

# PASPCR

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## Newsletter



The **PASPCR Newsletter** is published three times a year and is intended to serve as a regular means of communication for the members of our Society. The PASPCR Newsletter is distributed via e-mail, in pdf format, on the first of April, August and December and it will continue to be posted on the web site of the society.

Be sure to check out the PASPCR Commentary page on the website, new articles are being added and if you miss it, you can find past commentaries there as well.

Preparations for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the PASPCR, spear-headed by Andrzej Slominski, are progressing well. The meeting will be held in Memphis, Tennessee on September 4-7, 2009 and you can now visit the web site for more info (<http://www.paspcr2009.org>).

In this issue, we continue the “*Let me introduce...*” section that we started last year and which focuses on the work of the IFPCS web site webmaster, Dr. Lluís Montoliu.

We hope you enjoy this issue. We encourage you to send us your comments at our email address [paspcr.newsletters@gmail.com](mailto:paspcr.newsletters@gmail.com). Let us know what you would like to see in the letters, suggest sections you think would be useful to include, and recommend any changes that you would like to see. We also encourage you to let us know about meetings that you think would be of interest to members of the society. If you attend a scientific meeting at which you heard about work which you think will be of interest to the membership of the PASPCR, please write a

few paragraphs summarizing what was presented and share it with us. Also, keep us updated on any “*Members in the News*” so we can spread the word of your successes. This is **your Newsletter**, and we depend upon you to help us ensure it best serves the Society’s needs. We look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions and to continue working together to compile the Newsletters for our society.

PASPCR Newsletter Editorial Team

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

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Lidia Kos (2007-2009)  
Caroline Le Poole (2007-2009)  
Prashiela Manga (2008-2010)  
Miri Seiberg (2009-2011)

**IFPCS Representative:**

Caroline Le Poole (*Treasurer*)

John Pawelek (*Immediate Past-President*)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

2009

**The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for the Society for Investigative  
Dermatology**

**Date and place:** May 6-9, Montreal, CANADA

**Web site:** [http://www.sidnet.org/Annual\\_Meeting.asp](http://www.sidnet.org/Annual_Meeting.asp)

2009

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> ASPCR Meeting**

**Date and place:** June 11-13, Seoul, KOREA

**Web site:** <http://www.aspcr2009.org>

2009

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of PASPCR**

**Date and place:** September 4-7, Memphis, TN, USA

**Web site:** <http://www.paspcr2009.org>

2009

**XV<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ESPCR**

**Date and place:** September 20-23, Münster, GERMANY

**Web site:** <http://www.espcr.org>

2009

**6<sup>th</sup> International Melanoma Congress**

**Date and place:** November 1-4, Boston, MA, USA

**Web site:** <http://www.societymelanomaresearch.org/>

2010

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of PASPCR**

**Date and place:** September 22-26, Vancouver, BC, CANADA

**Contact:** Youwen Zhou, M.D., Ph.D.

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**CORPORATE SPONSORS**

*By Andrzej Slominski*

The PASPCR would like to acknowledge and thank our Corporate Sponsors. In the past, financial gifts from our Sponsors have allowed our Society to increase benefits to the membership far out of proportion to the actual dues collected from members. Money contributed by these Sponsors will be used to support the 15<sup>th</sup> PASPCR Annual Meeting to be held in Memphis, including the meeting travel stipends, scientific program and educational activity and any additional meeting expenses, and also for funding our Young Investigator Award program. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions as follows:

**DIAMOND Corporate Patrons**

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**PASPCR PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Two major topics will be covered in this issue – transition issues related to PCR becoming PCMR and the 2009 PASPCR conference.

The transition from PCR to PCMR encountered two major challenges: hard copies or online copies or both and selection of Senior Executive Editors who would represent/honcho the broader interests of the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS) and the Society for Melanoma Research (SMR). Many people and hundreds of emails burned around the world as the former issues were resolved. Special recognition of PASPCR member and IFPCS

Secretary Caroline Le Poole and IFPCS President Shigeki Shibahara should be acknowledged. The essential elements of the resolution have been completed.

Resolution of the obstacles to a successful editorial transition to the PCMR was considerably more difficult. The basic high level structure is an Editor-in-Chief (Ze'ev Ronai), and the Executive Editors selected by the IFPCS and the SMR. A crisis developed when the IFPCS selectee resigned for reasons that are not entirely clear, even after the sharing of many emails. Fortunately, sanity eventually prevailed and Heinz Arnheiter agreed to represent the IFPCS as Executive Editor. FYI the Executive Editor representing SMR will be Glenn Merlino. Officially, the transition will occur this summer and a mid-course (2011) evaluation of the editorial arrangement will be conducted, although details of this review are to be worked out.

The annual meeting of the PASPCR to be held in Memphis September 4-7, 2009 looks to be a winner under the inspired leadership of our new Secretary-Treasurer Andrzej Slominski. The scientific program is simply outstanding with many nationally known non-PASPCR speakers.

Fundraising has been very successful and the NIH Conference Grant received a priority of 128 so funding is almost assured. We also hope to be able to offer competitive travel grants to a large number of graduate students, post docs, and junior faculty, which is particularly important during this time of fiscal austerity. Please see the PASPCR website for detailed information about the 15<sup>th</sup> annual conference. And thanks to Greg Barsh and his Committee for the selection of Michael Marks as the Aaron B. Lerner awardee for 2009.

