



EOSINOPHIL NEWS

Message from the President



Hello and Welcome to Everyone Interested in All Things Eosinophil!

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year with great expectations for 2011 and all that it will bring to each of our lives. The time since our last biennial meeting in Bruges, Belgium, has come and gone quickly with changes/events that have had significant effects on eosinophil research and the very character of the International Eosinophil Society. Some things are noticeable to all: ***Eosinophil research is as viable and robust as it ever has been!!*** Indeed, the pace and scope of studies has been at times bewildering with studies in the clinical arena as well as basic research activities detailing new and novel aspects of eosinophil biology. For example, the often complex and tenuous link between eosinophils and asthma was made significantly more

clear by back to back clinical studies in *The New England Journal of Medicine* demonstrating in sufficiently powered studies the utility of mepolizumab (i.e., anti-IL-5 approaches) as a therapeutic option in the treatment of asthma patients (Haldar, P., et al., (2009) *N Engl J Med* 360, 973-984; Nair, P. et al., (2009) *N Engl J Med* 360, 985-993). These productive clinical studies have not been limited to asthma as our colleagues studying gastrointestinal diseases continued to explore and detail the involvement of eosinophils in these diseases (see for example Straumann, A., et al., (2010) *Gut* 59, 21-30). Basic research studies investigating the roles of eosinophils in health and disease have been equally productive and have refused to “take a back seat” regarding their importance. In particular, two eosinophil research studies were so significant as to adorn the cover of Nature Publishing Group Journals since our last meeting (Yousefi, S., et al., (2008) *Nat Med* 14, 949-953; Chu, V.T., et al., (2011) *Nat Immunol* 12, 151-159). Moreover, studies by Redwan Moqbel and Peter Weller demonstrating a functional, and yet an autonomous role for released eosinophil granules, were a remarkable advancement in our understanding of potential eosinophil effector functions (Neves, J.S., et al., (2008) *Proc Nat Acad Sci* 105, 18478-18483). The community has also begun to see a paradigm shift in our understanding of eosinophils and eosinophil activities (Lee, J.J., et al., (2010) *Clin Exp Allergy* 40, 563-575). No longer are these cells simply destructive end-stage effector cells working like drones in service of other “more important” leukocytes as part of host defense. Instead, studies like Judy Appleton and colleagues (Fabre, V., et al., (2009) *J Immunol* 182, 1577-1583) have opened up new areas of research and thought, implicating eosinophils as regulators of tissue immunity even as part of “host defense.”

Some of the changes to the International Eosinophil Society, Inc. have also been subtle and behind the scenes but no less important. During the past year **WE BECAME AN OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED SOCIETY!!** As we move toward our meeting this year in June you probably have begun to see and will continue to see the changes that are now occurring. We are working on our website (www.eosinophil-society.org) to make it more informative and useful (e.g., incorporation of resource pages). Registration for this year's meeting will be more like other larger conferences that you all have been to with a functional registration site and link to the scientific program for the 2011 meeting in Quebec City. The effort and planning towards this year's meeting by the 2011 Chair of the Meeting's Scientific Program, Dr. Helene Rosenberg, has been simply outstanding. The meeting title for the 7th Biennial International Eosinophil Symposium is **“Eosinophils 2011: Forever Young,”** reflecting a new spirit and enthusiasm that Dr. Rosenberg has brought to the process. Look for novel minisymposia and venues such as new awards and prizes for contributions to eosinophil research at this year's meeting. In addition, I am pleased to announce that the 2011 Paul Ehrlich award for lifetime achievement towards a greater understanding of eosinophil biology was awarded to Dr. Timothy Williams. In summary, the meeting is shaping up to be an outstanding forum with an emphasis on the present and an eye toward our future. This is a unique opportunity for trainees and junior faculty to participate and for investigators outside the eosinophil community to develop synergy with established eosinophil biologists. A must attend event!!


