ISICR Newsletter 3-1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are several substantive issues currently facing the ISICR in 1996. As our highest priority, we must endeavor to maintain the high quality of our annual meeting and to keep them as accessible as possible to young investigators. The ISICR, through its Awards Committee, has been doing an excellent job in this respect; it is important that the society maintain sufficient funds for these travel awards.

An additional, related challenge this year will be our first joint meeting with the Cytokine Society in Geneva October 6 to 10. The membership of ISICR will have to carefully evaluate the success of this joint venture to ascertain whether we should pursue further meetings with the Cytokine Society. Perhaps optimistically, the ISICR has already agreed to an additional joint meeting with the Cytokine Society in Jerusalem October 25- 30, 1998. The effectiveness of this year's meeting will determine the degree of cooperative planning we shall put into the 1998 meeting. The 1997 meeting in San Diego (October 18-24) will be held in tandem with the Cytokine Society meeting in Asilomar.

The general relationship between the ISICR and the Cytokine Society is a persistent problem. Planning of meetings is only one area in which cooperation between the societies is prudent. Overlapping agendas of some of our committees, such as Standards, also demand collaboration where possible.

The ISICR also faces the perennial problem of maintaining, keeping track of, and recruiting members. Collection of membership dues is a vexing issue. Members of ISICR should stress to non members the advantages of belonging to our society: very moderate dues, excellent meetings with reduced registration fees for members, a fine newsletter, travel grants to members, and an outstanding membership directory, among other benefits.

The Publications Committee of the society has reached the decision to reject the initiation of a new journal (possibly a joint publication with the Cytokine or the Leukocyte Biology Societies) and to continue with the Journal of Interferon & Cytokine Research as the official publication of the ISICR, while trying to improve its quality and circulation. In turn, the Editors- in- Chief and the Publisher of the Journal have agreed to be sensitive to the advantages of the ISICR being active in the appointment of Section Editors and the Editorial Board, and to help set Journal policy. Of course, this decision will be subject to periodic review by the Publications Committee. The opinions of ISICR members with respect to the Journal are enthusiastically encouraged and welcomed.

Two other issues face the ISICR. The load of administrative responsibilities inherent in running an organization of this size is very heavy. The ISICR Secretary, Sid Pestka, has suggested that these might in part be transferred to a professional management group. The FASEB has offered to take over the following administrative duties for a fee of $550 a month: distribution of inquiries and correspondence, production of a newsletter and a membership directory, providing a dedicated telephone line, and coordinating ISICR meetings. For an additional fee of $4.10/ member, FASEB would collect ISICR

dues and maintain our membership database. In 1995, the ISICR paid $38,288 and $12,009 respectively in secretarial and office expenses. Therefore, the offer from FASEB should receive serious consideration.

Finally, through Norman Finter, ISICR has become aware of the possibility of setting up an interferon (and possibly cytokine) archive at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine in London. Such an archive would serve as a repository of written and oral historical materials relating to research and clinical studies on interferons. With many of the early investigators of interferons at or past retirement, it would be important to document their contributions in their own words at this time.

I would like to keep my presidency one that is responsive to the perceived needs of the membership. Please contact me at any time during the year with your opinions or observations: TEL# 301- 295- 3450; FAX# 301- 295- 1640; EMAIL - friedman@usuhsb.usuhs.mil (fax and email being the best). Best of luck to all of you in the New Year.

Bob Friedman

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ISICR AWARDS

The ISICR confers four types of awards upon its members and to individuals who have made important contributions to the field of interferon/cytokine research. ISICR members are invited to nominate/apply for those awards. In an effort to make award processes clear and open, this year specific guidelines for these awards have been implemented (see the following).

1995 ISICR AWARD WINNERS

Milstein Award

Dr. R. Michael Roberts

Dr. Susan E. Krown

Honorary Membership

Dr. Jaqueline DeMayer- Guignard

Dr. Frederick Wheelock

Young Investigator Awards

Dr. Wei- Chun Au

Dr. Aseem Kumar

Dr. Hisashi Harada

Dr. Luis F.L. Reis

Travel Awards

About 50 ISICR members received Travel awards for the 1995 meeting.

AWARD GUIDELINES

MILSTEIN AWARD

The Milstein Award is provided by the International Society of Interferon Research for exceptional contributions to research related to interferons/cytokines. It is presented to an investigator who has made significant contributions to advancing interferon/cytokine research at either the basic or clinical level. The recipient is expected to present a lecture summarizing the contributions for which the award is granted at the annual meeting of the Society.

Nominations for this award should be made by completing the form below and providing the information requested.

Nominations: Nominations must be accompanied by **a biographical sketch** of the nominee, a comprehensive bibliographic listing of the nominee's **publications**, a specific description of the research on which the nomination is based, and **three supporting letters** from individuals in the field not closely associated with the nominee from institutions outside that of the nominee's. The original reports for which the citation is made should be highlighted in the bibliographic listing. Copies of these should be included with the nomination. If the nominee has carried out the research in collaboration with one or more groups, the contributions of the collaborating scientists should be clearly outlined. Only members of the ISICR are eligible to submit nominations.

Award: $10,000 plus travel expenses to the annual meeting of the Society.

Eligibility: Outstanding contributions can be single major accomplishments or a multiple number of aggregate exemplary achievements. A nominee must be an ISICR member.

Selection: The recipient of the award shall be selected from among the nominees by the Awards Committee of the Society. The members of the Awards Committee are periodically changed to provide

for wide representation from the society membership. If no suitable candidates are among the nominees, the committee may choose not to nominate an individual for the award. The committee will select one or two nominee(s) for the award to present to the President of the Society who, together with the Board of Directors of the Society, may or may not ratify the decision of the Awards Committee. No new nominations will be accepted after passage of the deadline.

Submission: All the documentation and material in support of the nomination together with the completed form for the award should be submitted to: Chairperson, ISICR Awards Committee by May 1, 1996 at the following address: Dr. Keiko Ozato, Bldg 6, Rm 2A01, LMGR, NICHD, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda MD 20892- 6753, USA in **original plus seven copies**. Incomplete nominations will not be considered and may be returned at the discretion of the Society. The submission of a nomination provides implicit agreement by the nominating individuals that the Society's final decision will be accepted and binding upon all.

_____

Milstein Award Nomination Form

I. Name and Address of Nominee:

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____ _____

Nominated by: _____

II. Specific bibliographic listing on which this nomination is based.

List the original reports on which this nomination is based. In addition, please provide a full bibliographic listing of the nominee's publications.

III. Summary of nominee's contributions (less than two pages).

This statement should summarize the nominee's contributions to interferon research. If collaborations with groups outside the investigator's laboratory are involved, the specific contributions of all groups involved should be delineated.

IV. Three supporting letters

Preferably by ISICR members.

_____

ISICR Honorary Membership

The society honors those individuals who have dedicated much of their careers to the interferon/cytokine field and have made substantial contributions to the field either by laboratory research or by clinical work. An honorary member need not be retired or be an ISICR member.

The newly elected members will be announced at the annual ISICR meeting. He/She will write a one to two page essay to describe their career with a historical perspective, which will be published in the ISICR Newsletter or in a journal associated with the ISICR at the discretion of the officers of the Society.

Procedure for Nomination and selection.