Our 16<sup>th</sup> annual conference to be held in Vancouver in September 2010 (Chair Youwen Zhou) is in the planning stages. If anyone has a particular interest in serving on the Scientific Advisory Committee please contact me ([flmeyske@uci.edu](mailto:flmeyske@uci.edu)) promptly as selections will occur by May 1, 2009.

Frank L. Meyskens, Jr., M.D.  
President, PASPCR

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**ELECTIONS RESULTS**

Congratulations to Gisela Erf, Thomas Hornyak and Miri Seiberg, the Council Members for 2009-2011!

We also thank James Grichnik, Sancy Leachman and Richard Spritz for their service the past three years on the Council.

**Gisela Erf PhD**

is a longstanding member of the pigment cell community, who has been a faculty member at the University of Arkansas for nearly 15 years. Dr. Erf's research interest lies in the area of avian immunology and poultry health, with a specific interest in the pathogenesis of autoimmune vitiligo in Smyth line chickens. She has a number of awards for teaching and research (including the PASPCR Young Investigator Award in 1992), and is a strong advocate in promoting development of opportunities for women in science.

**Tom Hornyak MD, PhD**

obtained his A.B. in music from Princeton, his M.D. degree and Ph.D. degree in Biological Chemistry from The University of Michigan. He completed a residency in dermatology at New York University (NYU) Medical Center, where, as a post-doctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Edward B. Ziff, he studied factors regulating expression of dopachrome tautomerase or tyrosinase-related protein-2 expression, and transcription factors regulating melanocyte development during embryogenesis. For the last 6 years, Dr. Hornyak has been an investigator at the Dermatology Branch, National Cancer Institute. His research is directed at studying transcriptional programs that regulate melanocyte development and function using a combination of experimental mouse genetics and molecular biology. He is also interested in developing experimental systems for studying the pathogenesis of melanoma.

**Miri Seiberg PhD**

received her B.Sc. in Biology from Tel Aviv University, Israel, her M.Sc. in biochemistry from the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, and her Ph.D. in molecular biology from the Weizmann

Institute of Science, Israel, in collaboration with Princeton University, NJ, USA. Following postdoctoral training at Princeton University she moved to the Department of Macromolecular Structure at Bristol Myers Squibb, and then to the Skin Biology Group at Johnson and Johnson. During the last 17 years she was involved in basic and applied skin research, with an emphasis on skin pigmentation. Today she is a Distinguished Research Fellow, heading the skin biology research efforts of the Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, directing scientific and applied research towards the developments of consumer and Rx skin care products. She has numerous scientific publications and patent applications in the areas of skin, hair, and pigmentation, and has received numerous awards, including the Johnson Medal, the most prestigious award given for research and development in the corporation, for outstanding science and technology relating to contributions to a specific product. Dr. Seiberg's research interests include 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 and in pigmentary diseases, signaling pathways that affect human skin pigmentation.

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**LETTER FROM IFPCS PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends, Members of PASPCR

It is my great honor and pleasure to write a presidential letter for PASPCR Newsletters. As the new President of the IFPCS, I would like to begin my greetings by expressing profound thanks to the outgoing Officers of the IFPCS: Zalfa Abdel-Malek (Ex-President) and Jose Carlos Garcia-Borron (Ex-Secretary-Treasurer), with every appreciation of all their hard work for the Federation over the past three years. I would also like to welcome our new IFPCS officers, Mauro Picardo, ESPCR (Vice-President), Caroline Le Poole, PASPCR (Treasurer), and Prasad Kumarasinghe, ASPCR (Secretary).

Because of heavy work of the Secretary-Treasurer, as evident from the great performance and enormous efforts of Jose Carlos Garcia-Borron, we established the Secretary and the Treasurer as separate positions at the IFPCS Council meeting held in Sapporo during the 20<sup>th</sup> IPCC. Thus, each of the four regional societies is now able to contribute equally to the management of the IFPCS.

The IFPCS already enjoyed the “Change” in 2008: the launch of Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research (PCMR) and the merge of 20<sup>th</sup> International Pigment Cell Conference (IPCC) and 5<sup>th</sup> International Melanoma Research Congress (IMRC). The historical conjoined meeting was organized by Prof. Kowichi Jimbow, Sapporo Medical University, and ended successfully.

### **Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research (PCMR)**

The IFPCS has supported and promoted the Pigment Cell Research/PCMR, which under the outstanding editorship of Colin Goding (official term: 2004-2009) has steadily increased its scientific quality, output and Impact Factor (4.288 in 2007). However, due to the term of five years, Dr. Ze’ev Ronai from Society for Melanoma Research (SMR) was selected as the next Editor-in-Chief at the IFPCS Council meeting held in Sapporo. At the same time, Dr. Jose Carlos Garcia-Borron was elected as the Executive editor from IFPCS. The Executive editors are nominated by the respective Societies or federations affiliated with PCMR (namely, IFPCS and SMR) and approved by the Editor-in-Chief. Unfortunately, Dr. Jose Carlos Garcia-Borron recently resigned as the Executive editor because of the delicate reasons concerning the editorial concept. We respect his decision and appreciate his past great contributions to the achievement of PCR/PCMR. Consequently, we have elected Dr. Heinz Arnheiter (PASPCR) as a new Executive editor for PCMR. To ensure the smooth transition, a new editorial team will be involved in publication of the Nov/Dec 2009 issue. I am confident that PCMR will advance further under the leadership of Dr. Ze’ev Ronai,

with both Executive editors from IFPCS (Dr. Heinz Arnheiter) and SMR (Dr. Glenn Merlino).

