# ISICR Newsletter 4-1

FINAL CALL for 1997 ISICR AWARDS

The ISICR Awards Committee invites nominations for 1997 Milstein Awards and Honorary membership. The deadline for the nominations is May 1, 1997.

The Milstein Award ($20,000)

Individuals who have made exceptional contributions to research related to interferons and cytokines either in a basic or clinical field.

Honorary Membership

Individuals who have dedicated much of their career to the interferon/ cytokine field and have made substantive contributions.

This year the ISICR is employing a new format for the selection of winners of the Honorary Member and Milstein Awards. The reason for this change is the small number of nominations that have been received in recent years: last year is was four nominations for the Milstein Award and only one for the Honorary Membership. These are important and prestigious awards; the Awards Committee under Dr. Ozato wishes to have at least six nominees to choose from for each award.

In order to achieve an increase in viable candidates this year, we are initiating a new form of preliminary nomination. In this issue of the Newsletter a simplified form appears, providing space for the name of the candidate you may wish to nominate for each award, and a brief exposition of why you think this person is a viable candidate for either or both awards. These nominations should then be sent to me by mail, telephone, FAX, or email. My secretary Marta will collate them, and pass them on to Dr. Ozato in May. Her committee will then prepare a short list of candidates and vote for winners of the awards. As specified in the ISICR Constitution, the final vote of the Awards Committee is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of ISICR. So, do your duty as a good member of ISICR this year, and nominate by May 1, 1997 a first rate candidate for our highly esteemed awards.

Bob Friedman, President, ISICR
Dept. of Pathology, USUHS
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Bethesda, MD 20814- 4799

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A nomination form for the Milstein Award and Honorary Membership is elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Awards committee invites applications for the Young Investigator Awards and Travel Awards. The deadline is the same as abstract dead line for the 1997 ISICR Annual Meeting.

Young Investigator Award ($ 1,000)

Eligibility : ISICR members and are less than four years after receiving a Ph.D or M.D degree

Travel Award

ISICR members who intend to attend 1997 ISICR Annual Meeting in San Diego are eligible for Travel Awards. Application procedures will be announced in the meeting booklet.

Selection of these awards is made based on the ratings by all the Awards Committee members.

## NOMENCLATURE OF INTERFERON RECEPTORS AND INTERFERON- dª

E. Lundgren[1] and J. A. Langer[2]

**Receptors**

A consensus meeting was organized by The Interferon Nomenclature Committee at the Annual meeting of the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research (Baltimore, November 6- 11, 1995), which resulted in recommendations on nomenclature for the interferon receptor subunits. These were reviewed and slightly modified at the First joint meeting of the International Cytokine Society and Society of Interferon and Cytokine Research (Geneva, Switzerland, October 6- 10, 1996). Under this recommendation, receptor subunits are designated by Arabic numerals in the order in which they are definitively characterized (by cloning or protein purification and sequencing). The recommendations can be summarized as follows:

Summary of IFN receptor nomenclature.
Receptor - Type I Subunits

| Protein designation | Gene designation |
|---|---|
| IFNAR | - |
| IFNAR-1 | IFNAR-1 |
| IFNAR-2 | IFNAR-2 |

Type II Subunits

| Protein designation | Gene designation |
|---|---|
| IFNGR | - |
| IFNGR-1 | IFNGR-1 |
| IFNGR-2 | IFNGR-2 |

IFNAR-1: cDNA cloned by Uze et al. (1),
previous/other designations: IFN-aR1, IFNAR1, IFN-Ra
IFNAR-2: cDNA cloned by Novick et al.(2),
previous/other designations: IFN-a/b receptor (IFN-a/bR) IFN-aR2, IFNAR2, IFN-Rb.
IFNGR-1: cDNA cloned by Aguet et al., (3),
previous/other designations: IFN-gR; IFN-gR a
IFNGR-2: cDNA related to IFN-g receptor activity (4, 5),
previous/other designations: IFN-gR b; AF-1; IFN-gR-2

Since organisms other than Homo may differ in their splice variants, the committee felt it prudent to postpone a recommendation for the designation of receptor variants until more is known about these molecules. For the variants, investigators can thus use previous designations (e.g., "long" and "short"), or can use the 1995 recommendations, as follows:

IFNAR- 2a: IFNAR- 2 soluble receptor protein, originally reported by Novick et al., (1).

IFNAR- 2b: IFNAR- 2 protein corresponding to the cDNA reported by Novick et al.(1) ("short form").

