



Volume 2 Number 1

March, 1994

### Introduction . . .

The **PASPCR Newsletter** is published quarterly and is intended to serve as an informal means for the members of our Society to communicate with one another. As such, we invite our membership to actively contribute to the *Newsletter*; help us to update the Job Listings, Calendar of Events, Meeting Reports, Abstracts in press and other newsworthy items. 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 should have a change of affiliation and address, we'd like to know that, too. This is your *Newsletter*, and we depend upon you to help us make sure it best serves the Society's needs. Contributions and comments can be sent to any of the members of the Publications Committee.

The Publications Committee wants to make collaboration between members of the Society as easy as possible and toward that goal we are encouraging the use of E-mail and other forms of electronic communications. The membership listing in this issue contains the E-mail address of those members that have told us what their address is, we encourage everyone who has an E-mail address to forward it to the Publications Committee. If you want an E-mail address and you work at an educational organization please contact the Publications Committee. We will get you in touch with the individuals who can "get you access to the Information SuperHighway". Our Committee is also setting up a Gopher server for the **PASPCR** that will contain items of interest to the membership, such as a directory of members and text of past *Newsletters*.

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**Calendar of Events**

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

**April 10 - 13, 1994** Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, to be held in San Francisco, California (contact: AACR Office, Public Ledger Building, 620 Chestnut Street, Suite 816, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483 FAX: 215/440-9313)

**April 27 - 29, 1994** Annual Meeting of the Society for Investigative Dermatology, to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, (contact: SID Office, Department of Dermatology, University Hospitals of Cleveland, 2074 Abington Road, Cleveland, OH 44106, FAX: 216/844-8993)

**June 26 - 29, 1994** V<sup>th</sup> 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)

**Oct 19 - 22, 1994** 5<sup>th</sup> ESPCR Annual Meeting, to be held in Vienna, Austria, (contact: ESPCR '94, Vienna Academy of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Alser StraÙe 4, A-1090 Vienna, Austria, FAX: 43-1-42-138323)

**June, 1995** VI<sup>th</sup> PASPCR Annual Meeting, to be held in Kansas City, Kansas, (contact: Dr. Sally Frost-Mason, Department of Physiology, University of Kansas, 3038 Hayworth Hall, Lawrence, KS 66046-2106, FAX: 913/864-5321)

**Oct 29 - Nov 3, 1996** XVI<sup>th</sup> International Pigment Cell Conference, to be held in Anaheim, California, (contact: MMC/UCI Center for Health Education, P.O. Box 1428, Long Beach, California 90801-1428, FAX: 310/933-2012)

- - - Introduction (continued from page 1) - - -

If you have any ideas for what sort of information you would like to be able to access please let us know. The PASPCR information will soon be found under "International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies" under "International Organizations" on Gopher. For those who cannot wait the immediate path is: Host=lenti.med.umn.edu., port 70, Path=1/Departments/Medicine, Department of/Division of Genetics and Metabolism/International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies.

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## Welcome to New Members

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

David M. Parichy  
Masayuki Tejima  
Giselle Thibaudeau

If anyone is interested in joining our Society or wishes to sponsor a member, application forms can be obtained from Dr. Richard King.

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## Corporate Sponsors

The PASPCR would like to acknowledge and thank our Corporate Sponsors. Financial gifts from these sponsors have allowed our Society to increase benefits to the membership far out of proportion to the actual dues collected from members. Monies contributed by these sponsors have been used over the years to support various PASPCR functions including our Young Investigator Award program, meeting travel stipends, annual meeting expenses and this Newsletter.

### *GOLD Sponsors*

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

The V<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the PASPCR will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from June 26-29, 1994. Dr. Gert Jacobsohn is the Organizer of this meeting, and he and his Program Committee have already assembled a number of exciting keynote speakers and the outline of a most interesting scientific program. By now you should have received the final announcement and Call for Abstracts. Please note that the Abstract Deadline is March 15th! If you have not received the abstract forms and announcement by now, contact Dr. Jacobsohn immediately. We hope that all members of the PASPCR will plan to attend this meeting - be sure to mark it on your calendar.

