AACR SPECIAL CONFERENCE IN CANCER RESEARCH

DNA Methylation, Imprinting, and the Epigenetics of Cancer

December 12-16, 1997
El Conquistator Resort and Country Club
Las Croabas, Puerto Rico

CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSONS

Peter A. Jones / Los Angeles, CA
Stephen B. Baylin / Baltimore, MD
Timothy Bestor / Columbia, NY

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Keynote Address
Arthur D. Riggs / Duarte, CA

Tumor Suppressor Genes
Stephen B. Baylin / Baltimore, MD
Curtis C. Harris / Bethesda, MD
Webster K. Cavenee / La Jolla, CA
Susan J. Clark / Sydney, Australia

Methylation Patterns
Timothy Bestor / Columbia, NY
Jean-Pierre Jost / Basel, Switzerland
Samuel H. Speck / St. Louis, MO
Carl W. Schmid / Davis, CA

Mouse Models
Rudolf Jaenisch / Cambridge, MA
Tyler Jacks / Cambridge, MA
William F. Dove / Madison, WI
Steven A. Belinsky / Albuquerque, NM

Imprinting
Denise P. Barlow / Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Andrew P. Feinberg / Baltimore, MD
Monica Peacocke / New York, NY
Anthony E. Reeve / Dunedin, New Zealand

Chromatin Structures
Adrian P. Bird / Edinburgh, Scotland
Alan P. Wolff / Bethesda, MD
Steven Henikoff / Seattle, WA

Mismatch Repair and Methylation
Donald Kohn / Los Angeles, CA
Christoph Lengauer / Baltimore, MD
Jean-Pierre J. Issa / Baltimore, MD

Methylation and Mutation
Joseph Jiricny / Zurich, Switzerland
Gerd P. Pfeifer / Duarte, CA
Peter A. Jones / Los Angeles, CA

Applicants are encouraged to submit abstracts for poster presentation.

Application deadline: September 30, 1997

Information and Application Forms
American Association for Cancer Research
Public Ledger Building, Suite 826
150 South Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483
215-440-9300 215-440-9313 (FAX)
aacr@aacr.org (E-mail)
http://www.aacr.org
AACR SPECIAL CONFERENCE IN CANCER RESEARCH

Molecular Mechanisms of Apoptosis Regulation

January 9-13, 1998
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort
Indian Wells (Palm Springs), CA

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRPERSONS

John C. Reed / La Jolla, CA
Vishva M. Dixit / S. San Francisco, CA

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Douglas R. Green / La Jolla, CA
Guido Kroemer / Villejuif, France
Hermann Steller / Cambridge, MA
David L. Vaux / Melbourne, Australia

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Cell Death Receptors
Vishva M. Dixit / S. San Francisco, CA
Peter H. Krammer / Heidelberg, Germany
Jurg Tschopp / Lausanne, Switzerland
Dale Bredesen / La Jolla, CA

Cell Death Proteases
R. Chris Bleackley / Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Arnold H. Greenberg / Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Guy Salvesen / La Jolla, CA
Yuri Lazebnik / Cold Spring Harbor, NY
Donald W. Nicholson / Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Emad S. Alnemri / Philadelphia, PA
Junying Yuan / Cambridge, MA

Bcl-2 Family Proteins: Mechanisms of Action
Yoshihide Tsujimoto / Osaka, Japan
Stanley J. Korsmeyer / St. Louis, MO
Robin Brown / London, England
John C. Reed / La Jolla, CA
Andreas Strasser / Melbourne, Australia

Stress Responses and Cell Death Control
Richard N. Kolemanick / New York, NY
Yusuf A. Hannun / Durham, NC
Eileen P. White / Piscataway, NJ
Michael E. Greenberg / Boston, MA

Genetics of Cell Death Regulation: New Insights into the Cell Death Pathway
Hermann Steller / Cambridge, MA
Michael O. Hengartner / Cold Spring Harbor, NY
John M. Abrams / Dallas, TX

IAP Family Proteins
David L. Vaux / Melbourne, Australia
Alex Mackenzie / Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Lois K. Miller / Athens, GA

Mitochondria, Cytochrome C, and Cell Death
Guido Kroemer / Villejuif, France
Xiaodong Wang / Dallas, TX
Douglas R. Green / La Jolla, CA

Application Deadline: October 20, 1997

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University of Minnesota Cancer Center and the
College of Pharmacy
Assistant Professor, Medicinal Chemistry