James J. Lee, PhD
President



The IES - A Short History

by Jerry Gleich, MD

The International Eosinophil Society, Inc. is now a robust organization with a constitution, an excellent organizational structure, a committed executive group and an interactive membership. All of us are eagerly anticipating our next meeting in Québec City, Canada to learn more about the eosinophil but also for the camaraderie and interactions with our colleagues.

Our Society evolved rather gradually until it crystallized at a 1999 meeting in Lund, Sweden. The Society's evolution paralleled increasing interest in the eosinophil, its functions and its role in physiology and disease. A search on "eosinophils" going back 100

years indicates that the numbers of citations increased from an average of approximately two per year from 1911 until 1940 to over 6,000 per year from 1996-2010 (a graph of the number of citations per five years is shown in the figure). As interest in the eosinophil increased, a series of meetings occurred with the eosinophil as the central focus. A meeting at Brook Lodge, Michigan, in 1981 commemorated the 100th anniversary of the eosinophil's discovery by Paul Ehrlich (at least approximately, because Ehrlich likely discovered the eosinophil in 1879). This was followed by a meeting in Japan, also in 1981, on the immunobiology of the eosinophil, and other meetings in Switzerland and Brazil, to mention a few.

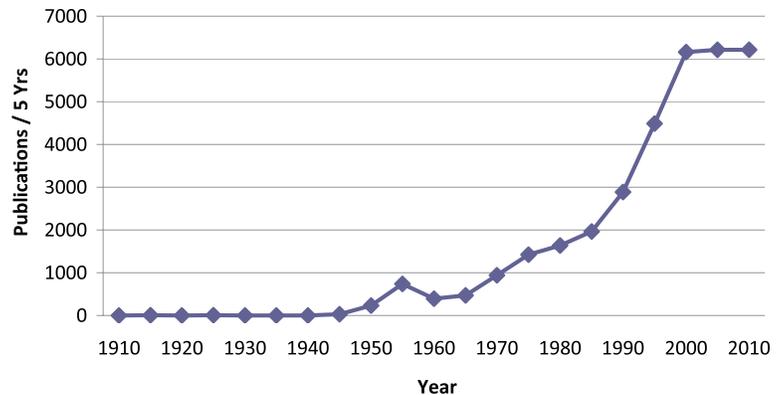
However, it was not until 1999, at a meeting in Lund, Sweden, that Per Venge assembled a group of eosinophiles to initiate a new society, the International Eosinophil Society.

The first executive committee included Per Venge as the president, Steven Ackerman, Judah Denburg, Paul Foster, Francesca Levi-Schaffer, Redwan Moqbel, Kiyoshi Takatsu and Tim Williams. However, the progress of the Society was not smooth. Redwan Moqbel and Peter Weller struggled and succeeded to obtain support for the first meeting in Banff, Alberta, in 2001, and, at the last minute, one poster session was canceled because of insufficient funds. Moreover, the meeting tone was grim because of a recent publication implying that the eosinophil was not an important effector cell in asthma.

Redwan Moqbel, as the president and Steven Ackerman took responsibility for the second meeting in 2003 at Snowmass, Colorado, a much more upbeat meeting entitled "Eosinophil (re Phoenix) Rising," and Amy Klion organized a pre-meeting on eosinophil-associated disease. These pre-meetings are now a staple of the overall meeting, and the interactions among clinicians resulted in collaborative studies well exemplified by the project on the treatment of the hyper-eosinophilic syndrome with mepolizumab.

The third meeting in 2005 at Bern, Switzerland, was organized and successfully managed by Hans-Uwe Simon. At this stage, the structure of the Society was still rudimentary, and Steven Ackerman, as our secretary-treasurer, was a bulwark of the organization. Even at the meeting in Snowbird, Utah, in 2007, we were still working on establishing a constitution. These issues remained a problem in 2009 at the meeting in Bruges, Belgium, organized by Florence Roufosse. However, since Jamie Lee assumed the presidency in 2009, several of the nagging issues have been resolved, in part through the services of a professional management company, Executive Director, Inc.