Honorary members are nominated by an ISICR member or members. The ISICR Awards Committee will elect up to two individuals annually. If the nominations are deemed unsuitable, the committee may choose to nominate no individual. The Chairperson of the Awards Committee will submit the nominations to the President of the ISICR who will submit the nominations to the Board of Directors for final selection. _____

Nomination Form

for ISICR Honorary Member

I. Name and address of Nominee.

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____ _____

Nominated by _____

II. A List of ten most important publications of the nominee.

III. Supporting statement (less than one full page)

Submission: Send the package (original and 7 copies) to Chairperson, ISICR Awards Committee by May 1, 1996 at the following address: Dr. Keiko Ozato, Bldg 6, Rm 2A01, LMGR, NICHD, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda MD 20892- 6753. USA

ISICR Young Investigator Awards

This award is conferred annually in recognition of four outstanding young scientists in the interferon/ cytokine research field. The recipients will receive $500 and present his/her work in a plenary session, workshop or poster session at the Annual Meeting.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are ISICR members and are less than 4 years from the time of receipt of a Ph.D. or MD (clinical training such as medical residencies can be excluded from the four year limit).

Selection procedure: Applications will be evaluated by all six committee members, and will be summarized by the Awards Committee Chairperson, who will then makes a final decision of the awards. The Chairperson informs the President and Meeting Organizer of the results, who prepares for the Awards announcement at the Meeting. The Treasurer will also be informed of the awardees for preparation of $ 500 checks. The Chairperson also sends a letter of regret to applicants who do not receive the award. All Awards Committee members will be informed of the results.

Young Investigator Award Application Form

I. A one page statement of research accomplishment and future direction.

II. CV

III. Abstract to the Annual Meeting

The original and 7 photocopies should be forwarded to the Chairperson of the Awards Committee of the ISICR. The deadline is coincident with that of the Abstracts for the Annual Meeting. There will be a check off box on each abstract that ascertains that the first author is eligible for the Young Investigator Award.

ISICR TRAVEL AWARDS

ISICR members intending to attend the ISICR Annual Meeting may apply for travel awards. The awards are contingent upon the acceptance of the abstract for the meeting. The applicant must submit an application in the following form to the Meeting Organizer together with the Abstract. The deadline for Travel Award application is coincident with the abstract deadline.

Selection procedure: The Meeting Coordinator compiles a list of Travel applicants (with a correct return addresses). In coordination with the Awards Committee Chairperson, The Meeting Coordinator will send a copy of each application directly to all Award committee members (including Chairperson) for evaluation. The Meeting Coordinator also sends a card to each applicant to acknowledge the receipt of application. Applications will be evaluated by all six committee members. These evaluations will be summarized by the Awards Committee Chairperson, who will then make a final decision on the awards. The Chairperson will then inform the Treasurer, who will mail checks directly to the Award recipients. The treasurer will also inform the applicants who do not receive awards of the results. Award Committee members will be also be informed by a summary of the evaluations and a list of awardees.

ISICR TRAVEL AWARD

APPLICATION FORM

I. Name, Address and Position of applicant.

II. A brief statement (less than one page) of the need for the travel award (including approximate amounts). If a waiver of the registration fee is necessary, it should be stated in the application.

III. Up to five relevant publications by the applicant.

IV. All abstracts submitted to the Annual Meeting.

Eight copies of this entire application should be submitted to the Annual Meeting Coordinator (see meeting announcement).

The Coriell Cell Repositories

As the World's Largest Collection of Human Cell Cultures, the Coriell Cell Repositories provide essential research reagents to the scientific community by establishing, maintaining, and distributing cell cultures and DNA derived from the cell cultures. These collections, each with a special focus, are supported by funds from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and several foundations. Since the inception of Coriell's NIH funded repository in 1972, 35,000 cultures have been processed by the Coriell Cell Repositories. Over 84,000 cell cultures and 24,000 DNA samples have been distributed to laboratories worldwide, resulting in over 7,200 research publications. These specimens have been shipped to academic institutions, non- profit laboratories, government laboratories, and industrial laboratories in the United States and 34 foreign countries. By providing the resources for human genome research, the Human Genetic Mutant Cell Repository, sponsored by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), supplies scientists with the materials for accelerating disease gene

discovery. Cell cultures from this collection have been used to identify the genes associated with inherited diseases such as cystic fibrosis, Huntington disease, maturity onset diabetes of the young (MODY), a severe form of manic depression, retinitis pigmentosa, and many others. Sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), the Aging Cell Repository is a resource facilitating cellular and molecular research studies on the mechanisms of aging and the degenerative processes associated with it. Scientists use this resource for research on such disorders as Alzheimer disease, progeria, Parkinsonism, atherosclerosis, and xeroderma pigmentosa (a skin cancer). Cell lines from this collection have been used to identify defective genes that may be involved in one form of early onset Alzheimer disease. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) National Cell Repository is the centerpiece of a nationwide initiative to identify the genetic bases of Alzheimer disease, schizophrenia, and manic depressive illness and, as such, represents the most extensive collection of cells from patients with these diseases. In addition to smaller special purpose collections, the Coriell Cell Repositories also house two collections containing families with diabetes sponsored by private voluntary agencies, the ADA (American Diabetes Association) and the JDFI (Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International) in collaboration with the Human Biological Data Interchange. These families are being utilized in international efforts to identify the "diabetes genes". For more information contact:

Coriell Cell Repositories

Coriell Institute for Medical Research

401 Haddon Avenue

Camden, NJ 08103

Telephone: (800)- 752- 3805 in the USA (609)- 757- 4848 from abroad

Fax: (609)- 757- 9737

CATALOG OF ANTITUMOR DRUG RESISTANT CELL LINES

The Biology and Genetic Department of the Milan University has published in collaboration with Nunc and Mascia Brunelli Companies a catalog of about 50 cell lines resistant to antitumor drugs.

Researchers working in the field of drug resistance are invited to send us data on the resistant cell lines available in their

laboratories to increment this number. Please contact us to get a blank form, after return a copy of the catalog will be sent free of charge. This is a non- profit initiative and is not linked to the purchase of products of the Nunc and Mascia Brunelli Companies or to the payment of any association fee for this inter- laboratories effort. Everyone is welcome!

Email: Belvedere@irfmn.mnegri.it

Fax: Giorgio Belvedere Istituto Mario Negri - Italy 0039- 2- 3546277

WWW SOURCES

CORRECTION

In the last issue, we had the address for the following listing slightly incomplete (which meant you couldn't log on). The corrected address, with the last " / " included is below.

THE CYTOKINES WEB SITE

http://

www.ocms.ox.ac.uk/~smb/cyt_web/

CELL LINE DATABASE

This is to announce availability of HyperSearch, the brand new search engine that allows for keywords searches within HyperCLDB, the hypertextual version of the Cell Line Data Base, available by the Advanced Biotechnology Center WWW server (URL: http://www.ist.unige.it). HyperSearch will allow you to carry out keywords searches in the descriptions of all cell lines included in HyperCLDB and, after retrieval, you will be able to continue navigation through usual links. HyperCLDB has also been updated. Current release is version September 1995 and includes detailed descriptions of 3124 cell lines available in European culture collections and laboratories (ca. 26 Mbytes of data). Among others are the European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures(ECACC, Salisbury, UK), the German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures (DSM, Braunschweig, DE), the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ, Heidelberg, DE), the Interlab Cell Line Collection (ICLC, Genoa, IT), the Russian Cell Culture Collections (St. Petersburg) and various other Italian collections of primary and continuous cell lines. You are warmly invited to try HyperSearch and navigate HyperCLDB starting at http://www.ist.unige.it/tab/HyperSearch.html or athttp://www.ist.unige.it/cldb/indexes.html and send your comments to paolo@risc1.ist.unige.it. Paolo Romano (http://www.ist.unige.it/staff/PR.html)

Research Assistant at the Biotechnology Department of the National Institute for Cancer Research of Genoa, located in Largo Rosanna Benzi 10, I- 16132 Genoa, Italy. TEL# (+39- 10- 5737- 288),

FAX# (+39- 10- 5737- 295) or

email (paolo@risc1.ist.unige.it).