On the other matter, IFPCS has decided to introduce the mandatory online subscription to PCMR with a special price in 2009. You can get more information through the IFPCS Web site, shown below.

### **New IFPCS WEB Site**

First of all, we are grateful to Dr. Bill Oetting, who has been managing the IFPCS website for many years. He kindly transferred various types of information to Dr. Lluís Montoliu (ESPCR). Thanks to enormous efforts of Lluís, the IFPCS has a new independent Web site since July 2008. Please access to the IFPCS WEB Site (<http://www.ifpcs.org>). You will realize the excellent work achieved by Lluís.

### **Next IFPCS Council Meeting**

The last three Council meetings were held in Barcelona in 2006, Singapore 2007 and Japan 2008. According to the rotation, the next Council Meeting will be held in Memphis, TN, during the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of PASPCR on 4-7 September 2009, organized by Dr. Andrzej Slominski and other committee members.

### **Next IPCC Meeting**

Dr. Alain Taieb will organize the next IPCC in Bordeaux, France in 2011. The main theme is “*Skin and Other Pigment Cells: Bridging Clinical Medicine and Science*”. Members of the SMR will be welcome to participate in the 2011 IPCC, although the next IPCC will not be an official joint meeting with the SMR. I am really looking forward to the next IPCC, when the next IFPCS President will be selected.

I wish all of you a peaceful and productive year 2009. I am looking forward to meeting you in Memphis.

Best wishes,  
Shigeki Shibahara, M.D., Ph.D.  
President, IFPCS

XV<sup>TH</sup> PANAMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PIGMENT CELL RESEARCH CONFERENCE –  
“THE PIGMENTARY SYSTEM: SECURING A PLACE UNDER THE SUN”

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER  
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE  
HAMILTON EYE INSTITUTE

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2009

**DEADLINES**

**Abstract submission:** May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Registration (early):** July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Hotel reservations (for room discount):** August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (Memphis Peabody Hotel)

August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (Doubletree Hotel Memphis Downtown)

**PROGRAM**

Friday, September 4		
12:00 - 7:00 PM	<b>Registration</b>	
1:00 - 1:10 PM	<b>Official opening of the Meeting</b>	Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD, and short introduction by Dr. Barrett Haik on behalf of the local Organizing Committee
1:10 - 1:30 PM	<b>Presidential Address</b>	Frank Meyskens, MD, President of the PASPCR
<i>Session 1: Biochemistry, Chemistry and Biophysics of Melanin Pigmentation</i>		
1:30 - 3:00 PM	<b>Selected abstract presentations</b>	<i>Chaired by</i> John Pawelek, PhD (Yale University), Gertrude-Emilia Costin, PhD (Institute for In Vitro Sciences), Vincent Hearing, PhD (National Institutes of Health)
3:00 - 3:45 PM	<b>Keynote lecture 1</b>	Dr. Sergei Grando, MD, PhD (University of California Irvine) <i>Cutaneous cholinergic system: Lessons for skin pigmentary system</i>
3:45 - 4:00 PM	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	
<i>Session 2: Cell Biology of Melanin Synthesis</i>		
4:00 - 5:45 PM	<b>Selected abstract presentations</b>	<i>Chaired by</i> Zalfa Abdel Malek, PhD (University of Cincinnati), Ana Luisa Kadearo, PhD (University of Cincinnati), Marjan Huizing, PhD (National Institutes of Health)
5:45 - 6:00 PM	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	
6:00 - 6:45 PM	<b>Keynote lecture 2</b>	Michael F. Holick, MD, PhD (Boston University) <i>Shining Light on Skin Pigment, Vitamin D and Health</i>
7:00 - 10:00 PM	<b>Cocktail party at Dr. Charles Handorf's residence</b>	

