

PASPCR



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Newsletter

Introduction...

by **Bill Oetting**

The organizers of the 11th Annual Meeting of the PASPCR, to be held on September 4-7, are now accepting abstracts through the on-line registration web site. The deadline for abstract submission is May 1st, 2003. A preliminary program, including invited speakers, is available at the web site, as well as a list of the different session topics for abstract presentation. Point your Web Browser to the PASPCR Homepage at www.paspcr.org and click on the 'Registration' button. The 11th Annual Meeting registration site contains all the information you need to register, including abstract submission (on-line), registration forms, information on travel stipends and room registration. More information on the meeting can be found on page 12 of this newsletter. The Annual meeting is coming up quickly, so please get your registration and abstract submission in soon.

Note: At the back of this Newsletter is the 2003 PASPCR Membership list. Some individuals have an asterisk after their name. This signifies that your membership dues have not been paid for this year. If this is the case for you, please contact Ray Boissy, Secretary/Treasure, to get your dues paid up.

The *PASPCR Newsletter* is published quarterly and is intended to serve as a means of communication for the members of our Society. You are invited to contribute articles, or other information you feel will be of interest to members of the PASPCR. 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 upcoming meetings of interest will be added to the "Calendar of Events".

The PASPCR Web Site can be found at:

<http://www.paspcr.org>

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 me, preferably by E-mail, to bill@lenti.med.umn.edu.

The PASPCR Web Site is the major, up-to-date source of current information for the PASPCR membership and for individuals who are interested in the PASPCR. If there is additional information that you would like to see on the Web site, or you would like to include information of past PASPCR activities, please let me know and I will add them.

The IFPCS web site can now be reached by using either domain name **ifpcs.org** or **ifpcs.info**. Updates are being made to the Mouse Coat Color Genes database at <http://www.cbc.umn.edu/ifpcs/micemut.htm>. If you know of any additions that should be included, please let me, or Dot Bennet, know and we will get that information included.

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Richard A. King
past-President PASPCR

Calendar of Events:

- June 21-24, 2003** First Melanoma Research Congress, to be held in Philadelphia, PA.
Contact: Dr. Meenhard Herlyn.
Email: Parsons@Wistar.upenn.edu
- Sept. 3-7, 2003** XIth Annual Meeting of the Pan-American Society for Pigment Cell Research, to be held in Cape Cod, MA.
Contact: Dr. Jean Bolognia.
E-mail: jean_bolognia@qm.yale.edu.
- Sept. 17-20, 2003** XIth Annual Meeting of the European Society for Pigment Cell Research, to be held in Gent, Belgium.
Contact: Prof. JeanMarie Naeyaert.
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- 2004** XIIth Meeting of the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research, to be held in Irvine, California.
Contact: Frank Myskins.
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- 2004** XIIth Meeting of the European Society for Pigment Cell Research, to be held in Paris, France.
Contact: Dr. Lionel LaRue
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- 2005** XIVth International Pigment Cell Conference (IPCC), to be held in Bethesda, MD, USA.
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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 *Raymond E. Boissy*

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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Notes from the Secretary/Treasurer by *Raymond E. Boissy*

A new special lectureship has been developed to replace the Gelb Lectureship, an award sponsored by the Lawrence M. Gelb Research Foundation of Clairol, Inc., that honored outstanding researchers currently making a significant impact on the field of pigment cell research. This award has been given during our annual PASPCR meeting since 1994. A list of recipient for his award can be found on the PASPCR website. The new lectureship is entitled **The Aaron B. Lerner/PASPCR Special Lectureship** and will be sponsored by the Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc. It will continue to honor current investigators pioneering work in pigment cell research. The guidelines for this award have been listed in the Amendments and Regulations of the Bylaws also available on the PASPCR website. The first Aaron B. Lerner/PASPCR Special Lectureship award, plus a lecture by the recipient, will be presented at the 11th Annual Meeting of the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research "*Molecular and Genetic Characterization of Melanocytes and Melanoma*

Cells" held on September 4-7, 2003 at the Sea Crest Resort and Conference Center, North Falmouth, Mass.