THE MEDICAL LIST

PURPOSE AND HISTORY This Internet medical resource list is offered in text form as The Medical List and as Medical Matrix- a hypertext database accessible using World Wide Web browsers like Mosaic. Medical Matrix is designed as a "home page" for a physician's or health worker's desktop computer. Internet has traditionally been used by those who 'browse" for information. These resources are offered to a population of users who are often interested in the fastest possible access to knowledge on a clinical topic.

Gopher access to The Medical List is available at the URL:

gopher://una.hh.lib.umich.edu:70/00/inetdirsstacks/medclin:malet.

Gopher allows key word searching and email of this document to any Internet address. Medical Matrix,

http://kuhttp.cc.ukans.edu/cwis/units/medcntr/Lee/HOMEPAGE.HTML, is a project of the Internet Working Group of the American Medical Informatics Association. Medical Matrix uses icons and keyword searches to locate on line medical resources easily.

The most current updates of the The Medical List and Medical Matrix will be maintained at the Internet addresses above.

AUTHORS, HISTORY, AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

This document is authored by Dr. Gary Malet, Family Physician, gmaletC&surfer.win.net and Lee Hancock, Education Technologist, LE07144UKANVM.bitnet@vm42.cso.uiuc.edu. Robert King, maintains the HTML version of this document- Medical Matrix. This database has been put together with the help of a network of resource providers and individuals who participate in the Internet Working Group of the American Medical Informatics Association and its mailing list MMATRIX- L. Their dedication in making global health resources more accessible is acknowledged.

This guide emphasizes resources that are relevant to the clinical practice of medicine, interesting to a general population, and easy to retrieve. The "Hancock List" covers health science resources comprehensively. Please send any updates, new information, suggestions or corrections to:

LE07144%UKANVM.bitnet@vm42.cso.uiuc.edu or to the HMATRIX mailing list.

NEW DOCUMENTATION/ TUTORIAL /COOKBOOK:

THE BIOCOMPANION

On the URL http://www.ch.embnet.org/jam/jam.html the most recent version of a new teaching/tutorial guide can be found. This document is an entire rewrite of the Biocomputing Tutorial/the BioComputing Survival Guide which were released in the past years. The format is configurable, as is the contents, using the recently released JAM Formatting system. The

BioCompanion presents basic introduction to BioComputing and features the following topics: *Elementary requirements and usage *Common Technical Problems *Getting Started *Data Transfer, Import, Handling, and Formatting *How to Get Information from the Databases *Type in a Sequence *How to Handle a Single Sequence *Comparison of Two Sequences *Searching Patterns *Sequence Searching *Sequence Families. Appendix and Index are provided. The examples feature the GCG software package as well as various extensions, such as EGCG, SRS, MPSRCH and others. The reader will find exercises to practice.

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BioComputing CH 4056 Basel

E- Mail: doelz@ubaclu.unibas.ch

Biozentrum der Universitaet

Basel, Switzerland href=http://beta.embnet.unibas.ch/

EMBnet Switzerland:info@ch.embnet.org

An Online Buyer's Guide for Research Products and Services

Cold Spring Harbor Lab Press introduces BIOSUPPLYNET- An online directory of biotech research products and services. This new WWW site offers free searching in the CSH Lab Manual Source Book

database of 15,000 laboratory products and 1,400 suppliers. BIOSUPPLYNET features "Interactive Product Listings" (IPLs), which provide users with instant access to details on many of the products contained within its extensive database.

BIOSUPPLYNET is updated weekly and provides:

1.) Information on new products and special offers

2.) Access to 15,000 laboratory product listings from over 1,400 suppliers

3.) An opportunity for users to share expertise through product user groups

4.) Immediate access to suppliers via email for technical queries and

ordering information

5.) Links to more than 100 biology- relevant Web servers

BSN is accessible at: http://www.biosupplynet.com/bsn/

A FREE copy of the CSH Lab Manual Source Book can be obtained through Cold Spring Harbor Web Site, CLIO, http://www.cshl.org/

Hope you all find it useful!

Joan Boyce

boyce@cshl.org

Sniglet #17. Multiple Agarasms: pouring an agarose gel several times because it keeps leaking.

The Prophet Software System

The National Institutes of Health and BBN Systems and Technologies announce the availability of The Prophet Software System via Anonymous FTP and its World Wide Web (WWW) and Gopher servers. The Prophet System is a comprehensive UNIX- based software package that makes entering, analyzing, and visualizing your data quick and easy. Prophet provides tools for Data Analysis, Graphing, Statistics, Mathematical Modeling, and Sequence Analysis. All these tools are available through a point- and- click graphical user interface.

Prophet is sponsored by the National Center for Research Resources at the National Institutes of Health

(NIH). The NIH sponsors the continuing improvement of the Prophet System as part of its effort to promote advancement in the life sciences, in research, and in the application of biotechnology.

What Hardware Does Prophet Require?

Prophet is available for SUN 4/SPARC workstations running SunOS and Solaris, DEC/RISC workstations running Ultrix, the family of DEC Alpha workstations running Digital UNIX (OSF/1), and Silicon Graphics workstations including the Indigo series running IRIX. The software can be obtained via anonymous FTP.

* To access Prophet via anonymous FTP, type:

ftp www- prophet.bbn.com

Login as user "anonymous"

Use your email address as the password

International guests should contact the Prophet Hotline at (617) 873- 2669 or send electronic mail to

prophet- info@bbn.com.

Information about Prophet is available through its WWW and Gopher servers.

* The URL for the Prophet WWW server Home Page is:

http://www- prophet.bbn.com/

The Gopher Server can be accessed at the address below. The Gopher Server can also be reached through the Prophet WWW server Home Page.

gopher www- prophet.bbn.com

If you need additional information or have questions regarding Prophet, call us on the Prophet Hotline (617) 873- 2669 or send electronic mail to prophet- info@bbn.com.

The Prophet Group

BBN Systems and Technologies

10 Moulton Street

M/S 6/4C

Cambridge, MA 02138

The MAD SCIENTIST NETWORK

The MAD SCIENTIST NETWORK is an interactive 'Ask- A- Scientist' interface run by graduate and medical students at Washington University, and Washington University Medical School. We regularly field questions from people around the work in all areas of science. Scientists interested in joining the network

may do so by filling out the online form at:

http://pharmdec.wustl.edu/YSP/MAD.SCI/wu/rec.html

(Capital YSP, capital MAD.SCI..)

Questions may be submitted through the web- form at the URL below, or by email to YSP@pharmdec.wustl.edu:

http://pharmdec.wustl.edu/YSP/MAD.SCI/MAD.SCI.html

Lynn Bry lynn@pharmdec.wustl.edu

Box 8103, MBP

660 S. Euclid Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63110

Lab: (314)362- 5056

FAX: (314)362- 7058

Sniglet #18. Polybase Multisequence:

the nucleotide positions in a DNA sequence where any and/or every base can be found on a sequencing gel, usually at very important regions.

