

PASPCR

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Newsletter



Introduction... by *Bill Oetting*

The PASPCR has lost two valued members, Dr. Aaron B. Lerner, M.D., Ph.D and Dr. Mac Hadley, Ph.D. In this issue of the PASPCR Newsletter we have remembrances of these two icons of pigment cell reserach. It was only a few years ago that the PASPCR held its annual meeting in Cape Cod, where Aaron Lerner shared his house in Cape Cod for the reception. Mac Hadley was also instrumental in the 1986 meeting of the International Pigment Cell Society in Tucson. We will miss both.

New articles are being added to the PASPCR Commentary Page. These articles contain the latest in pigment related research and thoughts on pigment cell biology and physiology. The link can be found at the PASPCR home page. If you would like to see a particular topic included, or wish to write one yourself, please contact John Pawelek at john.pawelek@yale.edu.

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". 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 the domain name **ifpcs.org**. The domain name **ipcc.info** will take you to the IPCC web site, providing you the most up to date information on the International Pigment Cell Conference which will be held on May 7 - 12, 2008 in Sapporo, Japan.

The PASPCR Web Site can be found at:
<http://www.paspcr.org>

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IFPCS Representative:

Zalfa Abdel-Malek,
President, IFPCS
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Calendar of Events:

2007 XIVth Meeting of the PASPCR
Chicago, Illinois
Contact: Caroline Le Poole
E-mail: ilepool@lumc.edu

2007 The 21th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Pigment Cell Research (JSPCR) will be held on December 8 and 9, 2007 in Toyoake City, Japan
Contact: Prof. Kazumasa Wakamatsu

2007 2nd Conference of the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research (ASPCR). July 6-8, Singapore
Contact: Mrs Alice Chew
E-mail: training@nsc.gov.sg

2007 XIVth Meeting of the ESPCR, September , Bari, Italy
Contact: Prof. Rosa Cicero
E-mail: r.cicero@biolgene.uniba.it

2008 XXth International Pigment Cell Conference and Vth International Melanoma Research Congress
Contact: Kowichi Jimbow
E-mail: Go to web page for contact information
www.ipcc.info

If you know of future meetings that you feel would be of interest to the PASPCR membership, please let us know.

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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POLA Chemical Co.

New Members *by Raymond E. Boissy*

The PASPCR would like to welcome these new members to the Society:

Nannan Chen
Johnson & Johnson
Skillman, NJ

Claude Saliou
Johnson & Johnson
Skillman, NJ

Isabel Santana
Unilever
Trumbull CT

PASPCR Annual Meeting *Chicago, September 13-16, 2007*

Mark your calendar! The 14th Annual Meeting of the PASPCR will be held September, 13-16, 2007 in the beautiful city of Chicago. The unique theme of this meeting is “Pigmentation and Diversity”. The organizers have planned an exciting program around this theme with a keynote lecture “Evolution of Human Skin Color” by Dr. Nina Jablonski, an anthropologist and author of a recent popular science book “Skin: A Natural History”. Topics for other sessions include ethnic diversity in research, genetics of skin pigmentation, developmental biology of melanocyte etc. Also, as most of you are aware, this will be the first PASPCR meeting after the passing away of Dr. Aaron B. Lerner, a giant in the field of pigmentation/melanocyte biology. Therefore, this year’s Aaron B. Lerner Award Lecture by Dr. Beatrice Mintz, an equally eminent pigmentation biologist, will also be the first Lerner Lecture in his memory. There will also be talks and sessions dedicated to pigmentary disorders and melanoma. We would like remind all our clinician friends that this meeting is an accredited Continuing Medical Education event. In addition to talks by invited speakers, there will be opportunities for young scientists to present and discuss their research as oral presentations or posters. Please visit www.paspcr2007.org for a detailed program and speakers. The deadline for submission of abstracts is May 15, 2007. We look forward to see you in Chicago.