We now have a constitution and by-laws, are incorporated, have a useful website, and we are acquiring sufficient finances to assure our stability over the next several years. The meetings are a beehive of activity as we interact with colleagues, speculate on new concepts and critique established beliefs. We look forward to the upcoming meeting in Québec City, the interactions with colleagues and sharing of ideas.





IES News

7th Biennial Symposium is Coming!

The International Eosinophil Society, Inc. (IES) announces the 7th Biennial Symposium, "Eosinophils 2011: Forever Young," which will be held in Québec City, Canada, from June 21 through June 25, 2011. Information on the meeting venue and scientific program can be found on the official website of the IES: www.eosinophil-society.org.

Individuals who wish to submit abstracts of original and ongoing research on eosinophils, eosinophil-mediated and eosinophil-related diseases are now invited to do so:

The abstract submission deadline is April 22, 2011.

The instructions and template for submitting abstracts can be found on the website under the 7th IES Symposium heading tab. Please follow the instructions very carefully so as to avoid administrative delay.

All abstracts will be included in the meeting abstract book and will be included for poster presentations. Several of the posters will be highlighted during a 30 minute poster review during the meeting.

The Scientific Program Committee, Eosinophils 2011:

Steven J. Ackerman, PhD

Bruce Bochner, MD

Paul S. Foster, PhD

Francesca Levi-Schaffer, PhD

Redwan Moqbel, PhD

Peter F. Weller, MD

Helene F. Rosenberg, MD - Scientific Program Director

SATELLITE CLINICAL WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH IES SYMPOSIUM

The 5th Satellite Clinical Workshop is planned for June 21, 2011 immediately preceding the IES Biennial Symposium.

This year's topic will be "Therapy for Rare Eosinophilic Disorders: Clinical Trial Design and Endpoint Validation."

The workshop will be divided into two parts. The first part will consist of brief state-of-the-art reviews of HES, CSS and EGID highlighting issues pertinent to clinical trial design (diagnostic criteria, definition of response to therapy, biomarkers of disease activity). This will be followed by presentations from experts in clinical trial design for complex rare diseases from academia, industry and the FDA. The second part of the workshop will be comprised of small group discussions designed to troubleshoot specific issues facing ongoing or planned clinical trials in HES,

CSS and EGID. To maximize the opportunity for productive interaction, the number of participants will be limited.

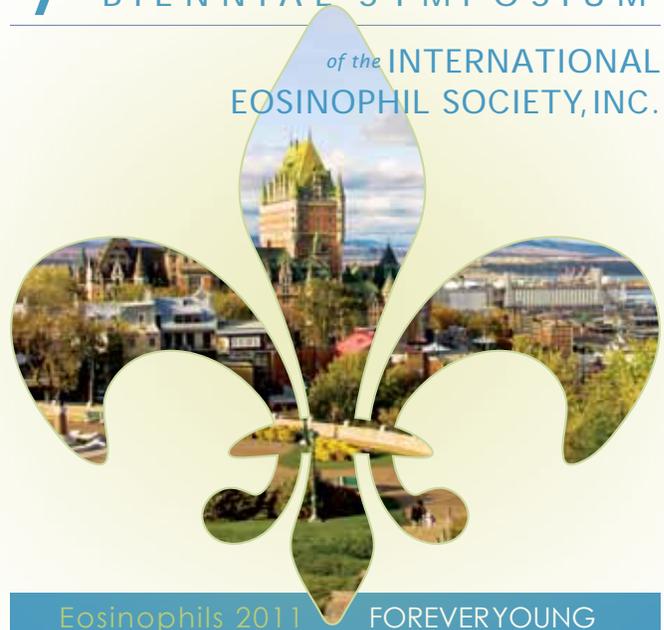
For more information about the workshop, please visit

www.eosinophil-society.org/UserFiles/image/EOSWORKSHOP.pdf

If you are interested in attending and have not already received information by email, please contact Amy Klion at aklion@eosinophil-society.org.

