SMR-IFPCS melanoma day) is devoted to melanoma, as well as part of other sessions during the rest of the meeting. Patient’s support group for albinism, xeroderma pigmentosum, giant nevi and vitiligo will be represented to interact with scientific delegates, and will hold satellite meetings on Saturday, September 24th, 2011.

The combined efforts for fund raising of IPCC, PASPCR and IFPCS resulted in the allocation of 39 travel awards. I would like to congratulate the members of the travel award committee (Caroline Le Poole, Marie-Dominique Galibert, Takahiro Kunisada and Prasad Kumarasinghe) for their excellent work on this difficult issue.

I am pleased to announce that 6 poster prizes will be awarded during the IPCC gala dinner: 3 are sponsored by the host Society ESPCR and 3 by Laboratoires Pierre Fabre. They consist in 300 euros and a souvenir from the Bordeaux IPCC. The poster prize committee: Anja Bosserhoff (ESPCR), Chikako Nishigori (JSPCR), Davinder Parsad (ASPCR), and Andrzej Slominski (PASPCR) will be helped by the distinguished colleagues who have kindly accepted to lead the poster walk.

I wish you a good summer vacation and I look forward to seeing you next September in Bordeaux.

Best wishes,

Alain Taieb
IPCC President

- // -

Important Deadlines

Hotel registration (group): August 20th, 2011
Hotel registration (individual): August 31st, 2011
Organizing Committees and Sponsors

Organizing Committee
Honorary Presidents: Yvon Gauthier, Jean-Paul Ortonne
President: Alain Taïeb
Vice-Presidents: Lionel Larue, Mauro Picardo, Lluís Montoliu
Local Secretariat: Muriel Cario-André, Khaled Ezzedine, Thomas Jouary, Fréderic Mazurier, Hamid Rezvani
Local Advisory Committee: Benoît Arveiler, Didier Lacombe, Djavad Mossalayi, François Tison, Béatrice Vergier, Hubert de Verneuil
ESPCR Advisory Committee: Dorothy Bennett, Markus Böhm, Jose Carlos Garcia-Borron, Colin Goding, Marco d’Ischia
National Committee: Marie-Françoise Avril, Robert Ballotti, Nicole Basset-Seguin, Brigitte Dreno, Heather Etchevers, Marie-Dominique Galibert, Jean-Jacques Grob, Bernard Guillot, Jean-Philippe Lacour, Celeste Lebbé, Alain Mauviel, Thierry Passeron, Philippe Saiag, Alain Sarasin, Nadem Soufir, Luc Thomas
Melanoma Day Committee: Boris Bastian, David Fisher, Claus Garbe, Ghanem Ghanem, Nicholas Hayward, Lionel Larue
Travel Awards Committee: Marie-Dominique Galibert, Prasad Kumarasinghe, Takahiro Kunisada, Caroline Le Poole
Poster Prize Committee: Anja Bosserhoff, Chikako Nishigori, Davinder Parsad, Andrzej Slominski

Sponsored by (as of 30 June 2011)

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Clinuvel Deka
Expanscience
Intendis
Johnson & Johnson
LVMH Recherche
Mene&Moy
Pfizer
Quantel
Université Bordeaux Segalen
Wiley

Invited Patients Support Groups: Association française du Vitiligo, Genespoir (Albinisms), Association les Enfants de la Lune (Xeroderma pigmentosum), Naevus 2000 (Giant Congenital Nevus)
PASPCR
August 2011

Scientific Programme

Tuesday 20th September 2011
13:00-17:00 Special Interest Groups Meetings

- **Room D Eumelanet Workshop: Standardization of Melanin Chemistry**
  Chair: M. d'Ischia
- **Room E Vitiligo Global Issues Consensus Conference**
  Chairs: Y. Gauthier - A. Taieb - M. Picardo
- **Room F IFPCS Development Group**
  Chairs: W. Pavan - R. Kelsh - H. Yamamoto - L. Kos

17:00-18:00 Regional Councils Meetings ASPCR (Room D), ESPCR (Room G), JSPCR (Room H), PASPCR (Room E)
18:00-20:00 IFPCS First Council Meeting (Room F)

Registration opens 16:00 to 20:00 at Palais des Congrès. Posters can be mounted for the whole meeting. Poster prizes will be given on Friday at the Gala Dinner.

IFPCS Board Dinner 20:00 to 23:00

======================================================================

Wednesday 21st September 2011
Opening Addresses 08:30-09:00 HALL A
Addresses from President of Bordeaux University, IFPCS President, ESPCR President and Honorary Presidents

Plenary session I: Opening lectures 09:10-10:30 HALL A
Chairs: M. Picardo - P. Kumarasinghe - J. P. Lacour
9:10-9:30  SL1 IPCC Special Lecture: J. Borovansky (Czech Republic): 25 years of ESPCR
09:30-10:00  SL2 Presidential Lecture: S. Shibahara (Japan): Pigment production for maintaining epidermal homeostasis: lessons from keratinocytes and melanocytes
10:00-10:30  SL3 Seiji Memorial Lecture: R. Spritz (USA): 30 years of vitiligo genetics

10:30-11:00  Coffee break

Plenary session II: Tracking the precursors / Developmental biology 11:00 to 11:30 HALL A
Chairs: D. Bennett - T. Kunisada - B. Werhle-Haller
11:00-11:30  GL1 Tatjana Sauka-Spengler (UK): Update on neural crest: Deciphering gene regulatory interactions controlling neural crest formation
11:30-13:00  Concurrent sessions 1-3 HALLS A, B, C

CS1: Developmental biology (continues in HALL A)
Chairs: D. Bennett - T. Kunisada - B. Werhle-Haller
11:30-11:50  IL1 B. Werhle-Haller (Switzerland): Melanocyte development: the journey to unknown territory
11:50-12:10  IL2 T. Kunisada (Japan): Cellular origin of melanocytes: newly resolved routes to melanocyte cell lineages
12:10-12:22  C1 A. Saldana-Caboverde, L. Kos (USA): Ets1 interacts with Sox10 during murine melanocyte development
12:22-12:34  C2 Y. Takahashi, H. Murai, K.-I. Zakai, R. Tadokoro (Japan): Live imaging of
melanosomal transfer in the developing skin

Houzelstein (France): Does overexpression of the Strawberry Notch homolog 2 gene in Dopachrome tautomerase expressing cells trigger a defect in melanoblast specification?

12:46-12:58  C4  E. Van Otterloo, G. Lai, R. Weigel, R. Cornell (USA): Transcription factor Activator Protein 2 directly activates Sox10 to induce melanoblasts and co-operates with MITF to promote melanocyte differentiation

CS2: Chemistry and biophysics of melanins HALL C
Chairs: A. Napolitano - J. Menter - P Riley

11:30-11:50  IL3  T. Sarna (Poland): Physicochemical changes of retinal pigment epithelium melanin with aging and photoaging monitored by advanced EPR techniques

11:50-12:10  IL4  K. Wakamatsu (Japan): Elucidation of biogenic pathway of a dark brown pigment neuromelanin in the substantia nigra of human brain

12:10-12:22  C5  L. Panzella, G. Greco, L. Verotta, M. d'Ischia, A. Napolitano (Italy): Discovery of isoquinoline-containing dimers as the fundamental building blocks of human red hair pheomelanin.

12:22-12:34  C6  K. Glass, R. Rengifo, J. D. Simon (USA): Probing the melanosomal surface using molecular rulers

12:34-12:46  C7  P. Meredith, B. Mostert, I. R. Gentle, G. Hanson, K. Tandy, E. Namdas, F. Pratt, B. J. Powell (Australia): Is melanin a semiconductor: the mysteries of electrical conduction and melanin bioelectronics?

12:46-12:58  C8  A. Brocas, V. Shynkar, M. Mahet, E. Tham, Y. Abidine, P. Guitera, F. Amblard (France): Rare melanoma cell detection by thermal emission imaging

CS3: Difficult to classify hyperpigmentations, clinically-oriented HALL B
Chairs: D. Parsad - Y. Gauthier - B. K. Goh

11:30-11:50  IL5  B. K. Goh (Singapore): Difficult hyperpigmentary disorders: An Asian Perspective

11:50-12:10  IL6  Y. Gauthier (France): Pathogenesis of melasma: new insights

12:10-12:22  C9  R. Dhurat, S. Mishra, C. Nayak, D. Deshpande (India): Diagnostic utility of dermatoscopy in hydroquinone induced exogenous ochronosis

12:22-12:34  C10  N. Sarma (India): A study on clinico-histological evaluation of 155 cases of periorbital melanosis

12:34-12:46  C11  S. Tambe, H. Jeranjani, S. Ghat (India): Epidemiological, clinical & histopathological profile and patch test results in patients of primary localized cutaneous amyloidosis

12:46-12:58  C12  L. Benzekri (Morocco): How to differentiate melasma from facial postinflammatory hyperpigmentation (PIH)?