The University of Minnesota Cancer Center and the College of Pharmacy announce a new Assistant Professor fixed term annually renewable position. Essential qualifications include a doctoral degree in bio-organic, organic or medicinal chemistry and a minimum 2 years postdoctoral experience in at least one of those areas. The successful applicant will develop an independently funded research program in mechanistic aspects of carcinogenesis; within 3 years the person in this position is expected to generate a portion of his/her salary. Appropriate research areas could include, but are not limited to, cancer chemoprevention, carcinogen activation/detoxification, mechanisms of DNA adduction and repair, and signal transduction mechanisms. Additionally, the applicant will participate in the Medicinal Chemistry graduate program and teach in the College of Pharmacy professional program.

Interested individuals should submit a curriculum vitae, a summary of long term research goals and the names and addresses of three references to Stephen S. Hecht, PhD, Search Committee Chair, University of Minnesota Cancer Center, Box 806 Mayo, 420 Delaware Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455 ATTN: Cindy Prange. All applications must be postmarked by October 31, 1997.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

GENOTYPING RESOURCE AVAILABLE

The National Institutes of Health announces to all interested investigators the availability of resources and facilities for high throughput genotyping at the Center for Inherited Disease Research (CIDR). CIDR is a joint effort by eight participating institutes at NIH: the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). The NHGRI serves as the lead agency and manager of the CIDR facility which is housed at the Bayview Campus of Johns Hopkins University.

CIDR has been established as a resource to provide, on a fee for service basis, high throughput genotyping services to research efforts that are attempting to identify genetic loci and allelic variants involved in multifactorial disease. Using samples provided by the principal investigators, a variety of different mapping approaches will be supported, including human disease affected pedigree member methods, transmission disequilibrium testing, and linkage analysis in pedigrees. Consultation on study design and statistical analysis are available as additional services to investigators. The data and analyses will remain the property of the principal investigator and, once the studies in CIDR are complete, will be returned to the principal investigators for further research.

Access to CIDR is open to all investigators on a competitive basis. This includes both extramural and NIH intramural investigators. A more complete description of CIDR is available at the NHGRI homepage on the World Wide Web at http://www.nhgri.nih.gov/DIR/CIDR. If you are interested in using the services and facilities of CIDR or if you would like additional information, contact Dr. Jerry Roberts, Scientific Review Administrator and Chief of Staff, CIDR Board of Governors, in the NHGRI Office of Scientific Review.

Jerry Roberts, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health
National Human Genome
Research Institute
38 Library Drive MSC 6050
Building 38A, Room 609
Bethesda, MD 20892-6050
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robertsj@odder.nhgri.nih.gov
Angiogenesis and Cancer

January 24-28, 1998
Hyatt Orlando
Orlando, FL

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Judah Folkman / Boston, MA
Michael Klagsbrun / Boston, MA

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Keynote Address
Nicole Le Douarin / Nogent sur Marne, France

Blood Vessels and Development
Patricia D'Amore / Boston, MA
Donald E. Ingber / Boston, MA
Jeffrey M. Isner / Boston, MA

Mechanisms of Vasculogenesis and Angiogenesis
Werner Risau / Bad Nauheim, Germany
Peter Carmeliet / Leuven, Belgium
Douglas Hanahan / San Francisco, CA

VEGF and VEGF Receptors
Karl K. Alitalo / Helsinki, Finland
Harold F. Dvorak / Boston, MA
Napoleone Ferrara / S. San Francisco, CA
Kenneth A. Thomas / West Point, PA

Angiopoietin and Tie Receptors
George D. Yancopoulos / Tarrytown, NY
Bjorn R. Olsen / Boston, MA

Tumor Angiogenesis and Metastasis
Rakesh K. Jain / Boston, MA
Robert S. Kerbel / Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Isaiah J. Fidler / Houston, TX
Ann F. Chambers / London, Ontario, Canada

Inhibitors of Angiogenesis
Luisa Irusta-Ariaspe / Boston, MA
Noil Boucek / Chicago, IL
David A. Cheresh / La Jolla, CA

Clinical Applications
Noel Weinberg / San Francisco, CA
Judah Folkman / Boston, MA

Additional Speakers to be Announced

Application Deadline: October 13, 1997

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1998 GERTRUDE B. ELION CANCER RESEARCH AWARD

Supported by an Educational Grant from
Glaxo Wellcome Oncology

- This Award was established in honor of Nobel Laureate Dr. Gertrude B. Elion, Scientist Emeritus at Glaxo Wellcome Co. and Past President and Honorary Member of the AACR.

