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.

We hope you had a great time at the 18th PASPCR Meeting, held in Madison, Wisconsin, and organized by Dr. Vijayasaradhi Setaluri. We invited several participants to share their personal and scientific thoughts on the PASPCR meeting. This section can be found on pages 12-14.

The 22nd IPCC is scheduled to be held in Singapore, from September 4th to September 7th, 2014, and will be organized by Dr. Boon-Kee Goh.

In this issue, we continue the “Let me Introduce…” section with a column by Dr. Frances Noonan. In this number, PASPCR thanks Dr. William Oetting for his long tenure as the PASPCR Webmaster and Newsletters Editor through a column authored by Dr. Richard King.

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. If you know of training courses that would be of interest to the PASPCR members, please let us know and we will add them to a new section in our Calendar of Events.

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 all our contributors for their columns submitted to us for inclusion in the letters.

We wish you Happy Holidays and a great 2014!

PASPCR Newsletter Editorial Team

The PASCR Web-Site can be found at:  http://www.paspcr.org
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:
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Caroline Le Poole
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Glynis Scott  (2012-2014)
Vijayasaradhi Setaluri  (2011-2013)

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Frank Meyskens (Council Member)

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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; 4-12 Moos Tower
515 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455, U.S.A.
(612) 624-1139
oetti001@umn.edu

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.
(901) 448-3741
aslominski@uthsc.edu

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2013
The Annual Meeting of American Society for Cell Biology
Date and place: December 14-18, New Orleans, LA, USA
Web-site: http://www.ascb.org/

2014
The 22nd IPCC
Date and place: September 4-7, Singapore, SINGAPORE
CORPORATE SPONSORS

by Dr. Andrzej Slominski

The PASPCR would like to thank our Sponsors who made contributions during the year of 2013. In the past, financial gifts from our Sponsors have allowed our Society to increase benefits to the membership far out of proportion to the actual dues collected from members. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions for the 18th PASPCR Meeting made through PASPCR as follows (in alphabetical order):

Avon Products
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- // -

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

by Dr. Andrzej Slominski

Renewals

Andrew E. Aplin
Kimmel Cancer Center
Philadelphia, PA, USA

Sumayah Jamal
New York University Medical Center
New York, NY, USA

Wei Li
University of Tennessee HSC
Memphis, TN, USA

Feng Liu
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA, USA

John Nip
Unilever Research U.S.
Trumbull, CT, USA

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

Yiqun Shellman
University of Colorado
Aurora, CO, USA

Joanne Soong
University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY, USA

Julio Cesar Valencia
National Institute of Health
Bethesda, MD, USA

- // -

New Members

Neil Box
University of Colorado Denver
Denver, CO, USA

Shikhar Mehrotra
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC, USA

Elyse K. Paterson
University of California Irvine
Huntington Beach, CA, USA

Ranjan J. Perera
Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute
Orlando, FL, USA

Kristin A. Willenborg
Loyola University Chicago
Maywood, IL, USA

- // -
PASPCR PRESIDENT’S CORNER

It seems fitting to write my final column as PASPCR President on Thanksgiving weekend, because there is much to be thankful for. One individual in particular I want to thank publicly is my friend and colleague Andrzej Slominski. Three years ago, one of my biggest concerns about playing a leadership role in the Society was the fear that something would slip through an administrative crack. Accounts, awards, budgets, and bylaws - these are bread and butter for the Society, but also aspects of the organization that I find challenging to manage. Fortunately, for me and for the Society, Andrzej agreed to continue in his role as Secretary/Treasurer, reminding me to keep track of the essential nuts and bolts that keep the Society running at least semi-smoothly. Andrzej has been both patient and persistent with me (persistence is often necessary in my case), the Society has benefitted from his efforts, and I am grateful for his commitment and generosity.

One other individual for whose efforts I am especially thankful is Vijay Setaluri, whose leadership, attention to detail, and support for young scientists was readily apparent to all of us a couple months ago in Madison. Vijay is one of the first PASPCR members I got to know at an annual gathering many years ago; my group has benefitted from his advice on several occasions, and I hope he will agree that our relationship over the last decade is a great example of the rewards that come from participating in the Society.

Thanksgiving is also an opportunity to consider what lies in store for the year ahead. On this point, I am enthusiastic that our two new Council members will bring the wisdom of maturity and the vitality of being an early-stage scientist to the table; I am also enthusiastic that both of those attributes - maturity and vitality - help to epitomize the strengths of our new president-elect.

Finally, I wanted to share a bit of dinner conversation from my family’s table this year. We have a tradition that each dinner guest and family member spends a few minutes highlighting aspects of their life about which they are especially grateful. In addition to my immediate family (my wife and three kids, 16, 21, and 24), our table included a high school exchange student from Sweden and a visiting international scientist. Thanks were given for opportunities, friendships, love, and, of course, a deliciously prepared Meleagris gallopavo accompanied by one of our favorite pinot noirs. My comments were influenced by the setting - I am thankful for a career choice that has allowed the opportunity to meet and learn about people from many different cultures and societies, something that I look forward to continuing through the PASPCR in the years to come.

Greg Barsh, M.D., Ph.D.
PASPCR President

- // -
ELECTIONS RESULTS

Dear PASPCR members,

We are very pleased to welcome the new President-elect, Dr. Thomas Hornyak, the new Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Prashiela Manga, and Drs. David Norris and Maria Wei to the Council in 2014. Their contributions to pigment cell biology as well as to the Society are already immensurable.