42nd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN TISSUE CULTURE SOCIETY

Organized by THE EUROPEAN TISSUE CULTURE SOCIETY and CZECH BRANCH

OF THE EUROPEAN TISSUE CULTURE SOCIETY BRNO, CZECH REPUBLIC

APRIL 21 - 24, 1996

Full information on the Congress in the form of a Second Announcement booklet with registration and abstracts forms is

available on request from: celer@brno.ics.muni.cz

DEADLINES: Abstract Form submission January 31, 1996. Early registration at regular fee February28, 1996. Accommodation Form receipt and hotel deposit February 28, 1996

CONTACT ADDRESSES E- mail: CELER@BRNO.ICS.MUNI.CZ or Secretariat of the 42nd ETCS Congress Tissue Bank

University Hospital Brno - Bohunice

Jihlavsk B 20

CZ - 639 00 Brno

Phone: +42 5 43193997

Fax: +42 5 43216200

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Participants are invited to submit abstracts to be considered for either oral presentation at the workshop or poster session.

TOPIC CATEGORY LIST-

SYMPOSIA

Genome mapping by new technologies Genome manipulation

Gene therapy

WORKSHOPS

Plant genetics using cell cultures

Cell immortalization and carcinogenesis Modulation of tumour growth in in vitro systems

Gene products regulating normal cell function

Function of the genome in invertebrate cultures

Antisense strategies

Diagnostic and therapeutic application of cultured cells

Domains of genome related to cell function

Inherited metabolic disorders

Registration fee (in DM):

Participant (ETCS - AICC member) 410 Non - member 520 Student 80

One day registration fee 140 (including

abstract book,coffee - breaks and lunch)

Clinical Trials

T92- 0210 A multicenter phase II study of all- *trans*- retinoic acid and interferon alpha- 2a in drug-resistant multiple myeloma and Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia.

Contact: Jose Lutzky, MD, Miami FL.

TEL# 305- 535- 3300

FHCRC- 895.0 NCI- V95- 0699 Phase II study of high- dose CTX/TAX with G- CSF or GM- CSF for mobilization of autologous PBSC in Stage III/IV epithelial ovarian cancer or other advanced malignancies likely to respond to TAX.

Contact: Taner Demirer, Chair, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA

TEL# 206- 667- 6674

FHCRC- 948.0 NCI- V95- 0706 Phase II pilot study of CTX/G- CSF followed by high- dose BU/TSPA with autologous PBSC support for hormone- refractory metastatic prostate cancer.

Contact: Leona Holmberg, Chair, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA

TEL# 206- 667- 6447

NBSG- 9110, NCI- V95- 0156

Phase II study of chemobiotherapy with

5- FU/CF/MITO/IFN- A in metastatic or unresectable adenocarcinoma of the pancreas.

Contact: Robert K. Oldham, Chair, Biological Therapy Institute, Franklin, TX

TEL# 615- 790- 7535

Recombinant human interleukin- 6 (**IL- 6)** for disorders of the hypothalmic- pituitary- adrenal (HPA) axis (Cushing's syndrome, Addison's disease, pseudo- Cushing's states).

Contact: Dimitris Papanciolaou, NICHD, NIH, Bethesda, MD

TEL# 301- 496- 4686

Sniglet #19. Detorrsion: premature release of the vacuum on a gel drier resulting in gel explosion.

NOTICE TO ISICR MEMBERS

Please direct all inquiries from any source concerning interferon or interferon receptor nomenclature to the ISICR Nomenclature Committee.

Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research

From Phil Marcus

In January 1995 the first issue of the monthly Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research appeared as a merger of two bimonthly publications: Journal of Interferon Research and Lymphokine and Cytokine

Research. The Publications Committee of the ISICR approved the merger at its meeting in Baltimore,

and the ISICR now awaits a formal contract with the publisher of JICR, Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

In 1993 and 1994, the JIR processed 63, and 73 full- size manuscripts, respectively, and in 1995, the year of the merger,

IFN Section Editors processed 136 manuscripts. Of 137 papers published in volume 15 (1995) of the JICR, 69 were contributed by the IFN Section and 68 from the Cytokine Section. These produced a total of 1,129 printed pages. About one- half of these pages represented manuscripts accepted by the IFN Section. This is equivalent to about 564 pages, an increase of 187 pages over

1994. There are currently 41 manuscripts at various stages of processing in the IFN Section, including 3 reviews and 2 Milstein Award Lectures. The rejection rate for 1995 was 44%.

The merger, monthly publication schedule, and new title that now reflects more accurately the range of activities of the ISICR, have combined to give the JICR more visibility, a shortened time to publication, and a broader readership. Feed- back from users is that the change has been positive for the interferon and cytokine community. Your continued submission of manuscripts, and the acquisition of a personal subscription, will

assure the continued success of the JICR as an official journal of the ISICR.

The editors of the JICR look forward to 1996 as another successful year and welcome your manuscripts, subscriptions, and suggestions for improvement.

Reviews of Interest

The following reviews are listed for those ISICR members who may have missed them.

Chen, C.- Y. A. and A.- B. Shyu. AU- rich elements: characterization and importance in mRNA degradation. *TIBS* 20:465, 1995.

David, M.. Transcription factors in interferon signaling. *Pharmac. Ther.* 65:149,1995.

Finbloom, D.S. and A. C. Larner. Induction of early response genes by interferons, interleukins, and growth factors by the tyrosine phosphorylation of latent transcription factors. *Arthritis and Rheumatism* 38:877, 1995.

Levy, D.E., Raz, R., Durbin, J.E., Bluyssen, H., Muzaffar, R. and S. Pisharody. Cytoplasmic transcription factors: mediators of cytokine signaling. In: *Inflammation: Mechanisms and Therapeutics*.

Birkhauser Verlag Basel 1995, p.79.

Songyang, Z. and L.C. Cantley. Recognition and specificity in protein tyrosine kinase- mediated signaling.

TIBS 20:470, 1995.

Thompson, C.B. Distinct roles for the costimulatory ligands B7- 1 and B7- 2 in T helper cell differentiation? *Cell* 81:979, 1995.

Wels, W., Moritz, D., Schmidt, M., Jeschke, M., Hynes, N.E., and B. Groner. Biothechnological and gene therapeutic strategies in cancer treatment. *Gene* 159:73, 1995.

Zheng, R.Q.H. and D.M. Kemeny. Inhibition of gene expression by anti- sense oligodeoxynucleotides. *Clin. Exp. Immunol.* 100:380, 1995.

ADVERTISEMENTS NOW ACCEPTED BUT WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY YET!

Proceeds from advertisements in the ISICR News would be used solely to cover the costs of copying and distributing the newsletter. The newsletter editorial board would have the option of rejecting ads deemed not suitable (i.e. that is if we ever get one). Inquiries regarding costs (ads are cheap) should be directed to the ISICR headquarters office.