Financially speaking, the coffers of the PASPCR treasury are in a very healthy state. As of the end of last year, our checking account contained approximately \$20,000.

We have been in a membership drive as of the New Year. There had been a significant drop in PASPCR membership last year. The number of members in 2001 was 124 while membership for 2002 was 87. To date, the 2003 membership number is at 99. Still quite shy from our goal so if you can recruit new members please do so. Thanks.

Among the 2003 PASPCR members are the follow new enrollees whom we wish to welcome:

Arthur Balin – The Sally Balin Medical Center, Media, PA
Dorothy Bennett – St. George Hospital Medical School, London UK
Donald Bissett - Procter & Gamble, Cincinnati, OH
Janice Brisette – Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, MA
Suzie Chen - Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ
Estaban Dell'Angelica – University of California-LA, Los Angeles, CA
Ersoy Hazneci – Inonu University School of Medicine, Malatya, Turkey
Sancy Leachman – University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
Eun Lee – Seoul, South Korea
Tie Lei – Rockville, MD
Susan McNulty - University of California-Irvine, Orange, CA
Francois Rouzard – National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD
Leonard Shore - Unilever Research, Edgewater, NJ
Lorin Weiner - Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, MA

Finally our first GOLD Corporate Patron for 2003 is:
Combe, Inc

**In memory of -
Professor Giuseppe Prota**
January 24, 1938 - January 10, 2003

On January 10, 2003, Professor Giuseppe Prota passed away. Professor Prota was a central figure in pigment cell research and will be greatly missed by all. Below are two letters on Professor Prota, both previously published in the ESPCR website. The first is by Dr. Patrick Riley and the second by Dr. Joe Bagnara.

From Dr. Patrick Riley.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death in Naples of Giuseppe Prota. Professor Prota was the Founding President of the ESPCR, and a former President of the IFPCS. His many important contributions to the chemistry of pigmentation included the elucidation of the structure of phaeomelanins and his expertise was widely sought-after and admired. He published over 200 scientific papers and many influential chapters and reviews. His book 'Melanins and Melanogenesis', published by Academic Press, is a classic in the field of pigmentation.

Giuseppe Prota was a fine orator with a charismatic and persuasive style. He was instrumental in setting up many international collaborations and possessed remarkable organizational skills. Giuseppe was also a man of vision and sensitivity who brought friendship and encouragement to a whole generation of pigment cell biologists. His presence will be sorely missed.

Patrick Riley, 13.1.2003

From Dr. Joseph T. Bagnara

I first met Peppe at the VIIth IPCC held in Seattle in 1969 when he burst upon the scenes with an elegant elaboration of phaeomelanin chemistry derived from his work with his Neapolitan mentor, Rodolfo Nicolaus. Peppe and I immediately developed a happy rapport enhanced by his being a Neapolitan and my having similar genetic roots. About a year later we began to expand our friendship when I went to the Stazione Zoologica di Napoli to work for nine months. Peppe was doing some of his research at the Stazione and Giovanna was working there independently doing electron-microscopy. Lou and I soon began to interact

socially with Peppe, Giovanna, and their two sons, Francesco and Paolo, who were then little boys. In addition to luxuriating together on Neapolitan cuisine, we began to make family outings with them.

Since by nature, I have always been a jock, I took advantage of my status as a Fulbright Scholar and obtained a permit to utilize NATO recreational and athletic activities in the area. Among the available facilities was a large park, north of Naples near Pozzuoli. It was a large and flat expanse that was the crater of an ancient volcano. A children's playground was included with nearby picnic facilities. I remember vividly having taken the Protas there and I can still see Francesco and Paolo on the swings and running like the wind on the green grass as we picnicked together. It was a far cry from the center of Naples in 1971!

