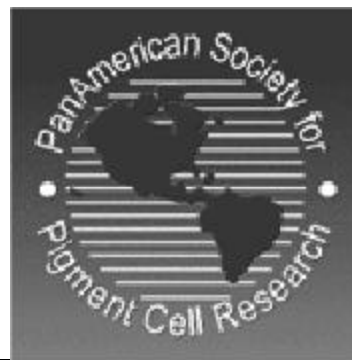


# PASPCR

December 2001  
Vol. 9 Number 4

## Newsletter



[www.paspcr.org](http://www.paspcr.org)

### Introduction...

In this issue, I am making some changes to the **PASPCR Newsletter**. Hopefully this new format will be easier to read. If there are any changes that you wish to see included, please contact me via email. All comments are appreciated. You can contact me at [bill@lenti.med.umn.edu](mailto:bill@lenti.med.umn.edu).

The **PASPCR Newsletter** is published quarterly and is intended to serve as a means of communication for the members of our Society. As such, we invite our membership to actively contribute to it. If you attend a scientific meeting and have heard results 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. Any information on up-coming meetings of interest will also be included. We also want to note any change of affiliation or address that you may have had to help us keep our membership list up-to-date. 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 Bill Oetting, preferably by E-mail, to [bill@lenti.med.umn.edu](mailto:bill@lenti.med.umn.edu).

The PASPCR Web page is the major, up-to-date source of current information for the PASPCR membership. The URL address to our home page is <http://www.paspcr.org>. The PASPCR Web page contains information about the PASPCR including the goals, ByLaws and Rules of the Society, future meetings, past issues of the **PASPCR Newsletter** as well as links to other related sites

including the InterPig DataBase, the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS) and the regional Pigment Cell Societies from Europe and Japan. In addition, an updated PASPCR membership directory is available on the PASPCR Web page: please notify us if you wish any or all of your information to be modified or deleted on that site. The PASPCR home page also includes positions available and positions wanted. Postings for Positions Available are open to all individuals so long as the position is related to pigment cell research. Postings for Positions Wanted will be open to members of PASPCR or its sister societies (JSPCR and ESPCR). Please provide an expiration data for any submitted postings. If there is additional information that you wish to have added to and/or suggestions to the PASPCR WebMaster, contact Bill Oetting at [bill@lenti.med.umn.edu](mailto:bill@lenti.med.umn.edu).

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### IFPCS Representative:

Sally Frost-Mason

### Calendar of Events:

**Sept 9 - 13, 2002** The XVIIIth International Pigment Cell Conference, to be held in The Hague, Holland.  
**Contact:** Dr. Stan Pavel, President ESPCR, University Hospital Leiden, Dept of Dermatology, PO Box 9600, NL - 2300 RC LEIDEN  
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**Sept 3-7, 2003** XI<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research, to be held in Wood's Hole, MA.

The *PASPCR Newsletter* is published quarterly by the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research. All views are those of the authors. For further information or to submit articles, please contact members of the Publications Committee.

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## **Corporate Sponsors**

*by James J Nordlund*

The PASPCR would like to acknowledge and thank our Corporate Sponsors; the list below reflects contributions over the past 2 years. 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.

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## **Animal Models**

*by Lynn Lamoreux*

Let's talk pigs.

The well known but under utilized Sinclair Swine are characterized by a high incidence of melanomas that are present at birth or soon thereafter. In these pigs, the relationship between melanoma and vitiligo is potentially illuminating of both phenomena. If the melanoma stimulates accompanying vitiligo, then commonly the melanoma regresses over the course of the first few months of the pig's life, and the vitiligo progresses to the eventual destruction of most of the skin pigmentation so that the black pigs become white by the

time they are a year or two old. Interestingly, pheomelaninic piglets rarely are born with the melanoma, if they are, the melanomas quickly regress, and also these pheomelaninic pigs do not exhibit vitiligo.

Work with these pigs suggests three genetic loci share major responsibility for the formation of the melanoma.

The only large herd of Sinclair swine is housed at Texas A&M University, where it has most recently been used to map genes related to melanoma incidence. And of course has also been used by our member John Pawelek to test some of his esoteric theories relevant to melanoma. Many of you had a chance to admire these pigs while attending the PASPCR meeting in College Station.

The Sinclair pig is one of our best models for both melanoma and vitiligo, and the Texas A&M colony is threatened with extinction.

**SUGGESTION:** You-all in the vitiligo group (including especially those in the photo on page 4), how about you get together with folks in the melanoma interest group and think about the implications of loss of this model and possible ways to save it.

**HINT:** Several litters of pigs have now been successfully cloned using cultured fibroblasts as the donor cells. Cloning of pigs is therefore demonstrated to be consistently doable. About 100 of these Sinclair pigs remain. How difficult would it be to preserve 100 cultures of fibroblast cells and store them in three or four widely separated repositories for possible future use. Better than letting the model just fade away, right? Or would it be easier to take the pigs, for example, to Arkansas?