IFNAR- 2c: IFNAR- 2 protein corresponding to the major cDNA reported by Domanski et al, and Lutfalla et al., (6,7) ("long form").

In all cases, the committee strongly recommends that investigators should provide a footnote that correlates their nomenclature with that of other labs.

**Interferon d**

A porcine cDNA has been cloned and the protein expressed and characterized for a novel porcine Type I IFN expressed in trophoblasts (8). It was previously called sp1IFN ("short porcine Type 1 IFN"). On the basis of its distinct sequence, serology, and upstream DNA regulatory regions, the Committee is convinced that this Type I IFN is as distinct as IFN- [[alpha]] and IFN- [[beta]]. The committee recommends the designation of "IFN- d", utilizing the next Greek letter.

**References**

1. Uzé G, Lutfalla G, Gresser I. Genetic transfer of a functional human interferon [[alpha]] receptor into mouse cells: cloning and expression of its cDNA. *Cell* 1990;**60**:225- 34.

2. Novick D, Cohen B, Rubinstein M. The human interferon [[alpha]]/ [[beta]] receptor: characterization and molecular cloning. *Cell* 1994;**77**:391- 400.

3. Aguet M, Dembic Z, Merlin G. Molecular cloning and expression of the human interferon- [[gamma]] receptor. *Cell* 1988;**55**:273- 80.

4. Soh J, Donnelly RJ, Kotenko S, Mariano TM, Cook JR, Wang N, et al. Identification and sequence of an accessory factor required for activation of the human interferon [[gamma]] receptor. *Cell* 1994, **76 (5)**:793- 802.

5. Hemmi S, Bohni R, Stark G, Di Marco F, Aguet M. A novel member of the interferon receptor family complements functionality of the murine interferon gamma receptor in human cells. *Cell* 1994;**76**:803- 10.

6. Domanski P, Witte M, Kellum M, Rubinstein M, Hackett R, Pitha P, et al. Cloning and expression of a long form of the [[beta]] subunit of the interferon [[alpha]]/[[beta]] receptor that is required for signalling. *J Biol Chem* 1995;**270**:21606- 11.

7. Lutfalla G, Holland SJ, Cinato E, Monneron D, Reboul J, Rogers NC, et al. Mutant U5A cells are complemented by an interferon- ab receptor subunit generated by alternative processing of a new member of a cytokine receptor gene cluster. *EMBO J* 1995;**14**:5100- 8.

8. Lefèvre F, Boulay V. A novel and atypical type one interferon gene expressed by trophoblast during early pregnancy. *J Biol Chem* 1993;**268**:19760- 8.

[a]Prepared for the Nomenclature Committee of International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research (Erik Lundgren [Chairperson], jerome A. Langer, Michael R. roberts, Andrew C. Larner, Francois Lefevre, Jeanne Wietzerbin, Eleanor N. Fish) and approved at its meeting on 8 October, 1996.

[1]Dept Cell Mol. Biol., Umea University, Sweden

[2]Dept Mol. Genetics Microbiol., UMDNJ- robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway, NJ.

Member Information

Correction to ISICR Committee Listings

Dr. Larry Pfeffer was left off the listing of the Meetings Committee membership.

New Members
We welcome the following new members who have joined the ISICR since the last newsletter. Contact the ISICR administrative office for address/ contact information.

Alma Bracete - Frederick, MD
Bodo Gerhard - Vienna, Austria
Elizabeth Kovacs - Maywood, IL
Ingrid- Katarina Dacklin - Umea,Sweden
Jay Bream - Frederick, MD
Jean- Michel Dayer - Geneva,Switzerland
Jianchun Liu - Shanghai, China
Karl- Anton Krevzer - Bonn, Germany
Konstantinos Kacmaniolas - Athens, Greece
Kristian Sandberg - Sodertalge, Sweden
Laurie Penix - New Haven, CT
Lennart Carlsson - Umea, Sweden
Mei- June Liao - New Brunswick, NJ
Merethe Larsen - Copenhaven, Denmark
Olle Sangfelt
Olov Klas - Stockholm, Sweden
Rafael Curiel - New Orleans, LA
Sharon Wahl - Bethesda, MD
Shmuel Livnat - Washington, DC
Siddharth Balachandran - Decatur, GA
Stephen Rapecki - Slough, England

Wei He - Shanghai, China
Yatta Rubinstein - Bethesda, MD
Yirong Wang - Atlanta, GA