In that same area we had another memorable experience. Although both Peppe and Giovanna were born and bred in Naples, they, like many Neapolitans, knew less about some of the area than we two newcomers. Thanks to Lou's ardent study of guidebooks of the Naples environs, we knew of some wonderful Roman remnants that were to be seen in this area just north of Naples at Baia and Baccoli. The former was the home port of the Roman fleet and the latter boasted of a vast cistern that supplied the fleet with drinking water. This immense cistern was carved out of tufa, the volcanic ash which underlies the region. The now empty cistern, known as piscina mirabile is a vast underground room whose ceiling is supported by enormous, but graceful columns. It is absolutely beautiful. Peppe and Giovanna did not know that it existed, so we took them to see it, knowing that in order to gain entrance, one had to go to the second, not the first, ice cream vendor who, as I recall, would supply the key in exchange for 100 lire. They were truly amazed both by the piscina and how we got there!

Peppe introduced us to Professor Nicolaus and his wife who kindly invited us to their home for dinner. There was always much humor in their presence because they were each characters. Lou remembers a funny incident at dinner related to the fact that Europeans and Italians in particular, unlike Americans, serve each food item on different dishes. Professor Nicolaus remarked that he preferred to have everything served on the same plate in order to reduce the intake of dishwashing detergents which surely clung to the washed dishes! Another time that Peppe and Giovanna took us to visit the

Nicolaus's was late in the evening, and I believe unannounced, after we had been out to supper not far from their home. We were greeted warmly, and Signora Nicolaus insisted that we be served a digestivo which normally one would think to be an after dinner liqueur. Instead, la Signora prepared us each a nice dish of spaghetti which Lou recalls had a sauce of aglio e olio (garlic and olive oil). Despite our having had full stomachs, the pasta was eaten with gusto. In retrospect, perhaps pasta is a better digestive agent than is hard liquor which probably impedes digestion by denaturing appropriate digestive enzymes!

During this period, the Protas and I initiated a research collaboration that solved an important problem for me. In the mid-sixties, when John Taylor was a graduate student of mine, he and I discovered that the melanosomes of adult Mexican leaf frogs were unusually large, fibrous in nature, and contained a red pigment that was not melanin. For various reasons, we did not further pursue this discovery, but while I was at the Stazione, I presented Peppe with frog skin for analysis. We thought that the red pigment might be a phaeomelanin relative. We soon found that this was not the case, so we embarked on a project to elucidate the chemical nature of this red pigment. Over dinner in our small apartment in the heart of Naples, we finally decided to call this novel pigment rhodomelanochrome (a red pigment found in melanophores). We used this designation in a first paper published in *Science* in 1973. About this time Giovanna moved to the chemistry department and she took the lead on the project. Before too long the Protas discovered that rhodomelanochrome was not novel and was, in fact, pterorhodin, a pteridine dimer, first described from the eyes of marine neireid worms and never before found in a vertebrate species.

During our Neapolitan sojourn, Peppe and I had frequent discussions, and as you can readily imagine, never without passion! One subject that was a favorite of Peppe's for many years was the perception that the USA and the medical community were overly dominant in matters pigmentary. He felt that basic and comparative elements of investigation were under represented and that European leadership lagged behind. We often talked of organizing a conference on basic and comparative aspects of pigmentation that we might hold in Erice in Sicily or in Ravello on the Amalfi Coast. I'm sure that these sentiments of the early 1970s contributed heavily to Peppe's drive toward forming the ESPCR

ten years later. During the intervening years his views toward the more medical aspects of pigmentation mellowed as we all know.

In the years following our return from Naples, my contact with Peppe was mostly at professional meetings, and at least twice, Peppe came to Tucson. On one occasion, in 1975, following the IXth IPCC in Houston when Peppe came to spend a few days with us, we had a glimpse of his intellectual side. Peppe began telling us about a very interesting gentleman, Don Andrea Giovane, who lived in his apartment building on Via F.P. Michetti, and whom he wanted us to meet on our next trip to Naples. Lou was very surprised by this because she had just purchased a set of three novels, *The Book of Sansevero*, by Don Andrea Giovane! These works had just made their way to the USA after having had an historic success in Europe where they were translated into many languages. Not long after Peppe's return home, Lou received an autographed bookmark from Don Andrea!