Members of the vitiligo group at the X<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the PASPCR in Minneapolis, MN, 2001. From left to right: Rangaprasad Sarangarajan, Roger Bowers, Carolyn LePoole, Gisela Erf, Pran Das, Wayne McCormack and Xiaoli Wang.

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##### Review:

1. Spontaneous Regression of Sinclair Swine Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma. Amoss, MS, Fadok, VA, Multani, AS, Pathak, S, Greene, JF, Jr., Measel, JW, Jr., Morgan, CD. In "Advances in Swine Biomedical Research eds: Tumbleson and Schook Plenum Press, NY 1996.

##### Editorial:

1. What is Inherited in Neoplastic systems? Animal Models of Cutaneous malignant Melanoma. Clark, WH, Jr., Laboratory Investigation 71:1, 1994

##### Manuscripts:

1. Histopathology of Regression in Sinclair Swine Model of Melanoma. Greene, JF, Jr., Townsend, JS, IV, Amoss, MS, Jr. Laboratory Investigation 71:17, 1994.
2. Regression by Differentiation in the Sinclair Swine Model of Cutaneous Melanoma. Greene, JF, Jr., Morgan, CD, Rao, Amoss, MS, Jr., Arguello, F. Melanoma Research 7:471, 1997.
3. Genetic Determinants of Cutaneous malignant Melanoma in Sinclair Swine. Blangero, J, Tissot, RG, Beattie, Amoss, MS, Jr. British Journal of Cancer 73:667, 1996.

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6. Immunophenotypic Characterization of Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocytes and peripheral Blood Lymphocytes Isolated from Melanomatous and non-Melanomatous Sinclair Miniature Swine. Morgan, CD, Measel, JW, Jr., Amoss, MS, Jr., Rao, A, Greene, JF, Jr. Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology 55:189, 1996.
7. Cycloheximide-induced Apoptosis in Melanoma Cells Derived from Regressing Cutaneous Tumors of Sinclair Swine. Gossett, R, Kier, AB, Schroeder, F, McConkey, D, Fadok, V, Amoss, MS, Jr. Journal of Comparative Pathology 115:353, 1996.

## **From the Editor** ***Vince Hearing***

### **Dear Members of the ESPCR, JSPCR and PASPCR :**

It has now been 2 years since I began my 5 year term as Editor of Pigment Cell Research and I would like to take this occasion to thank you for the tremendous support that has been given to me on every level. The quality of submissions has improved, the speed and quality of reviewers has improved, the support by the publisher has improved and in my opinion, the journal has become a much more vital resource for all of us as a result. The Journal is widespread in its coverage and it welcomes potential authors from the more peripheral areas of research in pigmentation ranging from comparative biology to chemistry to clinical and applied aspects. The outlook for 2002 and beyond is quite bright and I have summarized below some key points regarding that. I'll look forward to the remaining 3 years of my term confident that our journal will continue to progress significantly in the future. Best regards, /s/ Vince Hearing, Editor, Pigment Cell Research (email: editor@pigment.org).

- ♦ Web Site – The PCR Web site ([www.pigment.org](http://www.pigment.org)) is being used more and more frequently with more than 10,000 hits in its first 2 years; not only can you access titles and abstracts of all Volumes of papers back through the years, but abstracts and titles of papers now in press can also be accessed. The P\*C\*R Primer is sent to more than 700 scientists in the field that are in our database – if you don't get that you can sign up from the PCR Web site to receive information about journal publications as they come out.
- ♦ Online Submissions – Speed is the key, and manuscripts can now be submitted online beginning in 2002. See the 'Authors' page on the Web site for information about this and what types of files can be submitted.
- ♦ Turnaround Time – Electronic processing has also sped up handling of your submissions; the average time to a decision from the date my office received a manuscript in 2001 was only 24 days; the average total time in my office for accepted manuscripts from receipt to transmission to the Publisher was only 31 days.
- ♦ Impact Factor – The Impact Factor for PCR rose for a 3rd straight year (to 1.87) in 2001; we will surely break the 2.00 barrier next year, particularly if you take care to cite relevant reviews and research papers in PCR that were published in 2000 and 2001.
- ♦ Circulation – rose again for the second straight year by about 15%; the Publisher has acknowledged this by increasing our color and page budget (cf below), but we can do a lot better if Institutional subscriptions are increased.
- ♦ Color increase – the Publisher has doubled our color publication budget for 2002; it is not yet an unlimited amount, but you should notice a further increase in color next year.
- ♦ Page increase – the Publisher has added 96 pages to our standard printing budget next year; this will allow for timely publication of the increased number of excellent reviews and research articles that are being submitted.
- ♦ Outstanding Reviews – once again, virtually everyone asked to contribute a review next year has agreed to do so. You can look at the upcoming list of Reviews (Regular, Gene Focus and Innovative Technology) on the 'Forthcoming' page of the Web Site.

