



# PASPCR

## Newsletter

Volume 1 Number 1

February, 1993

With this issue, we are establishing the **PASPCR Newsletter** as a regular means to improving communication within our Society; we intend to publish the **PASPCR Newsletter** on a quarterly basis. The Newsletter will keep you informed as to the official dealings of the Society (by publishing election results, minutes of our Council meetings, etc), of recent scientific advances (by listing relevant references published within the most recent quarter), and finally it will serve as an intermediary for communications among ourselves (by publishing Job Listings, a Calendar of Events, Letters and Miscellaneous Announcements). Future issues will include a list of our members along with their addresses and contact numbers, as well as our ByLaws, Rules & Regulations, and other reference materials. We invite each of you to contribute items to be included in this newsletter and/or to suggest how we can improve its content. Please address your suggestions to any of the members of our Publications Committee as noted on page 2 of this newsletter.

### Election Results :

The following candidates were elected . . . . .

Sally Frost-Mason (President-Elect)  
Richard King (Secretary/Treasurer)  
Zalfa Abdel-Malek, Murray Brilliant &  
Seth Orlow (Council Members)

Congratulations to all nominees! More than 70% of the membership voted and all the candidates received significant support. Several of the races were narrowly decided; we hope that eventually all active members of the **PASPCR** will serve in some capacity in our Society. It is the intent that the Officers and Council Members of the **PASPCR** represent the diversity of our Society by geography, scientific discipline, area of interest and other factors - we feel this has been accomplished. Current officers and Council Members are listed on page 2 of this Newsletter.

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**PanAmerican Society for  
Pigment Cell Research**

c/o Dr. Richard King  
Department of Medicine  
University of Minnesota  
516 Delaware St, SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
FAX: (612) 626-6645

**Officers**

Vincent Hearing  
*President*  
Sally Frost-Mason  
*President-Elect*  
Richard King  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

**Council Members**

Zalfa Abdel-Malek  
Joseph Bagnara  
Roger Bowers  
Murray Brilliant  
John Brumbaugh  
Alistair Cochran  
Kowichi Jimbow  
Seth Orlow  
John Pawelek

**IFPCS Representative**

James Nordlund  
*Past-President*

The PASPCR Newsletter is published quarterly; for further information and/or to submit contributions, please contact:

Dr. Zalfa Abdel-Malek  
University of Cincinnati  
Department of Dermatology  
231 Bethesda Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45267  
FAX: (513) 558-0198

Dr. Murray Brilliant  
Institute for Cancer Research  
Fox Chase Cancer Center  
7701 Burholme Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19111  
FAX: 215/728-3574

Dr. Seth J. Orlow  
Department of Dermatology  
New York Univ Med Center  
550 First Avenue, RM H100  
New York, NY 10016  
FAX: (212) 263-8752

**Calendar of Events :**

**March 31 - April 3, 1993** Third International Conference on Melanoma; to be held in Venice, Italy (contact: Secretariat, Conference on Melanoma, Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore, 30124 Venice, Italy; FAX: 39/41/523-8540)

**April 28 - May 1, 1993** Society for Investigative Dermatology Annual Meeting; to be held in Washington DC (contact: Department of Dermatology, University Hospitals, 2074 Abington Road, Cleveland, OH FAX: 216/844-8993)

**May 5 - 7, 1993** Melanoma '93; to be held in Brighton, United Kingdom; (contact: Dr. N Kirkham, Histopathology, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton BN2 5BE, United Kingdom; FAX 44/273/600-182)

**May 30 - June 1, 1993** American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, to be held in San Diego, California (contact: FASEB, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814; FAX: 301/530-7014)

**May 6 - 8, 1993** International Colloquium on Neuromelanin and Parkinson's Disease; to be held in Sorrento, Italy (contact: Dr. Marco d'Ischia, Dept of Organic and Biological Chemistry, University of Naples Federico II, Via Mezzocannone 16, I-80134 Naples, Italy; FAX: 39/81/552-1217)

**May 19 - 22, 1993** American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting, to be held in Orlando, Florida (contact: AACR Office, Public Ledger Building, 620 Chestnut Street, Suite 816, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483, FAX: 215/440-9313)