Saturday, September 5		
8:00 - 5:00 PM	<b>Registration</b>	
8:00 - 8:45 AM	<b>Keynote lecture 3</b>	Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD (University of Tennessee) Title: <i>NF-kB signaling: implications for skin cancer</i>
8:45 - 9:00 PM	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	
<b>Session 3: Malignant Transformation of the Melanocyte and Melanoma Progression</b>		
9:00 - 11:00 AM	<b>Selected abstract presentations</b>	<i>Chaired by</i> James Grichnik, MD (Duke University), Sancy Leachman, MD (University of Utah), John Pawelek, PhD (Yale University)
11:00 - 11:45 AM	<b>Keynote lecture 4</b>	Michael Kastan, MD, PhD (St. Jude Hospital) <i>DNA Damage Responses: From Molecular Mechanisms to Clinical Interventions</i>
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	<b>Lunch/ Poster viewing</b>	
<b>Session 4: Cell Surface and Nuclear Receptors and Their Ligands: Regulation of Melanocyte/Melanoma Behavior</b>		
1:00 - 2:30 PM	<b>Selected abstract presentations</b>	<i>Chaired by</i> Prashiela Manga, PhD (New York University), Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD (University of Tennessee Health Science Center), Zalfa Abdel-Malek, PhD (University of Cincinnati)
2:30 - 2:45 PM	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	
2:45 - 3:30 PM	<b>Keynote lecture 5</b>	Ralf Paus, MD (University of Lubeck) <i>Neuroendocrinology of the Hair Follicle</i>
<b>Session 5: Melanocyte Maturation/Differentiation: Developmental and Cellular Biology</b>		
3:30 - 5:00 PM	<b>Selected abstract presentations</b>	<i>Chaired by</i> Tom Hornyak, MD, PhD (National Institutes of Health), Youwen Zhou, PhD (Skin Care Center, Canada), Lidia Kos, PhD (Florida International University)
5:00 - 5:15 PM	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	
5:15 - 6:00 PM	<b>Aaron B Lerner lecture</b>	Michael Marks, PhD (University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine) <i>Melanosome Biogenesis: Construction of a Dark Organelle</i>
7:00 PM	<b>Free time</b>	Suggested visit to Beale Street in walking distance from the hotel
Sunday, September 6		
8:00 - 5:00 PM	<b>Registration</b>	
8:00 - 8:45 AM	<b>Keynote lecture 6</b>	Jack Arbiser, MD, PhD (Emory University) <i>Oxidative Stress, Melanocytes and Melanoma</i>
8:45 - 9:00 PM	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	
<b>Session 6: Oxidative Responses in Melanocytes and Melanoma Cells</b>		
9:00 - 11:00 AM	<b>Selected abstract presentations</b>	<i>Chaired by</i> Frank Meyskens, MD (University of California Irvine)
11:00 - 11:15 AM	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	
11:15 AM - 12:00 AM	<b>Keynote lecture 7</b>	Russel J. Reiter, Ph.D., Dr.h.c.mult. (University of

		Texas, San Antonio) <i>Melatonin and Its Metabolites As Anti-Oxidants: Implications for Pigment Cell Biology</i>
12:00 - 12:30 PM	Business Meeting	
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Lunch/ Poster viewing	
<b>Session 7: Solar Radiation and the Pigmentary System: Securing the Place Under the Sun.</b>		
1:30 - 3:30 PM	<b>Selected abstract presentations</b>	<i>Chaired by</i> Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD (University of Tennessee Health Science Center), Miri Seiberg, PhD (Johnson & Johnson)
3:30 - 4:15 PM	<b>Keynote lecture 8</b>	Edwin Blalock, PhD (University of Alabama) <i>The Immune System as a Sensory Organ</i>
4:15 - 5:45 PM	<b>Posters Discussion with Coffee and Tea</b>	Moderators: Youwen Zhou, PhD (Skin Care Center, Canada), Gertrude-Emilia Costin, PhD (Institute for In Vitro Sciences), Vijayasaradhi Setaluri, PhD (University of Wisconsin)
7:00 PM	<b>Gala Dinner</b>	
<b>Monday, September 7</b>		
8:00AM - 1:00 PM	<b>Registration</b>	
8:00 - 8:45 AM	<b>Keynote lecture 9:</b>	Gregory Barsh, MD, PhD (Stanford University) <i>Novel Regulators of Melanin Pigmentation</i>
8:45 - 9:00 PM	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	
<b>Session 8: Pigmentary Disorders: Genetics, Etiology, Pathology and Therapy</b>		
9:00 - 11:30 AM	<b>Selected abstract presentations</b>	<i>Chaired by</i> Caroline Le Poole, PhD (Loyola University), Richard Spritz, MD (University of Colorado), Raymond Boissy, PhD (University of Cincinnati)
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	<b>Keynote lecture 10</b>	Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD (University of Tennessee Health Science Center) Title: <i>Neuroendocrinology of the Melanin Pigmentary System</i>
12:15 - 1:30 PM	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Session 9: Pigmentary System of the Eye</b>		
1:30 - 2:00 PM	<b>Keynote lecture 11</b>	Dianna Johnson, PhD (University of Tennessee Health Science Center) Title: <i>Retinal pigment epithelium reaction to oxidative stress and solar radiation.</i>
2:00 - 3:30 PM	<b>Selected abstract presentations</b>	<i>Chaired by</i> Peter Netland, MD, PhD (University of Tennessee Health Science Center), Barrett Haik, MD (University of Tennessee Health Science Center), Charles Handorf, MD, PhD (University of Tennessee Health Science Center)
3:30 PM	<b>Official Closing of the Meeting</b>	Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD (University of Tennessee Health Science Center)
4:00 PM	<b>Farewell Party</b>	



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LET ME INTRODUCE...

**The new IFPCS web site (<http://www.ifpcs.org>)**

by Lluís Montoliu (IFPCS webmaster)

As probably most of you have already noticed, we have a new layout for the IFPCS (International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies) web site at <http://www.ifpcs.org>. In this article, I will briefly review the history of the IFPCS web site and describe, in a few words, its contents, resources and tools provided for IFPCS members.