Three things you can do to help – (1) submit your quality papers to PCR, (2) make sure your Institution's Library subscribes to PCR, and (3) cite relevant recent PCR articles in your own publications next year. It's that easy.

## Members in the News

In November of this year, Joe Bagnara was given an award by the Japanese Government, after which there was an audience with the Emperor himself. We congratulate Joe on this important and well deserved award. Here are two accounts of the award ceremony, one by Jiro Matsumoto, member of the Japanese Society of Pigment Cell Research (JSPCR) and another by Joe.

### ***From Jiro Matsumoto***

Dr. Joseph T. Bagnara, Professor Emeritus of the University of Arizona, was decorated with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, from the Japanese Government for his dedication to the fostering of Japanese biologists in fields of pigment cell biology, developmental biology and comparative endocrinology. The awarding ceremony, attended by himself and his wife Mary Louise, was held in November 9, 2001 in the National Theater in Tokyo. At the end of the ceremony, all the awardees were celebrated by the Emperor in the Imperial Palace. The system of decoration in Japan was established in 1875 to express her appreciation to those who contributed to the nation's activities.

### ***From Joe Bagnara***

On October 31, 2001, I learned from a Japanese colleague that I was to receive a decoration from the Japanese government and that the official list of awardees would be released to the Japanese news media, newspapers and television, on November 3, 2001, the National Day of Culture. My decoration, Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, was to be awarded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture at a ceremony to be held at has not yet achieved wide recognition in Japan, my nomination was given additional support by Prof. Sakai Kikuyama, President of the Japanese Society for Comparative Endocrinology, and by Prof. Hiroyuki Ide, Secretary of the Japanese Society for Develop-

mental Biology. The nomination was based upon my long research collaboration with Japanese scientists, my support of seven Japanese post-doctoral fellows in my laboratory between 1963 and 1991, my contributions to the growth of pigment cell research in Japan, and my own personal scientific record. In the first step of the screening process, the ministry verifies the contribution of the nominee to Japan. In the second step, the Office of Foreign Affairs checks into the academic status of the nominee in his home country. The third step is the correlation of the above information and the making of the final decision by the Cabinet Secretary's office. While there were a few non-Japanese awardees, according to a listing in the newspaper, I saw no others at the ceremony.

In a very precise process at the awards ceremony, I received a scroll declaring the conferring of the decoration, Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, and the decoration itself, presented in a beautiful black lacquer box. The decoration consists of a medallion in the form of four sets of five rays at the cardinal points radiating from a circle of red gems. The medallion is suspended by a silver and gold silk moire ribbon. Among the various documents I received, all written in Japanese, was a sheet in English describing how the decoration is to be worn in public. Altogether, the award ceremony, the audience with the Emperor, and the looks of joy, pride and pleasure on the faces of my Japanese friends, and on that of my wife, were a fabulous experience that is hard to describe.

### **Keep the membership informed.**

If you have news about a member of the PASPCR, please let us know. Contact a member of the publications committee and we will make sure that it is in the next issue.

## **And now for the rest of the story.**

Speaking of Joe, in a bit of serendipity, this issues' highlighted member is Joe Bagnara. I have always wondered how someone living in a desert can get involved with frogs. So, I went to the source and asked how Joe got started in his research. Here is his story.

### **Sins of Omission** *by Joe Bagnara*

In response to my query of why the trail we were on was so crooked, my old hiking buddy and trail mentor, Charlie Thornton, said, "This was an old miner's trail and they made it by releasing their burros and then following them." And, so it has been with my own career in research, a series of tortuous peregrinations.

In high school I felt, in keeping with my inclinations toward natural history, that I would become a simple forest ranger who stayed in the woods all day and returned at night to a comfortable family. However, as an undergraduate student at the University of Rochester, I came under the spell of experimental embryology as practiced by Professor Johannes Holtfreter and his students who took me under their respective wings. Biochemistry and Morphogenesis by Joseph Needham and Principles of Development by Paul B. Weiss became my bibles and so, off I went to pursue graduate work at the University of Iowa under the direction of the eminent embryologist/endocrinologist Professor Emil Witschi. I did so ignoring the admonitions of Professor Donald Charles, Head of the Biology Department at the University of Rochester who felt that a heavy football player, such as myself, should not

contemplate a career that would entail the delicate manipulation of amphibian embryos. An admonition also came from my father, an Italian immigrant whose knowledge of American geography was limited. He warned me to take great care of myself among those cowboys in Iowa!