We thank Drs. Deborah Lang, John Pawelek and Vijayasaradhi Setaluri for their service the past three years on the Council!

We look forward to another colorful year with you on board.

Caroline Le Poole, Ph.D.
President-elect

Thomas Hornyak. Tom is a long-standing and actively contributing member of our Society. Recent developments include better engaging our membership as solidified in updated bylaws/rules and regulations. Tom’s scientific interests are focused on melanocyte differentiation and transcriptional regulation. Tom was an Investigator in the Dermatology Branch of the National Cancer Institute until 2011 when he moved to become Chief of Dermatology for the VA Maryland Health Care System and Associate Professor of Dermatology and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore.


Prashiela Manga. Prashiela is an Assistant Professor of Dermatology and Cell Biology at NYU’s Langone Medical Center. She is a very active member of the PASPCR community with major contributions as Associate Editor of the Newsletter and helping to organize local annual meetings. Prashiela’s research is aimed at elucidating the pathobiology of pigment disorders including oculocutaneous albinism, vitiligo and melanoma. The lab is currently studying the role of the unfolded protein stress response in melanocyte function and disease.

David Norris. David Norris, MD is Chair of the Department of Dermatology at The University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver, CO. David has been an active PASPCR member in the past, both as Council member and as Chair of the ’98 Annual Meeting. He treats patients with autoimmune diseases including vitiligo, skin cancers including melanoma and pigmentary disorders in general and has a keen interest in Dermatology research as it relates to pigmentary disorders. Research topics of interest include cytotoxic mechanisms in cutaneous disease, melanoma resistance to apoptosis, and control of migration in melanoma. See also the April 2013 newsletter.

Maria Wei. Dr. Wei is an Associate Professor of Dermatology at UCSF in San Francisco. She is the Director of the Melanoma Surveillance/Pigmented Lesion Clinic; in a separate clinic she also specializes in seeing patients with congenital and acquired disorders of pigmentation. She leads a research laboratory focused on studying normal and malignant melanocyte biology. The laboratory studies melanoma biology, mechanisms of melanoma treatment resistance, melanocyte development, and genetic diseases of pigmentation. Maria won the prestigious 2013 Medrano award for work presented at the PASPCR meeting in Madison.

Huang Z-M; Chinen M; Chang P; Xie T; Zhong L; Demetriou S; Patel M; Scherzer R; Sviderskaya EV; Bennett DC; Millhauser G; Oh DH; Cleaver JE; Wei ML. 2012. Targeting protein trafficking pathways alters melanoma treatment sensitivity. Proc Nail Acad Sci USA 109(2):553-8.
Dear PASPCR members,

This is my last column as the Secretary/Treasurer. I congratulate the new Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Prashiela Manga, new President-elect, Dr. Thomas Hornyak, and two new Council members, Dr. David Norris and Dr. Maria Wei for being elected by the PASPCR members.

I enjoyed greatly serving the Society for the two consecutive candidacies, which will expire in December of this year. We are leaving the Society in excellent financial conditions with the total amount of money at the Society’s disposal in the range of $148,000. The surplus on several PASPCR meetings starting with the meeting in Memphis in 2009 that collected large amount of donations, which were in addition to the grant from NIH, allowed to keep the membership fees unchanged for the last 6 years. Because of the solid financial basis of the Society we were also very generous in distributing the travel awards for the national and international meetings, however, staying within the limits set by the bylaws. For the last meeting in Wisconsin, we were able to grant the travel awards to everybody who has applied and was eligible per PASPCR regulations. The recipients of the awards were as follows: Shweta Aras, Amanda Decker, Adam Hammer, Zorica Janjetovic, Sandeep Joshi, Tae-Kang Kim, Jennifer Kubic, Gaurav Mehta, Tahseen Nasti, Javier Pinto, Amy Saldana, and Archit Trivedi. Because of the support of our Society they could attend the meeting in Wisconsin.

Here I would like to congratulate the members of the Organizing Committee of the 18th PASPCR meeting who under the leadership of Dr. Vijayasaradhi Setaluri have prepared an outstanding scientific program that was well balanced and focused on the Advances in Melanocyte and Melanoma Biology. It was marked by excellent presentations, the key note lecture by Dr. Hector DeLuca and the Aaron B. Lerner Lecture by Dr. David Fisher.

Also during this meeting Dr. Zalfa Abdel-Malek and Dr. Alan Houghton were honored with Career Achievement Awards for the contribution to the pigment cell biology and melanoma fields. Dr. William Oetting became an honorary member in great appreciation for exceptional and long lasting service to the PASPCR. Finally, Dr. Maria Wei was the recipient of Estela Medrano Award. Congratulations to all of you!

In the end I also provide some statistics on the current membership. The comparative number of members of our Society is excellent and includes 131 members in several categories as follows: regular members: 82; student/fellow members: 33; joined IFPCS members: 4; joined SMR/PASPCR members: 7; honorary members: 5. Again, the finances are strong with the healthy balance of $148,000, which should secure the future of the Society.

Thank you again for your support of our Society and I am looking forward to see you next year in Singapore!

Andrzej Slominski, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Pathology and Medicine
Secretary/treasurer of the PASCPR and Secretary of the IFPCS
Membership Application
PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research

Please see next page for description of membership categories and remittance required with application. Mail, fax or e-mail completed application and remittance to the Secretary/Treasurer’s office.

Type or print.