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch break and poster viewing

14:30-16:00  Concurrent sessions 4-6 HALLS A, B, C

CS4: Mouse models: pigment cell biology & melanoma HALL B
Chairs: L. Montoliu - W. Pavan - E. Nishimura

14:30-14:50  IL7  L. Montoliu (Spain): Mouse models for studying pigment cell biology and pigmentary diseases
14:50-15:10  IL8 W. Pavan (*USA*): A novel Sox10 modifier locus identified in a sensitized ENU mutagenesis screen

15:10-15:22  C13 A. Eychène (*France*): Mouse models for Raf signaling in melanocyte and melanoma development


15:46-15:58  C16 Y. Funasaka, S. Oyama, S. Okazaki, S. Kawana, C. Nishigori (*Japan*): Ultraviolet B, but not ultraviolet A initiates and promotes melanoma formation in metabotropic glutamate receptor 1 transgenic mouse

**CS5: Chemistry of melanins: standardization workshop roundtable HALL C**

Chairs: M d'Ischia - S. Ito - J.-C. Garcia-Borron - J. Simon

C17 M. d'Ischia, J.-C. Garcia-Borron Martinez, S. Ito, J. D. Simon (*Italy*): Methods in melanin research

C18 S. Ito, Y. Nakanishi, K. Wakamatsu (*Japan*): Evaluation of alkaline hydrogen peroxide oxidation to analyze eumelanin and pheomelanin

**CS6: Human skin color and its evolution HALL A**

Chairs: C. Le Poole - R. Sturm - E. Healy

14:30-14:50  IL9 R. Sturm (*Australia*): Human pigmentation genes and population polymorphism

14:50-15:02  C19 C. Delevoye, G. Van Niel, S. Simoes, I. Hurbain, M. Romao, D. Tenza, M. Marks, G Raposo (*France*): Cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying the biogenesis of melanosomes

15:02-15:14  C20 S. Commo, K. Wakamatsu, B. A. Bernard, S. Ito (*France*): Human hair pigmentation characteristics revealed by melanin determination in human eumelanic hairs of various ethnic origins


15:38-15:50  C23 P. Tanner, S. Leachman (*USA*): Vitiligo color measurements for formulating the base color pigment quantities for human integument phantoms and replicating human integument with prosthetic materials

15:50-16:00  Discussion

**16:00-16:30 Coffee break and poster viewing**

**16:30-18:00 Concurrent sessions 7-9 HALLS A, B, C**

**CS7: Non cutaneous melanocytes HALL C**

Chairs: L. Kos - H. Yamamoto - T. Sarna

16:30-16:50  IL10 L. Kos (*USA*): The other ones: non cutaneous melanocytes
16:50-17:10 IL11 H. Yamamoto, S. Uehara (Japan): A role for the inner ear melanocytes in anti-stress responses
17:10-17:22 C24 A. Shinomiya, K. Kinoshita, M. Mizutani, T. Namikawa, Y. Matsuda, Y. Kayashima, T. Akiyama (Japan): Gene duplication linked to Fm locus is closely correlated to hyperpigmentation of internal organs in Silky chicken
17:22-17:34 C25 S. Murillo-Cuesta, J. Contreras, M. Cantero, R. Cediol, R. Martínez-Vega, E. Zurita, A. Fernández, I. Varela-Nieto, L. Montoliu (Spain): Albino and pheomelanic mice are more susceptible and present a poorer recovery after noise-induced hearing loss compared to eumelanic mice
17:46-17:58 C27 S. Devi, Y. Markandeya, N. Maddodi, K. Wakamatsu, S. Ito, R. Balijepalli, V. Setaluri (US4): A novel pathway for regulation of pigmentation by glutamate receptor mGluR6 through its action on TRPM1

CS8: Update on physiology of cutaneous pigmentation HALL A
Chairs: Z. Abdel-Malek - S. Moretti - G. Imokawa
16:30-16:50 IL12 Z. Abdel-Malek (US4): The melanocyte living on the edge, sustained by its neighboring keratinocytes and fibroblasts
16:50-17:10 IL13 G. Imokawa (Japan): Endothelin-1/stem cell factor signalling blockade in melanocytes and pigmentation in human epidermal equivalents
17:10-17:22 C28 D. Kovacs, E. Flori, V. Maresca, M. Ottaviani, N. Aspite, L. Panzella, A. Napolitano, M. d’Ischia, M. Picardo (Italy): The eumelanin intermediate 5,6-dihydroxyindole-2-carboxylic acid (DHICA) promotes differentiation and protection in epidermal cells: an additional role of melanogenesis
17:34-17:46 C30 M. Cario-Andre, K. Ezzedine, C. Pain, V. Guyonnet-Dupérat, A. Bibeyran, A. Taieb (France): Fibroblasts regulate both physiological and pathological pigmentation of skin in vitro and in vivo
17:46-17:58 C31 C. Duval, C. Cohen-Dellarre, C. Chagnoleau, F. Berne (France): Essential role of dermal components in regulating pigmentation in a full thickness reconstructed skin model

CS9: Depigmentation update, clinically-oriented HALL B
16:30-16:50 IL14 J. P. Ortonne (France): Depigmentation update: treatment of melasma
16:50-17:10 IL15 K. C. Park (Korea): Treatment of hyperpigmentary disorders in Asian skin
17:22-17:34 C33 J. Y. Kim, J. Y. Shin, M. R. Kim (Korea): The Role of DKK1 in the Development of Vitiligo
17:34-17:46 C34 M. C. Costa, L. S. Abraham, M. Ardigó, M. Picordo, P. L. Araújo, L. Azulay-Abulafia, J. M. Piñeiro-Maceira (Brazil): Hairs presence and pigmentation in vitiligo lesions: the usefulness of dermatoscopy in prognosis and treatment response evaluation

19:30-20:30 Welcome Reception

Thursday 22nd September 2011

08:00-08:30 PASPCR Aaron Lerner Lecture SL4 HALL A
Chairs: A. Slominski - R. Boissy - J. Pawelek
C. Goding (UK): Signalling and transcription in melanoma stem-like cells

08:30-10:30 Plenary session III: Stem Cells: facts, fancy, fiction? HALL A
Chairs: C. Goding - L. Sommer – R. Halaban
8:30-9:00 GL2 R. M. Hoffman (USA): Hair follicle pluripotent stem (hfPS) cells for regenerative medicine an advantageous alternative to ES and iPS cells
9:00-9:20 IL16 E. Nishimura (Japan): Stem cell regulation by stem cells
9:20-9:40 IL17 L. Sommer (Switzerland): Neural crest stem cells and melanoma formation: a likely connection

10:30-11:00 Coffee break and poster viewing

11:00 -13:00 Plenary session IV: Photoprotection and beyond: from melanosomes to melamins HALL A
Chairs: M. d'Ischia - K. Wakamatsu - T. Passeron
11:00-11:30 GL3 V. Sundstrom (Sweden): Photochemistry and excited state dynamics of eumelanin building blocks
11:30-12:00 GL4 E. Sprecher (Israel): Keratin disorders associated with abnormal pigmentation: clinical and molecular insights
12:00-12:12 C40 J. D. Simon, D. N. Peles (USA): Ultraviolet absorption properties of melanosomes measured by photoemission electron microscopy
12:12-12:24 C41 A. Napolitano, G. Greco, L. Panzella, G. Gentile, M. E. Errico, M. d’Ischia (Italy): Pheomelanin is a prooxidant promoting DOPA conversion to a eumelanin coating: discovery of a non-enzymatic mimic of the natural casing process of melanosome assembly

13:00-14:00 2nd IFPCS Council Meeting Room H

13:00-14:30 Lunch break and poster viewing

14:30-16:00 Concurrent sessions 10-12

CS10: Genetics of pigmentation and molecular biology of melanoma, clinically-oriented HALL B
Chairs: R. Spritz - N. Soufir - D. Lacombe

14:30-14:50 IL18 N. Soufir (France): Pigmentation genes and melanoma: where are we now?
14:50-15:10 IL19 L. Larue (France): Murine models: coat color and melanoma


CS11: Vitiligo: basic science & medical, clinically-oriented HALL A
Chairs: S.K. Hann - T. Anbar - P. Manga

14:30-14:50 IL20 S. Moretti (Italy): Vitiligo 2011 update

14:50-15:10 IL21 R. Attili (India): Acrofacial and genital depigmentation is a new pattern disease with features of both vitiligo and vitiligoid lichen sclerosus


15:22-15:34 C49 J. Mosenson, A. Zloza, J. Klarquast, S. Mehrotra, M. Nishimura, J. A. Guevara-Patino, I. C. Le Poole (USA): A hot finding: mutant HSP70i to treat vitiligo

15:34-15:46 C50 R. Kumar, D. Parsad, A. J. Kanwar (India): LXR-α as molecular switch that initiate transition from vitiligo lesional skin to repigmented skin?


