

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION (ISIR)

2007-2008 Newsletter

The time is going very quickly... and the life as well. Nearly five months ago we were all together in Opatija, Croatia – one of the most beautiful world's place, having a pleasure to attend 10th International Congress of Reproductive Immunology. Everybody of us has had nice summer holidays... and then we came back again to our daily hard but pleasant and useful work in the lab.

Following the tradition of our past leaders we take pleasure in continuing the newsletter whose purpose is keeping members informed on what is going on in our Society and sharing plans with each of you about 11th International Congress of Reproductive Immunology which will take place in Australia, 2010.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2008 for you and your family!

Rayna Georgieva

Secretary General

georgievar@hotmail.com

Message from our President

Dear Friends and Colleagues

It is almost six months since we got together in Opatija and enjoyed the scientific and social events of the 10th ISIR Congress. I would like to express once more our sincere gratitude to Professor Daniel Rukavina and his colleagues for their enormous effort to bring the congress to a very exciting and memorable gathering.

I am very happy to send you or bring out the 2007-2008 Newsletter of ISIR on this website for the purpose to keep all the member informed on what is going on in our society. For the edition of this Newsletter, we are very much obliged to Professor Rayna Georgieva, the new Secretary General of ISIR. I deeply appreciate her continuous self-sacrificing service for the society.

I am also very happy to announce the newly opening of the Indonesian Society of Reproductive Immunology and the 1st Meeting (Chairperson: Dr. Indra G Mansur, General Secretary: Dr. Budi Wiweko) to be held on December 10-12, 2007, in Jakarta. Congratulations!

Finally, I would like to ask your continuous support for the society and to send any your comments which you intend worthy for the development of the society. I wish you all the best for the coming New Year of 2008.

President of ISIR

Koji Koyama

What interesting is happen during and after 10th International Congress of Reproductive Immunology?

Report on the 10th International Congress of Reproductive Immunology, June 10-14, 2007, Opatija, Croatia

The 10th International Congress of Reproductive Immunology (Prof. Daniel Rukavina as President) was held in Grand Hotel Adriatic, Opatija, Croatia, on June 10-15, 2007. The Congress was under high patronage of Mr Stjepan Mesic, the President of Republic of Croatia and under the auspices of the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sport. The Congress was hosted by University of Rijeka, Medical Faculty, Department of Physiology and Immunology.

At the Opening Ceremony Prof. Daniel Rukavina, President of the Congress and President of ISIR gave the Welcome Address and awarded Dr. Gerard Chaouat, President d'Honneur with Golden Medal of the Society, as a sign of our respect and our recognition of his achievements and contribution.

On behalf of our Society, new elected President of ISIR Prof. Koji Koyama thanks Prof. Daniel Rukavina for his successful leadership of the Society during the past three years and gave him Golden Medal of ISIR. Dr. Charles Wira, Secretary General of ISIR used the occasion to express our admiration to Mrs. Ivana Godnic (Nina), Administrative Secretary of Dr. Rukavina, for her outstanding contributions to the administration of ISIR, including the establishment and updating of the web site of ISIR as well as for her important role in the organization of this and others international meetings. She has received nice Certificate.

The members of the Honorary Committee – Dr. Amir Muzur, Mayor of the City of Opatija and Professor Izet Aganovic, the delegate of the President of the Republic of Croatia welcomed the participants and proclaimed the 10th International Congress of Reproductive Immunology officially opened.

The Congress began with an interesting Presidential Address “The History of reproductive immunology: My personal view”, given by Prof. Rukavina, which was an overview on the Reproductive Immunology and ISIR development from their foundation up to now. It was emphasized on the key role of the International Coordination Committee for Immunology of Reproduction (ICCIR), Sofia, Bulgaria and on the contribution of academician Kiril Bratanov to the creation of ISIR and development of the Reproductive Immunology. The importance of the Reproductive societies such as Alps Adria Society for Immunology of reproduction (AASIR), European Society for Reproductive and Developmental Immunology (ESRADI), European Federation for Immunology and Reproduction, (EFIR), European Society for Reproductive Immunology (ESRI), American Society for Reproductive Immunology (ASRI), Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction (JSIR), British Society for Immunology – Reproductive Immunology Group (BSI-RIG), Czech Society for Reproductive Immunology, was underlined and their role of bringing together immunologists, as well as the importance of specialized journals as AJRI and JRI which cover the field of reproductive immunology.

The topics included in 10th ICRI were: 1. Gamete immunology, 2. MHC and reproduction, 3. Immuno-endocrine interactions in reproduction, 4. Cytokines and signaling at the maternal fetal interface, 5. Mucosal immunity of the female reproductive

tract, 6. HIV and reproduction, 7. NK cells in implantation and pregnancy, 8. Regulatory mechanisms in pregnancy, 9. Inflammation and implantation, 10. Immunology of preeclampsia, 11. Clinical immunology. The scientific program of the Congress was organized as a plenary lectures by invited speakers (58 presentations from leading scientist in the field of reproductive immunology), selected oral presentations (28 in 4 sessions), poster sessions (104 well prepared posters in 2 scientific sessions). The best six posters were awarded. The topics in the program were extensively discussed by the participants from theoretical and clinical point of view. According to the unanimous opinion of the participants and of the officers of the International Society for Immunology of Reproduction, the Congress was a complete success, having a high scientific level and nice social events.

