

Newsletter 2009-2010

Dear colleagues and friends,

The Newsletter of International Society of Reproductive Immunology 2009-2010 is prepared by Prof. Koji Koyama, President of the Society and Prof. Rayna Georgieva, Secretary General with the kind collaboration of the organizers of different meetings and activities in the field of reproductive immunology occurred during this period. In the Newsletter the following brief information is included: 1. Message from the President; 2. Report on the 7th Congress of the European Society for Reproductive Immunology, Marathon, Greece; 3. Report on the 12th International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction, Varna, Bulgaria; 4. Report of the 23rd Annual Meeting of Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction; 5. Report on the 29th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology (ASRI); 6. Report on Meeting of Czech Society of Reproductive Immunology; 7. Report of the ISIR Treasurer; 8. Forthcoming meetings.

On the eve of Christmas and the New Year 2010, I wish all of you and your families good health, happiness and new achievements in your research work for the benefit of humanity.

Rayna Georgieva
Secretary General of ISRI
georgievar@hotmail.com

Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of ISIR,

It is my great pleasure to mail the ISIR Newsletter 2009-2010 to all the members of ISIR to keep you informed on what is going on in our society. I hope all of you read this newsletter thoroughly, because it contains some very important information about the forthcoming XIth International Congress of Reproductive Immunology (ICRI) and the transactions of our society including the election of new council members of ISIR.

Following the tradition, the triennial International Symposium of Reproductive Immunology (in Varna) and the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Reproductive Immunology and the European Society of Reproductive Immunology took place with great success, bringing together many reproductive biologists and immunologists, medical practitioners and young scientists to discuss contemporary topics in reproductive immunology. The details of the above meetings are introduced in this newsletter by the organizers or the secretaries of the societies. I deeply appreciate all the efforts of the people concerned to make the meetings so successful.

The XIth ICRI is going to be held from August 15th to 19th, 2010, in Palm Cove, near Cairns in Queensland, Australia under the chairmanship of Professor Sarah Robertson. She is assembling a world-class scientific program that highlights cutting-edge topics in basic and clinical reproductive immunology. The venue of the congress is located in a wonderful beachside location on Great Barrier Reef which is listed as a World Heritage Site. We appreciate all the efforts of the local organizing committee in the preparation of this traditional triennial International Congress and

will not fail to take advantage of this excellent scientific event, to be held in such a wonderful location. Following the XIth ICRI, the International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction (chaired by Professor Masaru Okabe) will take place on August 28-29, 2010, in Osaka, Japan, in conjunction with the 25th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction (JSIR) under the auspices of the ISIR and JSIR, as a Satellite Symposium on Reproductive Immunology for the 14th International Congress of Immunology (ICI) to be held from August 22nd to 27th, 2010, in Kobe, Japan. For the election of our new Executive Council members, nominations for the six (6) elected positions of Councillor shall be called for by the Secretary-General not less than six(6) months prior to the meeting of the General Assembly at the XIth ICRI in Australia. Candidates for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary-General and Treasurer are proposed by the nomination committee. Then, a ballot having the names of the candidates for President-Elect, Secretary-General and Treasurer and for six positions as Councillor shall be sent to all paid-up members of the society, at least three months prior to the meeting of the General Assembly. Remember that you are only eligible to vote in Society elections if you are a fully paid-up member, which also entitles you to reduced registration fees for the Congress and receipt of the Newsletter.

The edition of the periodical Newsletter is not easy, but thanks to the efforts of our Secretary-General, Professor Rayna Georgieva, the current edition is ready for delivery to the members of ISIR. I deeply appreciate her great contribution to this activity of the society.

Finally, once more, let me say to you all “ Don’t miss the forthcoming XIth ICRI in Australia” and I wish you all the best for the coming New Year of 2010.

Koji Koyama MD
President of ISIR

Report on the 7th European Congress on Reproductive Immunology

The 7th European Congress on Reproductive Immunology took place from 17 to 20 September, 2009, in Marathon, Greece. An introductory to Reproductive Immunology Seminar preceded the Congress on September 16 (afternoon) and 17 (morning).

