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Announcements

(Requests for announcements must be received at least 3 months before publication.)

INTERFERON NOMENCLATURE

An international group of scientists was assembled under the sponsorship of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the World Health Organization-US National Centre on Interferon to devise a system for the orderly nomenclature of interferons. The following is an abbreviated version of the unanimous report from this committee, the full text of which appears in *Nature*, July 10, 1980. Scientists and editors of scientific journals should adopt this nomenclature to avoid the proliferation of terms for the same substances and the indiscriminate naming of newly discovered factors.

The committee accepted the following definition for interferon: "To qualify as an interferon, a factor must be a protein which exerts virus nonspecific, antiviral activity at least in homologous cells through cellular metabolic processes involving synthesis of both RNA and protein."

The preferred abbreviation for interferon is IFN. Each interferon will be identified according to animal of origin: *e.g.*, human (Hu IFN); murine (Mu IFN); bovine (Bov IFN); rat (Rat IFN); chicken, porcine, feline, equine interferon, etc. However, it may be necessary in some cases to apply generic nomenclature: *e.g.*, monkey = *Rhesus* interferon, etc.; fish = *Salmo* interferon, etc.; bat = *Tadarida* interferon, etc.

Interferon will be classified into types on the basis of antigenic specificities. The type designations will be alpha (α), beta (β), and gamma (γ), corresponding to previous designations of leukocyte (Le), fibroblast (F), and type II (immune) interferons, respectively. The old designations of "leukocyte," "fibroblast," and "immune" interferons were, by committee consensus, abolished, as they clearly were misnomers. α- and β-interferons are usually acid stable and correspond to what have been called type I IFN's; γ-interferons are usually acid labile and correspond to what has been called type II IFN's. If there are discovered to be classes of IFN which are not presently recognized, they should be designated sequentially IFN-δ, IFN-ϵ, etc. Table 1 lists the new nomenclature for human and murine interferons and the corresponding designations which have been or are being used. Interferon preparations may contain more than one type: *e.g.*, interferons derived from human lymphoblastoid cells and interferons from murine fibroblasts contain both IFN-α and IFN-β. These can be designated as to predominant type. Thus, the interferons presently used in clinical trials are either Hu IFN-α or Hu IFN-β, or admixtures thereof.

Table 1

Old and new nomenclature for human and mouse interferons

New nomenclature	Old nomenclature	
	Human	Mouse
IFN-α	Le (leukocyte), type I, pH 2 stable, foreign cell induced	F (fast), C, type I, pH 2 stable
IFN-β	F (fibroblast), Fi, type I, pH 2 stable	S (slow), A, B, type I, pH 2 stable
IFN-γ	IIF (immune), type II, T, pH 2 labile, antigen induced, mitogen induced	Immune (IIF), type II, pH 2 labile, T, antigen induced, mitogen induced

The committee's recommendations apply at present only to human and murine IFN's, since there is insufficient information about IFN's from other animal species to allow differentiation into types. Workers using IFN's from other species are encouraged either to attempt preliminary classification based on antigenic homology with existing antisera specific for human or mouse α-, β-, or γ-IFN's or to establish sequence homology with the known types of human and mouse interferons.

It is recognized that there may be size, charge, sequence, and other heterogeneities within the designated IFN types. Molecular weight designations may be indicated in parentheses, *e.g.*, Hu IFN-α (18K) or Mu IFN-β (38K), or subtypes of IFN's based on specific amino acid sequence differences can be classified as Hu IFN-α_1, Hu IFN-β_2, etc.

Indication of interferon origin for those that behave antigenically similarly may also be helpful. Thus, interferon from human lymphoblastoid cells and interferon from human leukocytes are both classified antigenically as Hu IFN-α, yet these interferons differ in certain amino acids. Therefore, the nomenclature Hu IFN-α (Ly) or Hu IFN-α (Le) may be used until such time as specific differences in amino acid loci have been established and subtype designations can be assigned. Also, it is now recognized that there are a number of forms of Hu IFN-α that differ in certain amino acids; eventually, these may be designated according to specific amino acids and their locations. Schemes for such designation of subtypes of each of the major IFN types will be developed at subsequent meetings of the Nomenclature Committee. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in April 1981. Suggestions and comments for consideration by the Committee should be forwarded to the Committee's Chairman.

William E. Stewart II (Chairman)[1]
J. Edwin Blalock (Galveston, Texas)
Derek C. Burke (Coventry, England)
Charles Chany (Paris, France)
June K. Dunnick (Bethesda, Md.)
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OPEN MEETING ON DIET, NUTRITION, AND CANCER

The Committee on Diet, Nutrition, and Cancer, within the Assembly of Life Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council, invites all interested individuals and organizations to present material pertinent to the committee's study during an open meeting to be held on November 6, 1980 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the auditorium of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. Oral and/or written presentations as well as relevant published and unpublished documents will be welcome. The committee is especially interested in learning of data that might not be found in the published literature. Ten copies of both written contributions and oral presentations must be submitted by October 13, 1980. Fifty copies should be sent if you wish to have the materials distributed at the meeting. Oral presentations will be limited to 5 minutes each. Correspondence should be addressed to: Dr. Sushma M. Palmer, Project Director of the Study on Diet, Nutrition, and Cancer, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.

MECHANISMS OF CHEMICAL CARCINOGENESIS

A meeting on Mechanisms of Chemical Carcinogenesis will be held from February 22 to March 1, 1981, in Keystone, Colorado. Among the topics to be presented are: pathways and genetics of carcinogen metabolism; quantitation and cellular processing of DNA damage; carcinogen damage to non-DNA targets; DNA repair, cell survival, and mutagenesis; promotion, cocarcinogenesis, and anticarcinogenesis; molecular biology of the genetic apparatus; growth factors for normal, preneoplastic, and malignant cells; and mitogenesis. The deadline for applications is November 14, 1980. For further information, write: ICN-UCLA Symposia, Molecular Biology Institute, University of California, Los Angeles, California 90024.