**September 26 - 30, 1993** XV<sup>th</sup> International Pigment Cell Conference, to be held in Kensington, UK (contact: Mrs. Rosemary Barton, IPCC Conference Office, P.O. Box 1773, London E17 9LW, United Kingdom, FAX: 44/81/503-6463)

**October 28 - 31, 1993** Tricontinental Dermatology Conference, to be held in Kyoto, Japan (contact: Dr. Kouichi Ikai, Dept of Dermatology, Kyoto University Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto 606, Japan)

**December 11 - 15, 1993** American Society of Cell Biology Meeting, to be held New Orleans, Louisiana, (contact: ASCB National Office, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD FAX: 301/530-7139)

**March 11 - 12, 1994** Melanin Symposium, Melanin: Its Role in Human Photoprotection, to be held in Alexandria, Virginia, (contact: Dr. Ago Ahene, 3696 Haven Avenue, Redwood City, California, 94063, FAX: 415/368-4470)

**June 26 - 29, 1994** 5th PASPCR Annual Meeting, to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, (contact: Dr. Gert Jacobsohn, Department of Biological Chemistry, Hahnemann University, Broad and Vine, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1192, FAX: 215/762-3722)

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## Welcome to New Members :

We welcome the following new members to the **PASPCR** . . . .

Pilar Aroca, National Institutes of Health	Neelu Puri, Academic Medical Center
Stephanie A Brown, University of Minnesota	Robert M Sayre, Rapid Precision Testing Laboratory
John O DeJordy, Weizmann Institute of Science	Uwe Schlehaider, New Jersey Medical School
Timothy J Frew, University of Nebraska	Stefan Schmitz, University of Alberta
Meenhard F Herlyn, Wistar Institute	Ie-Ming Shih, Wistar Institute
Rae Janet Jacobs-Cohen, Columbia University	Manickam Sugumaran, University of Massachusetts
Joan M Krakowsky, University of Cincinnati	Maria Carolina Tuma, University of São Paulo
Alice Reis de Oliveira, Fundação Oncocentro de São Paulo	Joseph J Yohn, University of Colorado Huiquan Zhao, University of Cincinnati

If anyone is interested in joining our Society, or, if you are already a member and wish to sponsor a new member, application forms can be obtained from Dr. Richard King.

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## Letter from the Outgoing President :

The PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research is now celebrating its fourth birthday. Like the Phoenix, our Society began with the demise of the International Pigment Cell Society. We in the Americas needed a Society for pigment cell biologists for interchange of ideas.

There are many individuals who made possible the inception and development of this Society. Dick King, now the Secretary/Treasurer, courageously hosted the first meeting in Minneapolis. We had no clues whether 5 or 500 pigment cell biologists would be interested or attend. There were about 120 participants. The enthusiasm and good will generated has permeated the Society since that meeting.

At the second meeting Vince Hearing brought us many steps farther by improving the style, the content and the quality of the science. The program attracted new members and many attendants from both Europe and Japan. Kowichi Jimbow invited us to Edmonton and its beauties and mountains. Molecular and cellular biology was strongly in evidence. Raymond Boissy who presided over the fourth meeting in Cincinnati put together a program in which some of the most modern scientific technology to study the melanocyte were reported. Clearly our understanding of pigment cells and their function has been phenomenal over the last four years.

This productivity is a tribute to the work of many individual scientists but also to the interchange that occurred at meetings. This exchange of information and knowledge has contributed to new collegial relationships. Several projects between investigators at different universities are now operative and funded by the National Institutes of Health. They are known to be a direct outgrowth of conversations and workshops at the meetings of this Society. I believe there is no greater success that can be claimed for our Society.