Thanks to the active participation of approximately 80 invited speakers and chairpersons as well as 150 registered participants, the Congress was a successful one.

Both the scientific programme and the Greek hospitality were appreciated by the participants. The Organizing Committee thanks all speakers and chairpersons as well as all the young scientists who participated and presented with enthusiasm their work for their indisputable contribution to this success.

A special issue of Journal of Reproductive Immunology will include the full papers of the lectures delivered during the Congress. Moreover, a special issue of the journal “ANOSIA” (official journal of the Hellenic Society of Immunology), with all the lectures of the Pre-Seminar together with a CD with the lectures’ slides were distributed to the participants.

The participants of the Congress are offered offline access to the videos of the Congress up to the end of the year.

Offline access is also possible for non participants after registration (for information visit www.es4ri.eu).



Report on the 12th International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction, 25 – 27 June 2009, “Fr. Joliot-Curie” International home of scientists, Varna, Bulgaria

Organized by International Coordination Committee for Immunology of Reproduction (ICCIR) and “Acad. Kiril Bratanov” Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction (IBIR) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Co-organizers were Bulgarian Society for Reproductive Immunology and Bulgarian Association for Sterility and Reproductive Health.

Presentation of the ICCIR and the Varna Symposia

Dear guests,

Dear colleagues and friends,

The 12th International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction (ISIR) was held 42 years after the First Symposium. In September 1967, Professor Kiril Bratanov, Director of the Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, and his closest



collaborators organized and held the First Symposium for Immunology of Spermatozoa and Fertilization. During this forum at the initiative of Prof. Bratanov the International Coordination Committee for Immunology of Reproduction was founded, registered in Paris and in Sofia, with headquarters at the IBIR. Prof. Bratanov was elected as its first President. Later on, in 1975, during the Third International Symposium for

Immunology of Reproduction in Varna, the **International Society for Immunology of Reproduction (ISIR)** was founded by the proposal of Prof. K. Bratanov and was its first President. At the international meeting on Immunology of Reproduction in Magdeburg, Germany in 1992, the **European Society of Immunology of Reproduction and Development** was founded with the active participation of Bulgarian scientists. The International Symposia for Immunology of Reproduction, known also as Varna Symposia and ICCIR played a crucial role for the creation and development of a new medical-biological field in science – **immunology of reproduction**. On this basis and as a result of the activity of Bulgarian scientists, the international scientific community recognized **Bulgaria as the place, where immunology of reproduction was born.**

Opening the Symposium



The 12th ISIR was attended by 120 researchers and specialists in the field of reproductive biology, immunology and clinicians from 16 countries namely Bulgaria, France, Germany, Austria, UK, Japan, Argentina, USA, Greece, Croatia, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Russia and Ukraine. The Symposium was opened by Prof. Rayna Georgieva, President of ICCIR and the

International Scientific Committee.

The participants were honoured by the cordial greeting speeches of Prof. Guy-Andre Voisin (France), doyen of the Symposium and co-founder of ICCIR, of Varna Municipality



representative Vice-mayor Assoc. Prof. Christo Bozov, MD and of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Vice-president Prof. Evgenii Nikolov, DSc.



Scientific activities

Thirty five plenary lectures, 3 short communications and 25 posters were presented in the 6 scientific sessions. Authors of the plenary lectures were well known scientists working in the field of reproductive immunology: Shinzo Izojima, Koji Koyama and Takao Koike



(Japan), Gerard Chaouat (France), Carolyn

Coulam, Charles Wira, Roumen Roussev and Raina Fichorova (USA), Victor Chernishov (Ukraine), Hans





Donat (Germany), Nelson Fernandez (UK), Maciej Kurpisz (Poland), Jana Peknicova and Vera Jonakova (Czech Republic), Marighoula Varla-Leftherioti (Greece), Natalya Sotnikova and Julia Antsiferova (Russia), Julia Szekeres-Bartho (Hungary), Rayna Georgieva, Margarita Mollova, Maria Ivanova, Stanimir Kyurkchiev and Nina Atanasova (Bulgaria) and others. Numerous young scientists reported their results

in 25 poster presentations, thoroughly discussed in two scientific sessions. After reviewing, the abstracts of the presentations were published in a special volume, including also the final programme of the forum.

