

Winter 2005-2006 Newsletter

From my desk to yours....

It is hard to believe, but it has been almost a year since we all met in Japan at our international meeting at which enjoyed the scientific and cultural events of the IX Meeting of our Society. Following the tradition of our past leaders, we take pleasure in continuing the newsletter whose purpose is keeping members informed on what is going on in our Society and sharing plans with each of you about the X International Congress of Reproductive Immunology which will take place on June 10th-14th 2007, Opatija, Croatia.

One of the challenges that we face as a Society is staying connected during the 3 year intervals between our Congresses. As Secretary, it is my intention to send you this newsletter at least 2 times a year. For this to happen it will take your help to send me information that should be included in our newsletter. As was discussed at our meeting in Japan, we will, through out newsletter, announce national and international meetings as well as events that may be of interest to our membership. I ask each of you to consider sending me by email anything you would like to have communicated to our membership. With your help we can give real meaning and practical value to this Newsletter and our Society. I am looking forward to hearing from each of you.

In this issue we will focus of events that have taken place in the last year to enhance communication between members as well as plans for our next meeting.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season,

Chuck Wira

Secretary General

Charles.R.Wira@Dartmouth.EDU

ISIR Website: It is my pleasure to inform you that International Society for Immunology of Reproduction (ISIR) has a website at: <http://mamed.medri.hr/isir/>. Owing to the determination of our president and the ongoing efforts of his assistant Ivana Godnic, we now have a fully operational website that each of you can access. This website will be updated on a weekly basis as the theme and agenda of our next meeting to be held in Opatija are developed. At an interim meeting of the ISIR Council in June of this year, communication between our president and the organizers of the annual ASRI meeting led to a time schedule for each meeting being set to avoid overlap.

Message from the President:

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure indeed that I take this opportunity of greeting all the members of our Society and I wish to extend the invitation to all scientists from the broader field to join us. The congress of ISIR that was so successfully organized by our Japanese colleagues clearly showed that our Society is continuously growing and particularly scientifically. During the past year our Society has been busy preparing for our upcoming meeting which will be held in Opatija in the summer 2007. At an interim meeting of the ISIR Executive Council last spring in Providence Rhode Island, we discussed many items including the transfer of funds to our Treasurer in England, the need for better communication between members and the desires of all to have an excellent meeting in Opatija in 2007. Im happy to report that an outline of the scientific concept of the Meeting in Opatija was accepted and will be further discussed in details. In the very near future the Program of the meeting will appear on our web pages. I would like to thank to Mrs. Ivana Godnic, our Administrative Secretary (simply Nina, for everybody in our Society, particularly for participants of previous meetings in Opatija!) for her enormous contribution in creating web pages of the Society and establishing contacts with many groups and members of the Society.

With nicest wishes for the coming holidays and healthy and prosperous New Year!
Daniel Rukavina

Message from our Treasurer

Dear fellow ISIR members:

Thanks to the efforts of my personal assistant Jo Mitchell, we have finally managed to set up the new ISIR Bank Account in the UK. It is a special account for clubs and societies and therefore does not levy any bank charges. However, the accounts can only be held in British Pounds and we will therefore have to convert our funds from dollars into pounds. The membership rate, which will be paid once every 3 years is 30 British Pounds.

In the past, the payment of ISIR subscriptions was inconvenient because of the need to go to your bank to organize an international money transfer. This was also very expensive and the costs had to be paid by the member. I am pleased to announce that thanks to the Internet, the ISIR subscription can now be paid without having to leave the comfort of your office and at no extra cost to you. There is therefore now no excuse for not paying your subscriptions!

The method of payment we are using is called PayPal, which I am sure many of you will be familiar with from Internet shopping. PayPal has been chosen as our online payment system as it is a World Leader in online payment services. It protects the customer against online fraud and gives financial protection. Best of all it is a free service to all those making a payment. It accepts the following credit cards:



Instructions on how to pay:

- Go to the ISIR webpage <http://mamed.medri.hr/isir/>
- Click on the '[Membership](#)' link
- Halfway down the page, click onto the 'PayPal' icon, which will take you to the ISIR payment page.

For those that already have a PayPal account:

- Enter your email address and password under the PayPal login, which will take you to 'Make Your Payment' page
- Check all your payment and personal information is correct and change if necessary
- Under shipping information click on 'no postal address is required'
- The "message to seller" box can be used for any message you may wish to send us, but this is optional and not necessary
- Click on 'Pay' icon, which will take you to the confirmation page
- A confirmation email will be sent to you to inform you that your transaction was successful

For those new to PayPal

- Click on icon 'Click Here'
- Follow through instructions under the 'Sign Up' section and enter all the information that is required until payment is made
- A confirmation email will be sent to you to inform you that your transaction was successful

For those who do not wish to make online payments

It is still possible to pay your subscription using the old system of bank transfer, but this will be more expensive for you. However, cash and cheques are not accepted.

Bank Transfers for 30 British Pounds should be made to Lloyds TSB, Headington Branch, Oxford, UK, Sort Code 309404, Account Number 01989927, The International Society for Immunology of Reproduction.

If you have any problems please contact Lorraine Stayt, lorraine.stayt@obs-gyn.ox.ac.uk

With best wishes,
Ian Sargent
Treasurer
ian.sargent@obs-gyn.ox.ac.uk

Report on the IX International Congress of Reproductive Immunology and the Post-congress Kyoto Symposium.