HELP US

We are now entering into our second full year of the newsletter. We hope that you have actually read the newsletter and have found the information provided useful and of interest. Remember that this is your newsletter so if you would like to see new features or have comments about the newsletter contents, please correspond with any of the individuals listed below:

Send correspondence to:

Howard Young

Lab. of Experimental Immunology

NCI- FCRDC, 560/31- 23

Frederick, MD 21702- 1201

FAX# 301- 846- 1673

e- mail: youngh@ncifcrf.gov

Gerald Sonnenfeld

Div. of Research Immunology

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MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE ISICR MEMBERSHIP & INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Dr. Pestka brought up the question of a permanent location for the ISICR secretariat. He suggested the offices of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology for a site. He was under the impression that administrative and clerical services are available there for a reasonable fee. Dr. Friedman confirmed that such services could be purchased from FASEB. He had been in touch with Dr. Michael Jackson the Executive Director of FASEB, who stated that administrative and clerical support for ISICR, including distributing inquiries and correspondence to ISICR officers, production of a newsletter and a directory, and coordination of society meetings would be provided for $550 a month. This fee would also pay for a dedicated phone Line and staffing support. In addition, for a one time fee of $500, FASEB would establish and maintain an ISICR membership database; for $4.10 a member, it would also collect society dues. Dr. Jackson stated that an ISICR member in the Bethesda area would be useful as a liaison with FASEB, should the ISICR decide to have an FASEB- based secretariat. Please contact Dr. Friedman with your comments on this matter.

Dr. Friedman brought up the issue of starting a historical archive relating to interferons and cytokines in collaboration with The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine. Julia Sheppard of the Wellcome Institute had encouraged the ISICR to initiate such an archive at this time, as many of the original investigators in the field were near or at retirement. Further contact with Ms. Sheppard and Wellcome

will be established to ascertain what sort of commitment on the part of ISICR will be necessary to initiate and maintain such an archive. Please contact Dr. Friedman with any comments you may have concerning this matter.

Robert M. Friedman, President, ISICR

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Report of the Nomenclature Committee

The Nomenclature Committee met at the Annual meeting of the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research on Monday 6, November 1995. The following actions were taken:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Nomenclature Committee of the ISICR from 10- 2- 94, held at the Marriot Hotel in Budapest were discussed and approved.

2. In discussion of Old Business related to the minutes, the following points were made:

a. As discussed in 1994, the Nomenclature Committee supports the adoption of the name "RNase L" for the 2'- 5' oligoadenylate- dependent ribonuclease protein originally named RNase L (latent) by Peter Lengyel. The gene designation will be italicized to read *RNSL*.

b. Regarding the nomenclature for the mouse interferon genes, the committee will continue its consultation with the relevant body for mouse genetic nomenclature to support adoption of the nomenclature in the form (italicized); *ifn- x* where "x" is an Arabic numeral.

c. The issue of designating a human tau interferon remains open pending further information and characterization.

d. Correspondence was reviewed between Dr. Manuel Diaz (ISICR Nomenclature Committee) and Dr. S. Kapp- Kubel, Pharmaceutical Officer, Drug Regulatory Support, WorId Health Organization (WHO), on behalf of the Expert Advisory Panel on the International Pharmacopoeia and Pharmaceutical Preparations designated to deal with the selection of International Nonproprietary Names.

3. A discussion of nomenclature for the interferon receptors, their subunits and subunit variants was

conducted. Current variations in nomenclature were presented and discussed. Discussion centered on whether to use primarily historical vs. functional criteria for subunit designations, the use of Greek letters, and current systems in use. A consistent system was suggested. It was decided to convene a meeting of the Committee and other interested parties later in the week. The Committee felt that it is important to adopt a system with widespread acceptance as early as possible, hopefully before the end of the ISICR meeting.

4. The issue of the unusual Type I IFN from pig trophoblast was tabled pending further characterization.

5. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45 PM.

The follow- up meeting for the consideration of interferon receptor nomenclature was held at 3 PM on Wednesday 8 November 1995, with members of the Nomenclature Committee and other interested parties. The meeting was announced at the Receptor workshop on 7 November and a note was posted on the Message Board of the Conference. Principal receptor researchers were also personally notified of the meeting.

Current nomenclature was presented, as was the system proposed by the Nomenclature Committee on Monday. Criteria were discussed and various systems were considered.

The participants reached consensus and volunteered their acceptance and use of a nomenclature system with the following features:

a) The receptor complexes for Type I interferons and Type II interferons will be designated:

Type I receptor complex: IFNAR

Type 11 receptor complex: IFNGR

b) Subunits will be designated by Arabic numerals in historical order of cDNA molecular cloning or protein purification, insofar as possible.

c) Protein variants produced by variant mRNAs will be designated by lower case Arabic letters.

d) In the protein nomenclature a hyphen will separate the receptor subunit number and variant designation from the receptor root.

e) Gene names will correspond as closely as possible to the protein, but will be italicized (or underlined when italics are not typographically available). Hyphens are not used.

The currently known IFN receptor components are thus summarized:

Protein Gene

IFNAR- la,b *IFNAR1*

IFNAR- 2a,b *IFNAR2*

IFNGR- 1 *IFNGR1*

IFNGR- 2 *IFNGR2*

The designations are further described below; correspondence to various previous designations is appended.

IFNAR:

Variants of the protein encoded by the cDNA reported by Uze et al.:

IFNAR- la: IFNAR originally reported by Uze et al.

IFNAR- lb: IFNAR splice variant lacking exons 4 and 5, reported by Pestka and colleagues.

Variants of the protein encoded by the cDNA reported by Novick et al.:

IFNAR- 2a: IFNAR- 2 Soluble receptor protein, originally reported by Rubinstein, Novick and colleagues.

IFNAR- 2b: IFNAR- 2 protein corresponding to the cDNA reported by Novick et al. ("short form").

IFNAR- 2c: IFNAR- 2 protein corresponding to the major cDNA reported by Colamonici and colleagues, Lutfalla et. al. ("long form").

IFNGR:

IFNGR- 1: IFNGR protein corresponding to the cDNA described in Aguet at al.

IFNGR- 2: IFNGR protein corresponding to the cDNA described by Pestka and colleagues and Aguet and colleagues.

Present (Nov.6): Jerome A. Langer (Acting Chair), Francois Lefevre, R. Michael Roberts, Juana Wietzerbin. Absent: Manuel Diaz, Andrew

Larner, Erik Lundgren, Paula Pitha- Rowe.

Present (Nov.8): Geoffrey Allen, Ed Croze, Pierre Eid, Eleanor Fish, Paul Hertzog, Jerome A. Langer (Acting Chair), Francois Lefevre, Lawrence Pfeffer, R. Michael Roberts, Menahem Rubinstein, Hans Strander, Gilles Uze, Juana Wietzerbin, Kathy Zoon.

Appendix: Correspondence to previous principal designations:

TYPE I IFN RECEPTOR (IFN- [[alpha]]/[[beta]]/[[omega]]/[[tau]])

IFNAR- 1a: full length 'Uze' chain (IFNAR (Uze), IFNARI, IFN- [[alpha]]RI, IFN- R[[alpha]]. (Colamonici))

IFNAR- lb: splice variant of 'Uze' chain (Pestka)

IFNAR- 2a: soluble form of 'Novick/Rubenstein' chain (IFN- alpha/beta receptor, IFNAR2, [[beta]]- chain, IFN- [[alpha]]/[[beta]]R)

IFNAR- 2b: short form of 'Novick' chain i.e. truncated cytoplasmic form (67aa, [[beta]]s) IFN- [[alpha]]/ [[beta]]R (Rubinstein); IFN- R[[beta]] and then IFN- R[[beta]]s (Colamonici); IFNAR2

IFNAR- 2c: long form of 'Novick' chain. i.e. full- length cytoplasmic tail (251 aa, [[beta]]L);

IFN- R[[beta]]L (Colamonici)

TYPE II IFN RECEPTOR

IFNGR- 1: IFN- [[gamma]]R; IFN- [[gamma]]R1; IFN[[gamma]]- R[[alpha]]; 'Aguet'; binding chain; [[gamma]]1

IFNGR- 2: AF- 1; IFN- [[gamma]]R2; IFN- [[gamma]]R[[beta]]; signaling chain; accessory chain; 'Pestka' & 'Aguet'; [[gamma]]2

* Species designation: mu, hu, bo, ov, etc.