Mark Your Calendar!

7th BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM
of the **INTERNATIONAL EOSINOPHIL SOCIETY, INC.**



2011 JUNE 21-25
FAIRMONT LE CHATEAU FRONTENAC
QUÉBEC CITY  QUÉBEC CANADA

WELCOME TO QUÉBEC CITY

Samuel de Champlain founded Québec City (pronounce KEBEK) on July 3, 1608. In Algonquian (the spoken language of one of the native nations living in the area at the time), Québec means place where the river narrows. The old City is a Unesco World Heritage site.



For numerous years, Québec City was a key settlement in North America and has been heavily militarized. You will notice fortifications (city walls) surrounding the old City that are reminiscent of its strategic importance. Other key sites such as the Plains of Abraham and the Citadel are also important witnesses of the long lasting military presence in the City.

If you want to know a little more about the history of Québec City, please visit: www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/EN/index.aspx

GETTING TO QUÉBEC CITY

Direct flights to Québec City (www.aeroportdequebec.com/en/) are available from the following airports: Chicago (United), Cleveland (Continental), Detroit (Delta), Montreal (Air Canada), New York (Continental), Ottawa (Air Canada), Paris (Air Transat), Toronto (Air Canada), and Washington, DC (United).

The best way to get to the hotel is by taxi. You do not need to schedule in advance and the rate is fixed at \$32.50. Other transportation services are detailed on the airport website (see above). The airport is approximately 30 minutes from the hotel.

WEATHER

The average weather at the end of June is 22 Celsius/72 Fahrenheit during the day and 12 Celsius/54 Fahrenheit during the night.

MEETING LOCATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The meeting will be held at the Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, a famous hotel erected on the Cap Diamant (Diamond Cape), a beautiful site on top of a cliff leading to the old City on the shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Rooms have been reserved at the Château Frontenac for the meeting. Please click on this link to secure your hotel reservation www.eosinophil-society.org/meetings/

The housing deadline is June 1, 2011.

WHAT TO VISIT IN THE CITY

Take advantage of your stay to walk the old City notably “Place Royale” and the “Petit Champlain,” walk “la rue Saint-Jean,” “la place d’Youville” and “la rue Saint-Paul.” Don’t hesitate to take the ferry across the St. Lawrence River in order to have a look of the old City from another point of view.

Other interesting attractions include the Citadel, the Plains of Abraham (Plaines d’Abraham), museums and historic houses. The Château Frontenac organizes tours and a Tourist Office is located in the front of the hotel. Additionally, you will find



key information about what to do in Québec at the following website: <http://www.quebecregion.com/en>

SHOWS AND EVENTS

There are many artistic events during the summer. At dusk, go the “Vieux Port” to watch the The Image Mill (le moulin à images; www.lacaserne.net/index2.php/other_projects/the_image_mill/) projected on the harbor building (free). Attend the “Fêtes de la St-Jean,” a music show on the “Plaines d’Abraham” followed by fireworks during the evening of June 23. Beginning on June 24 you will not want to miss Les Chemins Invisibles, a street event by Cirque du Soleil. This is a free street event.

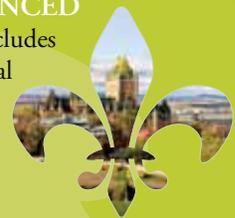
Local Planning Committee, Eosinophils 2011:
Francis Davoine, PhD MSc
Nicolas Flamand, PhD
Michel Laviolette, MD
Redwan Moqbel, PhD

DUES STRUCTURE ANNOUNCED

Your meeting registration fee also includes your membership in the International Eosinophil Society, Inc. Don’t miss this opportunity! Please join us in Québec City! Register for the 2011 Meeting Today!