*James J Nordlund*

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## Letter from the Incoming President :

I am excited about the rapid development of the **PASPCR** in the midst of the incredible developments that we have recently seen that make our field of research so interesting and significant. Dramatic progress in virtually all approaches to the study of pigment cells have made tremendous impacts on our own research

and have resulted in almost routine monthly cover photos in major international research journals. This heightened awareness of our field as a spawning ground for scientific achievement can only boost support (financial and otherwise) for our research programs in the future by scientists and by the public in general. Our Society can be (and has been) at the forefront of that research and all of us working together can serve to amplify our impacts in the field. I am eagerly looking forward to a continued meteoric rise and hope that all of you will figuratively join hands, not only to promote public and scientific awareness of our research, but also to benefit from that awareness. I invite each of you to actively participate in our Annual Meetings, our Newsletter and our Society. If you have ideas about how we can improve our interactions, either with other fields or amongst ourselves, please let me or one of the other officers of our Society know so that we can consider all such suggestions. It is in all of our best interests to work together to promote pigment cell research, and it goes without saying that the more we can increase our membership base, the more effective we can be. All of us should join in the effort to recruit scientists into our Society - this will certainly improve the extent of our interactions and thereby benefit all of us.

I look forward to serving for the next three years as President of the **PASPCR** and I would be remiss not to begin my tenure as President by thanking the outgoing President Jim Nordlund who, along with Richard King and the founding Council Members, has established such a vibrant and healthy Society. The financial stability and energy level of the **PASPCR** is directly attributable to that previous direction and foresight. I hope to continue that upward trend over the next several years, and want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in that effort.

*Vincent J. Hearing*

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## **1994 PASPCR V<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

Philadelphia, PA

June 26-29, 1994

Dear Member of the PASPCR: Activities related to the forthcoming meeting of our Society in Philadelphia are progressing according to schedule. The following is worth noting: The official dates are Sunday, June 26 to Wednesday, June 29, 1994. The location is the Wyndham-Plaza Hotel, centrally located, with ample parking facilities. If you are from distant places, we encourage you to either come early, stay late or both because this part of the country has many interesting sights to behold and activities to share. Among them, we can suggest Independence National Historical Park and its buildings associated with the origin of our country: Gettysburg and historical remembrances which made us into a cohesive union; Atlantic City with its boardwalk, beach and casinos; Pennsylvania Dutch country, with its Amish and beautiful farms; the Chesapeake Bay, with water sports and boating; and our own back yard, including the Poconos, New York City (<2 hrs), Baltimore (ca. 2 hrs), Washington (ca. 3 hrs). Our area is particularly good for antique hunting, probably because we have been around for a long time. Our Art Museum, among the finest in the country but not well known, is within a short walk from the headquarters hotel. The Franklin Institute (Science & Technology) and the Museum of Natural History are also close by. Families with children are encouraged to attend. I will be happy to help you make arrangements if you write or call me at 215-762-7760.

As to the scientific part, we promise you it will be arranged with much foresight and care to suit the needs of the membership. We have an active committee, representing varied views, who are busy working on the program. We will be happy to act on your proposals on topics to be covered, speakers, and any other matter related to the concern of the program committee. We are also looking for sources of financial support for the meeting so as to keep individual costs down and attract a wide audience. Please submit your suggestions. In the meantime, mark your calendars.

We wish you every success in collecting data to be submitted for presentation at the 5th Annual Meeting of the PASPCR. Call for papers will go out later this year. Sincerely,

*Gert M. Jacobsohn*, Meeting Chairman

## 1995 PASPCR VI<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Site :

We are currently soliciting applications from anyone interested in hosting the 1995 Annual Meeting of the PASPCR. If you are interesting in bidding for this Conference, please contact one of the officers of the PASPCR. Previous meeting sites to date have been: I - Minneapolis, Minnesota; II - Bethesda, Maryland; III - Edmonton, Alberta; IV - Cincinnati, Ohio. The next meeting will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (cf letter above).

## XV<sup>th</sup> International Pigment Cell Conference :

September 26-30, 1993

To Members of the PASPCR, Dear Colleague:

