



EOSINOPHIL NEWS

Message from the President



Dear Eosinophil Researchers, Eosinophilosophers and Eosinophiles,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the International Eosinophil Society's newsletter, a quarterly publication of the IES being developed and edited by Dr. Amy Kliion. The goddess Eos and her namesake the eosinophil are on the rise again as we begin the process of formalizing the IES and membership in the society, and organize the next (6th) International Eosinophil Symposium, to be held July 8-11, 2009. "Eosinophil 2009," being organized by Drs. Florence Roufousse, Michel Goldman and Monique Capron, will be held in the beautiful city of Brugge, 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 a superlative venue - the 1st announcement will be emailed soon.

The Executive Council of the IES met on March 16, 2008 in Philadelphia during the annual AAAAI meeting and approved the adoption of an IES Constitution and By-Laws and the formalization of the IES from a "virtual" electronic organization to an incorporated society with a dues-paying membership. We are in the process of updating the IES website and will be issuing a formal call for membership applications and payment of annual dues in the coming months. The benefits of membership in the IES are planned to include voting rights, reduced meeting registration fees, on-line access to literature and data, methods and protocols, slides from talks at the biennial symposia and clinical HES workshops, library of eosinophil-associated disease histopathology, and receipt of this quarterly newsletter and other information (see below for details).

Needless to say, we are excited that the eosinophil is beginning to take center stage again in allergic diseases research with recent definitive reports in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine* that allergic pulmonary inflammation (in mice) is dependent on eosinophil-mediated recruitment of effector T cells, and with recent successes in the use of anti-IL5 in patients with the hypereosinophilic syndrome (published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*), and in asthmatic subjects with pre-defined airway eosinophilia (reported at the recent AAAAI meeting and in press). As well, the eosinophil has been in the news lately with front-page coverage in the *Wall Street Journal* of fund-raising efforts at the Highland Park High School in Illinois on behalf of the Campaign Urging Research on Eosinophilic Diseases (CURED), which netted approximately \$500,000 for research on eosinophilic esophagitis and other eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, a remarkable fund-raising success. As well, through the successful lobbying efforts of the American Partnership for Eosinophilic Diseases (APFED), passage last year of Resolution 296 sponsored by Rep. John B. Larson (Connecticut) in the US House of Representatives established the third week of May as annual "National Eosinophil Awareness Week" in the United States!

This is clearly an exciting time to be part of the eosinophil research community! As President of the IES, I sincerely hope that you will support the continuing efforts of the IES by formally becoming members. I welcome you to "The Eosinophil News" and encourage you to contribute, whether through authoring a column or article, suggesting ideas for novel content, or providing newsworthy items of interest to the eosinophil community!

Sincerely,

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



IES NEWS

5th Biannual symposium a resounding success

Hosted by IES Past-President Gerald Gleich, Jamie Lee and Steve Ackerman, the 5th biannual IES Symposium in Snowbird, Utah attracted more than 175 participants from 3 continents and 64 submitted abstracts. Sixty-seven invited speakers (40% of whom were new to IES conferences) presented state-of-the-art overviews and research talks or participated in comedic, but informative, Pro-Con debates. Ten junior investigators received \$500 travel grants for their outstanding presentations. Highlights of the meeting included the 2nd Ehrlich Symposium on “The discovery of IL-5 and the development of anti-IL5 therapeutics”, at which Drs. Colin Sanderson and Kiyoshi Takatsu were honored for their roles in the discovery of IL5, and a joint session with the Intermountain West Allergy Association (IWAA) on “The pathophysiology of eosinophil-associated allergic diseases.”



The 3rd biannual pre-IES symposium clinical workshop brought together more than 40 physicians and scientists with clinical interests for 1 1/2 days to discuss the “Development of a multicenter, international collaborative network for the study of rare eosinophil-mediated disorders.” Finally, the annual patient education and advocacy meeting of the The American Partnership for Eosinophilic Diseases (APFED) was held concurrently with the IES symposium adding to the eosinophil mania in Snowbird.

Steve Ackerman

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

6TH BIANNUAL IES SYMPOSIUM

July 8-11, 2009

Bruges, Belgium



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

Semiannual Newsletter planned

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

Rothenberg, ME et al. Treatment of patients with the hypereosinophilic syndrome with mepolizumab. *New Engl J Med* 2008; 358:1215-1228.

Goplen et al. A phosphosite screen identifies autocrine TGF- β -driven activation of protein kinase R as a survival-limiting factor for eosinophils. *J Immunol* 2008. 180:4256-64.

Munitz, A et al. A dual activation and inhibition role for the paired immunoglobulin-like receptor B (PIR-B) in eosinophils. *Blood* 2008.