## REMEMBER:
## ISICR STUDENT & POSTDOC MEMBERSHIPS ARE ONLY $10

Interferon Archives: Call for Donations

In collaboration with the Welcome Trust, the ISICR, through the efforts of Bob Friedman and Norman Finter, are collecting material pertinent to the early days of interferon research. Anyone having old programs, abstracts or minutes from interferon meetings dating back to the period before 1970 is asked to send the information or copies of the information to Bob Friedman.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION

AND ASSAY OF CYTOKINES AND GROWTH FACTORS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS AND CONTROL

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, LONDON

(with kind permission of the treasurer)

10- 12th SEPTEMBER 1997

International Programme Committee: G. Duff (UK), F. Ruscetti (US), A. Mantovani (IT), K. Zoon (US), M. Dexter (UK), A. Padilla (CH), E. Walker (Aust), M. Kohase (J), A. Mire- Sluis (UK), A. Artiges (FR), J- L. Virelizier (FR), G. Schild (UK), Linda Wudl (US), J. Cash (UK), B. Furr (UK), F.

Horaud (FR).

The meeting is to be organised by NIBSC with co- sponsorship of the World Health Organisation (WHO), International Association for Biological Standardisation (IABS), Centre for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), European Pharmacopoeia (EP), International Cytokine Society (ICS) and International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research (ISICR).

Aim of the symposium

The aim of the conference is to provide an up- to- date overview of developments in the characterisation and quality control of therapeutic cytokines and growth factors and in particular to evaluate the role of biological assay methods in ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of these products. The conference will seek to reach science- based consensus on the major issues relating to the biological evaluation of cytokines and growth factors and to make these conclusions available to regulatory authorities as they attempt to elaborate a strategy for the control of cytokines during the development of emerging technology.

Programme:

**Wednesday 10th September**

The 1997 Sir Henry Dale Lecture:

The biology of cytokines in haematopoiesis.

Prof. M. Dexter (UK)

**Thursday 11th September**

Keynote Lecture - The therapeutic use of colony stimulating factors - Prof. D. Linch (UK)

Session 1: A survey of methodology for the quality control of cytokines and growth factors.

<<Bioassays for cytokines (Dr R. House) (US) >><<Bioassays for growth factors >>(Dr J. Robinson)(UK)

<<Immunological assays (Dr M. Tsang) (US) >><<Chromatographic methods >> (Dr J. O'Connor)( US)

<<Spectroscopic methods >>(Prof. C. Dobson) (UK)

<<Detection of cytokines in biological samples (Dr F. Ruscetti) (US)>>

Keynote Lecture - Points to consider during the manufacture of cytokines and growth factors as therapeutic agents

(Dr L. Wudl) (US)

Session 2: Bioassays in the control of therapeutic cytokines/growth factors

<<Biological identity and potency >>(Dr R. Thorpe) (UK)

<<Biological stability (Dr J. Wright) (US)>><<In vitro vs in vivo assays and relationships to therapeutic application (Dr C. Holloway) (D)>><<The relationship between biological and physicochemical analysis >>(Dr A. Bristow) (UK)

Keynote Lecture - The biology of chemokines - Prof. A. Mantovani (I)

Keynote Lecture - Chemokines and HIV infection - Prof. J- L Virelizier (Fr)

**Friday 12th September**

Keynote Lecture - Growth factors and cytokines in wound healing -

Dr M. Robson (US)

Session 3: Novel approaches to bioassays

<<The use of engineered cell lines >>(Prof. S. Pestka) (US)

<<Biochemical vs cell function end points >>(Dr M. Sadick)

<<Applications for the new ECL and Biosensor technologies (Dr S. Swanson) (US)>>

Session 4: Validation and design of bioassays

<<Bioassay design and evaluation >>(A. Heath) (UK)

Keynote Lecture - Genomic aspects of cytokines and their role in immunomodulation.

Prof. G. Duff (UK)

Session 5: Standardisation of cytokines and growth factors

<<The WHO programme of cytokine and growth factor standardisation >>(Dr A. Padilla) (Ch)

<<Production, calibration and use of WHO International cytokine/growth factor standards >>(Dr A. Mire- Sluis) (UK)

<<Analysis of collaborative studies >>(Dr R. Gaines Das) (UK)

<<Regulatory status of bioassay standards >>(Dr K. Zoon) (US)

<<The role of European Pharmacopoeia standards and monographs >>(Dr A. Artiges) (Fr)

<<International harmonisation of regulations >>(Dr J. Petricciani) (US)

Session 6: Round table discussion for development of scientific guidelines

Chairpersons: A. Padilla (WHO), K. Zoon (FDA), G. Schild (NIBSC), A. Artiges (EP)

Rapporteur: A. Mire- Sluis (NIBSC)

Preliminary Registration

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION AND ASSAY OF CYTOKINES AND GROWTH FACTORS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, LONDON, 10- 12th SEPTEMBER 1997

Name ..... ...