The Local Organizing Committee



Candidates for President-Elect of the PASPCR

Miri Seiberg
Principal Research Fellow, Skin Biology
The Johnson & Johnson Skin Research Center

Research Interests: I head the skin biology research lab of the Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc., a basic and applied research group with an emphasis on skin aging, acne, and pigmentation, all combined with a major effort to better understand skins of different ethnic backgrounds. Within the world of pigment cell research, our group is most interested in keratinocyte-melanocyte interactions, melanosome transfer, the role of keratinocytes in the regulation of skin pigmentation, mechanistic understanding of ethnic skin pigmentary responses, post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation, modulation of skin color in healthy skin (both lightening and sunless tanning) and in pigmentary diseases, and signaling pathways that affect human skin pigmentation.

PASPCR activities: I am a long-time member of the PASPCR, was formerly on the council and have helped organize many PASPCR meeting sessions

Greg Barsh
Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Genetics
Stanford University School of Medicine

Research Interests: I first became interested in pigmentary biology as a postdoctoral fellow while studying the lethal yellow allele of the mouse Agouti locus. My research group has continued to study the genetics of pigment type-switching for the last 15 years using the laboratory mouse and the domestic dog, as model systems. Because pigment type-switching is inextricably linked with the melanocortin system, identifying the underlying molecular pathways often has implications for signaling processes used in multiple organ systems. More recently, I have become interested in studying pigmentary variation in natural populations, to investigate the developmental and molecular basis of pattern formation, and to better understand how genomes respond to natural and artificial selection.

PASPCR activities: I have served two non-consecutive terms as a PASPCR council member, and have helped organize sessions at several of the PASPCR meetings.

Reflections on Aaron Lerner, Mac Hadley and MSH

By John Pawelek

Aaron Lerner and Mac Hadley were my long-time friends and colleagues in pigment cell research who recently passed away (please see the eulogies in this newsletter). Aaron hired me to the Yale Dermatology faculty in 1971 when I was 28. Because of Aaron and the scientists he had gathered, Yale was well-known for its pigment cell research. Over the years this would come to include PASPCR members (in chronological order) Sid Klaus, Joe McGuire, Gisela Moellmann, John Pawelek, Ruth Halaban, Janos Varga, Jim Nordlund, Jean Bologna, Lynn Lamoreux, Rob Fleischmann, Ray Boissy, Andrzej Slominski, Ashok Chakraborty, Glynnis Scott and Seth Orlow. Aaron said he would support anything I chose to study as long as it had to do with pigment cells. But mostly he hoped that someone would establish a cell culture assay for MSH. He also hoped that someone would learn to culture normal melanocytes (later accomplished by Ruth). My graduate student Glenda Wong soon demonstrated strong MSH effects in Cloudman melanoma cells. This became the first MSH-responsive culture system. With this system we eventually showed that melanoma cyclic AMP, tyrosinase, melanogenesis, morphology, cell division, chemotactic motility and glycosylation were all stimulated by the peptide. For an MSH source we used the big brown bottle in the freezer where Aaron and Saul Lande stored their hog pituitary preps of the hormone. That same bottle was our chief source of MSH for more than 20 years. From it Janos Varga synthesized the first I¹²⁵ MSH and with that we identified MSH receptors on Cloudman cells (which made Aaron very happy). Cloudman cells were also the source for our discovery of dopachrome tautomerase (TYRP-2) (which Aaron didn't believe). Then in 1989 a young medical student in my lab, Jean Bologna, found that UV light stimulated the MSH receptor system in Cloudman cells and that this was the mechanism for UV tanning in mice and guinea pigs. This brought Mac Hadley into the picture. Mac had developed MSH analogs and showed that they stimulated the human pigmentary system. I pointed out to Mac that his MSH analog-mediated tanning was strongest in sun-exposed areas and that this appeared similar to Lerner and McGuire's early results with the