Name _______________________________________________________________ Degree(s) __________
last first middle

Faculty Title (if applicable) ____________________________ Yr of Appt __________

Department _____________________________________________________________

Institution _______________________________________________________________________________

Street Address _______________________________________________________

City, state, zip __________________________________________ Phone (_____)

Fax (_____) __________________________ E-Mail __________________________________________

Please check category for which you are applying. See next page for definitions and dues schedule.

___ Regular  ______ Student

Student Sponsorship: Sponsors of Students verify herewith that the applicant is a bona fide graduate student or postdoctoral fellow.

Sponsor signature __________________________________ Printed name ____________________________

Sponsor Institution ________________________________________________________________________

Area of Research: We would appreciate your providing the following information. Please check your research interests.

____ Cell Biology  ______ Physics  ______ Comparative Biology

____ Biochemistry/Chemistry  ______ Clinical  ______ Melanin

____ Molecular Biology  ______ Melanoma  Other: __________________________

Please list the clinical areas in which you are certified: __________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature and membership start date

I, the undersigned, wish my membership in the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research to begin January 1, 2013.

_____________________________________________________________  __________________________
Applicant’s Signature  Date

-NEXT-
PANAMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PIGMENT CELL RESEARCH
2014 DUES

INVOICE DATE: November 19, 2013  DUE DATE: December 31, 2013

1. **Contact Information (Please be sure all contact information is current and correct, including e-mail address)**

   - **Current Address**
   - **□ Corrections (please print CLEARLY)**

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2. **Dues (Please mark the appropriate category below)**

   - □ Regular ($224/yr) ($77 for PASPCR, $28 for International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies and $119 for both printed and electronic subscription to the journal Pigment Cell and Melanoma Research)
   - □ Regular ($154/yr) ($77 for PASPCR, $28 for International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies and $49 for an electronic subscription to the journal Pigment Cell and Melanoma Research)
   - □ Student ($40/yr) ($12 for PASPCR; $28 for International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies) [includes free electronic subscription to the journal Pigment Cell and Melanoma Research]
   - □ Second membership (if IFPCS dues are paid through another local Society) ($77/yr)

   Members of the SMR are exempt from the mandatory subscription of the PCMR through PASPCR. After certifying that the subscription has been paid as a part of the dues to the SMR, they pay $105.

3. **Method of Payment (Please mark the total amount next to the preferred method of payment)**

   - $_______ **Check** Please send check or money order in U.S. funds drawn only on a U.S. bank. Checks drawn on a non-U.S. bank will be returned.
     *Make check payable to: PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research or PASPCR.*
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     **BE SURE TO SIGN**
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   **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR DUES**

   Return to: 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. **Phone:** 901-448-3741 ; **E-mail:** aslominski@uthsc.edu

   Please return this form with your payment by **20 December 2013**.
18th PASPCR MEETING – MADISON, WI, USA

PASPCR Meeting Photos

The Organizer

The Organizing Committee

Lectures

Questions?

Audience

Getting Together
PAPSCR Meeting Awards

Travel Awards

Shweta Aras
Amada Decker
Adam Hammer
Zorica Janjetovic
Sandeep Joshi
Tae-Kang Kim
Jennifer Kubic
Gaurav Mehta
Tahseen Nasti
Javier Pino
Amy Saldana
Archit Trivedi

*Cezary Skoboviat – selected, however was unable to attend and therefore could not accept the award*

- // -

Poster Awards

**First Place**
Dr. Chandra Singh - Novel downstream molecular targets of sirtuins in human melanoma cells

**Second Place**
Dr. Archit Trivedi - PBAF chromatin remodeling complexes promote p53 target gene expression in response to ultraviolet radiation

**Third Place**
Dr. Deeba Syed - Fisetin inhibits melanoma progression through disruption of AKT-mediated phosphorylation and activation of YB-1

- // -

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Dr. Zalfa-Abdel Makel
Dr. Alan Houghton

Honorary Membership

Dr. William Oetting

Estela Medrano Award

Dr. Maria Wei
PASPCR Meeting Impressions

by Dr. Javier Pino

I would like to start by thanking PASPCR for presenting me with a travel award, which allowed me to attend this meeting, and gave me the opportunity to share my research and meet many scientists from all over the country. As a new graduate student working in pigmentation, I was pleased to be able to see many of the faces behind the names I knew so well from all the publications I previously read. This meeting was my first meeting on pigmentation and I am glad to say that it was a wonderful experience.

The conference began a little earlier for me than everyone else while my advisor (Dr. Lidia Kos) and fellow graduate student were boarding our connection flight in Chicago from Miami. Dr. Andrzej Slominski happened to be on the same flight and this lead to the four of us spending the rest of the afternoon together and, needless to say, the science conversations began.

When I arrived in Madison on Sunday, I did not know what to expect from the city but I was pleased to see such a different environment from Miami. The city of Madison was built around the University giving me a glimpse at how different the lifestyle in a true college town is from what am I used to. It was refreshing to see so few cars on the street in comparison to our 6 o’clock rush hour, as well as, so many people walking the streets.

Once settled in the hotel room, the activities for the conference began. The registration went smoothly and the refreshments on Sunday, as well as for the rest of the conference, were truly delicious. Monday morning, the conference opened with a keynote lecture by Dr. DeLuca, giving a very interesting presentation on the roles of Vitamin D in not only pigmentation and the skin but importance of it in other functions of the body.