CS12: Stress responses HALL C
Chairs: L. F. Xiang - M. L. dell'Anna - A. Mauviel

14:30-14:50 IL22 M. Picardo (Italy): Stress responses, a bridge between physiological and pathological processes in melanocytes
14:50-15:10  IL23  M. D. Galibert (France): How does solar UV radiation initiate specific cellular responses?


15:22-15:34  C53  E. Flori, A. Mastrofrancesco, D. Kovacs, Y. Ramot, S. Briganti, R. Paus, M. Picardo (Italy): The parrodiene derivative, 2,4,6-octatrienoic acid, acts as a novel promoter of melanogenesis and antioxidant defence in normal human melanocytes in situ and in vitro via PPARγ activation

15:34-15:46  C54  J. Menter, C. Nokkaew, A. Sprewell, D. Eatman, S. Harris-Hooker (USA): Pigment melanin mediates a redox reaction between adsorbed nitric oxide and O₂ in vitro


16:00 -16:30  Coffee break and poster viewing

16:30-18:00  Concurrent sessions 13-15 HALLS A, B, C

CS13: Neuroendocrinology of pigmentation and MC1R HALL A
Chairs: A. Slominski - D. Tobin - M. Böhm

16:30-16:50  IL24  A. Slominski (USA): Introduction to the neuroendocrinology of the pigmentary system

16:50-17:10  IL25  M. Böhm (Germany): Modulatory effects of a small peptide derivative of alpha-MSH, KdPT, on melanocyte responses to oxidative stress

17:10-17:22  C56  C. Skobowiat, J. C. Dowdy, R. M. Sayre, R. C. Tuckey, A. Slominski (USA): Ultraviolet radiation A and B regulate the neuroendocrine stress response system in melanocyte/keratinocyte co-cultures

17:22-17:34  C57  A. Belen, P. Oliva, C. Olivares, M. Abrisqueta, C. Jimenez-Cervantes, J.-C. Garcia-Borrón (Spain): Regulation of human melanocortin 1 receptor (MC1R) signalling by β-arrestins

17:34-17:46  C58  A. Kokot, T. A. Luger, M. Böhm (Germany): Tropisetron, a serotonin antagonist, modulates the inflammatory cell response of human epidermal melanocytes and keratinocytes after exposure of UVB light or TNF-alpha

17:46-17:58  C59  A. L. Kadekar, V. Maresca, E. Flori, D. Kovacs, G. Cardinali, J. Chen, S. Chen, M. Picardo (USA & Italy): Impact of MC1R variants on the antioxidant responses of melanocytes and implications on human skin homeostasis

CS14: Vitiligo: surgical-instrumental clinically-oriented HALL B
Chairs: N. Rabobee - S. Mulekar - E. Lan

16:30-16:50  IL26  E. Lan (Taiwan): Monochromatic light for treatment of vitiligo

16:50-17:10  IL27  S. Mulekar (Saudi Arabia): Experience of surgical procedures in childhood vitiligo

17:10-17:22  C60  P. Araujo (Brazil): Surgical management of vitiligo

17:22-17:34  C61  D. Ghia, C. Nayak (India): To trypsinise, or not to trypsinise, that is the question

17:34-17:46  C62  S. Awasthi, A. J. Kanwar, D. Parsad (India): Comparing the effect on the outcome of cold trypsinisation v/s warm trypsinisation in transplantation of autologous non cultured epidermal cell suspension in stable vitiligo - a prospective randomized study
CS15: Non Mouse animal models and in vitro human models HALL C

Chairs: G. Erf - R. Kelsh - M. D. Galibert

16:30-16:50 IL28 R. Kelsh (UK): Pigmentation in non-mouse models - fishing for insight, not just horsing around?

16:50-17:10 IL29 G. Erf (USA): Chicken models for vitiligo and other spontaneous autoimmune/autoinflammatory disorders

17:10-17:22 C64 K. Taylor, J. Richardson, R. Kelsh, I. Jackson, J. Lister, E. E. Patton (UK): Mitf mutations promote differentiated cell division and melanoma in zebrafish


17:34-17:46 C66 C. Talari, K. Gledhill, D. J. Tobin (UK): Do epidermal melanocytes contribute to the erythema response in human skin post-UVB irradiation?


18:00-19:00 Regional Societies Assemblies ASPCR (HALL A), ESPCR (Room HALL B), JSPCR (Room HALL C), PASPCR (Room H)

20:00-22:00 Speaker's Dinner (Pierre Fabre)
11:00 -12:30  Plenary session VI Fundamental aspects of the initiation and progression of melanoma (2) HALL A

Chairs: D. Fisher - Z. Ronai, A. Spatz

11:00-11:20  IL31 M. Davies (USA): Regulation and function of the PI3K pathway in advanced melanoma

11:20-11:40  IL32 B. Bastian (USA): Oncogenic signaling downstream of Gq/11

11:40-12:00  IL33 R. Marais (UK): RAS and RAF signalling in melanoma: translating biology into therapies

12:00-12:12  C72 A. Marquette, J. Andréé, M. Bagot, A. Bensussan, N. Dumaz (France): When CRAF takes over from BRAF in melanoma using ERK and PDE4

12:12-12:24  C73 M. Smith, J. Ferguson, I. Arozarena, C. Wellbrock (UK): A novel link between TGFbeta and MAP kinase signalling is involved in resistance to MEK inhibition in melanoma

12:30-14:00  Lunch break and poster walk

14:00 -15:30  Concurrent sessions 16-18 HALLS A, B, C

CS16: Preclinical and clinical advances in melanoma management (SMR-IFPCS) HALL A

Chairs: B. Bastian - L. Larue - B. Guillot

14:00-14:20  IL34 C. Garbe (Germany): New developments in melanoma therapy - ASCO update


14:56-15:08  C77 F. Journe, M. Wiedig, R. Morandini, F. Sales, A. Awada, G. Ghanem (Belgium): cKIT expression level and NRAS/BRAF mutation status predict the response to the tyrosine kinase inhibitor dasatinib in melanoma cell lines

15:08-15:20  C78 D. Lang, J. B. Mascarenyas, D. Wolfgeher, J. D. Kubic (USA): Promotion of melanoma growth and survival through Glycogen Synthase Kinase-3 protein activity

15:20-15:30  Discussion

CS17: New pathomechanisms in melanoma HALL C

Chairs: F. Meyskens - M. Soengas - N. Basset-Seguin

14:00-14:20  IL35 F. Meyskens (USA): Chemoprevention of melanoma progression mediated by NO/neural NO synthase (nNOS)/NO, an accelerator of the transformation process

14:20-14:40  IL36 M. Soengas (Spain): Endolysosomal pathways in melanoma maintenance and drug response

14:40-15:00  IL37 D. Bennett (UK): Impacts of p16 deficiency on melanocyte gene expression and biology: relation to early melanoma
15:00-15:12  **C79** J. C. Valencia, S. G. Coelho, L. Yin, W. D. Vieira, V. J. Hearing (*USA*): Fighting proliferation with differentiation: How Pmel17/gp100 binding to FHL2 leads the charge in melanoma

15:12-15:24  **C80** M. Ohanna, R. Ballotti, C. Bertolotto (*France*): Senescent cells develop a secretome

**CS18: From vitiligo to melanoma HALL B**

Chairs: D. Norris - W. Westerhof - C. Lebbé

14:00-14:20  **IL38** R. Luiten (*The Netherlands*): Monobenzone increases the immunogenicity of melanoma cells, and is effective as melanoma immunotherapy

14:20-14:32  **C81** M. W. Kroon, G. Krebbers, R. Thijssen, W. Douwenga, J. D. Bos, J. P. W. Van Der Veen, M. A. Middelkamp Hup, R. M. Luiten (*The Netherlands*): Effect of UVB therapy on the lymphocytic infiltrate in the skin of vitiligo patients

14:32-14:44  **C82** J. Klarquist, M. Li, D. A. Wainwright, R. M. Luiten, M. I. Nishimura, I. C. Le Poole (*USA*): Functional cloning of a gp100-reactive TCR from depigmenting vitiligo skin

14:44-15:00  **IL40** G. Ghanem (*Belgium*): TYRP1, a missing link between melanogenesis and melanoma progression?