Address

..... ...

..... ...

..... ...

..... ...

Country .....

Fax Number .....

Tel Number .....

Send/Fax this form to
Dr A.R. Mire- Sluis, NIBSC, Blanche Lane, South Mimms
Herts EN6 3QG, UK.
Fax Number: (44) 1707 650223,
E- mail:tmire@nibsc.ac.uk

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE AT THE ISICR BUSINESS OFFICE

Address all correspondence including membership renewals, address changes, corrections and change in degree to:

ISICR Business Office
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814- 3998
Tel: 301- 571- 8319
Fax: 301- 530- 7049
Email: isicr@faseb.org

WWW SOURCES

ISICR WEB SITE

Thanks to the efforts of Menachem Rubinstein, the ISICR WEB site is now up and running at **http://bioinformatics.weizmann.ac.il/ISICR/** Comments and suggestions regarding the contents are welcome.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute's "Beyond Bio 101"

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute has published a new book "Beyond Bio 101: The Transformation of Undergraduate Biology Education." You will find "Beyond Bio 101" in its entirety on the Web at:

http://www.hhmi.org/BeyondBio101

The book is also available in a free, 88- page, full- color print version, which you can request online by using the convenient order form at this Web site. Both the print and online versions are filled with original reporting and lively graphics. They explore the many changes taking place in undergraduate biology education and offer a wide variety of useful ideas and contacts for biology educators. I hope you find

Beyond Bio 101 interesting and informative.

Steffanie Lynch

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(804) 739- 0165 phone

(804) 739- 6059 fax

Web outreach coordinator for "Beyond Bio 101"

To order a free printed copy of "Beyond Bio 101," visit the Web site,

http://www.hhmi.org/BeyondBio101, or send an e- mail request with your name, title, and mailing address to: commpub@hq.hhmi.org

For a press release and other information on "Beyond Bio 101," contact the editor, David Jarmul, at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute jarmuld@hq.hhmi.org

(301) 215- 8857

HUM- MOLGEN - Internet Communication Forum in Human Genetics

The DIAG section of HUM- MOLGEN is available on our WWW site at

http://www.informatik.uni- rostock.de/HUM- MOLGEN/

Just click on "Clinical Research". Beginning January 1, 1997, messages will be deleted 3 months after the posting date. The same policy of DIAG will be applied to the web version. We believe this new service will increase the quality and value of the Human Molecular Genetics Network.

Carlo Gambacorti MD

Editor, for HUM- MOLGEN

Clinical Research

This section contains requests from researchers or patients regarding: collaborative studies, shipment of samples, list of laboratories performing certain molecular tests, general information on diseases /

treatments.

E- mail: HUM- MOLGEN@nic.surfnet.nl

WWW: http://www.informatik.uni- rostock.de/HUM- MOLGEN

Phone: 020- 566 4598 (The Netherlands), (206) 386- 2101 (USA)

Fax: 020- 691 6521 (The Netherlands), (206) 386- 2555 (USA)

APOPTOSIS WEB PAGE

We announce the opening of a mirror site for our Apoptosis web page. Its address is: http://www.celldeath- apoptosis.org

We hope that this site will provide less down- time, and that eventually we will incorporate more functionality into the site. Your comments are solicited.

lockshin@stjohns.edu

lockshin@mindspring.com

check out Apoptosis/Programmed Cell Death Web Page

http://rdz.stjohns.edu/~lockshin/index.html

OWL COMPOSITE PROTEIN SEQUENCE DATABASE

Derived from:-

SWISS- PROT: Bairoch.A & Boeckman, B (1991) The SWISS- PROT protein sequence databank Nucleic Acids Res., 19, Suppl., 2247- 2249

NBRF PIR1,PIR2,PIR3: George,D.G, Barker,W.C & Hunt,L.T. (1986) The protein identification resource (PIR)

Nucleic Acids Research., 14, 11- 15

GENBANK: Benson.D, Lipman, D.J., & Ostell.J (1993) Genbank Nucleic Acids Research., 21(13), 2963- 5

NRL_3D: Namboodiri. K, Pattabiraman,N., Lowrey,A., Gaber,B., George,D.G.