In retrospect, in the Fall of 1952, I never would have thought that I was starting a career that would for almost 50 years entail the study of pigment cells or chromatophores and especially those of amphibians. Moreover, I would never have dreamed that I would pursue these esoteric studies for all these years at the University of Arizona in the arid southwest. But, destiny will have its way and as a consequence of observations I made on the hundreds of hypophysectomized leopard frog tadpoles that I produced for my mentor at Iowa, I discovered that the bright colored chromatophores, notably iridophores, of these tadpoles were under the control of MSH. In the process, while working on hypophysectomized *Xenopus* tadpoles, I discovered the tail-darkening reaction of these larvae and went on to show that melanophores in the tail fin were directly sensitive to light and, moreover, that temporal responses in light and darkness suggested the presence of visual pigments in these cells. My first sin of omission was a failure to confirm this hypothesis by further study; instead, I focused on the MSH control of iridophores and xanthophores. (Fortunately, some 40 years later, Mark Rollag demonstrated the presence of visual pigments in these light sensitive melanophores and thus I was vindicated.) By this time I had accepted a position at the University of Arizona (jobs were scarce in 1956). Fortunately, I found that the Sonoran desert was not a wasteland and that instead its flora and fauna were rich. There was even

a large array of amphibians, including *Ranachiricahuensis* which, as my student Phil Fernandez showed in his Ph.D. work, is capable of remarkable color changes, for a variety of reasons, under the influence of MSH. This frog and a sibling species, *R. yavapaiensis*, are often found in beautiful canyon streams lined with tall trees that include walnut, sycamore, ash, and willow. It became a treat to look for these frogs and to collect their eggs in the Spring. These streams were also the home of the beautiful canyon tree frog whose fascinating iridophores and xanthophores figured prominently in our work.

During my early years at Arizona, while explaining the tail-darkening reaction of *Xenopus* tadpoles to a class, I suddenly realized that the body-blanching reaction, which occurs at the same time, might result from the release of melatonin (at that time just elucidated by Aaron Lerner) from the pineal. Indeed, experiments that I performed and described in 1960 showed that this was actually the case. Here, I became guilty of my second major sin of omission by not following up on this work. I did do some additional studies on the pineal and pigmentation, but in essence I let the bandwagon go by without me as I instead was drawn away by a new-found interest in pteridines and yellow pigment cells.

I had learned a little about pteridines in my early years at Arizona, but it was a visit in 1961 to the laboratory of Professor Tadao Hama of Keio University in Yokohama that really whet my interest and enhanced my knowledge. Here, Masataka Obika and Jiro Matsumoto were doing their dissertation research. Obika in Japan and I in Tucson had discovered independently, that pteridines

were the principal pigments of yellow (and red) pigment cells and Matsumoto subsequently demonstrated through the use of differential centrifugation, that these pigments resided in an organelle that he named, the pterinosome. Both subsequently came to work with me in Tucson. When Obika arrived in 1963, the television program "Gunsmoke" was very popular and Matt Dillon was the hero. And so, Masataka became Matt to everyone in the lab and Obika really took to his new name; however, he used the Japanese spelling of Mat and thus he has been called for all these years. Mat stayed in our lab for two years and Jiro who followed two years later stayed for a shorter period. Both made great contributions to our work on pteridines and bright pigmentation. However, I soon succumbed to new distractions and other new topics gained sway. Among these was the comparative biology of the "dermal chromatophore unit" that we described when Mac Hadley and John Taylor were in my laboratory. This work revealed many new side issues which I conveniently omitted from my priorities for investigation. I did pursue one discovery made by John Taylor and me that became important. I refer to the giant melanosome of adult leaf frogs (*Phyllomedusinae*) which is unique in containing a core of eumelanin surrounded by a concentric mass of the pteridine dimer, pterorhodin. Identification of this unusual pteridine was the result of my collaboration with Peppe Prota and his late wife, Giovanna Misuraca. The unusual compound organelle derives from "normal" larval melanosomes that transform to the adult compound melanosome at metamorphosis. Notwithstanding the efforts made by my student, Sally Frost, who worked on aspects of the pterorhodin problem for her dissertation, we have never been able to