15:00-15:20  **C83** S. Yang, Z. I. Zheng, B. Misner, R. Chamberlin, F. L. Meyskens (*USA*): APE/Ref-1, a druggable target for the therapy of human melanoma

15:20-15:30  Discussion

15:30 -17:00 Concurrent sessions 19-21 HALLS A, B, C

**CS19: Preclinical & Clinical advances in melanoma management (SMR-IPCC) HALL A**

Chairs: P. Chapman - G. Ghanem - P. Saiag

15:30-15:50  **IL39** R. Carvajal (*USA*): KIT aberrations in melanoma and therapeutic implications

15:50-16:10  **IL40** G. Ghanem (*Belgium*): TYRP1, a missing link between melanogenesis and melanoma progression?

16:10-16:22  **C86** M. Hossain, W. H. Chong, A. M. Ross, E. V. Sviderskaya, D. C. Bennett (*UK*): Markers of telomeric crisis and immortalization in melanoma progression

16:22-16:34  **C87** D. S. Widmer, O. M. Eichhoff, M. C. Zipser, P. F. Cheng, R. Dummer, K. S. Hoek (*Switzerland*): The role of hypoxia in melanoma phenotype switching


16:46-16:58  **C89** A. P. Benaduce, D. Lahiri, A. Agarwal, L. Kos (*USA*): Edn3 promotes metastasis and alters tumour heterogeneity in a mouse model of melanoma

15:20-15:30 Discussion

**CS20: Congenital nevus, clinically-oriented HALL B**

Chairs: H. Etchevers - V. Kinsler - B. Vergier

15:30-15:50  **IL41** V. Kinsler (*UK*): Congenital Melanocytic Naevus Syndrome - clinical and genetic aspects

15:50-16:10  **IL42** H. Etchevers (*France*): Genomics and the molecular etiologies of congenital nevus formation

Understanding melanocyte development: Biological analysis associated with mathematical modeling


16:34-16:46 C92 D. Basu, L. Schmitt, C. Gallati, M. Reyes- Mugica, A. Rebbaa (USA): Epithelial to mesenchymal-like transition is an earlier cellular response to stress than senescence: potential role as a target for cancer prevention

16:46-16:58 C93 O. M. Eichhoff, A. Weeraratna, M. C. Zipser, D. S. Widmer, L. Kriegl, L. Larue, R. Dummer, K. S. Hoek (Switzerland): Differential LEF1 and TCF4 expression is involved in melanoma cell phenotype switching

CS21: DNA repair and melanoma molecular biology HALL C
Chairs: A. Sarasin - H. de Verneuil - T. Jouary

15:30-15:50 IL43 A. Sarasin (France): The xeroderma pigmentosum syndrome: clinical, genetic and gene therapy issues

15:50-16:10 IL44 H. Rezvani (Iran): Xeroderma pigmentosum: clues to understanding cancer initiation

16:10-16:22 C94 H. H. Hu, V. Descamps, A. Bourillon, N. B. Seguin, A. Riffault, K. Ezzedine, C. Lebbe, M. Bagot, A. Bensussan, P. Saiag, B. Grandchamp, N. Soufir (France): A large French case-control study assessing the association of MC1R with melanoma: the unexpected role of non-RHC and rare MC1R variants

16:22-16:34 C95 S. Corre, Y. Baron, N. Mouchet, A. Bouafia, S. Vaulont, S. Prince, M.-D. Galibert (France): USF1 is critical for the regulation of ner genes essential for early recognition of UV induced DNA-photolesions

16:34-16:46 C96 C. Leikam, A. Hufnagel, S. Walz, S. Kneitz, M. Eilers, M. Schartl, S. Meierjohann (Germany): Evasion of ROS-dependent pigment cell senescence

16:46-16:58 C97 V. B. Swope, C. Alexander, A. L. Kadekarso, S. Schwemberger, G. Babcock, Z. A. Abdel-Malek (USA): Induction of γ-H2AX by UV and α-melanocyte stimulating hormone, and implications on DNA repair in human melanocytes

17:00-18:00 IFPCS General Assembly Hall A

Gala Dinner at Chateau Giscours Departure of Buses at 19:00

- Seiji Memorial Award (IFPCS)
- Myron Gordon Award (IFPCS),
- Takeuchi medal (JSPCR),
- Raper medal (ESPCR),
- Thomas B. Fitzpatrick Award,
- Poster Prizes

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Saturday 24th September 2011

Plenary session VII Translational research/ vitiligo 08:30-10:30 HALL A
Chairs: G. Barsh - Y. Tomita - M. F. Avril

8:30-9:00 GL6 J. M. Egly (France): Xeroderma pigmentosum and trichothiodystrophy: understanding cancer and non cancer phenotypes
9:00-9:20  IL45  D. Tobin (UK): The human hair-bulb melanocyte: a model aging system for both our gray hair and our gray matter?"


9:56-10:08  C101  S. Ito, A. Tanemura, Y. Kotobuki, M. Wataya-Kaneda, I. Katayama (Japan): Descriptive assessment on dynamic change of dendritic cell distribution both in epidermis and dermis of the lesional skin in generalized vitiligo vulgaris: Link between cellular autoimmune response and melanocyte disappearance


10:20-10:30  Discussion

Coffee break 10:30-11:00

Plenary session VIII Translational research/Miscellaneous (2) 11:00 -13:00 HALL A

Chairs: H. Arnheiter - D. Gawkrodger - F. Tison

11:00-11:30  GL7  T. Luger (Germany): Alpha melanocyte stimulating hormone: a major component of the skin immune system with a therapeutic potential

11:30-12:00  GL8  L. Zecca (Italy): Neuromelanins in brain aging and Parkinson's disease

12:00-12:12  C103  C. Grill, C. Praetorius, A. Schepsky, E. Steingrimsson (Iceland): The role of Interferon Regulatory Factor 4 (IRF4) in pigmentation


12:36-12:48  C106  R. Lazova, R. Camp, V. Klump, S. Siddiqui, R. Amaravadi, J. M. Pawelek (USA): LC3B punctate expression, a marker for autophagosomes, is a common feature of melanomas and breast carcinomas and associated with proliferation, metastasis, high nuclear grade and poor outcome

12:48-13:00  Discussion

13:00-14:30 Lunch break

Concurrent sessions 22-24 14:30 -16:00 HALLS A, B, C

CS22: Vitiligo: Report on Global Issues Consensus Conference and selected papers, clinically-oriented HALL A

Chairs: I. Katayama - H. Lim - C. de Castro
14:30-14:50  IL46: A. Taïeb (France): on behalf of VGICC panelists: VGICC: Objectives and priorities for international consensus

14:50-15:10  IL47 D. Y.Lee (Korea): Treatment guideline in segmental vitiligo


15:10-15:22 C107 A. Wei, Y. Wang, W. Li (China): An optimized strategy for genetic testing of the Chinese patients with oculocutaneous albinism


CS23: Albinism: Basic science and patient-oriented session, clinically-oriented HALL C

14:30-14:50  IL48 B. Arveiler (France): The genetics of oculocutaneous albinism


15:10-15:22 C111 A. Wei, Y. Wang, W. Li (China): An optimized strategy for genetic testing of the Chinese patients with oculocutaneous albinism


CS24: Skin depigmenting/repigmenting agents, from basic mechanisms to application HALL B
Chairs: K. Al Ghamdi - N. Al Mutairi - M. H. Lee

14:30-14:50  IL50 H. Y. Kang (Korea): Overview of skin lightening agents and melasma

14:50-15:02 C115 W. Choi, L. Kolbe, V. J. Hearing (USA): Characterization of the bioactive motif of neuregulin-1, a fibroblast-derived paracrine factor that regulates constitutive color and melanocyte function in human skin

15:02-15:14 C116 Y. Huang, H. Lui, Y. Zhou (Canada): Active vitiligo lesions are more responsive to combination therapy with narrow band ultraviolet light B and topical tacrolimus


15:38-16:00 Discussion
16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-17:15 Plenary Session IX: Close of IPCC 2011 HALL A
Chairs: K. Jimbow - J. P. Ortonne - V. J. Hearing

16:30-17:00 Fitzpatrick Lecture SL5 T. Kunisada (Japan): Functionally distinct melanocyte populations revealed in mice: noncutaneous and dermal melanocytes versus epidermal melanocytes