& Barker,W.C. (1989)

NRL_3D A sequence structure database PIR Newsletter., 8, 5

Statistics for the incorporated sequences of source databases are:

Entries Residues

SWISSPROT Rel 34 59017 21208955

NBRF Rel 50(PIR 1) 222 122695

NBRF Rel 50(PIR 2) 29802 8562196

NBRF Rel 50(PIR 3) 3177 769673

NBRF Rel 50(PIR 4) 107 22150

GenBank Rel 98.0 84693 25355342

NRL_3D Rel 20.0 595 110373

NRL_3D Contains entries for which an X- Ray crystal structure exists in Brookhaven. The codes for these entries start with NRL_ followed by the Brookhaven database code.

Note:

1. Starting with OWL release 26.0, only the sequences from NRL_3D that DO NOT occur in other sequence databases are included. One additional line is included in the reference file that provides a cross reference to the corresponding entry in the PRINTS Protein Finger Print database.

2. Starting with OWL release 26.2, the Genbank entries are extracted from the translations in the NCBI supplied Genbank files

3. Starting with OWL release 26.3.

One additional line is included in the reference file that provides a cross reference to the corresponding entry in

NRL_3D (Brookhaven code).

4. Starting with OWL release 27.1 sequences from PIR4 are included

VERSION 29.1

Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, The University of Leeds

Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK

177,613 ENTRIES

56,151,384 RESIDUES

CREATION DATE: 12th January 1997

CREATED BY: A.J. Bleasby & D. Akrigg

This is now available on the

ftp.seqnet.dl.ac.uk; ncbi.nlm.nih.gov anonymous ftp servers.

Alan Bleasby

SEQNET

Daresbury Laboratory

SEQNET is the UK national EMBnet node

PRINTS PROTEIN MOTIF FINGERPRINT DATABASE VERSION 14.0

Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology , University College London, London WC1E 6BT, UK

The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK

attwood@bsm.bioc.ucl.ac.uk

bmb5meb@bmb.leeds.ac.uk

kirill@bmb.leeds.ac.uk

650 ENTRIES

2 single- motif fingerprints

648 multiple- motif fingerprints

(316 available in PROSITE)

Total equivalent entries:

3504 single motifs

Creation date: 16th December 1996

Compiled by: T.K.ATTWOOD, M.E.BECK & K.DEGTYARENKO

The latest issue of PRINTS is now available from the following ftp servers:

ftp.seqnet.dl.ac.uk pub/database/prints

ncbi.nlm.nih.gov repository/PRINTS

Alan Bleasby

SEQNET, Daresbury Laboratory

Warrington WA4 4AD, UK

SEQNET is the UK national EMBnet node

Announcing: CINEMA

a Colour INteractive Editor for Multiple Alignments

http://www.biochem.ucl.ac.uk/bsm/dbbrowser/CINEMA/

http://www.biochem.ucl.ac.uk/bsm/dbbrowser/CINEMA2/

ProAnWin

Protein Analyst for Windows

State Research Center of Virology and Biotechnology Koltsovo, Novosibirsk Region, 633159 Russia and Irina Pika, Anatoly Frolov, Vladimir Ivanisenko

with Alexey Eroshkin are pleased to announce the availability of new MS Windows application for multiple protein sequence alignment, comparative sequences analysis, studying protein structure- activity (property/ genotype) relationships and designing site- directed mutagenesis.

DESCRIPTION:

ProAnWin studies the relationships between protein/peptide activity (or property or related phenotype) and characteristics of some regions in primary or tertiary structure of these molecules.

Structure- activity analysis is based on the sequences of protein family, data on protein activity (pK, ED50, Km or any other) and, if available, 3D structure of one of these proteins (supposing the

common 3D fold for all the homologs). The main aim is to find out the factors responsible for the variation of protein activities: location of activity- modulating site and important structural characteristics of the site.