explain how this transformation takes place, nor have we been able to comprehend its hormonal control. In part, this failure was due to new distractions that led to a theme that has been a major one for me. Namely, the concept that all pigment cells derive from a common stem cell of neural crest origin and that their respective individual paths of differentiation occur in response to cues present in the tissue environment. This theme became the major one in my laboratory for more than 20 years and as we proceeded forward, many interesting side projects were commenced and left in the wake. These, I suppose, were also sins of omission, but by this time I had matured enough as a scientist to properly assess priorities and as our ultimate target of priority, my lab focused on the elucidation of putative factors that may impinge upon chromatoblasts and thus be responsible for specific pigmentation patterns. In particular, we followed up the discovery of my academic grandson, Toshihiko Fukuzawa (the Ph.D. student of my former post-doc, Hiroyuki Ide) that there is present in ventral frog skin, a factor which inhibits the development of melanoblasts and thus accounts for their dark dorsal and light ventral pigmentation. We were well underway toward purifying and isolating this putative melanization inhibiting factor (MIF) when it became time for Toshi to return to Japan. At the same time, I felt it was time for me to retire formally. I did retain my laboratory and, in part, I still come in to the lab several times a week; however, I have given up my own specific pursuit toward the elucidation of MIF. Instead, I have left this task in the hands of others of my academic family. J Newton, my last Ph.D. student, approached the problem from the aspect of molecular genetics in the laboratory of Greg Barsh; however, this approach was aborted

since it was not a feasible dissertation subject. So, its resolution remains in the hands of Toshi Fukuzawa and I leave it as just another one of my many sins of omission.

Perhaps I am being a little hard on myself and even if this is the case, I take solace in having had a wonderful career marked by my interaction with many magnificent people, some not mentioned here, who comprise the list of my former students, associates and colleagues who played such an important part in the success that we have had. You are all my academic family and I am gratefully in touch with most of you. Many of you have beautiful children and you are kind enough to share their joys with me. Many of my former associates reside in different parts of the world and we retain an affectionate friendship. This was particularly manifested in recent weeks when, following the tragedy of September 11, 2001, I had wonderful words of kindness from many of you.

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This section of the PASPCR Newsletter, 'and now for the rest of the story' is an opportunity for members of the PASPCR research community to find out some of the background information and details on certain research activities that usually do not make it into the publications.

If you wish to know how a particular line of investigation got started, or know of a story that would be interesting to readers of the PASPCR Newsletter, please email me at [bill@lenti.med.umn.edu](mailto:bill@lenti.med.umn.edu), and I will try to get **the rest of the story**.

**Mouse News***by Lynn Lamoreux*

We are very pleased to announce that the congenic colony of mouse pigment mutants that is housed at Texas A&M University has been temporarily funded for three primary purposes:

1. To use these congenic mutants to make congenic pigment cell lines as appropriate;
2. To cryopreserve these important stocks so they will not again be threatened with extinction; and
3. To make them available to the community of pigment cell researchers and to the many scientists in other fields who share interest in our mutants.

This funding was obtained (in alphabetical order) by:

Dr. Dorothy Bennett, Professor, St. George Hospital Medical School  
Dr. Rick Ermel, Associate Professor, Texas A&M University  
Dr. M. Lynn Lamoreux, Visiting Research Scientist, Texas A&M University  
Dr. Jim Womack, NAS, Professor, Texas A&M University

The mouse colony emphasizes loci that drive the major functions of the pigment system, as follows:

1. Cell survival - the white-spotting loci are broadly represented. We hold a number of alleles at the MITF locus.
2. Melanogenesis - the loci that function in melanogenesis and are implicated in albinism, including *tyr*, *trp-1*, *trp-2*
3. Pheomelanin/eumelanin - representative alleles at the *agouti* locus, the *Mcr1* locus, and modifying loci.

4. And various other mutant pigment loci.

Alleles are held congenic with the inbred strain, C57BL/6J. Thus it is possible to make mice that contain one mutant or multiple mutant loci, all expressed within a controlled, uniform genetic background. This fact makes our stocks readily available to study the functions of individual gene loci, or to study the ways in which pigment loci (or their products/functions)

INTERACT with each other and with their environment within the organism to form the intraorganismal web of life. Some alleles are also available on another inbred strain where they are expressed differently (in terms of mouse phenotype).

If you want to discuss these mutant mice or cell lines please contact Lynn Lamoreux ([mllamoreux@hotmail.com](mailto:mllamoreux@hotmail.com)) or Dot Bennett ([dbennett@sghms.ac.uk](mailto:dbennett@sghms.ac.uk)).

The web site for the mice is: <http://www.sghms.ac.uk/depts/anatomy/pages/WTFGMPPMR.htm>



Image from Bill Pavan, N.I.H.

**Melanoma Research News**  
*by Meenhard Herlyn*

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you had a successful 2001 and I wish you all the best for the Holidays and the New Year.

Let me briefly update you on our long-term quest to stimulate the melanoma research field. Originally we had hoped to organize collaborations within our group, but then concluded that the initiative has to come from the individual researchers. We shifted our priorities to bringing the community more often together for updates and discussions. Out of these meetings we expect that new opportunities for collaborations arise. We have increased communications with few small workshops but we have to also bring all members from the research field community together, including trainees and newcomers.