Your President has kindly invited me to address you on the matter of the forthcoming International Meeting. I accept this invitation with alacrity since it is just possible that some of you, by virtue of profound sensory deprivation, are unaware that the XVth International Pigment Cell Conference is due to take place in London later this year. To be precise, the IPCC will take place at Kensington Town Hall from September 26th-30th, 1993. September 26th is a Sunday and we propose to have registration desks open in the early evening and there will be a welcoming reception for those of you who will be arriving at the weekend. The Scientific meeting begins on Monday, 27th of September, when at 9:00 am there will be an Opening Ceremony featuring a star-studded cast, followed by the first of the Plenary Sessions. The Organizing Committee has arranged Plenary Sessions dealing with the Normal Melanocyte: Biology, Development and Growth Control, Genetic Control and Disorders of Pigmentation, Melanoma Genetics and Melanoma Progression and Prognosis. Symposia and Workshops are planned on melanogenesis, photobiology, vitiligo, neuromelanin and Parkinson's disease, MSH and the molecular biology of melanosomal proteins. In addition there will be a number of other special interest sessions and Poster displays. The Plenary lectures have been arranged for the mornings and six proffered paper sessions are timetabled. The IFPCS Assembly will take place on Wednesday afternoon and the Conference ends at lunchtime on Thursday, 30th September.

The Second Announcement and Call for Papers is about to be mailed and this contains more details of the Meeting, including information on the Social Programme. The Registration fee (before 1st July, 1993) is £200 for members of the IFPCS and the deadline for Abstracts is 1st May, 1993. Enquiries may be made to the new Conference Secretariat: Mrs. Rosemary Barton, IPCC Conference Office, P.O. Box 1773, London E17 9LW, United Kingdom, phone/FAX: 44/81/503-6463.

The XVth IPCC is the first International Pigment Cell Conference to be organized under the aegis of the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies and we have chosen a logo (to the right) which symbolizes the coming together of the three regional Pigment Cell Societies, showing aggregation and mutual cooperation. The logo is derived from a frame of a time-lapse film of melanocytes in culture. Without more detailed molecular probing it is not possible to tell which cell represents which Society.

Late September is a very pleasant time to visit London and on behalf of the Organising Committee I express the hope that you will take this opportunity of visiting Britain and contributing to what we confidently expect to be an exceptionally interesting and stimulating occasion. We warmly invite you and look forward to welcoming you in London in September.

*Patrick A. Riley*, Chairman, Organizing Committee, XVth IPCC

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## **Travel Assistance and Awards at the XV<sup>th</sup> IPCC :**

**Travel Stipends** The **PASPCR** will make travel assistance available for members of the Society; please complete the enclosed application form and return to Dr. Richard King by April 1, 1993. To qualify for travel stipends, you must be a member of the **PASPCR**, an author of a submitted abstract, and either a graduate student, postdoctoral fellow or junior faculty member. See the enclosed application for further details. The amount of award will depend on the number of applicants, but will be in the range of \$300 each.

**Vitiligo and Young Investigator Awards** The **PASPCR** will also present several awards to its members attending the XVth IPCC; these include the Vitiligo Research Award, and three Young Investigator Awards. The former is sponsored by the American Skin Association and consists of a plaque and a \$1,000 award, while the latter three are sponsored by our Society and consist of a plaque and a \$250 award each. Winners of these awards will be chosen by anonymous Committees during the actual meeting and will be announced at the **PASPCR** Business Meeting to be held during the IPCC in London.

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## **PASPCR Secretary / Treasurer's Report :**

Synopsis of the **PASPCR** Council Meeting held by telephone conference call on October 15th, 1992. Council members present were: J. Nordlund, President; V. Hearing, President-Elect; R. King, Secretary-Treasurer; R. Boissy, R. Bowers, A. Cochran, N. Granholm, H. Haberman, K. Jimbow and J. Pawelek.

The minutes of the Council meeting held in Cincinnati on June 7, 1992, were reviewed and corrections made. The minutes were unanimously accepted as corrected.

The selection of the site for the International Pigment Cell Conference to be hosted by the **PASPCR** in 1996 was made following presentations to the Council by Ana Castrucci, Kowichi Jimbow and Frank Meyskens. The IFPCS ByLaws and the role the **PASPCR** should play in the selection of the site when the international meeting is hosted by the **PASPCR** in the Americas was discussed. Ease of accessibility, potential scientific content, program organization and local factors such as social activities and political stability were to be considered. All three presentations were deemed to be excellent by the Council, and each had merits for hosting the meeting. All three groups appeared to have the ability to raise sufficient funds and to organize an excellent program. The Council voted that the **PASPCR** host the International Pigment Cell Conference in 1996 in Anaheim, California, with the meeting being organized by F. Meyskens, R. Bowers and A. Cochran.