Gene designation: italics- no hyphen

Report of the Publications Committee

The ISICR Publications Committee met over a period of several days at the Annual Meeting of the ISICR. Members participating in discussion were Drs. De Maeyer, Dolei, Fleischmann, Landolfo, Marcus (ex officio), and Schellekens. Dr. Utsumi submitted a position paper. The following

recommendations are made by the Committee.

1. Appropriateness of publishing minipapers in the Newsletter.

The Committee believes that it is inappropriate to include minipapers, abstracts or other information that should be subject to peer review in the Newsletter.

2. Publication of selected reviews based on papers delivered at the annual meeting.

In principle, the Committee will consider publications for official sponsorship of the ISICR if they have internationally recognized editor(s) with a process of critical review of the articles or chapters to be published. The Committee was concerned, however, that the publication of reviews should not detract from the JICR, which already publishes some reviews from the annual meeting. With these thoughts in mind, the Committee endorsed the publication of a series of reviews following the 1994 ISICR Annual Meeting by Drs. Pestka and Schellekens. However, endorsing a second such publication will not be considered until the Committee has an opportunity to assess the impact of the first on the JICR.

3. Status report of the JICR.

Dr. Marcus reported that the number of manuscripts submitted is way up since the merger. For example, the 560 pages devoted to interferon articles this year exceeds the previous best year by 95 pages.

4. Discussion on the future relationship of the ISICR with the JICR.

The Committee conducted a discussion on the various courses of action available to the ISICR including but not limited to:

(1) continuation of relationship with Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. as status quo;

(2) continuation of relationship with Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. but with a contract;

(3) development of a new journal owned by the ISICR;

(4) cooperative development of a new journal with the Cytokine Society; or

(5) cooperative development of a new journal with the Leukocyte Society.

Mary Ann Liebert, an invited guest, presented her view of the past, present, and possible future interactions of the ISICR with the JICR. After excusing Mary Ann Liebert, many issues were raised and discussed at length including but not limited to:

(1) the desire of many members for the ISICR to own its own journal;

(2) the difficulty of beginning a new journal with no impact factor into an already crowded field and in competition with the JICR; and,

(3) the possible divisive effect on the ISICR membership of severing our relationship with Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. and developing our own journal.

In summary, the Committee recommends that the ISICR seek a continuation of the relationship with Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. but with a contract that meets the concerns of the ISICR. It is recommended that such a contract include the following provisions.

(1) The ISICR agrees to recognize Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. as the owner of the JICR.

(2) Five year renewable term for Editors (both interferon and cytokine Editors), with the Editors to be named by the Publications Committee in consultation with Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

(3) Five year renewable term for Section Editors (both interferon and cytokine Section Editors), with the Section Editors to be named by the Editors but approved by the Publications Committee.

(4) Three year renewable term for Editorial Board Members (both interferon and cytokine Editorial Board Members), with the Editorial Board Members to be named by the Editors but approved by the Publications Committee.

(5) Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. agrees to publish the annual Abstracts Issue at her expense.

(6) Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. agrees to pay reasonable expenses for Editorial Office and editorial expenses.

(7) The wording of ISICR recognition for JICR be changed to JICR, an official journal of the ISICR.

(8) Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. vigorously pursues the establishment of the JICR on the internet.

It is also recommended that the committee that negotiates a contract with Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. should push for

(1) averaging of subscription costs for members, such that all members pay the same amount regardless of their home continent;

(2) profit sharing with the ISICR, should the JICR show a profit;

(3) dropping page charges; and,

(4) covering the copying and mailing expenses of the Newsletter,

The Committee further recommends that if a suitable contract with Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. has not been arranged by the time of next year's ISICR Annual Meeting, the Committee should revisit the issue and recommend another course of action.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. Robert Fleischmann, Chair

ISICR Publications Committee

Report of the Membership Committee

The membership committee met at 4 P.M. on November 6,1995. Present were Heinz- Kurt Hochkeppel, Eleanor Fish, Howard Young and Lois Epstein. We welcomed new member Eleanor Fish and regretted that new members Jean Content and Masanobu Azuma were not able to be present as well as old members Fran Balkwill and Miklos Degre.

As of October 28 we had a total of 787 members which included 669 who had paid their dues, and 10 honorary members and 108 associate members. However, we had 3 additional new members register at this year's meeting. Last year, at the time of the Budapest meeting, we had 80 more members.

At the present time there are an additional 89 members who have not paid their dues since 1994 and 128 members whose last dues payment was in 1993! These figures occurred despite the requests sent out in February by international councilors to encourage payment of dues by delinquent members.

Our committee made the following recommendations to encourage the collections of dues:

1) Include a change of address form in the newsletter so that we may more effectively track members who are considering a move to another city or country. Those could then be sent back to the ISICR Secretary's office.

2) Send out notices that dues are owed one month prior to the expiration of dues. This could be done in many cases electronically by e- mail. Alternatively, if dues reminders are sent by mail, the outer

envelope should have the notation IF UNDELIVERABLE, RETURN TO SENDER.

3) Cross check addresses in the membership file with the addresses of participants

4) Send ISICR letterhead stationery and extra copies of newsletters to councilors if they are to solicit new members or help collect dues. Send a suggested form letter to councilors to help them in recruitment. In such a letter, the directory should be listed as an important bonus.

5) Encourage senior investigators to pay for the dues of younger investigators whenever possible.

6) Encourage members to bring membership forms and newsletters to other meetings.

7) Perform on- site checks for membership and dues status at the time of registration so that registrants may be apprised of their status.

8) Increase our corporate membership and sponsorships. Send both extra forms and newsletters to corporate sponsors to encourage more recruitment.

9) Update the current existing data base and make it more effective so that affiliation, either industrial or academic may be assigned to every member, student, and postdoctoral fellow in conjunction with dues status. Furthermore, send quarterly updates to committee chair.

With regard to our newsletter, the committee made the following recommendations.

1) Extend sincerest thanks to Howard Young, the architect of our newsletter, and his assistants Gerry Sonnenfeld and Bratko Filipic.

2) Call for volunteers from the membership to assist Howard and his team.

3) Announce the names of all Milstein awardees, honorary members, and young investigator awardees in the newsletter.

4) Add the description of the society for prospective new members and welcome the new members in the news bulletin.

5) Have joint newsletters with the Cytokine Society for our forthcoming meetings in Geneva in 1996 and in Jerusalem in 1998.

6) Submit a list of the contents of the newsletter and information on how to join our society on the World Wide Web. Given the fact that a cytokine group exists on the World Wide Web, this information would be of interest to that group and other individuals.

With regard to the New Investigator Award, the concept of which originated in our membership committee, our committee had the following recommendations:

1) Extend congratulations to Wei Chun Au, Hisashi Harada, Aseem Kuri and Luis F.L. Rees.

2) Abstract forms should indicate professional degree, MD. or Ph.D. and when received.

