



EOSINOPHIL NEWS

Message from the President



Dear Eosinophil Researchers, Eosinophilosophers and Eosinophiles,

Happy New Year and welcome to the 2nd issue of “Eosinophil News”, the International Eosinophil Society’s newsletter. The global economic crisis clearly made 2008 a challenging year for all! Besides financial institutions, the automotive industry in the US, and individual losses on investments and retirement funds, granting agencies such as the NIH have also been hit hard with delayed and flat-funded budgets that continue to lag far behind inflation. Budget cuts and hiring freezes have also hit academic institutions, and graduate and research programs have begun to shrink in response to shrinking research dollars, negatively impacting our ability to do research at all levels, including the eosinophil field. Consequently, we have all had to think of creative and novel ways to

fund eosinophil research during these challenging times. Hopefully the “regime change” in the US bodes well for renewed and vigorous support of science and research, but we may still be in for a few lean years until the economy begins to improve. Nevertheless, the goddess Eos and its namesake the eosinophil, are on the rise again for 2009, with reports of successful trials of anti-IL-5 in the hypereosinophilic syndrome and in “eosinophilic” asthma. Importantly, recent studies have demonstrated that T-cell recruitment to the airways and the development of Th2 cytokine responses in allergen-induced pulmonary inflammation is dependent on eosinophils (Jacobsen et al. *J Exp Med* 2008; 205:699)! To quote one of our IES executive committee members and senior author of this work – Jamie Lee – “who’s your daddy now T cells”! With this and other recent advances in our understanding of eosinophil cell, molecular and immunobiology, and renewed interest in the eosinophil as an important link between innate and adaptive immunity in allergic inflammation and host immune responses, Drs. Florence Roufosse, Michel Goldman and Monique Capron are actively organizing “Eosinophil 2009”, the upcoming 6th Biennial International Eosinophil Symposium, to be held July 7-11, 2009 in the beautiful city of Bruges, Belgium, the “Venice of Northern Europe.” We hope that you, your colleagues and families will all plan to join us for an outstanding scientific program in this superlative venue – the 2nd announcement will be e-mailed later this month to the IES membership. Meeting details are already available on the IES website (www.eosinophil-society.org), and the conference website for online registration will be available by the end of the month (www.iessymposium2009.be).

Needless to say, we are excited that the eosinophil is again taking center stage in allergic diseases research. This is clearly an exciting time to be part of the eosinophil research community! As President and Treasurer of the IES, I sincerely hope that you will support the continuing efforts of the IES by submitting abstracts and joining us in Bruges in early July for what has shaped up to be an outstanding scientific, networking and social program for our biennial international symposium.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Ackerman, Ph.D.
IES President and Treasurer



IES NEWS

6th Biannual symposium is coming!

The 6th biennial symposium of the IES will be held in Bruges, Belgium, from July 7th to July 11th, immediately followed by the Hyper~~eosinophilic~~ Syndrome Workshop on July 12th 2009.



Previous meetings have proven that excellent science can be conducted on the ~~eosinophil~~, drawing together scientists and physicians who have chosen to commit themselves to giving this cell the importance it deserves. The convivial meeting atmosphere has contributed to the development of successful partnerships, which have further accelerated our understanding of ~~eosinophil~~ biology. A turning point was reached during the most recent 2007 meeting in Snowbird, as novel and unpredicted roles for the ~~eosinophil~~ emerged. For the 6th biennial meeting, the scientific program has been broadened to follow-up on these fascinating discoveries. The ~~eosinophil~~ will be positioned at the center of three and a half days of stimulating presentations, highlighting its role in innate and adaptive immune responses in the setting of infections, allergic diseases, and malignancy, and its ability to communicate with other actors of the immune system. We will also hear what novel mediators and

other cell-types have to say for themselves concerning their roles in ~~eosinophil~~-associated inflammation. Cutting-edge results of clinical trials using ~~eosinophil~~-targeted therapy will be shared, and interesting new means for therapeutic intervention will be presented.

What's more, we have concocted a very Belgian social program, which should delight congress attendants and accompanying family members. A cocktail will be organized in the historical city center, at the sumptuous Bruges Town Hall. A paddle steamer will take you to the nearby town Damme, where you will be welcomed with a typical Brueghelian feast so that you can discover a variety of tasty Belgian specialties. We will end with a dinner party in the modern Concertgebouw, built in 2002 to celebrate Bruges's year as a cultural capital of Europe. Besides these programmed opportunities to sample both ancient and modern Belgian architecture and atmospheres, you will also have one evening on your own, so that you can dine in the smaller taverns which have so much charm. Free time has also been included within the symposium program so that you can lose yourself in Bruges or in the nearby countryside... which is a must.