All the presentations that followed were of great interest and the graduate students/post-docs and professors did a wonderful job presenting. There were some presentations that did call my attention and were of special interest to me. One of these was by Dr. Abdel-Malek, whose research is similar to my research interests. She presented her work on the effects of signaling molecules in the DNA repair mechanisms following UV irradiation in vitro. Other presentations that were memorable to me were by Dr. Spritz, Dr. Van Raamsdonk, Dr. Halaban, Dr. Bosenberg and the laboratory of Dr. Le Poole. I was also thrilled by the talk given by Dr. Fisher on MITF, MC1R and very interestingly, the pain threshold seen with varying pigmentation phenotypes.

I presented my research during the Monday poster session. This is where I had the opportunity to share my research to fellow graduate students and professors from various universities. I spent the entire session presenting and by the time I noticed it was slowing down the poster session was over. After the room was almost completely cleared out and everyone was walking back towards the conference, Dr. David Fisher came by the poster and introduced himself. Well, I am not going to say I wasn’t a little surprised. I had always heard great things about Dr. Fisher and had read many of his publications in the past but never knew that I would be meeting him in person. After some quick introductions, I presented my research to one of the biggest names in melanocyte research.

Before I finish, I would also like to thank and congratulate Dr. Vijay Setaluri and all the others involved in the organization of this meeting. It was evident that they all put in many hours and hard work into making sure that this meeting surpassed our expectations and was a success.
I always look forward to attending the PASPCR annual meeting since it spans the breadth of pigment cell biology from basic science to biomedically oriented research, and this year it even exceeded my expectations. Dr. Vijayasaradhi Setaluri and his team did a fabulous job of organizing the meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. This year the organizers went above and beyond with the “Meet the experts” sessions on the second and third mornings of the meeting. These extremely valuable discussions provided an opportunity for graduate students and postdocs to learn from experienced researchers about challenges, career opportunities and the transition from graduate student to independent investigator in pigment cell biology.

I thoroughly enjoyed the meeting and I am sure that everyone will agree that it was a great success. On the first day, the keynote speaker of the meeting, Dr. Hector F. DeLuca, covered the story of Vitamin D from basic science to clinical applications. I learned that he has generously donated royalties from his many patents to support the research of new investigators at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. David Fisher, who received the Aaron Lerner Award, gave an excellent lecture on the roles of MITF in targeting pathways vital to melanoma growth and survival. Part of his talk also focused on mechanisms of Vemurafenib, a BRAF inhibitor, in melanoma. It was interesting to find out that the BRAF inhibitor induced resistance in melanoma cells by increasing the number of mitochondria, mitochondrial metabolism and overall mitochondrial gene expression. Interestingly, he showed that MITF also played a significant role in this resistance pathway. Another highlight of this meeting was witnessing Dr. Zalfa Abdel-Malek receiving a life time achievement award for her contribution to pigment cell research. I have known her since my graduate school days through PASPCR meetings and her research articles, so I was very happy to see her excellent work recognized with this award.

The scientific program was well organized and every session featured a mixture of talks covering both fundamental research and disease-oriented studies. I found several of the oral presentations especially fascinating. Amy Saldana-Caboverde, a graduate student from Florida International University presented her recent findings of Ets1, a transcription factor, and its role in melanocyte development. The data showed that deletion of Ets1 causes hypopigmentation in mice and it plays a critical role in melanocyte development and melanoblast survival during early to mid-embryonic stage. In addition, she showed that Ets1 interacts synergistically with Sox10 and regulates its expression. Dr. Daiki Murase, a scientist from Kao Biological Sciences Laboratories in Cincinnati, talked about the role of autophagy in determining skin color. Their lab’s findings suggest that keratinocytes derived from Caucasian skin exhibit higher autophagy activity than those derived from African-American skin. Interestingly, they further showed that autophagy played a key role in skin coloration by regulating melanosome degradation in keratinocytes. Adam Hedberg-Buenz, a graduate student from the University of Iowa, presented his work showing that accumulation of melanin pigment in the iridocorneal region of eye is an etiological factor in elevating intraocular pressure and a key risk factor in developing pigmentary glaucoma. To achieve his goal he elegantly introduced intraocular iris lysates from BL6 donors and compared them with injections of iris lysates from albino BL6. I had the privilege to meet Adam and Dr. Daiki Murase after their talks and we had a great exchange of ideas on our individual projects.

The poster sessions were also extremely interesting. Dr. Chandra Singh from University of Wisconsin presented his work on identifying molecular targets of SIRT (a class III HDAC) using a novel technique. First, they treated melanoma cells with Tenovin-1, a small molecule inhibitor of SIRT and then used a gel free LC-MS/MS-based proteomics approach to look for its downstream targets. With this approach they discovered 13 target proteins that
play a role in several cellular functions such as RNA processing, mitochondrial checkpoint, cell cycle and apoptosis. For his significant findings and novel approach he was recognized with the award for the best poster.

This meeting is an excellent platform for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows like me to present their work and interact with renowned scientists in the field of pigment cell biology. I would like to thank the PASPCR committee members for selecting my abstract for oral presentation and awarding me a travel grant to support my attendance of this meeting. Based on my experience, I won’t hesitate to say again that the meeting was a great success and the organizers did a fabulous job. I learned so much through the various talks, posters and received excellent feedback regarding my work. I got to meet new people with whom I had a good time and I am looking forward to attending future PASPCR meetings.

by Dr. Ivana de la Serna

The 18th PASPCR meeting was really amazing and unique in many ways. The venue was in the beautiful city of Madison, Wisconsin which included a spectacular view of Lake Mendota, exceptional cuisine, and delightful entertainment. Despite these wonderful distractions, the scientific agenda kept me glued to my seat during sessions. I really enjoyed the keynote lecture on Vitamin D, given by Hector DeLuca, which covered the discovery of this essential nutrient to its uses in the clinic. This was a very timely lecture as more and more studies indicate that vitamin D is important in pigment cell biology and disease.