In 1985 Lou and I again lived in Italy while I worked on some manuscripts with zoologist friends in Naples. Rather than live in Naples, we rented an apartment in Sorrento for several months. About the same time, Peppe and Giovanna, like many Neapolitan yuppies had purchased a weekend home on the Sorrentine peninsula. Theirs was located in Termini, near the end of the peninsula. Thus, it was easy to get together with them either in Sorrento or in Termini. Peppe and Giovanna had many friends who had homes nearby, and sometimes we were invited to dinner parties at the homes of people we did not know. Nevertheless, these were really interesting events that heavily taxed our abilities in conversational Italian.

Since 1985 we have returned to the Sorrento area where we have rented an apartment almost every year. Before Giovanna's death we saw the Protas often, either on via Toma in Naples or on the Sorrentine peninsula. Even when the Protas were not in residence at Termini, we thought of them when we passed their house as we hiked the trail to Punta Campanella at the very tip of the peninsula.

It has been several days since you sent us the terrible news of Peppe's passing, and the sense of a deep loss stays with us. Fortunately, as I told you in my initial response, Lou and I have that happy memory of

lunch with Peppe at Marechiaro almost three years ago. Marechiaro is one of the old fishermen's ports of Naples, and like Santa Lucia, it is famous in old Neapolitan songs. Lou and I had never been there, and we shall never forget it, not only because it was where we last saw Peppe, but because we had what used to be a typical Neapolitan experience. As we left the restaurant and were approaching Peppe's car, a Vespa rode up and brushed close to me. The driver grasped for my borsellino (small Italian handbag). He was, however, unable to wrench it from my grasp. I think that Peppe was more shocked than I! In retrospect, it seems fitting that our last goodbye to Peppe was marked by a typical Neapolitan experience!

These are among the memories that we have of Peppe Prota, an old and respected friend who was taken much too soon and whom we will miss greatly.

Joe Bagnara

Xiphophorus Genetics Stock Center

San Marcos, Texas

By Lynn Lamoreux

I love a happy ending.

I vividly remember the pictures of these beautiful platys and swordtails that were published in LIFE Magazine, along with a description of Dr. Myron Gordon's genetical research, in the days when LIFE was LIFE and I was becoming a ten-year-old horse geneticist. I saved those pictures for a very long time. Who knows, they may be stashed away somewhere still in my files, but that was a good while ago!

More recently, you may have seen the announcement in SCIENCE of the funding by NIH of a stock center to preserve these same swordtail and platyfish lines that have been so important to research in pigmentation and many other fields of research. Xiphophorus are susceptible to many tumors in addition to melanoma, and have been used extensively in behavioral genetics, to study mechanisms of sexual selection, and of course in biogeographical systematics. Their history in genetical research goes back almost as far as our mouse model (well, about 3/4 as far to be more precise). And because its evolutionary history extends farther back into the history of vertebrates,

the Xiphophorus, along with the other fish models, are essential to comparative vertebrate genetics. I look forward to reading some exciting research results as we progress in comparative genetical studies of the pigmentation of these various fish species, alongside what we know about mammalian pigmentation, especially in our understanding of genetic control over the developmental pathways of chromatophores and the functional history of mammalian pigmentation.

Originally the Xiphophorus Genetics Stock Center was established in 1939 by Myron Gordon. It continued under the direction of Klaus Kallman, for the 35 years following Dr. Gordon's death, until it was transferred to Southwest Texas State University in 1993. But in fact we almost lost the living benefits of the first 3/4 century of research when the Xiphophorus stocks were about to be dispersed, as Dr. Kallman was no longer able to keep them. Fortunately they were instead gathered together by Professor Ronald Walter at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. San Marcos is just down the road from Austin and only a little farther from College Station, where you may recall some of these folks attended our PASPCR meeting.