Closing remarks and announcements 17:00

POSTERS

P1-P9: Melanins

P1 J. M. Belitsky (USA) Melanin Molecular Recognition
P2 S. Cardillo, G. Miotto, M. Massironi, C.A. Pallaoro, I. Meyer, F. Vianello (Germany) New index as melanin-pigmented skin marker
P3 T.-C. Lei (China) Measurements of hydroxyl free radical-scavenging capacities of melanin-binding hydroxychloroquine using an electron spin resonance spectroscopy
P4 R. Cransberg, K. Munyard (Australia) No evidence of the eumelanin brown phenotype in alpaca (Vicugna pacos)
P5 M. Rachkova, B. Dimitrov (USA) Phenol oxidase - tyrosinase pathway metabolites -possible connection with melanotransferrin MTf, p97 in melanoma and Alzheimer disease
P6 A. Pezzella, P. Manini, L. Capelli, A. Napolitano, M. d'Ischia (Italy) Synthetic routes to 5,6-dihydroxyindole oligomers: a tool for the bottom-up approach to eumelanin structure
P7 M. J. Simpson, J. Wilson, T. Matthews, S. Degan, W. Warren (USA) Imaging the distributions of eumelanin and pheomelanin in human tissue
P8 Y. Niki, T. Hirobe, K. Wakamatsu, H. Ando, M. Yoshida, M. Ichihashi, S. Ito (Japan) Slaty mutation inverses the ratio of DHI to DHICA content of eumelanin in both mouse melanocytes and hair
P9 H. Okuda, T. Sota, K. Koike, K. Monda, T. Nakamura, K. Wakamatsu, S. Ito (Japan) Quantum chemical study of 5,6-dihydroxyindole tetramers as eumelanin model molecules

P10-P13 Non cutaneous melanocytes

P10 S. Uehara, H. Yamamoto (Japan) Characteristic roles for cochlear melanocytes in anti-oxidant responses related to and not related to their melanogenesis
P11 S. Julien, A. Biesemeier, D. Kokkinou, O. Eibl, U. Schraermeyer (Germany) Zinc free diet induced a release of melanosomes from choroidal melanocytes and an increase of lipofuscin in the retinal pigment epithelium of rats
P12 D. Nishihara, A. Kawasaki-Nishihara, N. Tsukiji, H. Nakamura, H. Yamamoto (Japan) Involvement of Mitf in the development of retinal pigment epithelium and its possible regulators
P13 M. Sarna, M. Olchawa, A. Pilat, G. Szewczyk, K. Burda, T. Sarna (Poland) Atomic force microscopy analysis of retinal pigment epithelium cells subjected to photodynamic stress

P15-P40 Genetics and development / Skin colour and UV: in vivo and in vitro studies

P14 B. Sarode, U. Koch, K. Schouwney, L. Larue, V. Delmas, F. Beermann, F. Radtke. (Switzerland) Notch signaling is dispensable for mature melanocytes but essential for melanocyte stem cells

P16 T. Akiyama, A. Shinomiya, K. Kinoshita, M. Mizutani, T. Namikawa, S. Ito, Y. Matsuda (Japan) Endothelin receptor B2 mutation induces the suppression of proliferation and migration of melanoblasts from early embryogenesis in quail and chickens

P17 D. Champeval, S. Colombo, F. Rambow, L. Larue (France) Gene expression profile of murine melanoblasts

P18 K. Menaria (India) Flux balance analysis of melanogenesis pathway


P20 T. Kuramoto, M. Yokoe, T. Serikawa (Japan) Genetic mapping of a rat dominant ventral spotting gene, downunder (Du), to chromosome 3

P21 C. B. Kaelin, X. Xu, L. Z. Hong, V. A. David, K. A. McGowan, G. Barsh, M. Menotti-Raymond (USA) Coat pattern genetics in cats


P23 R. Zhang (China) Transmission electron microscope of fetal scalp melanocytes

P24 Y. Abe, H. Yutaka, T. Gen, T. Suzuki (Japan) Association of the melanogenesis genes with Japanese skin color

P25 E. Mauger, J. Latreille, A. Porcheron, C. Guinot, E. Tschachler, F. Morizot (France) Diversity of skin colour in Indian women

P26 S. Wilson, T. Dadd, F. L. Lim, R. Ginger, M. R. Green (UK) Confirmation that knock down of NCKX5, a gene that regulates natural variation in human skin colour, perturbs lipid and sterol gene expression in human melanocytes


P28 E. Hacker, Z. Boyce, M. Kimlin, S. Vaartjes, N. Hayward, D. Whiteman (Australia) The proliferative response of melanocytes to sunlight

P29 U. Panich, S. Limsaengurai, T. Onkoksoong, P. Akarasereenont (Thailand) UVA radiation induces melanogenesis through modulation of phase II antioxidant enzymes: The protective effect of gallic acid


P33 C. Herraiz, C. Jiménez-Cervantes, J.-C. García-Borrón. (Spain) Role of N-glycosylation in human melanocortin 1 receptor trafficking and function

P34 H. Ando, Y. Niki, M. Ito, K. Akiyama, M. S. Matsui, D. B. Yarosh, M. Ichihashi (Japan) Melanocyte dendrites penetrate through a microporous membrane filter and generate large pigment globules containing multiple melanosomes which transfer to keratinocytes below

P35 T. Strub, D. Koludrovic, I. Davidson (France) Identification and characterisation of the MITF-interactome
**P36** J. Debbache, J. Pickel, H. Arnheiter *(USA)* In vivo role of serine-73 phosphorylation of the transcription factor MITF: Effects on coat color in mice with targeted mutations

**P37** S. Ishiwatari, T. Fujita, A. Enomoto, S. Matsukuma *(Japan)* Melanogenesis mediated by the preservative-induced release of the macrophage migration inhibitory factor in a 3D epidermal model

**P38** H. R. Kim, J. Y. Lee, S. Y. Park, H. Y. Kang *(Korea)* Wnt inhibitory factor (WIF)-1 promotes melanogenesis in normal human melanocytes

**P39** S. K. Singh, W. A. Abbas, D. J. Tobin *(UK)* Bone morphogenetic protein-6 induces melanogenesis and melanin transfer in human skin cells

**P40** J. Soong, Y. Chen, E. Terushkin, G. Scott *(USA)* Sema4D, the ligand for Plexin B1, is a proliferation and survival factor for normal human melanocytes, and down-regulates the activity of c-Met

**P41-P47 Albinisms and related**

**P41** T. Kondo, V. J. Hearing *(USA)* Subcellular localization of the P protein in human melanocytes

**P42** H. Nakajima, S. Koga, T. Nagata, G. Imokawa *(Japan)* The intracellular trafficking of tyrosinase and tyrosinase-related protein-1 to melanosomes is disrupted independent of the trafficking of dopachrome tautomerase and Pmel17 in reduced glutathione-induced amelanotic B-16 melanoma cells: A model for oculocutaneous albinism type 2


**P44** A. Rouault, E. Lasseaux, F. Morice-Picard, C. Rooryck-Thambo, D. Cailley, C. Castaing, D. Lacombe, A. Taïeb, B. Arveiler *(France)* Molecular analysis of the OA1 gene in patients with ocular albinism

**P45** E. Lasseaux, F. Morice-Picard, C. Rooryck-Thambo, A. Rouault, C. Plaisant, P. Fergelot, D. Lacombe, B. Arveiler *(France)* Bioinformatics tools to predict splicing mutation effect in genetic diagnosis of oculocutaneous albinism

**P46** V. Baral, B. Duriez, Y. Watanabe, M. Goossens, T. Attie-Bitach, V. Pingault, N. Bondurand *(France)* Screening of SOX10 and MITF regulatory regions in Waardenburg syndrome

**P47** S. Léger, X. Balguerie, A. Goldenberg, V. Drouin-Garraud, A. Cabot, I. Amstutz-Montadert, P. Young, P. Joly, M. Goossens, V. Pingault *(France)* A novel non-truncating mutation of the MITF basic domain in an atypical form of type II Waardenburg syndrome

**P48-P86 Vitiligo and related**

**P48** D. N. W. Liyanage *(Sri Lanka)* Clinical and epidemiological study of vitiligo


**P50** C. Muteba Baseke *(Congo)* Epidemiology of vitiligo in university of Kinshasa Hospital (C.U.K) /D.R.Congo

**P51** S. Shan-Yi Ng, L. Hwee-Ying Teo *(Singapore)* Pseudoleukoderma Angiospasticum: 2 cases

**P52** S. G. Krishna, M. Ramam, M. Mehta, V. Sreenivas, V. K. Sharma, S. Khandpur *(India)* A study of burden of vitiligo in Indian patients using a new and specific rating scale