FOURTH ANNUAL NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AGING

The Fourth Annual National Symposium on Aging will be held at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, San Francisco, California, on November 15 and 16, 1980. Devoted to a review of health care needs of the elderly in California, sessions will center on a description of health care for older people and a review of resources available to meet those needs. The symposium will be structured to contribute to the California State House Conference on Aging. Ultimately, the recommendations of this symposium will be included in the 1981 White House conference. The registration fee is $90.00, and continuing education credit is available. For further information, write to: Continuing Education in Health Sciences, University of California, 24 Kirkham, San Francisco, California 94143.

SYMPOSIUM ON NORMAL AND ABNORMAL GROWTH AND DIFFERENTIATION

An International Symposium on Normal and Abnormal Growth and Differentiation is being organized by the Cancer Research Institute, Bombay, India. The symposium will take place in Bombay from November 22 to 24, 1980; a limited number of observers will be invited to attend. Details may be requested from: Dr. M. G. Deo, Research Director, Cancer Research Institute, Parel, Bombay 400 012, India.

CANCER AND COMMUNICATION

The Third Medical Congress on Psychological Problems Related to Cancer will take place in Marseilles, France, on December 10 and 11, 1980. Sessions will deal with communication as it applies to public opinion, medical centers, the cancer patient's family, and rehabilitation of the cancer patient. Registration for the meeting can be made through the General Secretary: Dr. Robert Fresco, Institut J. Paoli-I. Calmettes, 232, bd. de Sainte Marguerite, 13273 Marseille, Cedex 2, France.

CONTINUING EDUCATION IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

The following Continuing Education meetings are being sponsored by the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

Virology Update. December 4, 1980, Campus Inn, Columbia, Missouri. A clinical update and review of the newer major viral diseases of the dog and cat. The fee is $55.00.

Toxicology in Agricultural Practice. February 1, 1981, Campus Inn, Columbia, Missouri. Focus on diagnostic procedures, management, and preventive aspects of toxicological situations under existing regulations for chemical residues and hazardous wastes. The fee is $55.00.

Soft Tissue Surgery Workshop. February 26 and 27, 1981, at the College. Lectures and laboratory workshops dealing with current soft tissue surgical techniques for small animals. Enrollment is limited. The fee is $270.

Practical Radiography for Technicians. April 11, 1981, at the College. A workshop designed to aid technicians in learning fundamental radiographic techniques and special radiographic procedures for small animals, as well as the consistent production of diagnostic-quality films. Enrollment is limited. The fee is $125.00.

Small Animal Clinical Pharmacology. April 23, 1981, at the College. An intensive course on clinical pharmacology in small animal medicine. Enrollment is limited. The fee is $70.00.

For more information on these meetings, contact: Carol McAllister, Continuing Education Coordinator, 234 Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65211.

SEVENTH LATIN AMERICAN CANCER CONGRESS

The Seventh Latin American Cancer Congress will take place from May 10 to 15, 1981, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. For information, write to: Dr. Charles D. Sherman, Jr., Editor, Cancer Newsletter, 601 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, New York 14642.

SYMPOSIUM ON COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ON LEUKEMIA AND RELATED DISEASES

The Tenth International Symposium on Comparative Research on Leukemia and Related Diseases will be held from August 31 to September 4, 1981, at the University of California, Los Angeles. Direct inquiries to: Dr. David S. Yohn, Secretary General, Suite 357 McCampbell Hall, 1580 Cannon Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HUMAN GENETICS

The Sixth International Congress of Human Genetics will take place in Jerusalem, Israel, from September 13 to 18, 1981. Enquiries for further information should be sent to: The Secretariat, P. O. Box 16271, Tel Aviv, Israel.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE ACTION OF CARCINOGENS ON DNA

A symposium entitled "Relation of Carcinogen Action on DNA to Cell Transformation" will be held at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 18, 1980. The symposium is sponsored by the International Cancer Research Data Bank (ICRDB) program of the National Cancer Institute, and is being planned and coordinated by The Franklin Institute under a contract with the ICRDB. The following topics will be discussed: metabolic activation and macromolecular binding of chemical carcinogens; interaction of herpesviruses and host cells leading to latency or transformation; cellular responses to damaged DNA; and mutagenesis and oncogenic transformation of mouse embryo cells. Attendance is free, but registration in advance of October 17 is required. For further information, contact: Cancer Information Dissemination Analysis Center, % The Franklin Research Center, The Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

SYMPOSIUM ON STRATEGIES FOR CLINICAL CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY

A symposium entitled "Current Optimum Strategies for Clinical Cancer Chemotherapy" will be sponsored by the Chemotherapy Foundation at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel in New York City from October 22 to 24, 1980. In addition to the emphasis on progress in polychemotherapy, an extensive program will include the role of hormonal anabolic and mineral supports and the current status of chemoimmunotherapy in the treatment of neoplastic disease. Registrants will be eligible for AMA Category I credits. Fees are $200 for physicians and $75 for House Staff, Fellows, and other health care professionals. For program and registration forms, write to: Director, The Page and William Black Post-Graduate School of Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, 1 Gustave L. Levy Place, New York, New York 10029.

Cancer Research
The Journal of Cancer Research (1916–1930) | The American Journal of Cancer (1931–1940)

AACR American Association for Cancer Research

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