- The Gertrude B. Elion Cancer Research Award is a one-year, $30,000 grant for a scientist in the U.S. or Canada engaged in meritorious basic, clinical, or translational research in cancer etiology, diagnosis, treatment, or prevention at the level of Assistant Professor (not yet tenured).

- The AACR will reimburse the Awardee for travel to the 1998 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, L.A., where Dr. Elion will personally present this Award.

Eligibility

Candidates must have completed postdoctoral studies or clinical fellowships not later than July 1 of the Award year, and ordinarily not more than five years earlier. Tenured faculty in academia, federal government employees, and employees of private industry are not eligible for this award. A Candidate need not be a member of the AACR at the time of application, but must be nominated by a Member of the AACR. Associate Members may not be nominators.

Selection Process/Application Deadline

Applications are evaluated by a Committee consisting of AACR Members who are experts in basic, clinical, and translational cancer research. Complete applications must be submitted by December 15, 1997, to be considered for the 1998 Award.

For Further Information/Application Forms

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH
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Corporate- and AACR-sponsored Young Investigator Awards are offered in support of travel to the AACR Annual Meeting by medical and graduate students, physicians-in-training, and postdoctoral fellows who are presenters of abstracts that have been highly rated by the Program Committee. The AACR-sponsored awards include the third AACR Gerald B. Grinley Memorial Young Investigator Award for a young scientist submitting an abstract in the field of preclinical science. Application for these awards is made on the Abstract Submission Form.

A new program of Young Investigator Awards for scientists from Asia will be inaugurated in 1998. Sponsored by ITO EN, Ltd., these additional new awards are for scientists-in-training (see above) who are presenters of highly rated abstracts and who will be traveling to the Annual Meeting from Asia. Apply as above.

Please note that the submission of an abstract by the deadline is absolutely required to be considered for the awards described above.

AACR Minority Scholar Awards are offered to the Annual Meeting and AACR Special Conferences through the Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Those eligible for these awards are graduate and medical students, physicians-in-training, and postdoctoral students from minority groups considered underrepresented in cancer research by the NCI, i.e., African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Native Pacific Islanders, and Alaskan Americans. Please call the AACR for an application form.

Women In Cancer Research sponsors the WICR Brigid G. Leventhal Scholar Awards for graduate and medical students, physicians-in-training, and postdoctoral fellows who have submitted an abstract as presenting author for the AACR Annual Meeting. Application deadline: November 28, 1997. Call the AACR for application information.

Young Investigator Awards are also available for a limited number of young scientists attending each of the AACR's Special Conferences. For details, consult the conference brochure for each meeting, available on request from the AACR office.

Young scientists may also wish to obtain information about other relevant AACR programs including Associate Membership, research fellowships, the Employment Register, Mentorship Program for young minority investigators, and educational programs at the Annual Meeting and throughout the year. For more information, please contact:

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Paul Talalay’s lifelong interest in the cancer problem began more than 50 years ago when he was a medical student at The University of Chicago and had the good fortune to work in the laboratory of Charles B. Huggins – an association that continued for nearly 20 years. Dr. Huggins’ discovery of the dramatic effects of antiandrogenic therapy on prostate cancer was generating great excitement, ushering in the hormonal treatment of human cancer. Assessment of treatment efficacy depended on serum phosphatase measurements by then cumbersome methods. Following Dr. Huggins’ suggestion, Dr. Talalay devised a phosphatase method depending on release of red phenolphthalein from its colorless phosphate ester. This first example of an analytical technique involving “chromogenic” substrates, their use now being commonplace, led Dr. Talalay to appreciate the importance of innovative, quantitative analytical techniques, which continues to be a guiding principle in his research.

As a young faculty member at Chicago, Dr. Talalay became fascinated by the effects of steroid hormones on cancer. He reasoned that detailed studies of steroid metabolizing enzymes might shed light on the extraordinary biological specificity and high potency of steroids. In the 1950s, the chemistry of steroid hormones and their urinary metabolites was well advanced, yet no single enzyme of steroid metabolism had been characterized. From a soil microorganism (Pseudomonas testosteroni) that oxidized testosterone completely, he isolated, characterized, and crystallized a plethora of steroid transforming enzymes and proposed a systematic classification: hydroxysteroid dehydrogenases, hydroxylases, double bond reducing and double bond introducing enzymes, and isomerases. He demonstrated their exquisite steric and positional specificities and utilized these properties of hydroxysteroid dehydrogenases to develop highly specific, extremely sensitive methods for analyzing steroid hormones and their metabolites in tissues and body fluids.