In Texas, the accomplishments of the Xiphophorus Genetics Stock Center have continued impressive. If it were not enough to save these fish – platyfish, swordtails and others that we all recognize as historic models of research in pigmentation, the center also:

- has described 23 species and 24 distinct hybrid crosses
- is developing an extensive map of microsatellite markers
- is able to cryopreserve sperm and is working on techniques for artificial insemination
- has identified a new tumor suppressor gene.

The stock center does not cater to zebra fish or medaka, both also important models.

Recommended Reading. Marine Biotechnology, Volume 3, Supplement 1, Springer-Verlag, 2001, Special Issue: Aquaria Fish Models of Human Disease.

Xiphophorus Genetics Stock Center (cont.)



Ronald Walter (right), Professor and Mitte Chair in Cancer Research, Director of the Xiphophorus Genetic Stock Center, with Steve Kazianis and Leona Hazlewood, under the approving gaze of the father of fish pigment genetics, Myron Gordon.



The stock center fish tanks.

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.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the new members of the PASPCR council. They are:

Richard Swank
Gisella Erf
Manickam Sugumaran

We would also like to thank and to acknowledge the contributions of the three outgoing council members: **Mary K. Cullen, Vijay Setaluri, and Randy Morrison.**

Thank you!

I Love a Happy Ending

As of immediately the MMRRC (Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Centers) sponsored by NIH has begun to cryopreserve our congenic mouse pigmentary mutant model. This process will take some months. For information you may still contact Lynn Lamoreux at MLLamoreux@hotmail.com.

The MMRRC has a web site. You may continue to refer to our web site.

Currently we continue to develop congenic cell lines that will be cryopreserved in London. Contact Dot Bennett. We hope to represent the pigmentary loci as broadly as possible in the form of congenic mice and pigment cells for the benefit of the entire research community.

Especially those who study the pigmentary system.

Lynn Lamoreux



A letter from the Editor of *Pigment Cell Research*

Dear Members of the ESPCR, JSPCR and PASPCR :

It has now been almost 3.5 years since I began my 5 year term as Editor of *Pigment Cell Research* and I would like to take this occasion to thank all of you for the continued support that has been given to me at every level. The quality of submissions has continued to improve and their quantity has almost doubled over the past year. The speed of reviews and decisions has been maintained, the support by the publisher has improved and in my opinion, the journal has become a much more vital resource for all of us. *Pigment Cell Research* is widespread in its coverage of pigment-related topics, and it welcomes potential authors from all areas of research in pigmentation ranging from comparative biology to chemistry to genetics to molecular biology to clinical and applied aspects. The outlook for 2003 and beyond is quite bright and I have summarized below some key points regarding that. I'll look forward to the remaining year+ of my term confident that our journal will continue to progress significantly in the future.

- **Web Site** – The PCR Web site (www.pigment.org) is being accessed more and more frequently with more than 20,000 hits in its first 3+ years; not only can you access titles and abstracts of papers from all Volumes 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 1,000 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. Blackwell/Munksgaard has an excellent online web site for PCR (<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/servlet/useragent?func=showIssues&code=pcr>) and member subscribers have free access to full manuscripts published from 2000 on at that site (you will need to contact them online the first time to receive your activation information). If you haven't discovered this yet, articles are typically available online about 2 weeks before the hard copies are mailed and

received.