Early Registration Deadline MAY 20, 2011

Register Today— www.eosinophil-society.org/meetings/2011/registration.php





Eosinophiles in the News



Drs. Marc Rothenberg and **Peter Weller** each received an NIAID MERIT Award for their ongoing research on “Regulation of gastrointestinal eosinophils” and “Eosinophils: mechanisms of action,” respectively. These awards provide up to 10 years of NIH funding and are given

only to 15 of the most outstanding NIAID-funded researchers.



Drs. Joshua Friedman and **Jonathan Spergel**, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, received one of two 2011 HOPE research grants from APFED to examine the role of miRNAs in EoE.



Drs. Steve Ackerman, University of Illinois, and **Glenn Furuta**, University of Colorado Denver, received the second 2011 HOPE research grant for their work on the esophageal string test (EST) for

diagnosis and monitoring of disease activity in EoE.



Dr. Ariel Munitz, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and Tel-Aviv University, received the 2011 HOPE Junior Faculty award for his work on inhibitory receptors in eosinophils.

Dr. Kathryn Peterson, University of Utah, received the 2010 American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) June and Donald O. Castell, MD Esophageal Clinical Research Award for work on the utility of an elemental diet in the management of EoE.



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Chu VT et al. Eosinophils are required for the maintenance of plasma cells in the bone marrow. *Nat Immunol* 2011;12:151

Straumann A et al. Budesonide is effective in adolescent and adult patients with active eosinophilic gastroenteritis. *Gastroenterology* 2010;139:1526.

Balla KM et al. Eosinophils in the zebrafish: prospective isolation, characterization, and eosinophilia induction by helminth determinants. *Blood* 2010;116:3944

Terrier B et al. Interleukin-25: a cytokine linking eosinophils and adaptive immunity in Churg-Strauss Syndrome. *Blood* 2010;116:4523

Legrand F et al. Human eosinophils exert TNF-alpha and granzyme A-mediated tumoricidal activity toward colon carcinoma cells. *J Immunol* 2010; 185:7443

EOSINOPHIL RESOURCES

Please visit www.eosinophil-society.org/resources/ for a link to these resources –

- American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED)
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia - Center for Pediatric Eosinophilic Disorders
- Churg Strauss Syndrome Association (CSSA)
- Cincinnati Center for Eosinophilic Disorders
- Diagnostics Development
- HES listserv
- NJ/PA Eosinophilic Support Group
- Office of Rare Diseases
- TIGER



Job Mart

Postdoctoral Fellow

UNIVERSITE LIBRE DE BRUXELLES

Applications are invited for a post-doctoral fellow in the Molecular Immunology Unit at the Institut Jules Bordet (IJB) in the center of Brussels. Unique in Belgium, IJB is an autonomous comprehensive cancer hospital and research center of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. IJB is committed to the fight against cancer with extensive interdisciplinary teams that extend from the research laboratory to the hospital bed.

Leading basic and clinical research is pursued at the Institut, with accelerating the process whereby laboratory findings are implemented in patient care, one of its principal goals. This post-doctoral project focuses on the molecular mechanisms underlying aberrant CD4+ T cell-mediated functions in patients with lymphocytic variant HES or cutaneous T cell malignancies.

We seek a PhD candidate nearing the end of their doctoral thesis research with experience in molecular biology and a command of standard molecular biology approaches. An interest and background in studying the human immune system and/or in depth knowledge of statistical analyses will be considered as a plus.

The Institut is composed of individuals coming from a diversity of nations and cultures with English and French used as working languages.

Targeted start date is October 1, 2011.