The basic and clinical data reported at the symposium covered the next topics: Gametes antigenicity and gametes interactions: mechanisms of fertilization, cell proliferation, differentiation and apoptosis in male and female reproductive systems: cellular and molecular factors and mechanisms of implantation and pregnancy: recurrent pregnancy loss and repeated implantation failures: assisted reproduction: immunoendocrine regulation of reproduction: pathology and treatment of reproductive disorders: stem cells. Some of the interesting results on the mentioned topics included: future problems of sperm immobilizing antibodies in sterile women; contribution of the zona pellucida to fertility and contraception; novel strategies to delineate sperm entities for immunocontraceptive approach; role of heat-shock proteins in mechanisms of spermatogenesis and apoptosis; role of seminal plasma and sperm surface proteins in reproduction; new achievements in proteomics of reproduction; characterization of polypotent stem cells in female endometrium, etc. Of special interest was the data reported on the role of NK cells in abortions and



their diagnostic significance for in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer in infertile couples; the role of embryo selection for the successful implantation outcome; the interrelation between antiphospholipid syndrome and complement activation in reproductive problems; early regulators in early abortions; new strategy to understand how HIV infects women; the cytokine profile and TH1/TH2 blood cell ratios in recurrent abortions and multiple implantation failures after in vitro

fertilization of women; on immunology of the ovary, etc.

The scientific programme of the symposium did not pass unnoticed by the media – TV, radio and press. The pressconference organized during the symposium provoked great interest and was attended by 25 of the participants and an impressive number of journalists from the mentioned media. Personal interviews were taken from several foreign participants. The interest was



provoked by basic issues of unexplained forms of sterility in humans, such as the participation of the male and female factors in sterility and the role of immune mechanisms in its etiology and pathogenesis, the possibilities of immune approaches for prophylaxis and therapy, the success rate of in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer and new data and possibilities for successful implantations, the role of the state for financial assistance of couples applying this biotechnology in the different countries, immunological methods for prophylaxis and treatment of recurrent spontaneous abortions in women, etc.

The evening of 26 June was dedicated to the Official ceremony on awarding the “Kiril Bratanov” medal and the Certificate for contribution to the advancement of Reproductive Immunology and to ICCIR activities. The award was bestowed to the following researchers: Daniel Rukavina (Croatia), Gerard



Chaouat (France), Marighoula Varla-Leftherioti (Greece), Julia Szekeres-Bartho (Hungary), Jana Peknicova (Czech Republic), Maciej Kurpysz (Poland), Margarita Mollova, Maria Ivanova, Stanimir Kyurkchiev and Julia Vassileva (Bulgaria).

The 12th Symposium was a focus point for exchange of



research and clinical experience and knowledge in immunobiology of reproduction based on the presented results by leading researchers and clinicians from 16 countries. The Symposium offered the possibilities for beneficial scientific contacts between participants, for useful international scientific cooperation and for the



increase of opportunities to apply the acquired knowledge in the research work and clinical practice. We can proudly point out that one of the participants at the First Symposium and co-founder of ICCIR (1967) was Prof. Robert Edwards (UK) – the first to achieve fertilization of human embryos in vitro and later on together with gynecologist

Dr. Steptoe, the first in the world to obtain an in vitro baby. Today, the problems of assisted reproduction still occupy a significant part of the Symposium scientific programme.



The 12th ISIR was another proof of the importance of biology and immunology of reproduction and their role in world science and clinical practice, as well as of the wide international research

contacts and existing collaborations of the “Acad. Kiril



Bratanov" Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction and the recognition it enjoys by the scientific community.