Some highlights of the meeting included presentation of the “Lifetime Achievement Award” to Zalfa Abdel-Malek, followed by her talk on MC1R and the response to ultraviolet radiation. Her lecture on the functions of MC1R signaling in the DNA damage response and DNA repair gave important insights into how individuals with dysfunctional variants of MC1R are at increased risk for melanoma. The Aaron B. Lerner Award Lecture given by David Fisher also included intriguing mouse studies on how dysfunctional MC1R can predispose to melanoma in a UV-independent manner and the role of MC1R signaling in mediating behavioral responses. MC1R is truly a multifaceted receptor with many important physiological functions. The scope of scientific topics covered in the sessions ranged from cutaneous melanocyte development to vitiligo to melanoma and extended into pigment cells in the eye and associated diseases including uveal melanoma and glaucoma. I really liked how the talks on pigment cell biology were incorporated into the same sessions as those on diseases, nicely emphasizing the interconnectedness of each. In addition to the amazing mouse models, it was great to hear about studies in flies, zebrafish, and chickens. For example, the plenary session that I co-chaired with Vladimir Spiegelman included Esteban Dell’Angelica’s presentation on genes that regulate eye pigmentation in Drosophila, giving insight into Hermansky Pudlak Syndrome, followed by Ze’ev Ronai’s talk on PDK-1 in a mouse melanoma model. Another lecture that was of special interest to me was Ruth Halaban’s presentation of her findings from next generation sequencing and the identification of driver mutations in melanoma, which to my fascination included genes encoding components of the SWI/SNF complex.

The plenary sessions set the stage for superb oral presentations and poster sessions, many of which were given by young investigators. New investigators were also enticed with special sessions called “Meet the Experts” during which highly successful scientists shared their thoughts on career development strategies. All in all it was a great meeting for both the novices among us as well as the more seasoned scientists, for engaging in discussions, and for establishing collaborations. I would like to give special thanks to Vijay Setaluri for not only hosting a great meeting but also for taking the time to discuss some collaborative studies, to the members of his lab for their tremendous congeniality, and to all the others involved in the organization of the meeting.
22nd INTERNATIONAL PIGMENT CELL CONFERENCE
September 4th – September 7th, 2014, SINGAPORE

Bringing Colours to Life
Advances in Pigment Cell Research and Translation into Clinical Practice

www.ipcc2014.org

Key Topics Include
- Developmental Biology of Pigment Cells
- Melanosomal Biogenesis & Transfer
- Regulation of Pigmentation
- Genomics of Pigmentation
- Melanocyte UV Response & DNA Repair
- Stem Cells & Hair Biology
- Melanoma Biology & Therapeutics
- Vitiligo Research & Interventions
- Pigmentary Challenges in Asian Skin
- Laser & Light Therapies in Skin of Colour
- Strategies for Skin Lightening

Keynote Speakers include
- Nina Jablonski,
  The Pennsylvania State University, USA
- Roger Hanlon,
  Brown University, USA
- David Mitchell,
  The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA
- Jean Krutmann,
  Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf, Germany
- Howard Chang,
  Stanford University, USA

Important Dates
Abstract Submission Closes: 11 April 2014
Early Bird Registration Ends: 3 July 2014

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Key Topics Include

- Developmental Biology of Pigment Cells
- Melanosome Biogenesis & Transfer
- Regulation of Pigmentation
- Genetics of Pigmentation
- Melanocyte UV Response & DNA Repair
- Stem Cells & Hair Biology
- Melanoma Biology & Therapeutics
- Vitiligo Research & Interventions
- Pigmentary Challenges in Asian Skin
- Laser & Light Therapies in Skin of Colour
- Strategies for Skin Lightening

Keynote Speakers include

- Nina Jablonski, The Pennsylvania State University, USA
- Roger Hanlon, Brown University, USA
- David Mitchell, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA
- Jean Krutmann, Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf, Germany
- Howard Chang, Stanford University, USA

Important Dates

Abstract Submission Closes: 11 April 2014
Early Bird Registration Ends: 3 July 2014

For more information visit: http://www.ipcc2014.org/
# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

## Day One

**Thursday, 4 Sep 2014**

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<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Welcome Address&lt;br&gt; Presidential Lecture&lt;br&gt; Seiji Memorial Lecture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Melanocyte UV Response and DNA Repair</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lunch Symposium &amp; Posters Viewing</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Developmental Biology of Pigment Cells</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Melanin Biophysics &amp; Chemistry</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Melasma: New Findings, New Approaches</td>
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<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Regulation of Pigmentation</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Melanosome Biogenesis &amp; Transfer</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Asian Skin Focus: Challenging Pigmentary Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
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## Day Two