The program makes the following: input of sequences from several formats (SWISS- PROT, PIR, FASTA, GCG, CLUSTAL) and 3D structure in PDB format; flexible multiple protein sequences alignment and

threading sequences into known 3D structure (ClustalV + manual alignment); input of user- defined protein activities, properties or related phenotypes (with possibility to transform activity: log(x),

1/x, etc.); calculation of many characteristics (hydrophobicity,

amphipathicity, etc.) of linear and spatial protein sites; fast multiple (up to eight independent factors) linear regression analysis of structure- activity relationships; activity prediction for untested

or mutated proteins; data visualization (regression plots, 3D pictures with sites highlighted, multiple alignments); displaying found sites on sequences and 3D structure. The program has two main

related windows - with protein sequences and with 3D structure; any site highlighted in sequences is highlighted in 3D structure and vise versa.

ProAnWin aligns complete set of sequences, subset or any selected block, providing thus possibility for iterative alignment that preserve some previously found blocks or those imposed from some

biological data (active center, catalytic residues).

The program can be applied to analysis of various protein- related

biological data, to prediction of activity (phenotype) of newly sequenced proteins and to simulation of protein- engineering

experiments. ProAnWin IS USEFUL IN:

- protein structure- function and structure- activity investigations;

- designing proteins and peptides with improved activity;

- making multiple protein alignments and getting sense from it;

- studying phenotype- genotype correlations;

- preparation of protein 3D pictures with sites highlighted;

- comparative protein sequence analysis.

AVAILABILITY:

ProAnWin is available (as self- extracted archive) from EBI software library:

ftp://ftp.ebi.ac.uk/pub/software/dos/proanwin

and, in Eastern Hemisphere, from NSC software library:

ftp://ftp.bionet.nsc.ru/pub/biology/vector/proanwin.dem/paw$.exe

The version is limited in number of analyzed sequences.

INSTALLATION

The files required to run ProAnWin are distributed in the form of a single compressed file. Create a directory "PROANWIN" in your harddisk, for example, C. Copy the file to the directory, run the file : From DOS prompt and answer Yes to all questions. To start the program run: PROAWIN. EXE from windows.

PROGRAM CONTENT

Directory:

Main directory - program modules

DATA - examples of data and output files; amino acid physico- chemical properties (>50);

manual ALIGNS - 50 aligned protein family sequences

Comments, bug reports, suggestions for new features are welcome and should be sent by e- mail to: Alexey Eroshkin

OTHER TOOLS AVAILABLE

ProAnalyst, Multifunctional analysis of protein sequences and structures (MS- DOS version of ProAnWin with additional functionality: searching motifs, physico- chemical plots, alphabetical and

physico- chemical analysis of protein sequence variation, structure- activity determination profile, etc.): IUBio archive: ftp://iubio.bio. indiana.edu/molbio/ibmpc/panalys1

EMBL library: ftp://ftp.ebi.ac.uk/pub/software/dos/proanalyst

NSC library: ftp://ftp.bionet.nsc.ru/pub/biology/vector/proanaly.dem/ panalys$

ProMSED, Protein Multiple Sequences EDitor for MS Windows 3.x/95 ("a la" Word for Windows style + ClustalV + manual alignment + amino acid coloring + more):

EMBL library: ftp://ftp.ebi.ac.uk/pub/software/dos/promsed

NSC library: ftp://ftp.bionet.nsc.ru/pub/biology/vector/promsed.dem/ promsed$

IUBio archive: ftp://iubio.bio.indiana.edu/molbio/ibmpc/promsed1

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IS THERE HOLLYWOOD IN THE FUTURE FOR A WELL KNOWN ISICR MEMBER?

Dateline: Hollywood. From Alan Y. Drawoh, special correspondant to the ISICR. Rumors are running hot and heavy here in glitter city as to the expected arrival of the next Michael Crichton (*Andromeda Strain, Jurassic Park*), reportedly from a laboratory near the Nation's capital. This budding author/scientist and ISICR member, who recently published a searing novel about his recovery from a personal loss, is rumored to be near a MEGA deal for the movie rights to the book. The deal is expected to include "Clint" Eastwood in the leading role with *Hot Zone* star Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise as his scientific adversaries. In addition Julia Roberts, Sharon Stone and Dr. Ruth are rumored to be the top candidates for the roles of the women who helped him recover. All this correspondant can add is that if the deal goes through, this ISICR member should SHOW US THE MONEY and create a new award for fiction writing by ISICR members (no editors, this newsletter does not qualify so stop spending the money) or maybe even pay all our membership dues for next year!