Prof. Rayna Georgieva, DSc
President of ICCIR

Report of the 23rd Annual Meeting of Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction, 6 -7 December 2008

The annual meeting of Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction was held in Toyama, Japan on 6-7 December 2008. We invited Dr. Sarah A. Robertson, University of Adelaide, Australia. She presented very beautiful lecture titled 'Activation of maternal tolerance in early pregnancy:a role for seminal fluid?'

We have planned the International Symposium titled 'Reproductive Immunology in Asian Counties.' Prof. Yi Lin, Jinan University, China, Prof. Seyed M Moazzeni, Tarbiat Modarres University, Iran, Dr. Khaleque N Khan, Nagasaki University, Japan, and Prof. Hong-Nerng Ho, National Taiwan University, Taiwan were invited, and they presented the wonderful data. This is a first project on Reproductive Immunology Meeting in Asia. We hope that this scientific exchange will be continued.

We have got an opportunity to have two memorial lectures of Prof. Naohiko Umesaki, Wakayama Medical University and Prof. Koji Koyama, Hyogo College of Medicine. They summarized their life works, and they were emotional lectures. We thank their great contribution for our society.

We had planned the symposium titled 'The treatments for implantation failure and pregnancy loss?' Dr. H. Fujiwara, Dr. H. Nakamura, Dr. K. Sugihara, Dr. T. Sugi and Prof. M. Sugiura showed the pathophysiology of implantation failure and pregnancy loss, and they showed the unique therapies. Total 54 oral presentations were accepted, and our society conferred awards on three best speakers.

I wish, finally, to thank all the society members and international guests.

Shigeru Saito PhD. MD.
Chair person
Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction





Report on the 29th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology (ASRI), June 5 - 9, 2009, Orlando, Florida (USA).

Drs. Peter Hansen and Mary Brown co-chaired the conference that was inaugurated by Dr. Charles Wira, President of ASRI.

The annual Meeting Program covered basic and clinical themes on Reproductive Immunology and sexually transmitted diseases, including discussions on approaches and applications of new technologies. A highlight of the Meeting was the pre-meeting Post-Graduate course "*In Vivo approaches and new biology at the maternal-fetal interface: from small and large animals to humans*", organized by Drs. Surendra Sharma, Gerard Chaouat and David. G. Clark..

The participants in the Post-graduate course and the main meeting represented an international milieu of investigators, students and health professionals.

In summary, the 2009 ASRI meeting was recognized as an outstanding conference. Next year's ASRI Annual meeting will be held on May 17-20, 2010 in Nemaquin, PA, USA with Dr. Troy Ott as the Chair.

Report on the XVth Symposium of Czech Reproductive Immunologists with international contribution, held in Zdar nad Sazavou, 29-31 May, 2009

Symposium was appropriated to Radslav Kinsky's memory (died of very serious disease at his eighty, on October 2008).

The opening ceremony of our meeting was started by Radslav's Constatine, elder son, and Tamar, his charming wife. Constatine reminisced his father work in France, abroad and in his native country.

85 experts took part in XVth symposium of Czech Reproductive Immunologists, also from Slovakia, Japan, France and Portugal. After Radslav's favorite song „Chances in life with ups and downs“, scientific programme went on. Oral presentations introduced new knowledges about embryo-cytotoxic cytokines, the role of NK cells, about HsP70, endometriosis, auto-antibodies in allergy, the main reason in in vitro fertilization failures, antiphospholipid antibodies, sperm antigens, chracterization of proteins in seminal plasma, enzyme activity of epidydimal fluids, acrosome reactions. Valuable asset is that majority of Czech younger research people acquired the first possibility in their lifes to have a lecture here.

Prof. MUDr.Zdenka Ulčová-Gallová, DrSc.



Treasurer's report

With the 2010 ISIR Congress in Cairns fast approaching, it is time for most of us to renew our subscription to the Society. The current paid membership of the Society stands at 115, with 11 life members. In the period 2008-2009, the total receipts of the Society were GBP 30.00, leaving a balance of GBP 555.43.