**Friday, 5 Sep 2014**

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<td>Morning</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Aaron Lerner Lecture</td>
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<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION</strong> - Colours of Life&lt;br&gt; Optical Magic in Marine Life&lt;br&gt; Evolution of Human Skin Colour and its Relevance to Health</td>
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<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Genetics of Pigmentation</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Melanocyte Stem Cells</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Metabolic Signalling</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Repigmenting Vitiligo: Of Art &amp; Science</td>
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<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Model Systems for Pigment Biology and Disease</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Hair Biology &amp; Pigmentation</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt; Advanced Surgical Interventions in Vitiligo</td>
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## Day Three
**Saturday, 6 Sep 2014**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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| Morning | **PLENARY SESSION**  
Melanoma Biology                                                                               |
|        | **Coffee Break**                                                                             |
| Afternoon | **PLENARY SESSION**  
Targeted Therapies & Drug Resistance in Melanoma                                                 |
|        | **Lunch Symposium & Women’s Forum**                                                          |
|        | **CONCURRENT SESSION**  
Senescence Pathways to Melanoma                                                                |
|        | **CONCURRENT SESSION**  
Developmental Biology & Melanoma Stem Cells                                                   |
|        | **CONCURRENT SESSION**  
Panel Discussion: Diagnostic Challenges in Pigmentary Disorders                              |
|        | **Coffee Break**                                                                             |
|        | **CONCURRENT SESSION**  
UV & non-UV Pathways to Melanoma                                                                |
|        | **CONCURRENT SESSION**  
Genetics & Genomics in Melanoma                                                                 |
|        | **CONCURRENT SESSION**  
Panel Discussion: Paediatric Pigmentary Disorders                                              |
| Evening | **Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony**                                                            |
|        | **End of Day**                                                                              |

## Day Four
**Sunday, 7 Sep 2014**

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<th>Time</th>
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| Morning | **PLENARY SESSION**  
Clinical & Translational Dermatology  
Molecular Basis of Photodermatology  
Development of Lasers and Light Devices for Pigmentary Disorders  
Skin Pigmentation in Health & Disease |
|        | **Coffee Break**                                                                             |
|        | **CONCURRENT SESSION**  
Albinism: Novel Findings & Therapy                                                             |
|        | **CONCURRENT SESSION**  
Translational Skin Biology  
Lasers and Light Devices for Pigmentary Conditions                                             |
|        | **Lunch Symposium & Posters Viewing**                                                        |
|        | **CONCURRENT SESSION**  
Neuroendocrinology & Pigmentation                                                               |
|        | **CONCURRENT SESSION**  
Skin of Colour: Perspectives from Africa & India                                                |
|        | **CONCURRENT SESSION**  
Strategies in Skin Lightening                                                                   |
|        | **Coffee Break**                                                                             |
|        | **PLENARY SESSION & CLOSING REMARKS**  
Fitzpatrick Lecture  
Vitiligo Global Issues Consensus Update  
Announcing IPCC2017 - PASPCR  
Closing Address                                                                          |
|        | **End of Day**                                                                              |
Wiley/PCMR have launched a new application for viewing PCMR from your iPads. Simply follow the instructions illustrated below:

Introducing *Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research* for iPad!

With full access for members of the *International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies* (IFPCS) and the *Society for Melanoma Research* (SMR).

Access *Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research* from wherever you like from your iPad!

With this new app you can access PCMR content from your home or office, when you're on the road or during your commute. Just use the instructions below to register your account and device.
To unlock content in the app you’ll need this ACCESS CODE: pcmrapp1

Open this email from your iPad and use the links below to get access:

1. **Create an account on Wiley Online Library**

2. **Enter your Access Code on Wiley Online Library**

3. **Download the app from iTunes**

4. **Log in within the app**

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1) Create an account on Wiley Online Library: [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/adlogin?dmmsmid=0&dmmspid=0&dmmsuid=0](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/adlogin?dmmsmid=0&dmmspid=0&dmmsuid=0)

2) Enter the PCMR access code, for IFPCS members, in the "access" menu of your account profile pcmrapp1


4) Log in within the App using your account parameters
In this issue, we continue the “Let me Introduce…” section with a column by Dr. Frances Noonan. We hope that you will be inspired to 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.

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!
LET ME INTRODUCE...

by Dr. Frances Noonan

ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION AND MELANOMA

If you visit the magnificent beaches of Queensland, Australia, with their white sand and turquoise waters soon the problems of daily life disappear and the only decisions which remain are which fish to eat tonight and which spot to swim at tomorrow. There is, however, a dark side to the sunlight sparkling so beautifully on the ocean. Queensland has the highest rate of melanoma in the world.

Early European settlers, mostly English, Irish and Scots, seeking a better life in Australia could not have anticipated the effects of the strong Australian sunlight on the fair skinned, often red-haired immigrants and their children. A link between melanoma and sunlight exposure was established in the 1950s by astute clinicians in Australia and has been abundantly confirmed. Many critical questions remain however in understanding just how this interaction works.

I carried out my PhD in the laboratory of Professor Bill Halliday at the University of Queensland. He was a very well regarded immunologist, aware of the problems of melanoma. He collaborated with the Queensland Melanoma Project, setup in 1963 coordinated by Dr Neville Davis, to monitor all melanoma patients in Queensland, which had an aggressive public health education campaign.

My research project was to monitor blood immune responses of melanoma patients during immunotherapy. Since we personally collected sequential blood samples from the patients, we observed first-hand the rapid deterioration associated with advanced melanoma. It was unforgottably devastating to see the effects of this disease on these patients, many of whom were younger than I was.

I became involved in photobiology while doing a post-doc in the laboratory of Dr. Margaret Kripke, at Frederick Cancer Center. Fisher. Dr. Kripke had found that UV radiation was immunosuppressive, initiating the formation of suppressor (regulatory) T cells important in outgrowth of UV tumors. A major question was how did UV do this. At this point I started a long collaboration with Ed De Fabo, the photobiologist of the group. Ed was a PhD in photobiology from the Smithsonian Radiation Laboratory, who had worked with USEPA in the BACER program to investigate UV radiation effects on biologic systems because of the interest in the effects of stratospheric ozone depletion. This was well before the Montreal Protocol when the extent and mechanisms of ozone depletion by CFCs were still being worked out. Ed subsequently went on to receive an award from the Montreal Protocol at its 10th anniversary for his later work chairing the SCOPE (ICSU) and IASC international committees which produced some of the earliest cross-disciplinary reports on UV radiation effects on the biosphere.