Public Affairs

Specter asks support of research community in seeking funding increase

Sen. Arlen Specter, R- PA, chair of the Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and

Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies subcommittee (L/HHS), yesterday reaffirmed his commitment to increase National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding in FY 98 by 7.5%, which amounts to about $952 million. He was speaking at a breakfast gathering of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding. Specter also said he will try to do a little better than the 7.5% increase. He was less optimistic, however, about prospects for a resolution from Sen. Connie Mack, R- FL, that the NIH budget be doubled in five years, though he is one of the original

sponsors of the resolution. (see Washington Fax 1/24/97)

Specter said he will team up with Sen. Tom Harkin, D- IA, L/HHS ranking minority

member, to push for a trust fund as an alternative funding source for NIH. The trust fund concept was originally the joint effort of now-retired Sen. Mark Hatfield, Harkin and Specter.

After he addressed the group, Specter told Washington Fax that his success is going to be dependent on L/HHS's 602(b) allocation (the amount the full Senate Appropriations Committee allots his subcommittee) and what portion of that allocation is devoted to an increase. While the House Budget Committee is important because they produce the budget resolution that acts as a blueprint for funding in specific budget areas such as "Health Function 500," the full Appropriations Committee's allocation is the critical point, said Specter.

Specter said the 7.5% increase is going to be a tough sell because his subcommittee faces hard competition for the dollars under its stewardship. Among many other good programs, $1 billion is needed for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the president wants an additional $3 billion for education, and worker safety needs about $1.2 billion, he said.

When questioned about an internal Senate poll that reportedly asked Senators to set priorities and that reportedly revealed majority support for doubling the NIH budget, Specter said, "Oh, the Members will support it all right in a poll, but the real test will be when you get down to cutting dollars from programs. That is where you see for sure how much support you have."

Specter also told Washington Fax that he is going to need the support of the scientific and education community to get the increases through. "Folks should not waste the postage" to write to him and Sen. Harkin, said Specter, because they are already on board, but send "thoughtful, hand written letters" to their own Senate delegation. "That will give us a far better chance to get the support we need across the Senate. You know, a couple of dozen thoughtful handwritten letters to a Senator will get the point across."

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New Resource Available

Center for Inherited Disease

The National Institutes of Health has now announced the establishment of the Center for Inherited Disease Research (CIDR). CIDR is a joint effort by eight

participating Institutes at NIH: NCI, NICHD, NIDCD, NIDA, NIEHS, NIMH,

NINDS and the NHGRI (formerly known as NCHGR), which serves as lead agency

and manager of the CIDR facility. The CIDR is located at the Bayview campus

of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore. It has as its main objective high throughput genotyping in support of research efforts directed towards the identification of the genetic loci and allelic

variants that play important roles in multifactorial human disease. The Center will focus, in particular, on mapping loci responsible for the genetic contribution to common disorders in man, including, but not limited to, cardiovascular and pulmonary disease, cancer, psychiatric disorders, hearing and language disorders, neurological disease, diabetes, and autoimmune diseases. The research will utilize human populations and

families, but may study pertinent animal models as well. Access to CIDR is open to all NIH intramural and extramural investigators on a competitive basis.

In consultation with the Principal Investigators whose proposals have been accepted, CIDR will receive samples and carry out genome- wide genotyping scans. A variety of different mapping approaches may be supported by genotyping within CIDR including affected pedigree member

methods, transmission disequilibrium testing, and linkage analysis in pedigrees. Additional services available as options to investigators are consultation on study design and statistical analysis. Once the studies in CIDR are complete, the data and results of the analyses are returned to the Principal Investigator for further research.

Access for investigators to the CIDR facility requires that proposals be

reviewed first by the customary review mechanism at NIH for scientific merit. All proposals will be examined by a chartered CIDR Access Advisory

Committee. Criteria used by the Access Advisory Committee will include

suitability of the project for the high- throughput genotyping capabilities of CIDR, feasibility of study design for detecting genetic contribution to disease, and the likely impact of the study on biomedical research. Final prioritization of projects for CIDR will be by a Board of

Governors, the policy- setting body for CIDR, which is made up of the Directors of the eight participating Institutes (or their designates). Examination of proposals for CIDR by the CIDR Access Advisory Committee is not expected to lengthen the review process beyond what is normally required for extramural grant submission and review.

A description of CIDR will soon be available at the NCHGR home page on the World Wide Web at http://www.nchgr.nih.gov/home.html If you are interested in using the services and facilities of CIDR, contact Dr. Jerry Roberts, Scientific Review Administrator and Chief of Staff, CIDR Board of

Governors, in the NCHGR Office of Scientific Review, 301- 496- 0838.