For further information or to apply contact:

Dr. Karen Willard-Gallo
Molecular Immunology
Institut Jules Bordet
Université Libre de Bruxelles
121 Blvd. de Waterloo
B1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: 32-2-541-3739
Email: kwillard@ulb.ac.be

Postdoctoral Fellow

NIAID POSITION

A postdoctoral position is available immediately in the recently established Eosinophil Pathology Unit in the Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases/NIAID/NIH. To study the role of the eosinophil and eosinophil activation in disease pathogenesis with the ultimate goal of developing novel diagnostic tools and treatment approaches for hypereosinophilic syndromes and other conditions associated with marked eosinophilia, including helminth infection.

Candidates should have a PhD and/or an MD and less than five years of postdoctoral experience. Preference will be given to highly motivated individuals with training in molecular biology and/or immunology.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and the names and contact information for three references to:

Amy Klion, MD
Eosinophil Pathology Unit
Bldg 50, Rm 6351
Bethesda, MD 20892
Email: aklion@nih.gov

HHS, NIH, and NIAID are proud to be equal opportunity employers. The NIH is dedicated to building a diverse community in its training and employment programs.

PhD and/or Postdoctoral Fellow

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Prof. Francesca Levi-Schaffer has an opening for a PhD and/or post-doctoral student in her lab at the School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The area of research is: Eosinophils/mast cells interactions as a main effector unit in allergic inflammation. Interested individuals should send an e-mail along with CV to Prof. Levi-Schaffer fls@cc.huji.ac.il.

Postdoctorate and Faculty Positions

CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center is undergoing a major expansion to meet our long-term goals to improve global child health through better diagnoses, treatments, and outcomes for key targeted focus areas and diseases. We have prioritized allergic and immunological diseases and are searching for physicians and scientists (post-doctorates, assistant, associate or full professors) with expertise in allergy/immunology to join our Division of Allergy and Immunology. The positions come with substantial support to develop research and clinical programs and career development. The successful candidate will join an interactive group of institutional members focused on innovative research.

Interested candidates should send their CV and letter of interest to:

Marc E. Rothenberg, MD, PhD
Director, Division of Allergy and Immunology
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
3333 Burnett Avenue ML 7028
Cincinnati, OH 45229-3039
Tel: (513) 636-7177
Email: Rothenberg@cchmc.org

**7th** BIENNIAL
SYMPOSIUMof the INTERNATIONAL
EOSINOPHIL SOCIETY, INC.

Eosinophils 2011 FOREVER YOUNG

*Important Dates*April 21 – *Abstract Submission Deadline*May 20 – *Early Registration Deadline*June 1 – *Housing Deadline*June 21 – 25 – *7th Biennial Symposium of the
International Eosinophil Society, Inc. and Satellite
Clinical Workshop***CALENDAR OF EOSINOPHILIC EVENTS****American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and
Immunology Annual Meeting**

March 18-22, 2011, San Francisco, CA

**British Society of Hematology Annual Scientific
Meeting**

April 4-6, 2011, Brighton, England

American Thoracic Society Annual Conference

May 13-18, 2011, Denver, CO

**European Academy of Allergy and Clinical
Immunology Congress**

June 11-15, 2011, Istanbul, Turkey

**7th Biennial Symposium of the International
Eosinophil Society, Inc.**

June 21-25, 2011, Québec City, Canada

IES, Inc. Board of Directors**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE****President**

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Redwan Moqbel, PhD (Canada)

Florence Roufosse, PhD (Belgium)

Hans-Uwe Simon, MD, PhD (Switzerland)

Andrew Wardlaw, MD (UK)

Peter Weller, MD (USA)

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR
MEMBERSHIP, MEETING, WORKSHOP**

Joan Geiger

Executive Director

International Eosinophil Society, Inc.

555 East Wells Street

Suite 1100

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Tel: (414) 276-6445

Fax: (414) 276-3349

jgeiger@eosinophil-society.org**THE EOSINOPHIL NEWS IS SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS — NEXT ISSUE JUNE 2011!**

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@eosinophil-society.org. To place an ad in the newsletter, contact Joan Geiger at jgeiger@eosinophil-society.org.