In Frederick, Ed had already investigated the photobiology of UV immunosuppression, had shown that it was a UVB, not a UVA effect and had concluded that it was possible to carry out a detailed action or wavelength dependence spectrum for UV immunosuppression. An action spectrum should be congruent with the absorption spectrum of the compound which absorbs UV radiation to initiate the biologic effect under study and thus can provide important mechanistic information. The practical application of an action spectrum is that it can be used as a weighting function to determine the biologic effectiveness of a particular light source e.g. calculation of the UV index for sunlight which employs an action spectrum for erythema (sunburn). There is currently no mammalian action spectrum for melanoma.

A biological action spectrum requires a series of dose-responses at different wavelengths to determine relative wavelength effectiveness. The radiation must be delivered in narrow bands over a large area and it is critical that there is no overlap or the action spectrum cannot be accurately interpreted. To do this, Ed had setup at Frederick a unique specialized UV light
system similar to the one he had previously designed at the Smithsonian with Dr. Walter Shropshire. My background in the immunology of contact hypersensitivity provided a possible way to do the UV immunosuppression action spectrum and it was decided that this was the path we would follow. Two years later this action spectrum was completed. We proposed from this study that UV immunosuppression was initiated by an interaction between UV and urocanic acid (UCA), a component of the stratum corneum. UCA isomerizes from the trans to the cis isomer on absorption of UV, acting as a regulatory switch. The role of cis UCA in immunosuppression has since been confirmed by several hundred papers and many intriguing questions remain about its molecular mechanisms.

In contrast to non-melanoma skin cancer, a persistent frustrating problem for UV melanoma studies was the lack of a suitable animal model. It was clear from epidemiology that the UV requirements for melanoma and for non-melanoma skin cancer were different - melanoma requiring intermittent, not chronic UV exposure - and there was an important role for childhood UV exposure. Without a suitable animal model these questions could not be addressed experimentally. UV responsive melanomas could be produced in Xiphophorus fish. There were certain swine and horses which developed melanoma although not clearly of UV origin and even a herd of goats which developed lentiginous melanomas in response to sunlight. These large animal models, interesting as they are, obviously had their experimental difficulties.

UV-induced melanomas were derived in the Monodeiphis opossum showing experimentally that UV could initiate melanoma in a non-placental mammal. At GWU where Ed and I had setup a research lab, I happened to attend a seminar by Dr. Glenn Merlino on transgenic mice in which he mentioned an HGF transgenic mouse his laboratory had derived which spontaneously developed melanomas at about 18 months of age. This was sufficiently unusual that I asked Glenn if he would send us some animals so that we could UV irradiate them at GWU. We first used a UV protocol for non-melanoma skin cancers - 3 times weekly UV treatments of adult animals - and obtained, perhaps not surprisingly, non-melanoma skin cancers but no melanomas. When we UV treated HGF transgenic mice as neonates, however, several months later skin tumors arose which turned out to be melanomas. The biggest surprise was that, unlike previous animal models, HGF transgenic melanomas had epidermal involvement i.e. they were junctional melanomas which quite closely recapitulated human melanoma, likely because HGF enables extra-follicular melanocyte location at the dermal-epidermal junction. Several genetically modified mouse models have now been shown to produce melanomas after neonatal UV though few show junctional melanomas comparable to the HGF transgenic.

Our interest was to use this model to investigate the photobiology of UV and melanoma. Using the same UV system we had employed for the immunosuppression action spectrum, now located in GWU, we asked if UVB (280-320nm) or UVA (320-400nm) initiated melanoma. It had been a nagging question whether UVA was involved in melanoma. It had been suggested that a UVA role might help to explain some of the puzzling aspects of sunlight exposure and melanoma but there were conflicting data in the Xiphophorus (fish) and Monodeiphis models. Initially we used non-pigmented albino HGF transgenics and found UVB but not UVA was effective. Since UVB was well established as the major initiator of non-melanoma skin cancer, this seemed like “case closed”. When we used pigmented HGF transgenics however a different picture emerged. In the presence of melanin - which in the HGF transgenics is confined to the melanocytes - melanoma was initiated by UVB at a similar rate to albino mice but UVA, in contrast to its lack of activity in albino animals, robustly initiated melanoma in black HGF animals. UVA irradiation of black HGF transgenic mice produced photoxidation of melanocyte DNA, dependent on the presence of melanin. Notably, as recently shown by
Agnieszka Wolnicka-Glubisz and her colleagues, these animals make only eumelanin and no phaeomelanin. It is well established that melanin is produced within the melanocyte through a series of oxidative precursors and melanin oxidative radicals have been described. The melanin community has long appreciated that melanin can have two faces - a protective one but also a negative pro-oxidant role.

To collect melanocytes from animals irradiated with UVB or UVA in vivo, we collaborated with Raza Zaidi and Glenn Merlino using the Dct-GFP transgenic mouse they had derived. Working with the FACS facility at GWU we derived a methodology to obtain highly purified melanocytes. Genetic analysis of these melanocytes led to the identification of a role for interferon-γ in the melanocyte UVB response. The next interesting question is the nature of the early events in melanocytes from HGF transgenic mice irradiated in vivo with UVB or UVA.