There were 96 established and 17 new members of the **PASPCR** for a total of 113 as of the date of the meeting. The total expenses for the Cincinnati meeting were \$23,410.21; meeting income - \$33,831 including \$1,340 for abstracts, \$12,991 for registration and membership and \$19,500 for corporate support. The balance in the **PASPCR** account as of September 30, 1992 was \$26,652.38.

Gert Jacobsohn gave the update on the 1994 Philadelphia meeting. The program committee will include J. Bagnara, R. Boissy, M. Brilliant, V. Hearing, R. King, L. Lamoreux, J. Pawelek and H. Swartz. The program committee will meet by telephone conference, and Jacobsohn has asked each of the program committee to suggest potential names and themes for the meeting. Jacobsohn reviewed the financial support for the meeting, noting that he has had little success in obtaining corporate support to date. The Council was encouraged to keep a compendium of expenses of past meetings for organizers of future meetings. The financial support for the meeting will be discussed further by the program committee. Jacobsohn has found

that hotel rooms will be available and was encouraged to arrange for inexpensive rooms such as dormitory and other types of rooms for students and post-docs.

The IFPCS update was given by Nordlund. The Council of the IFPCS will meet in Tokyo on November 12, 1992, with the key items on the agenda being a discussion of the bylaws and activities of the IFPCS Council. Other activities of the IFPCS include an international newsletter with an abstract service of pigment literature, position papers that would represent the work of the top pigment biologists in the world, and the triannual meeting.

Potential linkage of future meetings with other groups and societies was discussed. Contact with the editor-in-chief of Photodermatology, Photoimmunology and Photomedicine journal has been made and it has been suggested the the Photomedicine Society could meet in conjunction with the **PASPCR** to improve scientific interchange. This discussion was tabled for later action at further **PASPCR** Council meetings as a potential action for the 1995 meeting. There was no new business.

(Abbreviated minutes submitted by R. King, PASPCR Secretary-Treasurer)

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### **IFPCS Council Report :**

The following is an unofficial summary of the proceedings on the most recent IFPCS Council Meeting, which was held in Tokyo, Japan on November 12th, 1992. Representing the PASPCR were James Nordlund (IFPCS Secretary/Treasurer) and Vincent Hearing; representing the ESPCR were Patrick Riley (IFPCS Vice-President), Bengt Larsson and Giuseppe Prota, representing the JSPCR were Yutaka Mishima (IFPCS President), Jiro Matsumoto and K Toda.

Following the opening of the meeting and a welcome by the President, the minutes of the previous IFPCS Council meeting, held in Amsterdam on Sept 9, 1991, were approved. The Treasurer's report was then reviewed and approved. There was a brief discussion of IFPCS dues and although it was noted that inflationary increases, Society activities, etc, might warrant an increase in the future. Additional discussion of a dues increase was tabled until a subsequent meeting. It was decided that a booklet would be compiled which would include the IFPCS ByLaws, a history of the Federation, a listing of the officers and an updated membership list of the three member Societies. This booklet will be distributed at the next IPCC meeting held in London. The Editor's Report from the IFPCS sponsored journal, *Pigment Cell Research*, was reviewed and accepted for information of the Council. The IFPCS Publications Committee was reappointed to look into ways to continue the growth of the Journal, improve its quality and its distribution, review its direction, editorial policy and related matters. That Committee will also examine the feasibility of publishing an IFPCS Newsletter and mechanisms necessary to enhance such a publication, and finally, to interact as necessary between publishers and Meeting Chairman regarding publication of Symposia and Proceedings. The Council then discussed mechanisms involved in the selection of recipients of the Myron Gordon award and the Seiji lectureship and various suggestions were made regarding appropriate procedures to be used for the next IPCC in London and all future IPCC. It was decided that selection of future sites for IPCC will be chosen by the IFPCS and that due consideration will be given to geography and rotation. The PASPCR offered to host the next meeting (in 1996) and the offer was accepted unanimously. The three potential sites that had offered to host the next IPCC were then reviewed, and while Santa Catarina, Brazil and Edmonton, Canada had submitted very attractive bids, Los Angeles, California had been recommended by the PASPCR Council as the best overall choice based on proposed scientific program, geography, access and support. It was moved that the official selection of Los Angeles as the site of the 1996 IPCC be subject to final approval following a presentation to the IFPCS Council by the organizers (chaired by Dr. Frank Meyskens) at the London IPCC; this motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Dr. Riley then provided an update on planning for the IPCC meeting in London. It was then agreed that future sites for