The IXth International Congress on Reproductive Immunology (Dr. Tsunehisa Makino as President) was held in Hakone National Park, Japan, on October 11-15, 2004 in conjunction with the 19th annual meeting of the Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction. The Congress began with Presidential address, "Reproductive Immunology at the Feto-Maternal Interface: From Antibodies to Cytokine Networks", by Dr. Chaouat Gerard followed by a plenary lecture, "Cytokines: From Laboratory to Clinic", by Dr. Kishimoto Tadimitsu. The topics included in this Congress were, 1) Epigenetics in Reproduction and Immunology, 2) Pregnancy and Transplantation, 3) Antiphospholipid Antibody, 4) Immunological Aspects of Reproductive Wastage, 5) Immune-endocrine Interactions in Reproduction, 6) Cells and Cytokines at the Materno-fetal Interface, 7) HIV Infection, 8) Mucosal Immunology, and 9) Gamete Immunology. These topics were extensively discussed by invited speakers and attendants from cellular, bio-molecular and clinical points of view. Other scientific activities included two luncheon seminars, 13 selected oral presentations and 95 poster presentations. The Congress was held in Hotel De Yama, a traditional and newly renovated resort hotel with a fine view of Mt. Fuji. All 215 participants including 90 from abroad (25 countries) were sure to have enjoyed the highly sophisticated scientific programs and social programs that followed.

Following the Hakone meeting the Post-congress Symposium (Dr. Koji Koyama as Organizer) was held in Kyoto on October 16, 2004. In this Symposium, 12 lectures, three in each topic of Gamete Immunology, Feto-maternal Relationship, Reproductive Failure and Tumor and Host Defense Immunology, were given by invited speakers to summarize and further discuss key information presented in the International Congress. In addition, 13 poster presentations were given during the Symposium with a total of 66 participants. A full text of the invited lectures was published in the special issue of Journal of Reproductive Immunology (vol.67, issue 1-2, 2005). This Symposium provided the foreign participants in the main Congress with an ample opportunity to explore Kyoto, our old capital.

Finally, it was a great honor and privilege for the Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction to have the opportunity to hold the IXth International Congress and the Post-Congress Symposium which gave us, especially young Japanese scientists, a golden opportunity to participate in friendly discussion with global experts working in the field of reproductive immunology. Hopefully, all participants took home with them rewarding memories of this Congress and meet again at the next ISIR meeting to be held in Opatija, Croatia, in 2007.

Best wishes,
Koji Koyama



Meetings 2006:

1. May 25-28, 2006. **XIIth Zdar Symposium of Czech Reproductive Immunologists with International Contribution**, Zdar nad Sazavou. For more information, please contact: Prof. Ulcova-Gallova Zdenka (Ulcova@fnplzen.cz).
2. June 2 to 4, 2006, **11th International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction** will be held at the International house of scientists near Varna, Bulgaria. Contact Prof. Rayna Georgieva, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, BAS, 73, Tzarigradsko shosse, Sofia 1113, Bulgaria Fax: (+359 2) 872 00 22 (raynageorgieva@hotmail.com)
3. June 15-17, 2006. **26th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology**, Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee. For further information see the ASRI website at <http://theasri.org/index.html> For additional questions, please contact the local Organizing Committee chaired by Dr. Grant Yeaman, (grant.yeaman@vanderbilt.edu)

Upcoming meetings

4. July 1-4 2006. **2nd EMBIC summer School on embryo implantation**. Organized in Pecs, Hungary. EBIC is the European network of excellence, sponsored by the European Union within the 6th framework program. The program and all information at <http://www.embic.org/>

5. July 5th - 9th 2006. **4th European Congress of Reproductive Immunology**, 2006 in Graz, Austria. All necessary information for registration and abstract submission on the conference web page: <http://www.ecri4.at> or contact Prof. Gottfried Dohr, Austria (dohr@balu.kfunigraz.ac.at)
6. October 5-7, 2006. **5th Meeting of the European Mucosal Immunology Group**, Pratur www.congressprague.cz/emig2006
7. Nov. 29-Dec. 3, 2006. **5th International Congress on Autoimmunity**, Sorrento, Italy, www.kenes.com/autoim2006
8. Nov. 15-18, 2006. **3rd International Conference on Experimental and Clinical Reproductive Immunobiology** sponsored by JRI will be held in Banff, Canada; the conference website is www.jri2006.elsevier.com
9. December 2-3, 2006. **21st Annual Meeting of Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction (JSIR)** to be held in Tokyo. For more information, contact Dr. Koyama: kkoyama@hyo-med.ac.jp.

ISIR Leadership

President

Daniel Rukavina (Croatia)
Dept. Physiology & Immunology
Medical Faculty
University of Rijeka
B. Branchetta 20
HR-51000 Rijeka, Croatia
Phone: +385-51-651-150
Fax: +385-51-675-699
E-mail: daniel@medri.hr

Secretary - General

Charles R. Wira (USA)
Department of Physiology
Dartmouth Medical School
One Medical Center Drive
Borwell Building
Lebanon, NH 03756-0001, USA
Phone: ++603 650 7717
Fax: ++603 650 6130
E-mail: Charles.R.Wira@Dartmouth.EDU

Treasurer

Ian L. Sargent (UK)
Nuffield Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington,
Oxford, OX3 9DU, UK
Phone: ++44 186 522 1019
Fax: ++44 186 576 9141
E-mail: ian.sargent@obstetrics-gynaecology.oxford.ac.uk

Councillors

Kenneth D. Beaman (USA)
Carolyn B. Coulam (USA)
Rayna Georgieva (Bulgaria)

Lucia Mincheva-Nilsson (Sweden)
Julia Szekeres-Bartho (Hungary)
Zdenka Ulcova-Gallova (Czech Republic)
Appointed members:
Gordana Laskarin (Croatia)
Shigeru Saito (Japan)

Immediate Past President
Gerard Chaouat (France)

President - Elect
Koji Koyama (Japan)