I am happy to report that we have now secured support and begin the preparation for the

**First Annual Melanoma Research Congress**

It will be held in Philadelphia in November 2002, likely between the 17th and 20th for two full and two half days. Support will come from the Foundation for Melanoma Research (FMR), a melanoma patients' advocacy group based in Philadelphia. The local cable company Comcast will be a major underwriter. Support is also expected from other advocacy groups, particularly the Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) and from the NCI.

We expect the congress to be held annually and the meeting will be open to all interested in the field. My colleague DuPont Guerry from the University of Pennsylvania and I will organize this first congress. We are both members of the Board of FMR.

To foster communication and to establish a

community spirit among all interested in melanoma research, the

**Melanoma Research Society**

will be established in the next year. A major purpose for the Society will be to organize annual meetings, increase communications among researchers, be a voice for the research community at the federal government levels and cooperate with melanoma patients' advocacy groups. This international society will draw support from its active members. We hope that advocacy groups will help us in our efforts.

**Few additional notes:**

The International Pigment Cell Society holds its congress next year from Sept. 9-13 in the Netherlands. Our Dutch colleagues will organize a satellite meeting on melanoma either before or after the main meeting. You will get more information from them soon.

If you want to receive updates on melanoma from the scientific literature, contact Rick Wilson from MRF at: [growbot@home.com](mailto:growbot@home.com). Rick is a research news wizard and he will put you on his mailing list.

With best regards and a Happy New Year.

Yours,

**Meenhard**

## International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies

**Officers:** Shosuke Ito (JSPCR, *President*); Stan Pavel (ESPCR, *Vice-President*); Richard A. King (PASPCR, *Secretary/Treasurer*)

**Council Members:** Zalfa Abdel-Malek (PASPCR); Dorothy C. Bennett (ESPCR); José C. García-Borrón (ESPCR); Masako Mizoguchi (JSPCR); James J. Nordlund (PASPCR); Shigeki Shibahara (JSPCR); Vincent J. Hearing (*Ex Officio* member as the Editor of *Pigment Cell Research*) and Stan Pavel (*Ex Officio* member as Organizer of the 18<sup>th</sup> IPCC)

### A Letter from the IFPCS President to the members of three Regional Pigment Cell Societies

It is sad to remember the year 2001, the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as the year of threats to peace in the world. I do believe that humans will eventually solve these difficult problems with their wisdom. When we talk about progress, however, I think that the past year has been remarkable one for pigment cell biologists. Scientists have made incredible advances in many areas of pigment cell biology, and these are now being disseminated to broader fields of biology and medicine. As the President of the IFPCS, I am glad that the annual meetings of the ESPCR (in Rome), the PASPCR (in Minneapolis), and the JSPCR (in Sendai) were successful and covered a broad range of topics in the pigment biology. I wish to congratulate the Chairs of those meetings: Drs. Mauro Picardo, Richard A. King, and Shigeki Shibahara for their successful meetings.

The IFPCS Council has established the following goals for the Federation (also available on the **IFPCS Web page** at <http://www.cbc.umn.edu/ifpcs>):

1. To encourage the dissemination of knowledge related to pigment cells by the establishment, sponsorship and support for the publication of books, bulletins, newsletter, journal, reports or other means.
2. To organize a tri-annual international meeting, to honor outstanding contributions in the field by

awarding the Myron Gordon award at that meeting, and to select a scientist who has made recent and significant advances in the field to present the Seiji Memorial lecture.

3. To foster and enhance research on pigment cells and pigmentation among the regional Societies and to foster scientific collaboration, cooperation and communication among the regional Societies.

**The first goal** was achieved with the IFPCS becoming an official sponsor of *Pigment Cell Research* (<http://www.pigment.org>). The journal is now in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of publication and Dr. Vincent J. Hearing should be congratulated for his success in increasing the reputation of the journal in the last 2 years. I also want to thank Johnson & Johnson, L'Oreal, Shiseido, and Unilever for their generous support of the journal. This support has helped Dr. Hearing expand the color figures and other aspects of *Pigment Cell Research*, and all regional society members are grateful for this continued corporate support. To further promote the growth of the journal, the numbers of subscribers and submitted papers need to be increased. I urge all members of the Regional Societies to subscribe to *Pigment Cell Research*, to encourage your Institution's library to subscribe, to submit papers, and to cite PCR's pertinent references in your publications. For more details, please look at the accompanying message from the Editor.