Bruges is indeed a beautiful medieval city in the Flemish (Dutch)-speaking part of Belgium, which is known as “Venice of the North” because of its numerous canals. Although a small country, Belgium is reputed worldwide for its chocolate and its multitude of traditionally brewed beers, and Bruges offers many opportunities to sample both. Other specialties include tapestries and Belgian lace, mussels, French-fries, and meat stews marinated in beer. Attractions within Bruges itself include the beautifully conserved and enchanting Begijnhof, founded in 1245, boat-tours on the canals, and horse-drawn carriages cantering noisily along cobble streets. Medieval Flemish paintings by celebrated artists such as Jan van Eyck, Jan Provoost, Hans Memling, and Hieronymus Bosch can be admired in several museums; as well as tapestries woven in Bruges and Brussels in the 16th century. You may also want to take a walk in the nearby Zwin nature reserve, or along an endless tree-lined canal draped with a thin layer of mist that makes the mind wander. The Belgian coast is just kilometers away, and if you’re around at low-tide, you may be lucky and witness traditional shrimp-fishing using nets pulled by horses that weigh more than a ton. Finally, it just so happens that the meeting coincides with the amusing cactus festival in Bruges, an “alternative” music festival featuring both domestic and foreign artists in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Excellent science, conviviality, beauty, culture, and leisure: we certainly have the ingredients for a very successful symposium, and are hoping for excellent attendance to make it real.

Florence Roufosse, Monique Capron, and Michel Goldman.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

6TH BIENNIAL IES SYMPOSIUM

July 7-11, 2009

Bruges, Belgium



Post-meeting clinical workshop: Sunday, July 12
“Targeted Therapy for Hypereosinophilic Syndromes”

Semiannual Newsletter has begun.

The Eosinophil News is seeking contributors. Whether you are interested in writing a recurring column or a one-time piece, have an idea for new content, or information about a newsworthy item, we would like to hear from you. Pictures are always appreciated. Contact Amy Klion at aklion@nih.gov.



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Neves JS et al. Eosinophil granules function extracellularly as receptor-mediated secretory organelles. *Proc Natl Acad Sci* 2008; 105:18478.

Pecaric-Petkovic T et al. Human basophils and eosinophils are the direct target leucocytes of the novel IL-1-family member IL-33. *Blood* 2008; Oct 27.

Muessel MJ et al. CCL11 and GM-CSF differentially use the Rho GTPase pathway to regulate motility of human eosinophils in a three-dimensional environment. *J Immunol* 2008 180:8354.

Yousefi S et al. Catapult-like release of mitochondrial DNA by eosinophils contributes to antibacterial defense. *Nat Med* 2008 14:949.

Bedi R et al. Human C/EBP{epsilon} activator and repressor isoforms differentially reprogram myeloid lineage commitment and differentiation. *Blood* 2008 Oct 2

Mori Y et al. Identification of the human eosinophil lineage-committed progenitor: revision of phenotypic definition of the human common myeloid progenitor. *J Exp Med* 2008 December 29

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Jan Lötvall, MD, Professor and Head of the Department of Internal medicine at Göteborg University, Sweden was elected President-Elect of the EAACI.



Redwan Moqbel, Ph.D., has been appointed Head of the Department of Immunology at the University of Manitoba, Canada.

Calendar

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Annual Meeting

March 13-17, 2009

Washington, DC

www.aaaai.org

British Society of Hematology Annual Meeting

April 27-29, 2009

Brighton, UK

www.b-s-h.org.uk

American Thoracic Society Annual Meeting

May 15-20, 2009

San Diego, CA

www.thoracic.org

FOCIS 2009

June 11-15, 2009

San Francisco, CA

www.focisnet.org

6th Biannual International Eosinophil Society Symposium and Post-meeting Workshop

July 7-12, 2009

Bruges, Belgium

www.eosinophil-society.org



EOSINOPHIL RESOURCES

WEBSITES:

Office of Rare Diseases, NIH
<http://rarediseases.info.nih.gov>

Diagnostics Development
<http://www.diagnosticsdevelopment.com>

Cincinnati Center for Eosinophilic Disorders
www.cchmc.org/cced

The International Gastrointestinal Eosinophil Re-
searchers (TIGERS)
<http://tiger-egid.cdhnf.org>

PATIENT SUPPORT GROUPS:
American Partnership for
Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED)
www.apfed.org

Churg Strauss Syndrome Association (CSSA)
www.cssassociation.org

CLINICAL LISTSERV:
<https://list.nih.gov> (list name HES)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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2009 Biannual meeting:
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2009 Post-meeting Clinical Workshop:
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For comments/question about this newsletter,
please contact Amy Klion at aklion@nih.gov