native hormone into humans. This supported the idea that UV worked through the MSH system. After some convincing, Mac agreed, except for the genitalia that tanned strongly with MSH and no UV (as Mac dramatically proved ($n = 1$) to an audience ($n = 1$) one pigment cell conference in Japan). Mac was a research mentor to Zalfa Abdel-Malek, Brian Fuller, and Frank Meyskens. So a circle became complete when Zalfa, by then at Cincinnati, began her elegant studies on the MSH/UV connection in cultured human melanocytes. Mac was always wary of “that Yale group”. I never knew exactly why. Last September, 2006, he came to the Cincinnati meetings after a long hiatus from the PASPCR. When I saw him he picked up right where he had left off, about “those Yale people”. It made me laugh because then I knew that he was the same Mac and that the universe was somehow still in place. When Mac was killed, Aaron called me at home. By that time Aaron’s always quiet voice had succumbed to Parkinson’s disease but his sadness about Mac came through clearly. He also called Joe Bagnara to commiserate (see Joe’s comments) and I presume others. So just like that we lost two giants in pigment cell research. At first glance they were very different people, but underneath they were similar: passionate, driven, highly productive, and yes, eccentric scientists. But their contributions will always survive them, and in a way that is what our work is all about.



From left to right, John Pawelek, Aaron Lerner and Joseph Bagnara at the 11th Annual Meeting of the PASPCR, 2003

Memories of Aaron B. Lerner *From Joseph Bagnara, PhD*

Dear John,

When I went to my office at the university this morning, I found your sad message about the passing of our dear friend, Aaron Lerner. I am moved by Aaron’s death for many reasons and I would like to share these with you who also knew Aaron for so many years.

My first contact with Aaron was more than 50 years ago and I had my first opportunity to meet him in the early summer of 1960 at an international endocrinology conference in Copenhagen. I was particularly looking forward to meeting him because, even so early in my scientific career, his work was already influential in two of the major discoveries of my scientific life. The first dealt with the discovery that MSH not only affected melanophores (-cytes), but iridophores and xanthophores (and their constituent pigments) as well. In fact, I was working with small MSH peptides from the labs of C.H. Li and Klaus Hoffmann even before Aaron’s lab had elucidated the structure of alpha-MSH.

The second major impact on my young research life was just before my first meeting with Aaron. I refer to my discovery that melatonin was indeed a hormone (not just a pharmaceutical phenomenon) and that it was a hormone released from the pineal gland in response to darkness to provide the basis for the circadian color change that was observed in tadpoles and fishes. I was able to demonstrate this because of a small sample of melatonin that Aaron provided Tom Burgers, a young Dutch investigator from Utrecht, who was en route to Berkeley to work with C.H. Li and Irv Geschwind. He traversed the country by Greyhound Bus stopping at various labs working in pigmentation. When he stopped in New Haven in 1959, Aaron had available small amounts of melatonin that they had just synthesized. He presented Tom with a very small sample that he had with him when he made his Tucson stop. We drove out to a nearby canyon and collected some leopard frog tadpoles to test the melatonin sample. Of course, it had a potent melanophore contracting effect. Tom left me with a very small share of the original melatonin gift and during the ensuing year, I used it in some experiments that

demonstrated the role of melatonin in the "body-blanching reaction" of *Xenopus* tadpoles. This work was published in *Science* in May or June of 1960 (together with a cover photo), just a month before my first meeting with Aaron in Copenhagen.

At the 2003 PASPCR meeting on Cape Cod, the luncheon that Aaron and Millie hosted at their home in Woods Hole brought back many memories. I spent a little time reminiscing with them about many things—one was that in June of 1955 when I was a finishing graduate student, I spent some time in Woods Hole collecting some material for my dissertation. I remember working the better part of a day on a dock not more than a hundred yards or so, from the now Lerner house, dissecting out dogfish pituitaries for MSH assay.

My last memory of Aaron is recent and is a good souvenir of his thoughtfulness. He called me and Lou at home soon after he learned of Mac Hadley's tragedy. Notwithstanding the serious nature of his call, it gives me pleasure to have this so fresh memory of Aaron.