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

The PASPCR Council unanimously and enthusiastically voted to accept the bid by Dr. Sally Frost-Mason to host the VI<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the PASPCR in Kansas City in June, 1995. We are very excited about this site for the meeting and feel that Sally will do an outstanding job in maintaining the high standards set for the PASPCR meetings to date. She already has drawn some tentative plans for the meeting that promise to make it a memorable one and further details about the 1995 Annual Meeting will be forthcoming in future Newsletters and mailings.

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

**by Richard King**

Following is a synopsis of the PASPCR Council Meeting held in London on Sept 26, 1993.

Hearing opened the meeting and the minutes of the telephone council meeting of April 22, 1993, and July 22, 1993, were reviewed and accepted.

Nordlund presented the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a career achievement award. The committee proposed that the society establish this award as the most prestigious award of the society, to be given to an individual or individuals for outstanding and distinguished contributions to pigment cell research and/or the society with the following guidelines: (1) the recipient will be a senior investigator generally with an academic rank of professor or its equivalent; (2) the recipient shall be a member of the society except for rare situations; (3) the society shall provide a plaque or other memento that is unique for this award; (4) the award will be presented at the annual meeting of the society; (5) the Nominating Committee will nominate a slate of three candidates and provide supporting documentation for presentation to the council; (6) additional nominations can be made from the membership at large with five members at large required to write letter for support of an additional nomination; (7) the council shall vote by secret ballot for one of several candidates; a majority vote will be required for selection; (8) in general, only one such award will be given per year except in rare instances where two or more individuals have worked as a team or made outstanding accomplishments to be deserving equally of the award. It was agreed that the name should be The PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research Career Achievement Award. The committee report was unanimously accepted as a Rule and Regulation of the society.

Bagnara gave the Membership Committee report. The Committee felt that a brochure to promote the society is important and should be developed. It was noted that many people working in pigment were not members of the PASPCR and that these individuals should be encouraged to join the society. Abdel-Malek gave the Newsletter Committee report. The bibliography was discussed, and it was generally felt that the bibliography was very useful and should be continued. Other potential topics for inclusion in the newsletter were abstracts or titles of abstracts from meetings, letters to the newsletter, articles in press, and a section on hot topics in pigment research. Newsletter Advertising

costs of \$150 for a full page, \$100 for a half page and \$75 for a quarter page were unanimously accepted.

Meyskens reviewed plans for the XVI IPCC meeting in Anaheim in 1996. The theme of the meeting to be held at the Disneyland Hotel will be Melanin and Health: Photobiology and Applied Photobiology. Hearing suggested that a program committee be established that represents a broad range of interest in pigment biology, and Meyskens agreed. The committee gave their full congratulations to Meyskens and co-workers for the excellent organization for the 1996 IPCC meeting in Anaheim.

The 1994 PASPCR meeting in Philadelphia was discussed. To insure a good meeting and a reasonable registration fee, the Council voted to provide up to \$5,000 in support to Gert Jacobsohn for the 1994 Philadelphia meeting if he is unable to obtain sufficient outside support. Frost-Mason reviewed the possible 1995 meeting at the Hyatt Hotel in Kansas City. Plans for the meeting, registration and outside support have been developed. It was suggested that the meeting be held in June, 1995, and the Council voted to have the 1995 meeting in Kansas City.

Hearing appointed a new Nominating Committee for the next elections. Frost-Mason, as President-Elect, is the chair of this committee. Hearing asked Brilliant to represent the council on the committee. Three additional members from the general membership will be selected by Frost-Mason and Brilliant.

King proposed an increase in dues to cover society expenses. Estimated annual expenses for the society for the period 1993-1996 are approximately \$14,300 per year. At the current dues rate of \$63 for regular membership and \$28 for student membership, a society of 130 members will raise \$7,600 per year. King proposed that the dues be raised to \$100 for regular membership and \$35 per year for student membership. With a society membership of 130, this would raise \$12,000 per year. The supported activities of the Society include the newsletter, travel awards for meetings, young investigator awards, travel of officers to the IFPCS Council, honorary membership and the career achievement award. The Council felt that these are excellent activities and help promote the broad range of pigment cell research. The council voted to raise the dues to \$100 starting January 1, 1994.

Hearing proposed the establishment of an Awards Committee for the society. He suggested that the officers of the council, including President, President-Elect, Past-President and Secretary-Treasurer, represent the awards committee. The awards committee will be in charge for making plans of the Young Investigator Award and the Travel Award. This was accepted by the council.