IFPCS is indebted to Bill Oetting. Indeed, he created the first version of an IFPCS web site in December 1995, using academic server host machines provided by the University of Minnesota, after an initial gopher site that had been established by Dr. DeWayne Townsend in February 1994, containing the first release of the InterPig Database of reagents and resources for the pigment cell community. After 1995, the IFPCS web was moved a couple of times to different academic servers within the University of Minnesota. In 2002, the most relevant [ipcc.info](http://ipcc.info), [ifpcs.info](http://ifpcs.info) and [ifpcs.org](http://ifpcs.org) domains were obtained and secured for many years (currently, until 2013). Finally, last year, at the XX<sup>th</sup> IPCC in Sapporo, Japan, in May 2008, the IFPCS Council decided that I would substitute Bill's excellent service as IFPCS webmaster, a service continuously and generously provided over more than 14 years. Therefore, the first thing that must be said clearly is that the entire IFPCS community must be extremely thankful to Bill Oetting for his dedicated efforts and work as IFPCS webmaster. A summary of the IFPCS web site history, with additional details, can be found at: <http://www.ifpcs.org/website.php>.

The new IFPCS web site and updated layout was released in July 2008, hosted in a private, commercial web hosting provider (Dinahosting SL). In December 2008, the new dynamic IFPCR Members database, built in MySQL, was also released for public and members use. Earlier this year, in January 2009, the direct access to full online contents of the scientific journal "Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research" (PCMR) were implemented from the Members-Only Area of the IFPCS web site, thereby providing this announced service to IFPCS Members, after the agreed mandatory subscription to PCMR on-line associated to IFPCS Membership, adopted by IFPCS in agreement with its federated societies: ASPCR, ESPCR, JSPCR and PASPCR.

With the new layout for the IFPCS web site I pursued clarity, simplicity and functionality. I envisaged a web site where everything a member of IFPCS would need is at hand, at one or two clicks of distance. Further, the only WEB (URL) address the IFPCS members have to remember is the main page: [www.ifpcs.org](http://www.ifpcs.org), everything else they need would be explicitly provided from there. The new web site uses a "concept" (i.e. colour and lettering type) that is used throughout the web pages included. Lettering is "Trebuchet" and colours used are variations of the blue and orange colours found at the IFPCS logo. From the technical point of view, the web pages have been prepared mainly using PHP and javascript languages and the new IFPCS Members Database is in MySQL format.

A careful view of the main web site will show its different functional sections, which I will describe next, separately, using the following image (*Figure 1*), representing the IFPCS web site: <http://www.ifpcs.org>. If we browse this illustration, the first thing we notice is the prominent URL address, as a centrally located banner, above, and the IFPCS logo, located in the upper left corner. These two elements will be present in nearly all pages found within the IFPCS web site.

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- IFPCS Council
- IFPCS By-Laws
- Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research
- IFPCS History
- IFPCS Awards
- IFPCS Women & Minority Scientists Committee
- IFPCS blog
- IFPCS Contact

Welcome to the new web site of the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS)



Click on the [IFPCS blog](#) to read about the latest news about IFPCS and its related activities



Next scheduled IPCC (XXIth) will be held in [Bordeaux \(France\) in 2011](#), organised by Prof. Alain Taleb

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Last update: February 22, 2009

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[webmaster](#)

**Figure 1:** The main page of the IFPCS web site at [www.ifpcs.org](http://www.ifpcs.org)

Below the banner, you will find a horizontal menu bar, with five main categories: IFPCS Home, Regional Societies, IPCC Information, Special Interest Groups and, Links and Resources. Clicking on any of these categories will alter the options shown at the vertical left menu bar. The rest of the web page, centre to the right, is the main container of elements and information, which will be shown depending on which main category (horizontal menu bar above) and option (vertical left menu bar) are activated.

The only exception to this behaviour is the main web page itself, where additional images, shortcuts and relevant information are constantly updated and provided for IFPCS Members and interested

visitors at a first glance. Examples of these shortcuts are: direct links to each Sister Society's web site, to the Members-Only Area of the IFPCS web site, to the current annual meetings of all societies, to the IFPCS blog (a new resource for dynamically exchanging information, for releasing announcements and advertisements that are relevant to all IFPCS Members and other interested colleagues; **Figure 2**), to the Color Genes table and to PCMR.

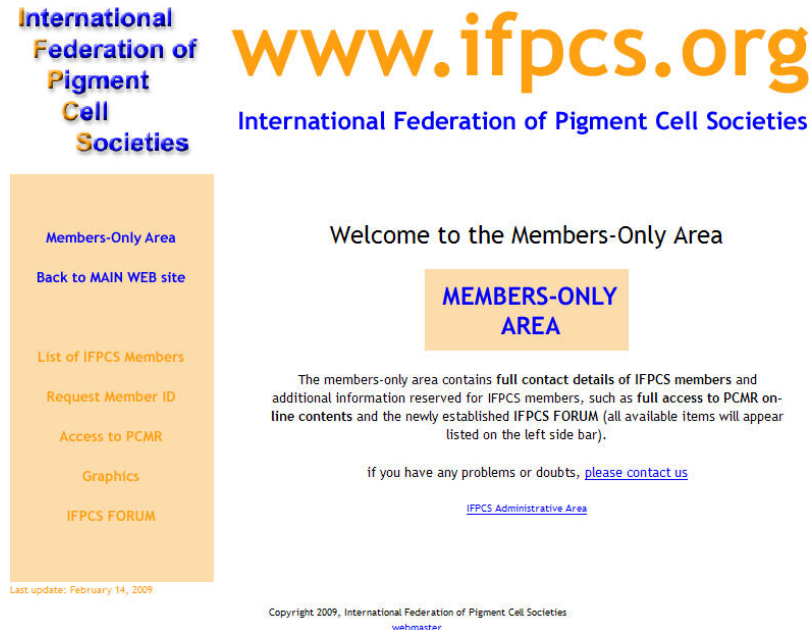
**IFPCS Home:** This is probably the most important section of the WEB, considering the amount of information it contains. Depending on the option selected on the vertical left menu bar, visitors will be presented with a welcome page, the current members forming the IFPCS Council, the IFPCS by-laws, the link to the PCMR journal web site, the history of the IFPCS (including former Council Members, Past IPCC conferences and Past awarded scientists at the IPCC), the different IFPCS Awards promoted by IFPCS and the different federated societies, the IFPCS Women & Minority Scientists Committee, a direct link to the IFPCS blog and a page of contact, where visitors can send us their comments, questions and suggestions through a convenient text box and a script that will send a message to the official email address of IFPCS: [ifpcs@ifpcs.org](mailto:ifpcs@ifpcs.org).