Thanks for sharing the news about Aaron. I know that all of you in the Yale community will miss him,

Joe Bagnara, PhD
Tucson, Arizona
February 5, 2007

In Memoriam: Aaron B. Lerner, M.D., Ph.D.
From Richard L. Edelson, MD

Aaron B. Lerner, M.D., Ph.D., guided dermatology at Yale from its inception in 1956 as a small new section within the Department of Internal Medicine under Paul Beeson to its later status as a free-standing department in 1971. He is largely responsible for the department's broad recognition as one of the world's foremost intellectual centers of cutaneous biology and medicine. Dr. Lerner was the first dermatologist elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences and was widely considered to be the leading fundamental scientist in the specialty during the early stages of the modern era of biomedical research. In his 30 years as chair at Yale, he attracted a highly talented young faculty, which he weaved into a tightly knit group of outstanding clinical

scholars and investigators.

A native of Minneapolis, he received his undergraduate, medical and doctoral degrees from the University of Minnesota. Before coming to Yale, he was a faculty member at the universities of Michigan and Oregon. Dr. Lerner's scientific accomplishments are legion. He is well known as the discoverer, in 1958, of melatonin, a hormone secreted by the pineal gland, and of melanocyte stimulating hormone—work he completed with colleagues at Yale and elsewhere. Previously he and a fellow graduate student, G. Robert Greenberg, isolated the first monoclonal antibody, cryoglobulin, a protein that precipitates in the blood and tissues at low temperature. Dr. Lerner also led the group that demonstrated the central role of tyrosinase in melanin synthesis, and he performed the critical experiments demonstrating that 8-methoxy-psoralen (8-MOP), a DNA-crosslinking agent which can essentially be turned on by long wave ultraviolet energy, can be safely administered to humans, paving the way for its wide use in the treatment of psoriasis, vitiligo and cutaneous lymphoma. He was the preeminent clinical expert in melanocytic diseases, ranging from depigmenting to hyperpigmenting to malignant diseases, all stemming from aberrant melanocyte behavior. As such, he was a high impact pioneer "translational scientist," tightly coupling scientific insights with clinical advances, literally decades before the term was introduced.

Among his most treasured honors, was his acknowledgement as the first recipient of the Dermatology Foundation's Discovery Award for his extraordinary seminal scientific contributions. Aaron took special pride in the abundant number of Yale medical students who now prominently populate the field throughout the country and the world. Two of them are his sons, Ethan and Michael, as well as several of our own faculty. Dr. Lerner's scientific progeny, both at Yale and beyond, have shaped the field of melanocyte biology and continue to play prominent roles in that field.

The dermatology community will sorely miss this iconic figure and mentor to many. More than anyone else of his era, he is responsible for the intellectual roots of the specialty and took enormous pride in how the discipline has blossomed. I join my Yale colleagues in both the sense of awe of his legacy and the extreme

personal loss. His many, many Yale friends, colleagues and disciples will miss Aaron deeply, but will hold his memory and example tightly to their hearts and aspirations.

Richard L. Edelson, MD
Professor and Chair, Department of Dermatology
Director, Yale Cancer Center
New Haven, CT
February 10, 2007

Positions Wanted / 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.

Positions Wanted

Postdoctoral Position Wanted

Postdoctoral level position wanted for a Scientist with more than 3 years of postdoctoral experience with expertise in primary melanocyte culture, cell signaling in melanocytes, developing transgenic mouse models. Available to join immediately. Please respond at daizeus@yahoo.com.

Positions Available

Postdoctoral position

We are looking for an enthusiastic postdoctoral researcher interested in studying immune responses

to melanoma tumors and autoimmune reactivity to melanocytes for NIH funded research.

We utilize primary cell cultures established from mice and humans, including T cells lines and clones. Keywords frequently used in the lab are TCR affinity, vaccines, murine models, depigmentation, T cell cloning, and HSP70. Send inquiries, resume and/or contact information to:

I. Caroline Le Poole Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Pathology
Loyola University Chicago
2160 S. 1st Ave, Bldg 112, Rm 203
Maywood, IL 60153
Tel. 708-327-2032
Email ilepool@lumc.edu

Senior Scientist

For over a century Avon has been a leading global beauty company for women, with a commitment to innovation through research and development.

We are currently recruiting for a Sr. Scientist role. The candidate's focus will be to conduct laboratory research for the validation and characterization of new molecular targets related to skin biology and evaluation of technologies for cosmetic product development.