**The second goal** may be the most visible among the several efforts of the IFPCS. The *International Pigment Cell Conference (IPCC)* has been held every three years since 1946 when Dr. Myron Gordon held the first meeting in New York. Since the inauguration of the IFPCS in Kobe in 1990, the IFPCS with one of the regional Societies have co-organized the IPCC on a rotating basis among the ESPCR, PASPCR, and JSPCR. The 15<sup>th</sup> IPCC was held in London in 1993, the 16<sup>th</sup> IPCC in Anaheim in 1996, and the 17<sup>th</sup> IPCC in Nagoya in 1999. The 18<sup>th</sup> IPCC, will be held on September 9-13, 2002, in the Netherlands with Dr. Stan Pavel as Organizer. The meeting will be held at the Hotel Zuiderduin in Egmond aan Zee, originally a fisherman village in the north part of the Netherlands, only 30 km from Amsterdam. The hotel has excellent facilities including indoor swimming

pool, sauna and squash, and is surrounded by fine restaurants and gift shops, and the IPCC will be the only occupants of the hotel during the meeting. The International Program Committee is completing plans for the scientific program and you will receive the second announcement/call for abstracts in February. I urge each of you to plan to attend this exciting and stimulating Conference and to present your new findings. Please note that the deadline for submission of abstracts will be May 1, 2002.

The 19<sup>th</sup> IPCC in 2005 will be organized by the PASPCR. I am happy to inform you that the IFPCS Council at its recent meeting in Sendai, Japan approved the plans of Dr. Vincent J. Hearing to organize the 19<sup>th</sup> IPCC at NIH on September 18-23, 2005. The theme of this meeting will be human pigmentary diseases and this should be another opportunity for an outstanding international meeting.

**The third goal** is being achieved through several activities including the establishment of the *IFPCS Visiting Scientist Award Program*. The grants from corporate support, established in 1997, are intended to allow investigators from one of the regional Societies to visit the laboratory of an investigator in another regional Society to learn specialized techniques and/or to establish inter-Society collaborations. This program has been supported by Beiersdorf, Clairol, Johnson and Johnson, Kanebo, L'Oreal, Shiseido, Nihon Surfactant, Procter and Gamble, Sunstar, Taisho, and Unilever, and has been quite successful. In 2001 Dr. Nico Smit of Leiden University, the Netherlands, was supported to visit Dr. Patrick A. Riley's laboratory in London and Dr. Olga Solovieva of Institut Curie, France, visited Dr. Takahiro Kunisada's laboratory at Gifu University, Japan. We hope to continue this program with a renewal of corporate contributions.

Another initiative for achieving this goal was the establishment of a standing committee of the IFPCS to maintain awareness of the animal resources used by members. Specific duties of this committee, chaired by Dr. Lynn Lamoreux, include an annual survey of animals of values to pigment cell research, a means of identifying threatened animal colonies, and the development of solution for problems with research

animals. You should hear more about this new committee in 2002.

I sincerely hope that we will see healthy and steady progress in our 3 regional Pigment Cell Societies, ESPCR, JSPCR, and PASPCR in 2002. I wish to welcome new faces to the IFPCS Council: Dr. Zalfa Abdel-Malek (new President of the PASPCR). Finally, I urge each of you to contribute to your Society in any way you can: submitting your abstracts to the next IPCC, publishing your papers in *Pigment Cell Research*, collaborating with other members, and recruiting others scientists and clinicians to join us. Let me take this opportunity to wish each of you and your colleagues a peaceful and successful year 2002.

Shosuke Ito  
*President, IFPCS*

## Positions - Wanted and Available

### Postdoctoral Position

Polarized Kit-ligand expression in the epidermis: Its role in human melanocyte homeostasis

A postdoctoral position (fully funded for the first year with the possibility of a 2 year extension) is immediately available in the Department of Pathology, Centre Medical Universitaire at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. The project is supervised by Dr. Bernhard Wehrle-Haller and Prof. Beat Imhof and is within the frame of a collaboration between the University of Geneva and Industry.

The aim of this project is to understand the role of kit-ligand in melanocyte homeostasis in the adult epidermis and how manipulation of kit-ligand expression or localization in keratinocytes affect melanocyte behavior. The project will employ cell-biological, pharmaceutical, biochemical as well transgenic approaches (mouse) to develop methods to modify Kit-ligand localization (polarity and cell surface expression) *in vivo* and to study melanocyte behavior in response to such altered Kit-ligand presentation. For references and rationale see Wehrle-Haller and Imhof (2001, *J. Biol. Chem.* 276, 12667-74) and Grichnik et al., (1998, *J. Invest. Dermatol.* 111, 233-38).

The Centre Medical Universitaire provides a stimulatory research environment located within the City of Geneva. Research in the department is centered around problems of autoimmunity, wound healing, inflammation, cell-cell junctions and cell migration. Geneva, located at the lake of Geneva in close proximity to the French Alps, provides a rich multicultural environment facilitating social integration.