The screenshot shows a blog post on the IFPCS blog. At the top, there is a blue header with the text "IFPCS blog" and "International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies BLOG". Below this, the main content area features a post titled "Updated ASPCR 2009 meeting web site" dated February 22nd, 2009. The post includes a thumbnail image of the ASPCR 2009 meeting website, which displays "3<sup>rd</sup> ASPCR Meeting" and "Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research 11-13 June, 2009". To the right of the main content, there are several sidebar sections: "Meta" with links for Register, Log in, Entries RSS, Comments RSS, and WordPress.org; "Links" with links for ASPCR, ESPCR, IFPCS Members-only area, IFPCS WEB Site, JSPCR, PASPCR, and PCMR; "Next Meetings" with links for ASPCR 2009 meeting, ESPCR 2009 meeting, Next IPCC - 2011, and PASPCR 2009 meeting; and "Recent Posts" with links for Updated ASPCR 2009 meeting web site, New ASPCR web site, PASPCR 2009 Meeting, Memphis, September 4-7, IFPCS Forum, PCMR Cover Design Competition 2009, Do White Blood Cells Make Cancer Deadly?, and Do White Blood Cells Make Cancer Deadly?. At the bottom of the post, there are tags for "ASPCR annual meeting" and a "No Comments" indicator.

**Figure 2:** The IFPCS blog at [www.ifpcs.org/blog](http://www.ifpcs.org/blog)

**Regional Societies:** this section is devoted to the four sister societies that are federated within IFPCS, namely: the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research (ASPCR), the European Society for Pigment Cell Research (ESPCR), the Japanese Society for Pigment Cell Research (JSPCR) and the Pan-American Society for Pigment Cell Research (PASPCR). The most relevant information is provided, separately, for each of the four societies, including their web site, current Officers and persons of contact. A summary of the scheduled annual meetings is also provided. Finally, the publicly available information of IFPCS Members can be accessed from here, through a WEB interface of the IFPCS Members Database only showing the name, institution, country and society of membership. The IFPCS Members Database contents are fully searchable and can be shown in a variety of combinations using the search engine provided. Here, the direct link to the "Members-Only" section of the IFPCS

web is found. To access, IFPCS members require a valid username and password. If they don't know or can't remember these parameters they can request the system to remind them by only providing the corresponding registered email address. Then, if the system finds this email address in the database, will immediately send an automatic message to this email address containing the requested user/password information. The Members-Only Area will be described at the end of this article (*Figure 3*).



*Figure 3: The IFPCS Members-Only Area*

**IPCC information:** This section contains all the available information on past and future International Pigment Cell Conferences (IPCC). Currently two IPCCs are shown, the last IPCC (XX<sup>th</sup>), held in Sapporo (Japan) in May 2008 and organised by Prof. Kowichi Jimbow and the next IPCC (XXI<sup>st</sup>), which will be organised by Prof. Alain Taïeb in Bordeaux (France) in 2011. Meeting reports and pictures are available for some of these IPCC.

**Special Interest Groups:** As it is written in the IFPCS web site, “The IFPCS Special Interest Groups were initiated to foster interactions in specific subfields of pigment cell research. The aim of these groups is to encourage and help interaction and communication among researchers with common specific interests. Some of the groups organize their own meetings or workshops, either in association with the IPCC Congresses or separately.” Currently, information about six groups and a resource (InterPig Database) is included within this section. The current groups are: Genetics of Pigmentation, Biology of Melanoma, Pigment Cell Development, Hypo- and Hyper-Pigmentation, Ocular/Extracutaneous Pigmentation and Vitiligo. To learn more about these groups and to join them, the contact information of the respective chairs is provided.

**Links and Resources:** In this last main category, a collection of useful links, tools and resources for the IFPCS entire community and interested colleagues is provided. Current tools and resources included are: the InterPig Database, the Color Genes web site (now hosted at the ESPCR web site, at: <http://www.espcr.org/micemut>), the Wellcome Trust Functional Genomics Cell Bank and Mouse Pigmentary Mutant Repository, plus additional links to the IFPCS blog and other related meetings.