3) The Awards Committee should select, based on the quality of the abstract submitted, 8 young investigators less than 4 years beyond his or her Ph.D., who will be giving oral presentations at the plenary or workshop sessions. A subcommittee of the Awards Committee would listen to these oral presentations at the meeting and select 4 for the Young Investigator's Award to be announced with plaques at the banquet.

Respectfully submitted

Lois B. Epstein

Chairwoman

ISICR Membership Committee

Personnel note

It has been my pleasure to serve for almost 6 years as chairwoman of the membership committee and I thank the society for the opportunity and the members of the committee for their support. It gives me even greater pleasure to announce the appointment of Dr. Heinz- Kurt Hochkeppel as the new chair of the membership committee who by his experience, persistence and know- how should succeed in a grand manner.

Lois B. Epstein, MD.

Report of the Standards Committee

The Committee met 9 November 1995 in Baltimore, Maryland during the annual ISICR meeting. Those present were Günther Adolf, Alfons Billiau, Ronald Bordens, Colin Brand, Norman Finter, Ernst Fischer, Thelma Gaither, Hanna- Leena Kauppinen, Otto Prümmer, Christian Ross, Huub Schellekens, Alejandro Vidal, and Sidney Grossberg (Chairman).

Dr. Schellekens described a European Union Concerted Action Group study that aimed to develop and

standardize tests for detecting and measuring antibodies formed in patients injected with recombinant DNA- derived cytokines. In an IFN- [[alpha]] study, a panel of 50 sera obtained from treated patients was tested in a number of laboratories. All used the ANAWA test kit prepared by Dr. Fischer to measure binding antibodies; in addition, each laboratory measured neutralizing antibodies by their particular method. Because of this latter circumstance, and the use of different methods to calculate the results, the data from the different laboratories could not be directly correlated, but a ranking order for the 50 sera was calculated for each laboratory. Even then, there was a poor correlation among the results from the different laboratories. Disappointingly, when the presence of neutralizing antibodies was predicted from the titer obtained in the ANAWA test, this proved correct only on 82% of occasions, with discrepancies particularly for sera with high antibody concentration. Thus, an ELISA test result cannot reliably be used to identify those patients who will not respond or no longer respond to IFN- [[alpha]] therapy due to the formation of neutralizing antibodies. However, final conclusions must await further analysis of the data and resolution of various technical issues.

In discussion, it was emphasized that a low level of inhibitory activity in a serum must be characterized and shown to be due to specific antibody, e.g., by confirming Fab fragment binding, or by measuring the affinity of the binding by means of a Biacore instrument. Dr. Bordens stated that his screening of over 100,000 sera on the Biacore machine showed that a high titer of binding antibodies did not correlate with either a high titer of neutralizing antibodies or with abrogation of clinical response. Dr. Ross said that the presence of specific anti- IFN- [[alpha]] antibodies, as opposed to nonspecific factors, in a serum could be proved by showing that IgG was able to bind radiolabelled IFN- [[alpha]].

Dr. Grossberg referred briefly to the WHO Informal Consultation on the Standardization of Interferons held in Geneva in April 1994 and to two subsequent Informal Consultations on the Standardization of cytokines. Minutes of these meetings had been circulated to the members of the Committee and were taken as read. At these meetings it was suggested that there was a need only for a single IFN- [[alpha]] standard, the original crude leukocyte IFN- [[alpha]] preparation, 69/19, and that all other IFN- [[alpha]] preparations (be they different subtypes or mixtures) should be directly calibrated against it. This proposition implies that the dose- response curves for all the different IFN- [[alpha]] are strictly parallel in all tests of the same type, e.g. antiviral bioassays, such that each preparation behaves exactly as if it were a concentrate or dilution of 69/19. If this is not so, then a separate standard will continue to be needed for some or all IFN- [[alpha]] subtypes, e.g. IFN- [[alpha]]con , that are considered for clinical use.

To resolve this issue, the Informal Consultation on the Standardization of Cytokines had recommended that the National Institute of Biological Standardization and Control (NIBSC) arrange an international collaborative laboratory study. Accordingly, Dr. Mire- Sluis and Dr. Meager at NIBSC had contacted 142 laboratories for a study which would test 17 materials, including some newly freeze- dried preparations of IFN- [[alpha]]2b, IFN- [[alpha]]N1 etc., and involve not only antiviral bioassay but also immunoassays and antiproliferative as well as other assays. Concerns were expressed that fully analyzed results from this large study might not be available for a considerable time. The World Health Organization Expert Committee on Biological Standardization at their recent meeting suggested a study involving only a few laboratories and only bioassays.

The ISICR Standards Committee agreed that a smaller bioassay study was urgently needed, and after some discussion, decided that the following nine materials should be included: 69/19, International Standard for IFN- [[alpha]]2a (Gxa01- 901- 535), International Standard for IFN- [[alpha]]2b (82/576), International Standard for IFN- [[alpha]]N1 (Ga23- 901- 532), IFN- [[alpha]]2c (95/580), IFN- [[alpha]] 1 (83/514), IFN- *omega* (94/754), IFN- [[alpha]]con (94/786) and a leukocyte IFN- [[alpha]] preparation (either the existing International Working Standard Ga23- 902- 530, which, although not highly purified, contains no other measurable cytokines, or a sample of a new, very highly purified material).

It was agreed that the collaborating laboratories engaged in the study should: (i) use an assay giving an objective measure of virus growth to obtain dose- response curves; (ii) carry out assays on all the preparations on at least 8 occasions; (iii) use two- fold (0.3 log) or more finely spaced dilution steps; (iv) test each serially diluted sample on two different microtiter plates; (v) include appropriate controls, as needed in automated assay procedures; and (vi) provide the raw data from all the assays to both Dr. Grossberg and NIBSC, if they are willing, for construction and analysis of the dose- response curves. It was agreed that a detailed protocol based on these considerations be drafted and circulated for approval by the participants in the study. Several of those present offered to participate in the study, and the names of yet others were suggested. Dr. Grossberg will contact Dr. Meager at NIBSC to see whether the ISICR and NIBSC studies could be combined.

For any single IFN- [[alpha]] preparation to be suitable as a standard for one or another subtype or mixture, the dose- response curves must be parallel. Also, the same relative titer must be obtained irrespective of the cell substrate used. However, Dr. Brand reviewed data, which were shown to be statistically significant, that some cells respond quite differently to different IFN- [[alpha]] subtypes. This has long been known for IFN- [[alpha]]1 *vs.* IFN- [[alpha]]2 but is now seen also to apply to other subtypes.

The Committee then discussed the way in which serum neutralizing interferon antibody titers should be calculated and reported. It was agreed that the best way is to use the formula proposed by Dr. Yoshimi Kawade to adjust the observed serum dilution in order to report the titer as the serum dilution that reduces the activity of 10 Laboratory Units (LU)/ml of interferon to 1 LU/ml. Dr. Grossberg reported that Dr. Kawade has analyzed relevant data by different laboratories and they provide support for the validity of his published concepts of interferon neutralization. In discussion, Dr. Ross pointed out that the use of fewer units may provide a more sensitive assay in order to detect sera having low levels of neutralizing antibody and so detect patients that may become resistant to the IFN- [[alpha]] therapy. In any case, whatever the number of LU/ml used, the Kawade formula can and should be used to report anti- interferon neutralizing antibody titers.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Finter ,Member, ISICR Standards Committee

Sidney Grossberg, Chairman, ISICR Standards Committee

Report of the Meetings Committee

The meeting was called to order on Monday, November 6, 1995 at 2:00 p.m. Thirteen members and guests were present (see following list of attendees). Guests included Drs. Baggiolini and Durum representing the International Cytokine Society. The committee co- chairs, Christine Czarniecki and Kathryn Zoon were both present.