- **Online Submissions and Turnaround Time** – Speed is the key, and manuscripts are submitted online almost exclusively now. See the 'Authors' page on the Web site for information about this and what types of files can be submitted. Electronic processing has also sped up handling and review of your submissions; the average time to a decision from the date my office received a manuscript in 2002 was only 27 days; the average total time in my office for accepted manuscripts from receipt to acceptance to transmission to the Publisher was only 36 days.
- **Impact Factor** – The Impact Factor for PCR rose for a 4th straight year (to 2.10) in 2002 which has promoted us into the top half of the highly competitive Cell Biology category. Whether we continue our rise will depend completely upon YOU, since the impact factor is determined by YOUR citations of papers published in PCR over the past 2 years (e.g. our 2003 Impact Factor will be calculated on citations published this year to articles published in PCR in 2001 and 2002). Does it count if you cite your own papers in PCR? Absolutely yes.
- **Expanded Features and Publisher Support** – the Publisher has further increased our color publication budget for 2003; it is not yet an unlimited amount, but you should have noticed the progressive increase in color in PCR. The Publisher has also increased our allotment of pages per issue from 64 to 80; in addition to those, the Programs and Abstracts of the annual meetings of the regional Societies are published as supplementary materials (as are the IPCC Program and Abstracts when that occurs). The PASPCR meeting will be found in Issue #4, the ESPCR meeting in Issue #5 and the JSPCR meeting in Issue #6. Can't attend all of those meetings? Accessing PCR is your best way to see what is being done in our field. In 2003, subscribers will also receive the IPCC Proceedings as Supplementary material in Issue #3, and a special issue dedicated to the memory of Prof. Giuseppe Prota, which will be published in Issue #5.

- **Outstanding Reviews** – the quality of the Reviews published has continued to be steadily high and I'd like to thank all of our Review writers. Once again, virtually everyone asked to contribute a review agreed to do so, and some unsolicited Reviews have also been submitted and a few of those have been accepted and published. You can look at the upcoming list of Reviews (Regular, Gene Focus and Innovative Technology) for the next year on the 'In Press' page of the PCR Web Site.
- **The Bad News** – I assume you noticed that our reduced member subscription fees increased this year. Although that wasn't too big an increase (about the equivalent of \$15 per year) in light of the previous relatively low rate which had remained constant for more than 5 years, it may portend more increases in the future. Why? Well, costs are going up everywhere, including publishing and postage expenses. The solution is simple. The publisher makes very little profit on our discounted subscription fees but makes considerably more on Institutional subscriptions. That being the case, one way to keep your own subscription cost low is to have your library subscribe at the Institutional cost. A few dozen new Institutional subscriptions would probably keep our own personal fees low for the foreseeable future. The solution is in your hands.

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.

Best regards,



Editor, *Pigment Cell Research*

Positions - Wanted and Available

Postings for **Positions Available** will be open to all individuals and institutions so long as the position is related to pigment cell research. Postings for **Positions Wanted** will be open only to members of the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research or its sister societies (JSPCR and ESPCR). Send postings to Bill Oetting at bill@lenti.med.umn.edu. Please provide an expiration date for any submitted postings. Final decisions will be made by the Publications Committee of the PASPCR.

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 rational 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

Baylor College of Medicine is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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 under 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.
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E-mail: boissyre@email.uc.edu

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 Fellow - Postdoctoral positions are available immediately to study post-embryonic development in zebrafish. NIH-funded research is aimed at identifying the genetic and cellular bases for development of the adult pigment pattern and somatic metamorphosis. The lab uses a wide variety of methods including genetic screening, genetic mapping and

positional cloning, gene expression analysis, cell transplantation and classical histology. Postdoctoral fellows would be expected ultimately to develop independent research programs and would have the opportunity to participate in ongoing genetic screens for mutants affecting post-embryonic development.

For more information see:

<http://www.biosci.utexas.edu/IB/faculty/parichy/research.htm>

<http://www.biosci.utexas.edu/IB/faculty/parichy/pubs.html>

Applications including CV and contact information for three references should be sent to:

David M. Parichy, Ph.D.
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Members in the News

Sally Frost-Mason Cover-Scientist

“It all comes back to the core belief that one can engineer better proteins than nature synthesizes itself, because nature has not prepared these molecules to be used as pharmaceuticals.” And so Purdue University, Indiana University and Eli Lilly & Co. have organized the Indiana Proteomics Consortium whose primary goals are described in the January/February issue of *Genomics & Proteomics*, volume 3 number 1. These are focused primarily on the development of methodology, analytical chemistry, and instrumentation aimed at the evaluation of proteins. John Hurrell is President of the consortium.