There was no further new business. The next council meeting will be a telephone council meeting on January 28, 1994. The minutes have been prepared by R. King, Secretary-Treasurer.

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**Meeting Report :** **by PASPCR Council Members**

XIVth International Pigment Cell Conference, September 26-30, 1993, London, England

There were many different Symposia, Workshops and Plenary Sessions that covered virtually all aspects of pigment cell biology. Summaries of many sessions were compiled by members of the PASPCR Council who attended those sessions, and many of them were printed in the last issue of the **Newsletter**. Following are summaries that were submitted following publication of that **Newsletter**. As noted before, Prof. Riley was kind enough to send a limited number of program booklets for distribution to those interested but unable to attend the meeting. Any remaining will be distributed on a first-come first-served basis. Please request from Dr. Vincent Hearing, Bldg 37 Room 1B22, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892 USA

**Cancer Research Campaign - 70th Anniversary Lectures -** **by Alistair Cochran**

Prof R Mackie of the University of Glasgow spoke of the value of epidemiology in planning for the prevention and treatment of melanoma and in auditing the results of education. She described the database derived from the Scottish Melanoma Group, commenced in 1979 and now comprised of more than 5000 patients. It is the largest geographically-based database and has an exceptionally complete follow-up records. Melanoma in Scotland has increased between 1979 and 1989 from 3.2 to 5.5 per 100,000 for males and 6.5 to 9.5 per 100,000 for females. The female preponderance of cases seems to occur mainly in the countries where the incidence of the disease is low. She discussed the important variations in incidence between countries near Scotland, the Scandinavian countries and England. The English data are regarded as weak because there is no melanoma registry in that country. The importance of a specific registry was emphasized. The main increase involves superficial spreading melanoma, nodular melanoma and lentigo maligna melanoma. There was no increase in acral lentiginous melanoma. In males, the increase in the trunk was greater than in the face, head and neck. For women, the main increase was on the leg. The overall 5-year survival rate was 71.6%, with women doing better than men. Most melanomas lay in a range from 0.1 to 1.49 mm. Dr Mackie stated that artificial sunlight as delivered by sun beds was a weak risk factor.

Who are the individuals at risk for melanoma? Risk factors include number of melanocytic nevi, a freckling tendency, dysplastic nevi and a history of severe sunburn with blistering, particularly in youth. Dr. Mackie has developed a risk chart and is undertaking a surveillance study. Risk of melanoma for individuals with personal atypical nevi was 90 times the average; for those with personal atypical nevi and a family history of atypical nevi 92 times the average; individuals with a personal atypical nevus diathesis and a family history of melanoma and atypical nevi the risk rose to 444 times the average. Dr. Mackie concluded that surveillance of such individuals could lead to earlier detection of melanomas. Recent genetic studies may further elucidate the mechanisms of risk.

Dr. Margaret Kripke from the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, spoke about a model of ultraviolet-induced carcinogenesis that induced melanomas. This was developed from earlier models in which DMBA and croton oil produced a variety of tumors including some melanomas. Substituting ultraviolet light for croton oil led to many tumors, but few melanomas, whereas substituting ultraviolet for DMBA led to relatively few tumors that were mostly melanomas. Combining DMBA, croton oil and ultraviolet light produced many tumors, many of which were melanomas. Does ultraviolet light directly affect the melanocytes or does it influence adjacent tissues? In experiments where animals were exposed to UVB and then given injected tumor cells, increased numbers of melanomas grew on the irradiated sites. In summary these studies show that the host tissues are the target of the ultraviolet radiation, that the effect is localized to the site of ultraviolet radiation, is transient and that the effect is sufficiently severe as to be demonstrable using very low numbers of target cells.