Although later Dr. Talalay shifted his research emphasis from steroid enzymology to chemoprotection against cancer, he continued to study Δ²-3-ketosteroid isomerase, which he discovered in 1955. This enzyme promotes an enormously rapid double bond isomerization by a stereospecific, conservative intramolecular proton transfer. Of intense interest because it participates in an essential step in steroid biosynthesis, and also because of its fascinating mechanism, the enzyme was purified, crystallized, sequenced, and cloned in Dr. Talalay’s laboratory. The intimate mechanistic details of the intramolecular proton transfer catalyzed by this enzyme are better understood than for any other enzyme.

In the late 1970s, convinced that chemoprotection was a realistic and important strategy in the battle against cancer, Dr. Talalay began his pioneering studies toward that goal. Following the lead of Lee W. Wattenberg, he showed in collaboration with E. Bueding that the cancer-blocking effects of phenolic antioxidants BHA and BHT, widely used as food preservatives, could be attributed to their ability to produce massive inductions of glutathione transferases and other Phase 2 enzymes in animal tissues. He marshaled evidence that these inductions were responsible for the protective effects, and examined the molecular mechanisms, chemical specificity, and classes of enzymes involved in these inducer responses. This concept became the central strategy of his research on chemoprotection.

These studies evolved in three directions: (a) Development, with H. Prochaska, of a simple microtiter plate assay for the detection and quantitation of Phase 2 enzyme inducers, a method that facilitates identifying chemoprotectors, measuring their potency, and uncovering their mode of action. (b) Elucidation of the chemical specificity of inducers: nearly all were shown to be electrophiles, and many were Michael reaction acceptors (olefins or acetylenes conjugated to electron-withdrawing groups). These generalizations brought order into the seemingly random and highly diversified chemistry of inducers and permitted prediction of inducer activity based solely on structural considerations. (c) Determination of the variety of enzymes that comprise the Phase 2 inducer response. Thus, Dr. Talalay was the first to demonstrate that NAD(P)H:quinone reductase (also known as DT diaphorase) was a Phase 2 enzyme that protects against carcinogenesis. He further showed (with T. Prestera) that the potencies of a wide variety of chemical inducers of quinone reductase correlated quantitatively with their potencies in stimulating the expression of a reporter gene linked to the Electrophile (Antioxidant) Response Element.

More recently, Dr. Talalay has focused on identifying Phase 2 enzyme inducers in vegetables. By application of the inducer test to extracts of edible plants, he showed that crucifers, especially broccoli, contained abundant inducer activity. In collaboration with G. Posner and Y. Zhang, he showed that sulforaphane, a unique isothiocyanate, was largely responsible for the highly potent anticarcinogenic activity. This work attracted widespread attention in the scientific community and also popular press. In his capacity as President George Bush publicly and repeatedly proclaimed his aversion to broccoli. Despite this poor endorsement, the implications for dietary protection against cancer prompted Dr. Talalay to establish the Brassica Chemoprotection Laboratory at Johns Hopkins specifically to develop edible plants rich in anticarcinogenic inducer activities. In collaboration with J. W. Fahey, he is actively engaged in these studies at the present time.

Dr. Talalay obtained the M.D. degree from Yale, trained in surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and then joined the faculty of The University of Chicago as a founding member of the Ben May Laboratory for Cancer Research, and later became Professor of Biochemistry and Medicine there. In 1958, he was awarded a lifetime professorship of the American Cancer Society. From 1963 to 1975, he was the John Jacob Abel Professor and Director of the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and is now John Jacob Abel Distinguished Service Professor. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, as well as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Talalay has been a member of the American Association for Cancer Research since 1985, serving the Association in several capacities. He sat on the Publications Committee from 1986–89 and on the Nominating Committee from 1987–89. In addition, he participated in the Special Focus Group for Long-Range Planning in 1986–87. He has also been a dedicated member of the Editorial Board of Cancer Research, serving as an Associate Editor from 1987 to the present.

Sidney Weinhouse