While a post-doc in Frederick, along with the rest of our laboratory, I joined the American Society for Photobiology (ASP) and have remained active in the Society. The ASP was founded in 1973 by Dr. Kendric Smith of Stanford University as an inter-disciplinary Society addressing all aspects of interactions between light and living systems. It was a revelation to attend ASP meetings. For someone who had previously been exposed mostly to immunology and biochemistry it was fascinating to hear photobiology, photochemistry, UV cellular interactions, circadian rhythms, photosensory responses in plants, and phototherapy of dermatologic diseases and of course UV carcinogenesis. Discussions could be lively and usually extended through lunch, dinner and well into the evening. It was the perfect venue for a topic as exotic-sounding as interaction between UV radiation and immunology and enabled us to appreciate the strengths of cross-disciplinary collaboration. On its website the ASP has teaching modules “Photobiologic Sciences Online” curated by Kendric Smith which is regularly updated and which currently has almost 20,000 unique visitors monthly. The ASP now meets every other year with the next meeting in San Diego June 14-19, 2014. The European Society for Photobiology meets in the alternate years.

When we entered the melanoma field it quickly became apparent that many of the unique properties of melanocytes made them very challenging to work with. Attending PAPSCR meetings with the wealth of knowledge and research on pigment cells was essential for us to design approaches to the questions we wanted to answer. Co-operation between the ASP and the PAPSCR would seem to be essential in understanding UV and melanoma. The expertise in melanocyte biology and photobiology in these two groups has the potential to be highly synergistic and lead to an understanding of the early UVB and UVA initiating events leading to melanoma.

References:


10. American Society for Photobiology. www.photobiology.org

Contact:
Dr. Frances Noonan
E-mail: fpn@gwu.edu

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SALUTE TO WILLIAM OETTING

Bill Oetting has played numerous roles in the PASPCR, but the most significant have been his long stints as the Editor of the Newsletter and Webmaster. Bill handed over the reins of the Newsletter to us in 2008 and we quickly developed a new respect for the great job he had done. This year, Bill steps down as webmaster, but we hope his new lifetime membership will mean that he will continue to be a vital part of the Society. On behalf of the Publishing Committee and undoubtedly the entire PASPCR family, we say thank you!

Gertrude Emilia Costin & Prashiela Manga

WILLIAM OETTING: HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR FIELD AND OUR SOCIETY

by Dr. Richard King

Bill Oetting came to Minnesota in 1986 as a Research Associate in my lab. He had obtained his PhD in genetics and pigmentation with John Brumbaugh at the University of Nebraska using avian pigmentation as a model, followed by a fellowship at the University of California in Riverside. At the University of Minnesota, he initially focused on molecular genetics and DNA sequencing in collaboration with LI-COR Biotechnology, allowing our studies of human oculocutaneous albinism (OCA) to progress from clinical features and biochemical to the isolation and analyses of human pigment genes and their mutations in various types of human OCA. His precise molecular skills provided the basis for the clinical understanding of the different types of OCA, and basically kept my lab running in pigment genetics.

In 1987, Bill and I, with Jim Nordland and others, organized the first meeting of the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research at the University of Minnesota. The meeting budget and expenses were minimal - $35 registration fee. The sessions were held in University teaching labs and lecture halls. Bill and DeWayne Townsend bought the poster boards at a local lumber yard and arranged them on lab bench tops. The abstract book was printed in the Institute of Human Genetics office, and the meeting dinner was held on a nice dinner boat on Lake Minnetonka. Representatives of the European and the Japanese Societies for Pigment Cell research helped us launch the PASPCR. His work for the PASPCR also included being Editor for the PASPCR Newsletter from 1999 to 2007 and being webmaster for both the PASPCR and the IFPCS from 1995 to 2012.

The explosion of gene and mutation identification in human albinism became overwhelming, and Bill took the initiative and created the Albinism Database, which he has maintained since its inception. Our lab contributed to this with analysis of samples submitted from around the world. Bill was also responsible for developing the methods that we could use for functional studies of mutant proteins to better understand the phenotypic and biochemical effects of the identified mutations. Bill became a member of the Human Genome Organization (HUGO), founding member of the Human Genome Variation Society (HGVS), and one of the original members of the Human Variome Project (HVP), and a Communicating Editor for journal Human Mutation.
Our lab continued to focus on pigment as well as common adult diseases, and Bill expanded our abilities with the development of genetic linkage studies in a variety of diseases such as asthma, breast cancer, and organ rejection after transplantation. As if this were not enough, Bill also started the major undergraduate Human Genetics course for the Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Development, which he has continued to present as the major human genetics course for pre-med students on campus.

In 2006, Bill moved from the Department of Medicine in the College of Medicine to the College of Pharmacy after we completed our funded research and I attempted to retire. He was promoted to tenured Professor in the Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology, College of Pharmacy (one of the major colleges in our Academic Health Center), in 2010, and one of the directors for the pharmacogenomics program in the College. He developed and has taught the Pharmacogenomics graduate and professional course for Pharmacy since 2009.

Bill has had a remarkable career in Minnesota. He led the way in molecular genetics for many labs and investigators in the College of Medicine, and has established research and educational collaborations across the entire campus. He is now doing the same in the College of Pharmacy. For me, it has been a delight to have worked with Bill for nearly 30 years, to have learned from him, and to have him basically keep me afloat in molecular genetics. His interests, enthusiasm, and kindness are a model of ideal behavior for a university professor and my own career has been the major benefit of this.

Richard A King, MD, PhD
Professor Emeritus – actually retired for good on December 31, 2013

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 paspcr.newsletters@gmail.com.

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.

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