Pictured on the cover of the issue, Sally Frost-Mason represents Purdue on the board of the Indiana Proteomics Consortium, along with D. Craig Brater, representing Indiana University, and Richard DiMarchi representing Eli Lilly & Co. And of course Dr. Frost-Mason is also a Professor of Biology and Provost at Purdue and a former President of our pigment cell society.

Do you believe that proteomics is more interesting than the study of pigmentation?

Lynn

And now for the rest of the story.

There is no story for this issue. Please look in the June issue for the next installment.

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, and I will try to get **the rest of the story**.

The 11th Annual Meeting of the PASPCR September 4-7, 2003

Dear Members and Friends of the PASPCR:

The 11th Annual Meeting of the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research “*Molecular and Genetic Characterization of Melanocytes and Melanoma Cells*” will be held September 4-7, 2003 at the Sea Crest Resort and Conference Center, North Falmouth, Mass. The Center is located on Cape Cod Bay and has it’s own beach. Focus topics include comparative models of pigmentation, enzymology of melanogenesis; growth factors and signal transduction; hormones and receptors, melanocyte development, melanoma, molecular biology and gene action, pigmentary disorders; structure and function of melanin; and subcellular organelle processing/trafficking. An exciting group of invited speakers includes: Natalie G. Ahn, Greg Barsh, Borris Bastian, Marianne Berwick, Lynda Chin, Michael Detmar, David E. Fisher, John Hammer III, Daniel Hebert, Lynn Margulis, Maria S. Soengas, Walter Storkus, and Robert Swank.

But it won’t be *all* work! There will also be a New

England clambake and an interesting afternoon trip to nearby Woods Hole, with a reception at Dr. Aaron B. Lerner’s summer home.

We are pleased to let you know that the PASPCR website (www.paspcr.org) is up and running with (hopefully) everything you need to know about the meeting. The abstract deadline is May 1, 2003. We strongly urge you to submit abstracts online, although hard-copy submission is acceptable. Everything else needs to be mailed or faxed to John Pawelek, as shown on the website. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Pawelek by e-mail at john.pawelek@yale.edu.

See you on the Cape!

The Organizing Committee,

Jean Bologna
Ruth Halaban
John Pawelek

The 11th Annual Meeting of the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research

*The Sea Crest Resort Conference Center
Cape Cod, MA*

Thursday, September 4, 2003

REGISTRATION

5 – 6:30 PM Council meeting

WELCOME REMARKS: Jean Bologna, MD, John Pawelek, PhD,

Session #1: Melanocortin/MSH/agouti protein

Moderator: Zalfa Abdel-Malek

7:00 – 7:30 PM Overview lecture –

Greg Barsh, Ph.D., Department of Genetics, Stanford Univ. School of Medicine, Stanford, CA

7:30 – 9:00 PM Oral presentations

9 PM - Cocktail reception

Friday, September 5, 2003

7:30 – 8:00 AM Continental breakfast

Session 2: Subcellular Organelles and Protein Trafficking

Moderators: Seth Orlow and John Pawelek

8:00 -8:30 AM Overview lecture - Tyrosinase and Tyrp1 Trafficking in Melanocytes and Melanomas

Daniel Hebert, PhD, UMASS, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Amherst, MA

8:30 - 9:00 AM Overview lecture – The motors in melanosome movement on cytoskeletal tracks

John A. Hammer III, PhD, Laboratory of Cell Biology, National Heart, Lung, and Blood, Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Bethesda, MD

9:00 –9:30 AM Overview lecture – Genetic Regulation of Melanosomes and other Lysosome-Related Organelles

Richard Swank, PhD, **Dept of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Roswell Park Cancer Inst, Buffalo, NY**

9:30 -10:00 AM Coffee break

10:00 -12:30 Oral presentations

1:00 PM Bus leaves to Woods Hole, 4:15 back

Free afternoon – visit to Wood’s Hole (buses arranged by the conference)