If the Society is to continue to support the provision of Congress bursaries for young scientists, we need more members to join and also more of our current members to pay their subscriptions. The subscription currently stands at only GBP 30 for a three year period (which is excellent value with the current exchange rate between the dollar, euro and pound!). Remember that you are only eligible to vote in Society elections if you are a fully paid up member, which also entitles you to reduced registration fees (less AUD 60) for the ISIR Congress in Cairns and receipt of the newsletter. Please tell your colleagues and students about the Society and encourage them to join.

Payment cannot be easier. It can be done using your credit card via "Paypal" or by bank transfer (cheques and cash cannot be accepted).

All the details with step by step instructions are given on the ISIR website <http://isir-hyogo.sakura.ne.jp>

Ian Sargent
ISIR Treasurer

Forthcoming meetings

1. 30th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology, May 17-20, 2010, Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, Pittsburgh (area), PA, USA (www.theasri.org or contact Troy Ott at tlo12@psu.edu)
2. 11th International Congress in Reproductive Immunology, "*Reproductive Immunobiology at the Great Barrier Reef*", 15-19 August 2010. Cairns, Australia (www.icri2010.org or contact Prof Sarah Robertson at sarah.robertson@adelaide.edu.au)
3. 14th International Congress of Immunology (ICI), August 22-27, 2010, Kobe, Japan (<http://www.ici2010.org/>)
4. The International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction, August 28-29, 2010, Osaka, Japan, in conjunction with the 25th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction (<http://isir-hyogo.sakura.ne.jp/> or contact Prof Mamoru Okabe at okabe@gen-info.osaka-u.ac.jp)
5. 8th Congress of European Society for Reproductive Immunology (ESRI), 2010 (<http://www.es4ri.eu/>)

30th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology

May 17-20, 2010
Nemacolin Woodlands Resort
Pittsburgh (area), PA



<http://www.nemacolin.com>



Program Topics:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| -HIV | -Trophoblast Immunology/Inflammation | -Epigenetics |
| -Placental Angiogenesis | -Contraception | -STI |
| -Immunology of the Gonad | -Metabolic-Immune Interactions | -Post-Graduate Course |

Program Includes: 10 plenary sessions covering basic and clinical aspects of reproductive immunology, NIH Sponsored Post-Graduate Course, CME credits, poster session, wine and cheese reception, awards banquet, funding opportunities round table, student research competition.

*****ABSTRACT DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1st, 2010*****

Resort Amenities:

- 3000 Acre, 4 Star/4 Diamond Resort
- AAA/5 Diamond Lautrec Restaurant
- #10 Resort Spa in North America
- #5 Conde Nast Top 100 Golf Resorts
- Best of the East - Meeting Venues
- 5 Restaurants, Day Spa, PGA Golf Course, Orvis Fly Fishing School, Cigar bar
- 45 million dollar art collection - daily tours
- Wildlife Academy, Marina, Adventure Center, Kidz Club, day care
- Adjacent to Frank Lloyd Wright Homes: Falling Water & Kentuck Knob

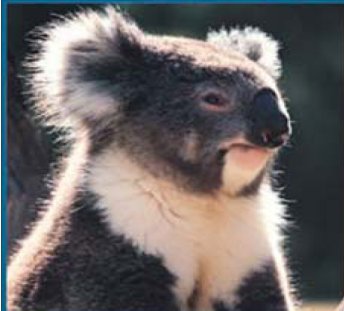


More information at: www.theasri.org or contact Troy Ott at tlo12@psu.edu

XI ICRI 2010

International Congress of Reproductive Immunology

Palm Cove Resort - Cairns - Australia
15-19 August 2010



The SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM will feature world-class speakers on topics including:

- o innate & adaptive immune mechanisms in
 - male & female reproductive tract
 - gametogenesis, conception & embryo
 - implantation & placenta
 - fetal programming
- o disorders of reproduction
 - infertility, miscarriage & preeclampsia
 - autoimmunity - endometriosis
- o TLRs & inflammation, mucosal immunity & STDs
- o Treg cells, Th17 cells & tolerance
- o cytokines/HLA-G/uNK cells/dendritic cells

website: icri2010.org

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!



contact: sarah.robertson@adelaide.edu.au