Jacobsen EA et al. Allergic pulmonary inflammation in mice is dependent on eosinophil-induced recruitment of effector T cells. *J Exp Med* 2008; 205:699-710.

Wehling-Henricks, M et al. Major basic protein-1 promotes fibrosis of dystrophic muscle and attenuates the cellular response in muscular dystrophy. *Hum Mol Genet* 2008 [Epub ahead of print]

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Gerald Gleich, M.D., Professor of Dermatology and Medicine, University of Utah Health Sciences Center delivered The Jerry Dolovich Lecture at the 2008 meeting of the AAAAI.



Seema Aceves, M.D., Ph.D., adjunct assistant professor in pediatrics at the University of California San Diego, is the first recipient of the \$25,000 APFED HOPE Junior Faculty award for her research on tissue remodeling in pediatric eosinophilic esophagitis.

EOSINOPHIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2008 AAAAI MEETING

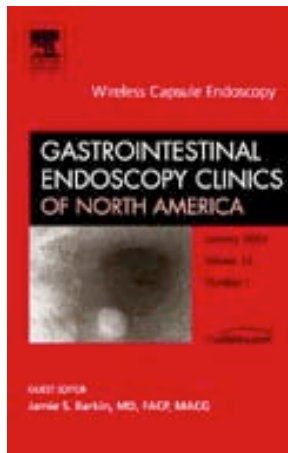
The annual meeting of the AAAAI in Philadelphia was full of interesting presentations for the eosinophile including a full day of eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases at the 2nd annual International Gastrointestinal Eosinophil Research Symposium (TIGERS), several eosinophil-related symposia including one on anti-IL5 therapy moderated by Jerry Gleich, poster sessions, and oral abstracts. Nives Zimmerman offers her summary of two exciting research presentations from the meeting:

Lisa Spencer, Ph.D., from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, presented her work demonstrating that human eosinophils express functional Notch ligands. Notch signaling is an evolutionary conserved pathway initially identified for its role in cell-to-cell communication dictating cell fate decisions during development. Recent studies have implicated Notch signaling in the function of mature cells; however, the role in eosinophils has not been investigated. In this study, Dr. Spencer demonstrated expression of Jagged and Delta members of the Notch ligand family, as well as their regulation by GM-CSF in human eosinophils. Furthermore, activation of Notch signaling enhanced functional outcomes, including GM-CSF-mediated cell shape. Thus, this represents a novel pathway for altering eosinophil function by cell-to-cell signaling that may have functional consequences in eosinophil-associated disease processes.

Elizabeth Jacobsen, Ph.D. from the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, presented her work on the regulatory function of eosinophils in T cell responses. In previous studies, the Lee lab had shown that eosinophil-deficient (PHIL) mice have reduced airway levels of Th2 cytokines compared following ovalbumin sensitization and challenge. In this study, Dr Jacobsen showed that adoptive transfer of Th2-polarized OVA-specific T cells and eosinophils, but not adoptive transfer of T cells alone, into OVA-challenged PHIL recipient mice resulted in the accumulation of effector T cells and a concomitant increase in both airway Th2 immune responses and airway pathology. Furthermore, the authors showed that eosinophils elicit the expression of the Th2 chemokines TARC/CCL17 and MDC/CCL22 in the lung after allergen challenge, suggesting that pulmonary eosinophils are required for the localized recruitment of effector T cells.



BOOK REVIEW



Eosinophilic Gastroenteritis. Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Clinics of North America. Volume 18, Number 1, January 2008. Guest Editor: Glenn Furuta, MD.

Over the past 10 years, the rate of PubMed citations for “eosinophilic esophagitis” has increased 50-fold. This explosion of clinical and basic science research has left many scrambling on how to keep up with the field. To address this, Glenn Furuta has edited the above monograph, creating a timely and comprehensive state-of-the-art review of eosinophilic esophagitis. This slender 200 page volume includes 16 chapters covering a wide array of topics, including epidemiology, clinical presentation, pathophysiology, and disease management. The authors have contributed concise well focused chapters, allowing the reader to quickly gain expertise in a specific area. This volume will be of value for both novices as well as experts looking to broaden their understanding of this dynamic clinical entity.

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Calendar

**American Thoracic Society
International Conference**

May 16-21, 2008

Ontario Canada

www.thoracic.org**National Eosinophil Awareness
Week**

May 12-18, 2008

XXVII EAACI Congress

June 7-11, 2008

Barcelona, Spain

www.bsaci.org**FOCIS 2008**

June 5-9, 2008

Boston, Massachusetts

www.bsaci.org**British Society of Allergy and
Clinical Immunology**

July 14-16, 2008

Loughborough, UK

www.bsaci.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)

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For comments/question about this newsletter,
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