Interested candidates preferably having experience in one or more of the aforementioned domains should send their CV (e.g. e-mail) including names and contacting information of two references to:

Bernhard Wehrle-Haller PhD  
Department of Pathology  
Centre Medical Universitaire  
1. Rue Michel-Servet  
1211 Geneva 4  
Switzerland

Tel/Fax: 0041 22 702 5735 / 5746  
Bernhard.Wehrle  
Haller@medecine.unige.ch

### Postdoctoral Research Position

A postdoctoral position is available immediately to study the transcriptional co-repressor and co-activator activities of the oncogenic protein Ski in human melanomas (PNAS (USA) 97:5924-5929, 2000). Seeking individuals with experience in EMSA, *in vitro* transcription-translation, site-directed mutagenesis and yeast two-hybrid screening. Interested individuals should send inquiries and applications (including CV, a brief description of past experience and future research interests, and the name of three references) to:

Estela E. Medrano, Ph.D.  
Huffington Center on Aging  
Baylor College of Medicine  
One Baylor Plaza N-803.01  
Houston, TX 77030

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### Research Associate/Post Doctoral Fellow Position Available

Position available for either an entry level postdoctoral fellow or a more senior research associate to study the molecular and cellular biology of the melanocyte in general and the pathophysiology of vitiligo in specific. The research project will focus globally on the role of survival factors and apoptotic regulators on the viability of melanocytes in the skin and in culture. In addition, the project will focus on the genetic and cellular susceptibility of melanocytes from patients with vitiligo to undergo apoptosis in response to various stimuli. Postdoctoral fellow candidate should have experience with routine molecular and cellular techniques including cell culturing, site directed mutagenesis, and protein biochemistry. Research Associate candidate should have similar experiences utilizing the melanocyte system. Candidate will become part of an interactive research group focusing of various aspects of pigmentation in the Department of Dermatology and on skin physiology in the Skin Sciences Institute within the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Send curriculum vitae and list of three references to:

Raymond E. Boissy, Ph.D.  
Professor of Dermatology and Cell Biology,  
Neurobiology, & Anatomy  
Department of Dermatology  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
231 Albert Sabin Way, ML-0592  
Cincinnati, OH, 45267-0592  
TEL: 513-558-6242  
FAX: 513-558-0198  
E-mail: boissyre@email.uc.edu

### **Principal Scientist- Clinical Research - Skin Science Research**

Unilever employs over 200 scientists at our New Jersey Laboratory who are dedicated to innovative and scientifically rigorous skin research programs. Our world sales exceed \$40 billion so our programs have solid financial funding allowing for an innovative and challenging research culture. We currently have a full time opening that provides a unique opportunity to apply your basic science skills to human studies that impact the condition of skin for hundreds of millions people worldwide. We are seeking an expert in pigment biology or photobiology who can advance our knowledge and link laboratory research to clinically defined improvements of consumer skin problems. As a member of our skin research team, you will have an opportunity to work with other scientific experts in many fields including cell biology, biochemistry, measurement science and physical chemistry. You will also be encouraged to establish and maintain close ties to research in academic and government research communities.

We offer a competitive salary, benefits including tuition assistance and relocation, and a dynamic environment filled with learning and discovery beyond conventional scientific boundaries. Applicants must be authorized to work in the USA. For consideration please forward your CV to: Human Resources, Dept. CR-SID, Unilever Research US, 45 River Road, Edgewater, NJ 07020 or E-Mail: job.mca@unilever.com . Please place only the letters "CR-SID" as the subject of your e-mail. Unilever is an Equal Opportunity Employer m/f/d/v.

**Postdoctoral Fellows - Cancer and Developmental Biology** - Two NIH-funded positions are available for fellows interested in studying the Hedgehog signaling pathway in development and disease using skin as a model system. One project centers on

defining the function of the Hedgehog pathway during skin appendage morphogenesis (*Dev. Biol.* 205: 1-9, 1999); a second project focuses on understanding how deregulated activation of this pathway gives rise to basal cell carcinomas (*Nature Genet.* 24: 216-7, 2000). Applicants should have a solid background in molecular and cell biology, with experience in transgenic animal models desirable but not required. Interested individuals should send a CV, letter of interest, and names of three references to: Dr. Andrzej Dlugosz, University of Michigan, Department of Dermatology and Comprehensive Cancer Center, 3310 CCGC, Box 0932, 1500 East Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0932 Email: dlugosza@umich.edu. The University of Michigan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Postdoctoral Research Associate** - Position available to study the biology of human inherited disorders of pigmentation using gene transfer technology. The successful applicant will have a Ph.D. and/or M.D. with experience in cell biology and molecular biology. Experience in gene transfer/genome manipulation is preferred. Please send curriculum vitae along with the names of three references to Dr. Richard King, Division of Genetics, Department of Medicine, Box 485 Mayo, 420 Delaware St. S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Equal Opportunity Employer.

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The Bibliography published in this issue covers the period September, 2001 through November, 2001. 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. By its very nature, assignment of a reference to a particular category is arbitrary and we urge you to read through all categories to make sure you don't miss any pertinent to your field.

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