She next addressed the effect of ultraviolet on metastatic spread and local progression of tumors. If tumor cells are implanted into UV-irradiated areas, the animal dies more rapidly and with more metastases. There is evidence that ultraviolet light induces immune suppression of the skin-associated lymphoid tissues. The evidence that the effect is immunologically mediated is that all immunogenic tumors are affected and that the effect is not demonstrable in immune-suppressed hosts. To assess whether ultraviolet acts on the afferent or efferent limb of the immune response immunization and subsequent challenge experiments were undertaken and lead to the conclusion that induction of immunity is not blocked by ultraviolet and therefore that UV acts on the efferent limb of the immune response. A prominent infiltrate of T-lymphocytes is seen in melanomas growing in unirradiated sites, but is much reduced in tumors growing in UV-irradiated sites. Dr. Kripke stated that applying sunscreen before each ultraviolet exposure eliminates the inflammatory effect, but has no effect on tumor development and growth after ultraviolet exposure. Implications for the role of sunscreens in the prevention of skin cancer in humans may be considerable.

Dr. Robin Marks of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria and the University of Melbourne, Australia, discussed the question of melanoma prevention and whether it is possible to change a population's behavior in relation to the sun. Dr. Marks discussed the increasing incidence of melanoma in Australia and the public health problem that this presented in a population that is predominantly fair-skinned. For many decades there has been an acceptance of an association between a suntan, beauty and health. Various Australian educational projects have made major efforts, for more than 10 years, to educate the public concerning the health hazards of excessive exposure to sunlight. The program has been active in attempting to modify behavior and the environment to make it more favorable for those at risk. The program has emphasized the use of natural protection, that is, the planting of trees and the creation of shady areas over the use of sunscreens. Encouragement has been offered to individuals to wear protective clothing and to minimize exposure to the sun during the hours of its maximum intensity. Analysis of behavioral alterations is continuing and the results, thus far, are encouraging. An increasing proportion of people are aware of the risks and hazards of sunlight and how to protect themselves from its effects. National concern about the diminishing ozone layer is considerable. The proportion of individuals being sunburned each weekend is being reduced. Acceptance of education and of the need for behavioral modification is higher among women than men. Monitoring programs will continue to see whether these behavioral and perceptual alterations are associated with a long-term reduction in the incidence and mortality from melanomas.

## **PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research** **Rules and Regulations**

The Secretary/Treasurer of the PASPCR is currently preparing an updated booklet containing the ByLaws of the Society and the Rules and Regulations that have been added. This booklet will be distributed to all members in the near future, but in the meantime, a list of the Rules and Regulations of the PASPCR currently in effect are as follows:

### **1. Amendments to the Bylaws**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be initiated by a vote of 2/3 of the Council or may be proposed to the Council in writing by any member with the written support of three other members. In the latter case, the Secretary-Treasurer, will transmit the proposed amendment to a committee of three members of the Council selected by the President. This committee shall convene promptly and report, usually within 6 weeks from the start of its deliberations, its recommendation for endorsement, revision or disapproval of the proposed amendment. The committee's final recommendation will be reviewed from the entire Council with a favorable vote of 2/3 of its members required for endorsement of the proposed change in the Bylaws. The sponsors of an amendment that fails to gain endorsement may, in writing, request the Council to reconsider their unaltered proposal based on new clarifying information. The second vote of the Council on a proposed change in the Bylaws shall be final. Amendments revised and resubmitted following disapproval by the Council shall be considered new proposals and reviewed accordingly. All proposed amendments to the Bylaws initiated by the Council or endorsed by it will be transmitted for consideration to the general membership. As an alternative procedure, a proposed change in the Bylaws may be submitted to the Council by petition of one-tenth of the total active membership and will be transmitted directly to the general membership for its consideration. Each proposed amendment to the Bylaws distributed to the general membership will be accompanied by commentary/recommendations from the Council. Sponsors of an amendment other than the Council shall have the option of providing a similar statement for distribution. Voting by the membership will take place at an annual or special meeting of the Society (See Article X, Section 10.01 of the Bylaws) if it falls within 6 months of the date that a proposed



amendment to the Bylaws is received by the Secretary-Treasurer from either the Council or one-tenth of the total active general membership. If not, voting on the amendment will be carried out by a ballot mailed to each active member of the Society by the Secretary-Treasurer. In either case, approval by 2/3 of the members voting will be required for adoption of the proposed amendment.