Dr. Czarniecki opened the meeting. The first agenda item was the 1994 ISICR Meeting in Budapest. A final budget report was provided by Dr. Ilona Beladi subsequent to the meeting. There were 348 registrants and the profit to the ISICR from this meeting was $10,321.

Dr. Paula Pitha- Rowe presented an update of the ongoing ISICR meeting in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The number of registered participants was 388 and approximately $35,000 in contributions were raised to help sponsor the meeting.

Dr. Gianni Garotta and Dr. Marco Baggiolini presented an update on the 1996 ISICR Meeting which will be held as a joint meeting with the International Cytokine Society in Geneva, Switzerland. This meeting will be held October 6- 10 at the Palexpo, which is located close to the airport and is connected to the city by bus and train. The organizing committee is composed of 3 members of the ISICR and 3 from the ICS.

The program outline was presented as 3 1/2 days. The Meetings Committee requested that they consider adding another 1/2 day to the program.

Posters will be up all week for maximum exposure. The budget is being planned around an estimate of 800 participants. This meeting will be the first joint meeting of the two societies and several issues that will be applicable to all joint meetings were discussed:

1. Authority of the local organizing committee. The ICS delegates authority for making all decisions regarding the meeting (program, speakers, satellite symposia) to the local organizing committee.

2. Satellite Symposia: ISICR guidelines ("Guidelines for Procedures for Organizers of the Annual ISICR Meeting") require that for all proposed satellite symposium, programs must be reviewed and approved for scientific content, merit and balance by the ISICR Meetings Committee and Officers of the ISICR.

The ICS delegates this review authority to the local organizing committee of the meeting. It was agreed that for the 1996 Joint Meeting, the programs for proposed satellite meetings would be reviewed by the meetings committee.

3. Travel Awards: The ISICR provides more funds than the ICS for travel awards. It was agreed that for the 1996 Joint Meeting, travel awards would be handled separately by each society. The abstract form must contain appropriate information to allow the appropriate society to review it for eligibility for travel awards and young investigator awards.

4. Publication of the Abstracts: It was agreed that the Meeting Abstracts will be published in a Journal. Mary Ann Liebert has agreed to publish the abstracts for the 1996 Joint Meeting in the Journal of Interferon Cytokine Research with no cost to the societies.

5. Meeting Program: The local organizing committee for the 1996 Joint Meeting proposed that all individuals chosen for oral presentations should also be required to exhibit their presentations as a poster.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Committee would recommend to the ISICR General Council that the decision (to require oral presenters to also exhibit their presentation as a poster) be made by the local organizing committee.

Dr. Jeremiah Tilles presented an update on plans for the 1997 ISICR Meeting in San Diego, California. This meeting will be co- chaired by Dr. Thomas Cesario and Dr. Jerry Tilles. A local organizing committee has been established and they are still evaluating dates and availability of hotels in San Diego. Dr. Michel Revel provided an update on the 1998 Joint Meeting of the ISICR and ICS planned for Jerusalem, Israel.

The dates of the meeting will be October 26- 31, 1998. The ICS has approved the proposal for this meeting. This meeting will be chaired by Drs. Michel Revel and Ray Kaempfer representing the ISICR and Drs. Isaac Witz and David Wallach representing the ICS. The budget is based on an estimate of 1,000 participants. Information from the Geneva meeting will be useful in further plans for this meeting. Two convention centers in Jerusalem are being considered as a possible site.

Proposals for meetings in 1999 and 2000 were discussed. Dr. Huub Schellekens provided a proposal for a joint meeting of the ISICR and ICS in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The committee has also received requests from Dr. Paul Hertzog for a meeting in Australia and from Mrs. Ann Marie Narboni for a meeting in Montreal. Other suggestions for sites included Cleveland, Ohio and Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. George Stark agreed to look into the possibilities of holding a meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

It was suggested that for 1999 and 2000, one meeting should be held in the United States, preferably the East Coast and the other will be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Australia might be a possibility for 2001.

At last year's Meetings Committee meeting, it was suggested that joint meetings with the ICS be held every other year. Thus it was suggested that we put off any further discussion of future joint ISICR and

ICS meetings until after the joint meeting in Geneva in 1996.

Dr. Paula Pitha- Rowe brought up for discussion a suggestion to provide a Plenary speaker presentation outline to the organizing committee who could then provide it to speakers.

There was no additional new business and the meeting was closed.

Christine W. Czarniecki, Ph.D.

Co- chair, Meetings Committee

Attendees: Christine Czarniecki, Kathryn C. Zoon, Jeremiah G. Tilles, George R. Stark , Stefanie N. Vogel, Scott Durum, Sidney Pestka, Michel Revel, Hans Strander, Paula Pitha- Rowe, Gianni Garotta, Marco Baggiolini, Huub Schellekens

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International Society of

Interferon and Cytokine Research

Statements of Revenues, Expenditures

and Fund Balance

Cash Basis For the Years Ended

December 31 1994 and 1993

	1994	%	1993	%
Revenues				
Dues and	$ 103,590	97.6	78,508	64.6
Corporate Sponsorship				
Interest Income	1,815	1.7	2,449	2.0
Grants	0	0.0	40,287	33.1

and Annual Meeting Income

Other Income 691 0.7 308 0.3

Total 106,096 100 121,552 100

Expenditures

Accounting 2,300 2.2 2,100 2.7

Awards 31,600 29.8 35,200 29.0

Bank Charges 1,126 1.1 836 0.7

Contributions 0 0.0 2,000 1.6

Depreciation 1,351 1.3 900 0.7

Dues & Subscriptions 935 0.9 0 0.0

Insurance 504 0.5 457 0.4

Office Expenses 12,009 11.3 19,940 16.4

Penalties 0 0.0 306 0.3

Secretary Wages 38,288 36.1 71,194 58.6

Taxes 200 0.2 61 0.1

Telephone 237 0.2 289 0.2

Travel 26,542 25.0 2,401 2.0

Total Exp 115,092 108.5 l35,684 111.6

Expenditures in Excess of Revenues

(8,996) (8.5) (14,132) (11.6)

1994 1993

Beginning Fund Balance 146,107 160,239

Ending Fund Balance 137,111 146,107

ISICR PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1996

Travel Awards, 1996 meeting $50,000

Salary/benefits of office secretary 41,810

Mailing expenses 13,000

Telephone and fax machine 3,000

Printing of directory and newsletter 7,200

Office supplies 2,100

Part time staff (students) 2,100

Preparation of 1995 financial report 2,300

Copying 1,000

Computer hookup, network support 1,000

Florida registration fee 200

Insurance for computer 504

Repair and maintenance of equipment 100

TOTAL $124,314

1996

ISICR MEETING

IN CONJUNCTION

WITH THE

INTL. CYTOKINE

SOCIETY

OCT. 6- 10

PALEXPO GENEVA,

SWITZERLAND

ABSTRACTS DUE

APRIL 26

Conference Secretariat

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IN THE NEW YEAR,

MAY ALL YOUR

EXPERIMENTS WORK

AND

MAY ALL YOUR REVIEWS

BE FAVORABLE !!