**P53** S. Kumar, T. Kaur, B. B. Mahajan, R. Singh *(India)* Vitiligo with raised and inflammatory borders - A rare case report from North India

**P54** M. Arunachalam, R. Colucci, R. Conti, S. Berti, F. Lotti, S. Pallanti, T. Lotti, S. Moretti *(Italy)* Autoimmune signals in vitiligo patients appear correlated with obsession and phobia

B. K. Khaitan, D. Seshadri, S. Kathuria, N. Gupta, M. Ramam, V. K. Sharma (India) Prevalence of co-existent organ-specific (TPO) and non-organ specific (ANA) autoantibodies in patients with segmental vitiligo vs non-segmental vitiligo: a case-control study

M. Abdallah, R. Lotfi, W. Osman, R. Galal (Egypt) Assessment of tissue FoxP3+, CD4+ and CD8+ T-cells in active and stable non-segmental vitiligo


S. Kerje, Weronika Ek, A.-S. Sahlqvist, O. Ekwall, G. Erf, Ö. Carlborg, L. Andersson, O. Kämpe (Sweden) Genetic mapping of loci underlying vitiligo in the Smyth Line chicken model

R. Conti, R. Colucci, M. Arunachalam, S. Berti, S. Moretti (Italy) Vitiligo: there is more than meets the eye

M. Ivaniciuc (Romania) Coexistence of vitiligo and psoriasis-report of three cases

V. Eleftheriadou, K. Thomas, M. Whitton (UK) What outcomes are important to patients and clinicians: survey results

L. Benzekri (Morocco) A simple index of potential repigmentation in vitiligo

L. S. Abraham, M. C. Costa, A. Pacifico, G. Leone, M. Picardo, M. Ardigò (Brazil) New reflectance confocal microscopy features in vitiligo: beyond the papillary rings

T. Shibata, A. Sasase, C. Hihiro Honda, K. Hayashibe (Japan) The evaluation of our recent therapies of vitiligo vulgaris

M. Phiske, B. Patil, Z. Bharda, H. Jerajani (India) Tacrolimus versus pimecrolimus in localised stable vitiligo

P. Araujo, M. Fabrini (Brazil) Surgery and laser treatment of vitiligo

A. Rao, S. Gupta, V. K. Sharma (India) Determinants of success of melanocyte transplantation in vitiligo: Role of cytotoxic CD8 T cells

A. P. Holla, D. Parsad, A. J. Kanwar, S. D. Mehta (India) Melanocyte transplantation outcome (metro) scoring to assess the outcome of non cultured epidermal suspension transplantation in vitiligo

A. Budania, D. Parsad, A. J. Kanwar, S. Dogra (India) Comparison between autologous non-cultured epidermal cell suspension and suction blister epidermal grafting in stable vitiligo: a randomized study

R. Batra (India) To compare the outcome of minipunch grafting & suction blister epidermal grafting alongwith postsurgical application of clobetasol propionate 0.05% cream in patients of stable vitiligo


M. Pascal, L. Valente (France) Treatment of vitiligo hands by ReCell system associated with Excimer lamp

A. P. Holla, R. Kumar, D. Parsad, A. J. Kanwar, S. D. Mehta (India) Role of wound bed nutrition in non cultured epidermal suspension transplantation in vitiligo


E. Y. Gan, L. Y. T. Chiam, N. Van Geel, B. K. Goh (Singapore) Repigmentation of leukotrichia in vitiligo using non-cultured cellular grafting
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The symposium goal is to discover what is behind the concept of rejuvenation, how to maximize its efficacy without risks, and how it can be applied in daily life.

Molecular genetics, disruptions to aged-related signaling pathways, cellular reprogramming strategies, epigenetic rejuvenation, bioinformatics tools, metabolic stability, new challenges and pharmacological approaches, as well as the development of new technologies are just some of the topics covered in the conferences, which will help us to create future solutions for continually more beautiful skin.

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The Impact Factor for Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research increased to 4.75, clearly reaffirming the quality of the journal and the service it provides to the pigment and melanoma communities. With this new Impact Factor, PCMR is now ranked 2 out of 54 in the ISI dermatology category. Here, we would like to extend our thanks and congratulations to both the former Editor-in-Chief, Colin Goding, as well as the current Editor-in-Chief, Ze'ev Ronai, executive editors and editorial board members for their endeavor to constantly improve the journal. And of course we thank all the authors and reviewers who have submitted their articles and comments to PCMR. The quality of a journal ultimately depends on the manuscripts it publishes and so we hope that the Impact Factor will encourage more and more scientists in the pigment cell biology and melanoma communities to contribute their best research to PCMR.

Pernille Hammelsø
Publisher, Wiley-Blackwell
Two new pubcasts have been recently released for Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research (PCMR), the scientific journal associated to IFPCS and SMR:

1. This video refers to the work of Frank L. Meyskens’ Laboratory (Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA) on “Melanoma: is hair the root of the problem?” by Angela M. Gomez-Garcia, Christine E. McLaren, and Frank L. Meyskens Jr. Pigment Cell Melanoma Res. 24(1), 110-118 (2011). This Pubcast (video) is available at: [http://www.scivee.tv/node/29174](http://www.scivee.tv/node/29174)

2. This video refers to the work of Dr. Ashani T. Weeraratna’s Laboratory (Laboratory of Molecular Biology and Immunology, National Institute of Aging, National Institutes of Health, Baltimore, MD, USA) on “Loss of Klotho during melanoma progression leads to increased filamin cleavage, increased Wnt5A expression, and enhanced melanoma cell motility“ by Tura C. Camilli, Mai Xu, Michael P. O’Connell, Bonnie Chien, Brittany P. Frank, Sarah Subaran, Fred E. Indig, Patrice J. Morin, Stephen M. Hewitt, and Ashani T. Weeraratna. Pigment Cell Melanoma Res. 24(1), 175-186 (2011). This Pubcast (video) is available at: [http://www.scivee.tv/node/28157](http://www.scivee.tv/node/28157)
KEEPING THE PIGMENTATION COMMUNITY CONNECTED

In this issue, we continue the “Laboratory Updates” with a column by Dr. Glynis Scott “Industry Perspectives” section with a contribution from Akihiro Tada. This column gives the opportunity to find out what is new with our colleagues in industry. We hope that you will take the opportunity to fill us in on what is happening in your lab or company. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated, just email us at paspcr.newsletters@gmail.com. As our Society has numerous friends around the world, starting with this number we transition the section “Let me introduce…” under the Pigmentation Community Connections, with a column written by Dr. Jennifer Kromberg.

This initiative is part of our effort to keep the pigmentation community connected and to emphasize the importance of collaboration and communication between groups. We will keep adding stars on our world map below each time you contribute a column about your newest research projects. So, let’s go on a global research adventure!

![World Map](http://www.mygeo.info/karten/802784.jpg)

Courtesy: [http://www.mygeo.info/karten/802784.jpg](http://www.mygeo.info/karten/802784.jpg)
LABORATORY UPDATES

by Dr. Glynis Scott

My laboratory has a long-standing interest in the effects of paracrine and autocrine factors on normal human melanocytes. My particular interest has been learning how growth factors impact the melanocyte cytoskeleton, with particular attention to dendrite formation, adhesion, migration, melanosome transfer and the signaling pathways involved. This early work led to a novel observation that filopodia are the structural conduits for melanosome transfer to keratinocytes (Scott et al., 2002). This observation has subsequently been confirmed in other laboratories, with new and interesting information on this mysterious process contributed to the literature (Beaumont et al., 2011; Singh et al., 2010).

Recent work in my laboratory arose as a result of my reading several intriguing publications in the area of neural cell growth cone guidance molecules. Because melanocytes share many features with neural cells, I am in the habit of trolling through this body of literature, and became familiar the field of semaphorin biology. The word Semaphore means, “that which brings a sign”. Semaphores are ancient signaling devices that consist of flags that are held at different angles from the body, and are essentially communication devices. Prior to modern communication systems, they were used at sea, to relay messages between ships in peacetime and in battle and on land to communicate from person to person. A more modern use of the word is in computer programming, where semaphores are a technique for coordinating or synchronizing activities in which multiple processes compete for the same operating system resources. In neural cells, semaphores function as axon guidance molecules, through binding to Plexin and neuropilin receptors. Because dendrite outgrowth and extension are important for cutaneous pigmentation, several years ago I asked the basic question: “Are semaphorins important for melanocyte biology?”. I believe that last several years of work have shown that the answer to this question is “yes”. Further, work performed in my laboratory and in others indicates that this family of proteins, and their receptors, are involved in melanoma progression.