*Approved March 1, 1990*

## **2. Travel Awards**

Travel awards will be provided for each annual meeting. (continued on the next page)

- a. The criteria for receiving a travel award will be as follows:
  - i. Must be a member of the PASPCR
  - ii. Must be included as an author on an abstract submitted for the meeting
  - iii. Must be in one of the following three groups:
    - a. Graduate Student
    - b. Postdoctoral fellow
    - c. Instructor or Assistant Professor who has had a faculty appointment for 3 or fewer years.
  - iv. Must not hold terminal doctoral degree for more than 5 years.
- b. A total limit of \$4,200 and individual limit of \$300 will be placed on the travel awards for each annual meeting.

*Approved October 31, 1990, Amended July 11, 1991*

## **3. Schedule for Elections**

The Nominating Committee will start the nominating process for officers and council positions in the spring, and the vote will be held in the fall of each year. The starting date for new officers and council members will be January 1 of the next calendar year.

*Approved July 11, 1991*

## **4. Young Investigator Awards**

The PASPCR will establish three young investigator awards to include a plaque and \$250. These awards will be given at the annual meeting of the PASPCR. Guidelines of the awards will suggest that one award be given for each of the three categories: pre-doctoral student, post-doctoral fellow and a young faculty person.

*Approved October 30, 1991*

## **5. IFPCS Council Membership**

The outgoing President of the PASPCR will become the member-at-large for the IFPCS Council at the completion of his/her term as President. The President has the authority to appoint the alternate to the member-at-large to the IFPCS Council with the recommendation that the President select the President-Elect, a member of the council or a member-at-large as seems appropriate for the situation at the time.

*Approved January 23, 1992*

## **6. Honorary Members**

Honorary Members will be elected as follows:

- a. The honorary members will be nominated and elected by the PASPCR Council.
- b. The elected honorary member should be invited to attend the subsequent meeting of the PASPCR to personally accept the honorary membership award.
- c. The Society should present a plaque or other suitable memento at the meeting or send it to that member after the meeting if he/she is unable or declines to attend.
- d. A photograph and a brief summary of the honorary member's achievements in pigment biology should be published in *Pigment Cell Research*.

*Approved June 7, 1992*

## 7. PANAMERICAN Society for Pigment Cell Research Career Achievement Award

The Council approves the establishment of the PANAMERICAN Society for Pigment Cell Research Career Achievement Award, which is the Society's most prestigious award, to be given to an individual(s) for outstanding and distinguished contributions to pigment cell research and/or the Society. The receipt of the award and the unique medal without a monetary honorarium are to be considered to be recognition of the distinction achieved by the accomplishments of the recipient's career by membership at large and the officers. The award and its method of selection are as follows:

- a. The name of the award will be PANAMERICAN Society for Pigment Cell Research Career Achievement Award.
- b. The recipient will be a senior investigator generally with an academic rank of professor or its equivalent for those in industry or government service.
- c. The recipient shall be a member of the society except in those very rare situations in which an individual in another discipline makes such discoveries and contributions that the field of pigment cell research clearly advances to the benefit of all investigators.
- d. The Society shall have a special plaque designed that is unique to this award and upon which are inscribed the name of the Society; the logo of the Society; the name of the award; the name of the awardee; and the year in which it was presented along with any other appropriate information.
- e. The award will be present at the annual meeting of the Society.
- f. The Nominating Committee of the Society shall initiate immediately following each annual meeting the preparation of a slate of three candidates with a short statement indicating the reason for nomination of each, which will be presented to the Council no later than January of the following calendar year. This slate is confidential information for the committee and Council only.
- g. Additional nominations may be made from the membership at large. Such nominations will require that five members at large write letters of support for the nominee, and each letter must indicate the reason for the nomination.
- h. The council shall vote by secret ballot for one or several candidates. A majority of votes shall be required for election. If necessary at least the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be voted on by a second secret ballot.
- i. In general only one such award will be given per year except in rare instances where two or more individuals have worked as a team or made such outstanding accomplishments to be deserving equally of the award. It is not required that an award be given annually.

*Approved September 26, 1993*

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**Positions - Wanted and Available :**

\*\*\* Please notify us if you have any positions to be listed in this section of our next Newsletter \*\*\*

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The Bibliography published in this issue covers the period mid-November, 1993 through January, 1994. If you notice a paper that was not detected by this search that should be included, please send it to us

and we will include it in the next issue. We have tried to highlight any publications which include a member of the PASPCR with an star.

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