IFPCS Council meeting, as well as the selection of IFPCS Officers from the three constituent Societies should rotate to consider geographic distribution and opportunities for the IFPCS; it was further agreed that there be rotation of all posts on the IFPCS Council with fair representation of the regional societies. Finally, it was noted that the next IFPCS Council meeting would be held during the London IPCC, and that an agenda for that meeting would be presented at least four weeks prior to that meeting. There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned.

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### **Acknowledgment of Corporate Support :**

The PASPCR would like to acknowledge the following sources of Corporate Support that we received in 1992:

Avon Products, Inc., Suffern, NY  
Dermik Laboratories, Inc., Blue Bell, PA  
Lawrence M Gelb Research Foundation, Stamford, CT  
Ortho Pharmaceutical Corporation, Raritan, NJ  
The Proctor and Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH  
Schering-Plough Healthcare Products, Memphis, TN

Our Society depends upon such support to help fund a variety of our activities and we hope these companies continue their interactions with us in the future.

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### **Positions - Wanted and Available :**

Available: Postdoctoral Fellowship: NIH-funded position (for up to 3 years) to study the biogenesis of the melanosome and genetic disorders which affect it. Prior training in either immunomicroscopy or molecular biology desirable. US citizen or permanent resident only. Contact: Dr. Seth Orlow, Dermatology Room H-100, NYU Medical Center, 550 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016. phone: 212/263-5070, FAX: 212/263-8752.

Available: Two postdoctoral positions are available to study the recently described receptors for the proopiomelanocortin peptides (Science, 257:1248, 1992). Ongoing projects include structure/function analysis of the MSH receptor, isolation and characterization of neural-specific proopiomelanocortin receptors, and study of the functions of melanocortins in the CNS. One position requires a background in peptide and protein chemistry for receptor structure/function analysis. The second position would ideally be filled by an individual with training in neurobiology and a strong background in molecular biology. Applicants should send a Curriculum Vitae, a statement of research interests, and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Roger D Cone, Vollum Institute for Advanced Biomedical Research, Oregon Health Sciences University, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97201-3098. phone: 503/494-4732; FAX: 503/494-4534.

Available: One or two (NIH grant-funded) postdoctoral positions in the laboratory of Dr. Murray Brilliant at the Fox Chase starting the summer of 1993. The research involves Mammalian Genetics, Pigmentation Biology and Mouse Models of Human Genetic Disease. Recent efforts have been aimed at understanding the mouse pink-eyed dilution locus (Science 252:566, 1991; PNAS 89:2969, 1992; PNAS 90:297, 1993) and its role in human albinism, Prader-Willi Syndrome and Angelman Syndrome (Mammalian Gen 3:187, 1992; Science 257:1121, 1992). Ongoing projects include characterization of the pigment gene and adjacent genes that mediate other intriguing developmental functions, in both mouse and man. The laboratory research group is small, active, productive and amiable. The

laboratory is part of the basic sciences division (The Institute for Cancer Research), located in a new research building on a large wooded campus in a suburban-like setting, just inside the city limits of Philadelphia. The Fox Chase Cancer Center has a large postdoctoral community that benefits from active inter-lab collaborations and weekly seminary/pizza/beer gatherings. In addition to a generous benefits package, other attractive amenities include subsidized housing and excellent day-care facilities, all within walking distance. Contact Dr. Murray Brilliant, Institute for Cancer Research, Fox Chase Cancer Center, 7701 Burholme Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111; phone: 215/728-2864, FAX: 215/728-3616.

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#### **TYROSINASE & TYROSINASE -RELATED PROTEINS, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

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