Clinical Trials

FRE- Q93- 902- 02 EU- 96008: Phase III randomized study of maintenance with Interferon alfa vs no further therapy following complete response to chemoradiotherapy for small cell lung cancer. Contact: Bernard Lebeau, Paris, France Tel: 1- 4928- 2517

E- 2696: Phase II randomized study of vaccination with GM- 2 ganglioside conjugated to keyhole limpet hemocyanin plus the immunologic adjuvant QS21 with vs without high- dose Interferon alfa in high- risk melanoma. Contact: Robert L. Comis, Philadelphia, PA Tel: 215- 955- 4652

BUMC- 3510/96 NCI- H96- 0967: Phase I study of isotretinoin/Interferon alfa plus hyperfractionated radiotherapy for unresectable head and neck cancers. Contact: Thomas F. DeLaney, boston, MA Tel: 617- 638- 7070

S9629: Phase II study of dexamethasone/ alpha- interferon in AL amyloidosis. Contact: Marj Godfrey, San Antonio, TX Tel: 210- 677- 8808

SWOG- 9455: A phase II study of fluorouracil infusion and alpha

interferon for treatment of advanced or recurrent metastatic bladder adenocarcinoma. Contact: Marj Godfrey, San Antonio, TX Tel: 210- 677- 8808

EORTC- 18952: Phase III randomized study of adjuvant intermediate high- dose IFN- A vs intermediate low- dose IFN- A vs observation following definitive resection of thick primary and/or regional lymph node metastases in high- risk stage III melanoma. Contact: Alexander Eggermont, Rotterdam, Netherlands Tel: 31- 10- 4391911

EORTC- 62933: Phase III randomized study of neoadjuvant high- dose DOX/ IFF with or without G- CSF followed by metastasectomy vs metastasectomy alone for lung metastases in patients with soft tissue sarcoma. Contact: A.N. Van Geel, Rotterdam, Netherlands Tel: 31- 10- 4391911

CLB- 9550: Phase II study of daily low- dose Interleukin- 2 for AIDS- associated non- Hodgkin's lymphoma in first partial remission. Contact: Michael Anthony Caligiuri, Buffalo, NY Tel: 716- 845- 3087 or Zale Bernstein, Buffalo, NY Tel: 716- 845- 8075

CNR- 9505 EU- 95023: Phase II/III randomized study of adjuvant active specific immunotherapy with autologous tumor cells and BCG plus CTX and low- dose IL- 2 for stage II/III renal cell adenocarcinoma. contact: Enzo Galligioni, Aviano (PN), Italy Tel: 0434- 659285

T96- 0016: Chemoimmunotherapy in patients with Mullerian carcinoma using IV paclitaxel (Taxol) and cisplatin (Platinol) followed by IP RIL- 2- expanded TIL and a low dose of IL- 2. Contact: John J. Kavanaugh, Houston, TX Tel: 713- 792- 7959

Reviews of Interest

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Holter, W, Schwarz, M, Cerwenka, A, and Knapp, W. The role of CD2 as a regulator of Human T- cell cytokine production. *Immunol. Rev.* 153:107, 1996.

Lau, AS, Lehman, D, Geertsma, FR, and Yeung, MC. Biology and therapeutic uses of myeloid hematopoietic growth factors and interferons. *Pediatr. Infect. Dis. J.* 15:563, 1996.

Of Special Note

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Sarvetnick, N. Mechanisms of cytokine- mediated localized immunoprotection. *J. Exp. Med.* 184:1597, 1996.

Sykes, M. Immunobiology of transplantation. *The FASEB J.* 10:721, 1996.

Weinstock- Guttman, B, Ransohoff, RM, Kinkel, RP, and Rudick, RA. The interferons: biological effects, mechanisms of action, and use in multiple sclerosis. *Ann. Neurol.* 37:7, 1995.

Clarification on membership and the 1996 ISICR Meeting

At the 1996 ISICR meeting in Geneva, it was announced that membership in the ISICR was included in the meeting registration. Please note that this applied to 1996 membership only. Continued membership for 1997 will require dues payment as soon as possible.

FAMOUS QUOTES

**The beatings will continue until morale improves.**

**Attila the Hun**



**HELP US**

Is there anything you would like to see in the newsletter? If so, send correspondence for the ISICR newsletter to:

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**OCT. 19- 24**
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**Conference Secretariat**
**Keli Dicine**
**Tel 216- 464- 2055**
**Fax 216- 464- 3884**