We have identified two Plexin receptors, Plexin B1 (ligand Sema4D) and Plexin C1 (ligand integrins and Sema7A) as functionally relevant receptors that regulate a variety of aspects of melanocyte function, including dendrite outgrowth and adhesion (Plexin C1; (Scott et al., 2009)) and cell survival and proliferation (Plexin B1; in preparation). We have documented regulation of these receptors by ultraviolet irradiation (UVR), and show that they contribute to melanocyte survival following UVR. We documented expression of Plexin ligands, Sema4D and Sema7A, in the skin in vivo, consistent with a role as paracrine factors for melanocytes. Although my career has not focused on melanoma, quite serendipitously I decided to determine the expression of these receptors in a panel of melanoma cell lines. This lead to the observation that Plexin B1 and Plexin C1 are lost in melanoma, and additional studies in my laboratory and in others show that these receptors are potential tumor suppressor proteins for melanoma (Argast et al., 2009; Lazova et al., 2009; Scott et al., 2009; Stevens et al., 2010).

One project ongoing in my lab is investigation of the intriguing relationship between the oncogenic c-Met receptor, and Plexin B1 in melanocytes and melanoma. Our data indicate that Plexin B1 is a co-receptor with c-Met in these cells, and we are in the process of determining how Plexin B1 interacts with c-Met and suppresses its activity. The Plexin C1 story is no less interesting, with recent work showing suppression of melanoma growth in mice when injected with melanoma cells expressing Plexin C1. While little is known about Plexin C1 signaling, we think that Plexin C1 may affect downstream targets such as Rho, Lim kinase and coflin, to modulate invasiveness of tumor cells. Both receptors are strongly expressed in melanocytes, and both are down-regulated by
UVR and lost in melanoma. We are interested in determining if there is a shared downstream target for Plexin B1 and Plexin C1, and whether loss of both receptors has negative synergistic effect on melanoma progression. The mechanism by which coordinated loss of these receptors occurs in melanoma is also of interest, and is the focus of a separate project. Finally, while most of my effort is on melanocytes and melanoma, we have uncovered a potentially important role for Sema4D in the progression of squamous cell carcinoma of the skin. Sema4D is a potent angiogenic factor through binding to Plexin B1 receptors in endothelial cells. Our data indicate that Sema4D is expressed by squamous cell carcinoma in vivo, and we are currently determining the role of this semaphorin in vascularization of tumors, and regulation of its secretion by matrix metalloproteinases.

In the future I think that semaphorins will be recognized as important for a wide variety of cutaneous functions. Because they affect multiple processes, including immune regulation, neovascularization, oncogenesis, and migration and invasion, it is easy to imagine that this large class of secreted and membrane bound proteins is involved in homeostasis of the skin and may be disordered in disease states. A Pubmed search of the word “semaphorin” brings up 1507 papers, of which 36 describe some relationship between semaphorins and skin. Recent work shows that Sema3A is involved in the itch response in atopic dermatitis (Tominaga et al., 2009). It is my hope that others will study this versatile class of molecules so that the full extent of their role in the skin may be uncovered.

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Contact:
Glynis Scott, M.D.
University of Rochester
Dermatology/Pathology
Phone: 585-275-8811
E-mail: glynis_scott@urmc.rochester.edu

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES

Pigmentation Research in Japanese Industry

by Dr. Akihiro Tada

I am honored to have been invited to write a column for the PASPCR newsletter. I would like to introduce my pigmentation research, the history of thereof, and briefly describe some of the research projects currently being conducted by POLA.

I began conducting skin research shortly after I joined POLA Chemical Industries, Inc. in...
1993. I learned some of the technical aspects associated with the culture of normal human melanocytes and collaborated with Dr. Zalfa A. Abdel-Malek while on dispatch at Department of Dermatology, University of Cincinnati, from December 1995 to December 1997. Dr. Abdel-Malek taught me many great things, particularly in the area of pigment cell research using normal human melanocytes. We focused on the extent to which human melanocytes require the crosstalk of different signaling pathways, such as α-melanocyte stimulating hormone (MSH), endothelin (ET)-1 and ultraviolet radiation, and we were particularly interested in the mitogenic and melanogenic response of human melanocytes in culture to α-MSH.

The cloning and characterization of the human melanocortin-1 receptor (MC1R) and the demonstration that normal human melanocytes respond to the melanocortins α-MSH and adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) with increased proliferation and eumelanogenesis finally resolved the long-standing controversy regarding the role of melanocortins in cutaneous pigmentation (1). In mouse follicular melanocytes, the switch between eumelanin and pheomelanin synthesis is regulated by the extension locus, which encode the MC1R, and the agouti locus, which encodes a novel paracrine-signaling molecule that inhibits the binding of melanocortins to the MC1R. Human melanocytes express the MC1R and respond to melanotropins with increased proliferation and eumelanogenesis, however the potential role of the human homolog of agouti-signaling protein (ASIP) in human pigmentation has not yet been investigated. We found that ASIP blocked the binding of α-MSH to the MC1R and inhibited the effects of α-MSH on human melanocytes (2). ET-1, α-MSH, and basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) are keratinocyte-derived factors that interact synergistically to stimulate human melanocyte proliferation. Human melanocytes express ET B receptors, and brief treatment of melanocytes with ET-1 caused up-regulation of the α-MSH receptor mRNA, but did not affect ET B receptor mRNA levels. ET-1 modulates the response of human melanocytes to ultraviolet rays (UVRs). For example, treatment of melanocytes with ET-1 immediately after exposure to UVRs enabled the melanocytes to overcome G1 growth arrest. However, ET-1 did not inhibit p53 accumulation or p21 overexpression, neither did it reverse the hypophosphorylated state of pRB or reduce the levels of Bcl2 in irradiated melanocytes (3).

In normal human melanocytes, a variety of mitogens activate the mitogen-activated protein kinase ERK1/2 and the downstream transcription factor, Ca^{2+}/cAMP response element binding protein (CREB); both ET-1 and bFGF phosphorylate ERK1/2, its substrate p90RSK, and CREB. Ultraviolet radiation B induced the phosphorylation of CREB via a pathway that was partially dependent on p38, but had no effect on p90RSK or ERK1/2. Therefore, in human melanocytes, CREB is a common downstream target for distinct effectors involved in either mitogenic signaling or stress signaling initiated by ultraviolet radiation B (4).

Under the leadership of Project Leader and Senior Research Scientist, Dr. Tomonori Motokawa, POLA Laboratories undertook research on lentigo senilis lesions and MC1R genetic polymorphisms. First, Dr. Motokawa and his research group focused on the genes of three melanin synthesis-associated enzymes, Tyrosinase, Tyrosinase-Related protein-1 (TYRP1), and Dopachrome Tautomerase (DCT), melanosomal matrix proteins, such as Pmel-17/gp100 (Pmel-17) and P-protein, as well as microphthalmia-associated transcription factor (MITF). They found that mRNA levels of POMC derivatives were important stimulants of melanocyte proliferation and melanogenesis. In addition, their findings also revealed that while signals for the mRNAs of Tyrosinase, TYRP1, DCT, Pmel-17, P-protein, and MITF were all observed in cells of the basal layer of the epidermis and were associated with melanocytes, POMC mRNA signal was present throughout the epidermis. Interestingly, the levels of all of the mRNAs assayed were higher in the pigmented lesions than in perilesional regions (5).
Furthermore, in studies of randomly selected Japanese subjects, Dr. Motokawa and his research group characterized the MC1R variants. Among the 238 subjects examined, he discovered 11 variants in the MC1R gene, including five novel MC1R alleles. This was the first large-scale analysis of the MC1R gene in the general population in Asia, and a large number of variants were detected throughout Asia (6).

In addition, the group also examined freckles and solar lentigines as melanogenic phenotypes. Their findings showed that the 92Met allele and the 163Arg allele were positively associated with freckles and severe solar lentigines, while the 163Gln allele showed a negative association. Importantly, subjects who were homozygous for both the 92Met and 163Arg alleles had a highly elevated risk of developing freckles and severe solar lentigines. Their study is the first report to show a clear association of MC1R variants on melanogenic phenotypes in Asians (7). Finally, they sequenced the promoter region (from -1 to -746 bp) of MC1R in Japanese individuals, revealing eight variants that included three highly polymorphic variants (-490C>T, -445G>A, -226A>T). Haplotype analysis revealed that the combination of three variants was related to the G488A (Arg163Gln) allele.