**The IFPCS Members-Only Area:** This is the section devoted to information, services, tools and resources that are only available to current IFPCS Members. As discussed earlier, access to the Members-Only Area is restricted to current IFPCS Members with valid and unique (personal) username/password combinations. These parameters can be easily requested from the system, which

will send automatic reminders to each requesting member. This area contains an interface to a fully searchable IFPCS Members Database, displaying all contact details for registered IFPCS Members, a tool to request the individual and therefore unique IFPCS ID Membership Number (that is and will be used for a variety of member-only tasks and resources), a collection of graphics representing the statistics of IFPCS Membership from last year (2008) and two new exclusive resources: the access to PCMR online full contents and the IFPCS Forum (*Figure 4*).

IFPCS www.ifpcs.org  
FORUM of the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS)

Board index

FAQ Register Login

It is currently Sun Mar 08, 2009 8:17 pm

View unanswered posts • View active topics

FORUM	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
<b>About the IFPCS Forum</b> READ ME FIRST!. General information, tips and FAQs regarding the IFPCS forum	7	8	by <b>Lluís</b> Sat Feb 14, 2009 5:41 pm
<b>IFPCS Meetings</b> All the information about IPCC, ASPCR, ESPCR, JSPCR and PASPCR meetings	5	8	by <b>Lluís</b> Sun Feb 22, 2009 6:45 pm
<b>Pigment Cell Research</b> Forum to discuss anything related to Pigment Cell Research	4	4	by <b>Lluís</b> Sun Feb 22, 2009 6:48 pm

LOGIN • REGISTER

Username:  Password:  | Log me on automatically each visit

WHO IS ONLINE

In total there is 1 user online :: 0 registered, 0 hidden and 1 guest (based on users active over the past 5 minutes)  
Most users ever online was 2 on Sat Jan 31, 2009 6:57 pm

Registered users: No registered users  
Legend: *Administrators*, *Global moderators*

STATISTICS

Total posts 20 • Total topics 16 • Total members 1 • Our newest member **Lluís**

Board index

The team • Delete all board cookies • All times are UTC [ DST ]

Powered by phpBB © 2000, 2002, 2005, 2007 phpBB Group

*Figure 4: The IFPCS FORUM, within the Members-Only Area*

To access the entire full contents of PCMR online, IFPCS Members simply have to click on the provided link, inside the Members-Only Area, and will be automatically transferred to the journal's archive web page where they will be able to browse all available issues of PCMR. The last included feature, the IFPCS Forum, is a new initiative to promote, to trigger information ex-change and free discussions between IFPCS Members. The IFPCS forum is open; therefore anyone visiting the Members-Only Area (any IFPCS Member) is most welcome to read all posts. However, to contribute to running discussions or to initiate new topics a simple registration is required. Do not hesitate visiting this new section and exploring the unlimited possibilities provided by these new and modern communication web tools.

Finally, I would like to state that I prepared the new IFPCS web site with the main focus to serve the interests of IFPCS Members. In this regard, the layout should be simple, accessible and, hopefully, useful. However, if you feel there are some aspects that could be modified or should be addressed differently, I am most happy to receive any feed-back from IFPCS Members, comments, suggestions, corrections, anything that would improve the quality of the IFPCS web site. From my side, I will try to update the IFPCS web site as often as reasonably possible. Here, I would also like to stress that the IFPCS web site fully depends on materials, information, elements, pictures, methods, papers, meeting announcements, articles that are kindly and generously provided or brought to my attention by all of you. Thanks in advance for your kind collaboration!

Lluís Montoliu  
IFPCS webmaster  
[montoliu@ifpcs.org](mailto:montoliu@ifpcs.org)

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**Dr. John Pawelek** is featured in the January 2009 number of *Scientific American* in the article entitled “Do White Blood Cells Make Cancer Deadly?”.

Web site:

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=investigating-cancers-deadly-fusion>

**Dr. Gertrude-Emilia Costin:** her biography is included in the 2009 edition of “Who’s Who in America”.

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## NEWSLETTERS QUESTIONNAIRE – SURVEY RESULTS

By Prashiela Manga

Thank you to everyone who replied to the newsletter survey. There were 120 PASPCR members during 2008 (109 at the time of our first issue in April), of whom 35 responded to the survey.

We will try to address all your comments in this and upcoming issues. Please remember that we welcome your comments at anytime, simply email us at [paspcr.newsletters@gmail.com](mailto:paspcr.newsletters@gmail.com) or contact a member of the publication team. Below are the survey results and some of the steps we are taking in response:

Thirty-five members responded, of whom 29 (82.9%) read or skim all issues of the newsletter. Most respondents (32) enjoyed the new format and felt the length of the issues were appropriate (33).

Demographics of respondents:

Postdoctoral fellow	2
Early career	7
Mid career	16
Late career	9
Retired	1

Some concerns raised and suggestions made were:

- *The fact that the career section and member’s directory were not routinely updated.*

The members’ directory is published once a year and we have begun publishing address changes in each issue of the newsletter. We ask that you inform Andrzej Slominski of any address changes so we can ensure that we have the most up to date information.

- *Having the option of receiving a print copy of the newsletter.*

This issue will be discussed at the next PASPCR council meeting.