The candidate will work with Avon scientists to determine areas of research and independently design and carry out the experimental phase of the research. A successful candidate will demonstrate the ability to independently design, execute, and evaluate experimental protocols. In an interpretable manner, the candidate will be required to archive all results in written and computer format as well as communicating the experimental outcomes to other scientists and/or team members to guide the progression of research projects. The candidate will also be expected to provide scientific input into the on-going projects of other scientists and/or teams in Avon R&D.

The Candidate requires a Ph.D degree in Biology, Immunology, Cell Biology or other related field. The

candidate must have at least 5 years of experience in cell and tissue culture techniques, experimental design and data analysis. Knowledge and experience with qPCR, non-radioactive in situ hybridization, and cell co-culture would be an advantage. Experience or exposure to medicinal chemistry or natural products would be helpful. The candidate must have a proven record of productivity in their field of research. The candidate must also demonstrate strong communication and writing skills. The candidate must act professionally in all situations, and function well in a matrix and team-oriented environment. Flexibility and adaptability to changes are also key characteristics.

To apply for this position please send a resume to jobs40@avon.com. or visit our website at www.avon.com and refer to Job ID 4119.

Lisa Platek
Human Resources Recruiter
Avon Products Research and Development
1 Avon Place
Suffern, NY 10901
Phone: (845)369-2679
email: Lisa.Platek@avon.com

Senior Scientist

The Senior Scientist will be responsible for basic and applied research in the areas of skin pigmentation and UV protection. The candidate will be involved in the design, performance and analysis of in vivo and in vitro studies, including the use of microscopic image analysis of histological data. Experience in both in vivo and in vitro studies is desired, including in vivo treatments, and techniques such as enzymatic activity analysis, DNA/RNA/protein extraction, and Immunohistochemistry. Responsibilities for the position also include documenting studies in clinical records, research notebooks and reports, presenting research data, reading scientific literature and participating in research discussions and seminars.

Qualifications

BS/MS in biology or related sciences with hands on experience required in both in vivo and in vitro work. Molecular biology and/or biochemistry knowledge and experience in various biological research tech-

niques (RT-PCR, Western blot, IHC, enzymatic activity analysis, DNA/RNA/protein extraction) are desired. Microscopy and computerized image analysis experience is a plus. Ability to design studies, execute and analyze data, make conclusions and suggestions for next steps is required, as well as the ability to learn new techniques and procedures. Ability to engage in both individual studies and in teamwork is a must.

To apply for this position, contact:

Miri Seiberg, PhD
Principal Research Fellow
Skin Biology and LAS
The Johnson & Johnson Skin Research Center, CPPW,
a unit of Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc
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Phone: 908-874-2325
Fax: 908-874-1254
e-mail: MSEIBER@CPCUS.JNJ.COM

Assistant/Associate/Full Clinical Professor Medical Oncology and Hematology University of California, Irvine

Two new positions in medical oncology and hematology are available at the Assistant/Associate/Full Health Sciences (Clinical) Professor level (rank dependent on qualifications) in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology at the University of California, Irvine, site of an NCI designated comprehensive cancer center. Applicants must have MD or MD/PhD and be BE/BC in Medical Oncology. These positions are for Academic Clinicians who, in addition to patient care activities, are interested in participating in established clinical trials and teaching. Time and resources to assist in the development and execution of novel translational research and develop investigator-initiated trials will be made available. One position is for an individual with interest in melanoma and the other for an individual with interest in pancreatic and hepatobiliary cancers.

UCI is an equal opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity. Send curriculum vitae with names and telephone numbers of three references and a statement of your academic goals to:

Randall F. Holcombe, M.D.
Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Associate Director, Chao Family
Comprehensive Cancer Center
c/o Krista Hollinger, Divisional MSO
101 The City Drive
Bldg 56, RT 81, ZOT 4061
Orange, CA 92868
Tel: 714-456-5153
Email: kholling@uci.edu

Postdoctoral Position

A postdoctoral position available in the laboratory of Dr. Andrew Aplin in the Center for Cell Biology and Cancer Research at Albany Medical College, NY. Research will focus on the critical signaling proteins involved in anchorage-dependent cell growth of melanocytes and that may be aberrantly regulated in melanoma cells. Further details and recent publications can be obtained at <http://www.amc.edu/academic/research/CBCResearcher.cfm?ID=170>

Albany Medical College is located in the scenic Hudson River Valley, offering affordable housing, easy commutes and quick access to cultural (e.g., Saratoga, 45 min; Tanglewood, 1 hr), and outdoor activities (Adirondack State Park, 2 hr).