In the Japanese cosmetic market, whitening products are a very important category of products. POLA Laboratories have reasoned that by effectively inhibiting Tyrosinase activity, or both Tyrosinase and TYRP-1, it should be possible to develop more effective whitening cosmetics. We found that 4-n-butylresorcinol has a strong inhibitory effect against the melanogenic enzymes that are responsible for hyperpigmentation. Data showed that 4-n-Butylresorcinol reversibly inhibited melanin production in B16 mouse melanoma cells without any effects on cell growth, and its potency was stronger than either arbutin or kojic acid, which are both widely used in whitening cosmetics. Topical application of 0.3% 4-n-butylresorcinol lotion, either prior to or following UVB-irradiation, effectively suppressed UVB-induced hyperpigmentation in human. In extensive consumer trials involving 449 healthy females, a large proportion of subjects felt there were improvements in the condition of their pigmentation, skin darkness, and freckles after as little as one month. These findings indicated that 4-n-butylresorcinol is an effective skin-whitening agent that can be safely used in cosmetics.

Furthermore, a trial to evaluate the clinical effects of 0.3% 4-n-butylresorcinol lotion in patients with liver spots was undertaken. The findings revealed that 4-n-butylresorcinol lotion was evaluated as slightly useful in 52 (83.9%) out of 62 subjects, prompting the conclusion that 4-n-butylresorcinol could be used in the clinical treatment of liver spots (9). Using clinical and objective assessments of skin color, another group demonstrated that after three months of treatment, 4-n-butylresorcinol serum was significantly more effective for improving melasma than the vehicle alone (10).

In addition to treatments for melanogenesis, we also examined other techniques and their potential application to the development of whitening cosmetics. Specifically, I focused on melanosome transfer by promoting melanocyte dendrites. Melanosomes synthesized within melanocytes are transferred to keratinocytes through melanocyte dendrites, which ensure a constant supply of melanin to the epidermis and determine skin pigmentation. Theoretically, if we could find a way to control this supply of melanin to the epidermis, then we might be able to either darken or lighten skin color. Fortunately, we were able to find safe and effective methods for both inhibiting and promoting melanosome transfer by affecting the shrinkage or expansion of melanocyte dendrites (11). One such method employed the novel reagent, centaureidin, which is capable of inducing significant morphological changes in normal human epidermal melanocytes. Specifically, centaureidin inhibits dendrite
elongation in melanocytes, resulting in a reduction of melanosome transfer in an *in vitro* melanocyte-keratinocyte co-culture system (12).

We also found that another ingredient of methyllophiopogonanone B (13) appeared to induce Rho activation, which resulted in reorganization of the actin cytoskeleton, dendrite retraction, and stress fiber formation (14). We then prepared an Achilles extract that contained a significant amount of centaureidin from *Achillea millefolium*, and we currently sell a variety of skin-whitening cosmetics that inhibit melanocyte dendrites using this extract.

Recently, I have become interested in advanced glycation end products (AGEs) as these appear to play a role in the yellowish discoloration of skin associated with aging (15). We identified Compound Y by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectral analysis of a mugwort (*Yomogi* in Japanese) extract using an assay for cleaving AGEs crosslinks *in vitro*. We prepared an extract that we termed Yomogi AGEs Clearing (YAC) extract, incorporating a significant amount of Compound Y. We tested the YAC extract on human subjects by evaluating skin softness, elasticity and yellow-brown coloration in a double-blind study of two groups of female volunteers for six months using samples with or without the YAC extract. Results demonstrated significant improvements in skin AGEs contents after treatment with YAC extract. This change is believed to be due to the YAC extract breaking AGEs crosslinks, reducing the accumulation of AGEs in skin and resulting in increased skin softness and elasticity and decreased yellow-brown coloration (16). YAC extract had restorative effects against sagging and directional mechanical properties as measured by the resonance-running time parameter, which is correlated to the sagging index. YAC extract may thus improve skin sagging by reducing AGEs in the dermis (17). I thoroughly enjoy my research, and derive considerable satisfaction from developing anti-aging cosmetics for women around the world.

References:


Contact:
Akihiro Tada, Ph.D.
POLA Chemical Industries, Inc.
560 Kashio-cho, Totsuka-ku, Yokohama 2440812 JAPAN
E-mail: akihiro@pola.co.jp

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LET ME INTRODUCE...

Dr. Jennifer Kromberg is a Genetics Counselor who began studying the psychosocial aspects of albinism as part of her graduate research work in the Department of Human Genetics at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. Her interactions with the families of individuals with albinism laid the groundwork for the genetic studies that followed in the department because of her tremendous ability to recruit participants who donated blood and underwent skin biopsies. We invited Dr. Kromberg to write about her experiences and particularly the folklore surrounding albinism. This mythology has become even more relevant as the number of people with albinism killed in Africa for their body parts have continued to increase. There has also been a rise in attacks because of the belief that the rape of a young girl with albinism is a cure for AIDS.

Getting to Know People with Albinism in Africa

by Dr. Jennifer G.R. Kromberg

For almost four decades, since the early 1970s we, the staff of the Human Genetics Department at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, have been making contact with people with albinism in Africa. The initial observation was that albinism appeared to be quite common among the black population. So we undertook a prevalence study and found that it occurred in about 1 in 3900 people. There followed many diverse community and laboratory based studies, which included psychosocial studies, for example on the adjustment and body image of young people with albinism, health studies (for example on their skin cancers), epidemiological and molecular studies, in which the genes for the different types of albinism were identified and studied.

When we got to know the affected individuals during these research studies, visited them and their parents in their homes and talked to them, we discovered that many old wives tales, myths and superstitions surrounded the condition. During a study on maternal-infant bonding, where the mother was normally pigmented and the infant had albinism, mothers told us of their fears. The chief of these was what would happen at the end of the life of their affected infant. Many people in the local community believe that people with albinism do not die as other people do, but disappear. Why this myth should be maintained in the population is difficult to determine. However, most people with albinism in Africa develop unsightly aggressive skin cancer, often on their faces, and this may cause them to remove themselves from society until they die (we knew of one case where this had happened). Furthermore, albinism is quite rare and therefore people do not often witness the death of a person with
albinism and this could have contributed to the development of this unusual myth.

Another theory is associated with the idea that, locally, people may wonder whether people with albinism in Africa are real people (some mothers expressed this concern too), since real people are normally black. Anthropologists report that many Africans, among whom ancestor worship is a part of their religion, believe that spirits are white (while people are black), so, are people with albinism really spirits? If so, they would not be expected to die, since spirits do not die. From our experience we know these beliefs are deep-seated and probably ancient and so it is often difficult to reassure mothers, as well as affected individuals themselves, on this score.

Archival reports from anthropologists working in Africa suggest that sometimes people with albinism were thought to be endued with special powers, and/or to be stronger than other people, or cleverer, or have unusual abilities so that they could communicate with the spirits.

This superstition has had some very unfortunate consequences, as some traditional healers in central Africa think that medicine made of the body parts of people with albinism would, therefore, be extra powerful and effective in the treatment of various health and psychosocial or psychiatric conditions. The recently reported attacks on people with albinism have been the result of beliefs of this nature.

However, we, who know more than 700 families with at least one member with albinism, understand that none of these myths is true. People with albinism are normal people, although somewhat limited by their poor eyesight and skin susceptible to skin cancer, like their peers, with the normal range of skills and abilities, and they need to be treated as such. Nevertheless we recognize that pigmentary disturbances in humans can have devastating effects, due partly to the prevailing psychosocial attitudes and cultural beliefs in local communities, which complicate acceptance and integration and are difficult to combat and ameliorate.
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Gopinathan Menon (ISP Corporation)

Drs. Gopinathan Menon and Juergen Lademann will be chairing the 12th Barrier Function of Mammalian Skin Gordon Research Conference scheduled for August 7-11, 2011 at the Waterville Valley Resort in New Hampshire, USA. Vice Chairs of the conference will be Drs. Theodora M. Mauro and Philip W. Wertz. This conference represents the primary international research forum on the mammalian barrier, and is focused on the biophysical, biological, and clinical aspects of barrier formation and function in health and disease. The organizers have assembled an excellent program, with an outstanding list of speakers and discussion leaders to address the diverse aspects of current barrier research.

More info:

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Positions Wanted / Available

Postings for Positions Wanted will be open only to members of the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research (PASPCR) or its sister Societies (ASPCR, JSPCR and ESPCR). Postings for Positions Available will be open to all individuals and institutions so long as the position is related to pigment cell research. Please send postings to Bill Oetting at oetti001@umn.edu.

The postings will remain on the Positions Wanted and Available section of the PASPCR Newsletter and on the web page for 1 year, unless other arrangements are made. Please provide an expiration date for any submitted posting if less than 1 year. Final decisions will be made by the Publications Committee of the PASPCR.