- *“Who is responsible for soliciting authors to contribute to the PASPCR commentary page? If someone is interested in writing then whom they should contact and who is responsible for selection of contributors.”*

From John Pawelek:

PASPCR Commentaries are opportunities for members of the Society to learn about one another’s research and about the life paths that led us there. A Commentary is 1000-1500 words long. They are distributed from time-to-time via the PASPCR e-mail list.

Any member who wishes to contribute a Commentary is encouraged to do so. Commentaries may be submitted to Dr. John Pawelek, [john.pawelek@yale.edu](mailto:john.pawelek@yale.edu).

- *Starting a blog*

This issue will be discussed at the next PASPCR council meeting.

- *Suggested topics:*
  - *Brief description of ongoing research in various labs*
  - *“News & views” of important reports*
  - *Accommodating an industry perspective on skin pigmentation*

We will begin soliciting articles and hope that you will contribute when we contact you. Anyone wishing to submit articles for these features is welcome to contact the publication team.

- *Funding Opportunities*

Anyone willing to collate and report on Funding Opportunities, please contact the publication team. Also let us know if you hear of any grants that may be of interest to the pigment cell community.

A call for submissions will be sent to members six weeks before the publication deadline to offer you the opportunity to contribute to the newsletter. We hope to hear from you and look forward to your assistance in making the newsletter a useful and enjoyable part of your PASPCR membership.

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### Positions Wanted / Available

Postings for **Positions Wanted** will be open only to members of the PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research or its sister societies (ASPCR, JSPCR and ESPCR). Postings for **Positions Available** will be open to all individuals and institutions so long as the position is related to pigment cell research. Please send postings to Bill Oetting at [oetti001@umn.edu](mailto:oetti001@umn.edu).

The postings will remain on the **Positions Wanted and Available** section of the PASPCR Newsletter and on the web page for 1 year, unless other arrangements are made. Please provide an expiration date for any submitted posting if less than 1 year. Final decisions will be made by the Publications Committee of the PASPCR.

### Positions Available

#### Post-Doctoral Research Associate

**Appointment:** Research Associate, Department of Surgery, University of Cincinnati

**Project performance site:** Shriners Burns Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

**Position terms:** 1 August 2008 - 28 March 2013; Salary range: \$45-50,000 plus benefits

**Project summary:** An energetic and talented individual will fill a position for performance of preclinical studies with engineered human skin for wound treatment. Two aims are funded to develop pigmentation from melanocytes, and a vascular network from microvascular endothelial cells in the engineered skin. Melanocytes and endothelial cells will be selected for expression of integrins and extracellular matrix to promote survival and organization into functional components of skin tissue after transplantation. Comprehensive laboratories are available which provide facilities for cell culture, biopolymer fabrication, protein and nucleic acid chemistry, light and fluorescence microscopy, flow cytometry, media formulation, and support staff. Opportunities are available for development of independent research funding.

**Minimum requirements:** Ph.D. in cellular, molecular or developmental biology, or closely related field. Previous experience with tissue engineering, and cell transplantation preferred. Technical skills needed include: cell culture, protein and nuclei acid analyses, flow cytometry, transplantation and evaluation *in vivo* of engineered skin, MS Windows computer programs, and reporting of data in written and graphical formats.

Applicants should provide a Curriculum Vitae, letters of reference, and university transcripts to:

Steven Boyce, Ph.D.  
Department of Surgery  
University of Cincinnati  
o, 513-872-6080  
e, [steven.boyce@uc.edu](mailto:steven.boyce@uc.edu)  
Posted: 07/08

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**Post-Doctoral Fellowship**

**Appointment:** Ronald O Perelman Department of Dermatology, New York University School of Medicine.

**Project performance site:** NYU School of Medicine, Smilow Research Center, 560 First Ave, New York, New York, USA.

**Position terms:** Two year position available immediately.

**Project summary:** A postdoctoral position is available immediately to study genetic susceptibility to melanoma. Our studies aim to identify genes that contribute to melanoma susceptibility and delineate the mechanism by which these genes affect melanoma predisposition. Our current research is focused on genes that determine skin pigmentation and DNA repair capacity with the goal of defining the impact of polymorphisms on protein function.

**Minimum requirements:** Ph.D. in cellular or molecular biology, genetics or closely related field. Candidates demonstrating the ability to be creative, highly motivated, work independently and with a strong background in molecular and cell biology, and tissue culture should apply. Skills in bioinformatics and proteomics are also desirable. Please send curriculum vitae and at least three references (by email) to:

Prashiela Manga, Ph.D.

Ronald O. Perelman Department of Dermatology  
New York University School of Medicine  
phone: 212-263-9086

email: [prashiela.manga@nyumc.org](mailto:prashiela.manga@nyumc.org)

Posted: 04/09



**2009 PASPCR MEMBERSHIP LIST**

Dear PASPCR members,  
Thank you for supporting our society and paying your dues in time. This year, the first to pay the annual dues was Dr. Tae-Jin Yoon. Thank you for doing so and for setting an example for all of us to follow!

Andrzej Slominski

*The PASPCR Membership List is published in the April number of the PASPCR Newsletter. However, the membership is updated continuously and the names and address of new members and any changes in members' contacts are published during the year in the remaining two issues. Therefore, please inform the Secretary/Treasurer of any changes in your contact info that happen during the year so we could communicate them to the members through the Newsletter.*

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