Candidates with a recent PhD or MD/PhD with a strong background in molecular and cellular biology are encouraged to apply. Excellent financial compensation and benefits are provided. Please submit a resume and the names of references to:

Andrew E. Aplin, Ph.D.
Center for Cell Biology & Cancer Research
Albany Medical College,
47 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
Email: aplina@mail.amc.edu

The Albany Medical College is an equal opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer

Postdoctoral Research Associate

Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Two NIH-funded postdoctoral positions are available to work on the development of neural crest-derived melanocytes and enteric neurons in mice. We are interested in the signals required for proper migration and differentiation of these lineages during mouse embryogenesis and use various genetic manipulation techniques and existing mutants for our studies. Fox Chase Cancer offers competitive salaries to its postdocs and was recently named one of the best places to work for Postdocs (<http://www.fccc.edu/news/2003/Best-Places-for-Postdocs-02-20-2003.html>). Candidates with a recent PhD or MD/PhD with strong background in molecular biology, genetics or developmental biology are encouraged to apply. Please submit CV, and names of 3 references to:

Dr. Myung K. Shin
Program in Cellular and Developmental Biology
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Philadelphia, PA 19111, USA
Email: MK_Shin@fccc.edu

Post-Doctoral Fellowship

The Curie Institute offers for 2007, 4 PhD fellowships for 3 years to non-French students who wants to do their PhD in a group from the Curie Institute.

Degree and Age:

The applicant should hold a Master's or a 5-year University degree comparable to a European master, and must be under of 26 years of age on the October 1st, 2007. The applicant will be registered in a French University.

Application:

The applicant will be put forward by the Wellcome group leader of Curie Institute.

Application process:

The application form will contain:

- Student's Full CV, including Results and grades of the bachelor's degree (if possible);
- Grades of the university's degrees;
- Assessment of practical trainings;
- Possibly, reference letters from professors and/or scientists (2 maximum);
- Summary of the thesis research project (proposed by the thesis advisor)
- Publications list of the last 5 years of the thesis advisor.

It is strongly recommended to the group leader to meet the student before application to check his motivation to carry out his thesis at the Curie Institute.

Deadline:

The applications will be sent by mail to Frederique BERGER (frederique.berger@curie.u-psud.fr) by the 8th June 2006.

Applications will be examined by the Director and the Assistant Director of the Research Centre of the Curie Institute. Results will be available by the 14th July 2006.

Developmental Biology Meeting

The International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies Development Group is hosting a small, informal meeting in the field of pigment cell development at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland on June 14-15 2007. The meeting will emphasise research in differentiation, gene expression and embryology. This conference will explore these themes by gathering experts in a broad range of fields spanning basic transcriptional mechanisms through the clinical impact of pigment cell research. Special attention will be given to available resources and technologies for pigment cell research.

The scientific program will include talks from group members including some leading experts in this field, and from some external invited speakers. Our goal is to bring together a diverse group of dynamic speakers and participants who can together explore the current findings in pigment cell development.

Further information together with registration and abstract submission can be found on the website <http://www.genome.gov/20519498>. The deadline for abstract submission is April 10, 2007.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Iceland in June.

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<http://www.genome.gov/Staff/Pavan/>



Bibliography:

The Bibliography published in this issue covers the period December, 2005 through March, 2006. 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.

PHYSIOLOGY/BIOLOGY

- Amiya, N., Amano, M., Takahashi, A., Yamanome, T. & Yamamori, K.** (2007) Profiles of alpha-melanocyte-stimulating hormone in the Japanese flounder as revealed by a newly developed time-resolved fluoroimmunoassay and immunohistochemistry. *Gen Comp Endocrinol* **151**(1), 135-41.
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