Gathering at the Aaron and Millie Lerner’s home ~2-4 pm

Session #3: Cellular Interactions and Signal Transduction

Moderators – Glynnis Scott and Mira Sieberg

5:00 - 5:30 PM Overview lecture - Symbiosis in Cellular Evolution

Lynn Margulis, PhD, Department of Geosciences, UMass, Amherst, MA

5:30-6:00 PM Overview lecture - ERK Signaling and Proteomic Profiling,

Natalie G. Ahn, PhD, Howard Hughes, Medical Institute Investigator at the Depts of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

6:00 –6:30 PM Aaron B. Lerner Honorary Lecture/Ruth Halaban

6:30-7:30 PM Oral presentations

7:30 PM - Barbecue

Saturday, September 6, 2003

7:30 AM - Continental breakfast

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM Concurrent sessions

Session #4: Melanoma, Epidemiology, Vaccine, and Apoptosis

Moderators: Carola Berking and Menash Bar-Eli

- 8 :30 – 9:00 AM Overview lecture - The Epidemiology of Melanoma
Marianne Berwick, PhD, Dept of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
- 9:00 – 9:30 AM Overview lecture - Vaccines and Immunotherapy
Walter Storkus, MD, Dept of Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry, Univ of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA
- 9:30 –10:00 POSTER VIEWING (snacks)
- 10:00 – 10:30 AM Overview lecture - Inactivation of apoptotic signals
Maria S. Soengas, PhD, Dermatology Department, University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, Ann Arbor, MI
- 10:30-12:30 Oral presentation

Session #5: Comparative Pigment Cell Biology

Moderators: Joseph Bagnara and Lynn Lamoreux

- 8:30- 9:00 AM Overview lecture - membrane spanning melanosomal transporters –
Seth Orlow, MD, The Ronald O. Perelman Dept of Dermatology and Cell Biology, NYU School of Medicine, New York NY,
- 9:00 -10:30 AM Oral presentation
- 10:30-11:00 AM Coffee break, POSTER VIEWING
- 11:00-12:30 AM Oral presentation
- 12:30 – 1:30 AM Lunch (box)

Session #6: Melanoma, Genetics, Animal Models and Angiogenesis

Moderators: Suzie Cheng and Vince Hearing

- 1:30 – 2:00 PM Overview lecture - Genomic Analyses of Melanocytic Neoplasms: Insights into Biology and Opportunities for Classification
Boris Bastian, MD, Depts of Dermatology and Pathology Univ of California, San Francisco, CA
- 2:00 - 2:30 PM Overview lecture - Animal models for melanomas
Lynda Chin, MD Dana-Farber Cancer Center, Boston, MA
- 2:30 –3:00 PM Overview lecture - Angiogenesis
Michael Detmar, MD, Cutaneous Biology Research Center, Dept of Dermatology, MASS General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Charlestown, MA
- 3:00-3:30 PM Coffee break, POSTER VIEWING

- 3:30 –5:30 PM Oral presentations
- 6:30 – 9:00 PM Clam Bake, presentations of awards, honorary membership –
PASPCR, Career Achievement Award

Sunday, September 7, 2003

7:30 AM - continental breakfast

Session #7: Transcriptional Regulation

Moderators: Raymond Boissy and Bill Pavan

- 8:00-8:30 AM Overview lecture - Genomic analysis of melanocyte development and disease.
Bill Pavan, Ph.D., Genetic Disease Research Branch, National Institutes of Health,
National Human Genome Research Institute, Bethesda, Maryland
- 8:30 – 9:00 AM Overview lecture - Transcriptional Regulation of Melanocyte Differentiation and Growth
David E. Fisher, MD, Ph.D., Dana-Farber Cancer Inst, Harvard Medical School,
Boston, MA
- 9:00 –10:30 AM Oral presentations
- 10:30 – 11:00 AM Coffee break and Business meeting
- 11:00 –12:30 AM Oral presentations

Bibliography:

The Bibliography published in this issue covers the period December, 2002 through February, 2003. 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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