There were 260 participants from 34 countries all over the world (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, The Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, UK, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela). The abstracts and program were published in the American Journal of Reproductive Immunology (Vol. 57. No 6, June 2007). Professor Daniel Rukavina was the Guest Editor of this number.

As a part of the continuing commitment of the ISIR and of the Organizing Committee of the 10th International Congress, 24 young scientists were supported by scholarships for their participation at the congress.

During the Congress Dr. Gerard Chaouat, coordinator of the EMBIC (Embryo Implantation Control) project gave a general report. No doubt, that EMBIC as European Network of Excellence sponsored by EU within Framework 6 Program has a deep influence on the global development of reproductive immunology.

During the ISIR General Assembly Meeting (June 14th) the scientific, organizational and financial reports (2004-2007) were presented by the President – Daniel Rukavina, Secretary General – Charles Wira and Treasurer – Ian Sargent. Prof. Koji Koyama, new ISIR President gave the award to Professor Daniel Rukavina for his outstanding service and contribution to the International Reproductive Immunology Community.

As a result of electronic ballots of the members of ISIR the new Council (2007-2010) was elected; President – Koji Koyama (Japan), Secretary General – Rayna Georgieva (Bulgaria), Treasurer – Ian Sargent (UK), President-Elect – Julia Szekeress-Bartho (Hungary), Immediate Past President – Daniel Rukavina (Croatia), and 8 Councillors – Shigeru Saito (Japan), Charles Wira (USA), Joanne Kwak-Kim (USA), Udo Markert (Germany), Ljiljana Randic (Croatia), Carolyn B Coulam (USA), Sarah Robertson (Australia), Tsunehisa Makino (Japan).

We were very happy to share the beautiful settings of Opatija, Pearl of Adriatic coast, with giants in both immunology and reproductive immunology, Honorary Presidents of our Society: Professors Thomas J. Gill III, Shinzo Izojima, Guy Voisin, Pran Talwar, David Clark and Gerard Chaouat.

The next 11th International Congress of Reproductive Immunology will be held in Australia, 2010, with President – Sarah Robertson.

With best wishes,
Rayna Georgieva
Secretary General



Welcome Address at the Opening Ceremony of the 10th ICRI by the President of ISIR and President of the Congress: Prof. Daniel Rukavina

Ladies and Gentlemen
Dear colleagues
Distinguished guests

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome all of the participants and guests on behalf of the International Congress Committee of the 10th Congress of ISIR on behalf of the University of Rijeka.

This Congress is held under the high patronage of Mr. Stjepan Mesic, President of the Republic of Croatia. I would like to thank President Mesic for his continuous support of science and of this University.

It is my great pleasure also to welcome Professor Izet Aganović, advisor to the President for Science and Education and special envoy of the President.

The Congress also proceeds under the auspices of the Ministry of Science and Education, and I would like to welcome Professor Drazen Vikić Topic, State Secretary for Science and Technology.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge Mr. Zlatko Komadina, Prefect, The County of the Primorje and Gorski Kotar, Mr. Vojko Obersnel, Mayor of the City of Rijeka and all guests and officials attending the Opening Ceremony.

The Congress would not be possible without the help of many people. In particular I would like to thank:

- The International Committee for the Congress for their advice and support
- our sponsors whose financial help was essential for holding this Congress. They have our deep gratitude, and they are individually listed in the program,
- all members of the Local Organizing Committee from the Medical Faculty and young coworkers from the Department of Physiology and Immunology and
- our secretary Ivana Nina Godnić, Administrative Secretary of the International Committee for the Congress, whose tireless efforts in behalf of this Congress which were executed with calmness and good humor in times of difficulty and greatly added to the success of this enterprise

I wish you fruitful discussions and exchange of ideas and pleasant stay in Opatija, city which was the host of many congresses and meetings in reproductive immunology.

Welcome to the Tenth Congress of ISIR!



**The Address at the Opening Ceremony of the 10th ICRI by the New President of ISIR:
Prof. Koji Koyama**

Good evening

President Daniel Rukavina, Distinguished Guests, and Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great honor for me to be given this opportunity to say a few words at the opening of the 10th International Congress of Reproductive Immunology.

First, I would like to thank Professor Daniel Rukavina and his colleagues for your hearty welcome. We are all very grateful for the warmest hospitality by our Croatian hosts:

This is the 10th anniversary Congress since the 1st International Congress was held in Paris in 1980 and the 2nd gathering in Opatija since the 8th International Congress was held here in 2001. I would like to congratulate you on the wonderful work in planning and arranging this outstanding program for the current Congress, and express our sincere gratitude to all the members of the organizing committee for your enormous effort to bring this congress possible.

Undoubtedly, through these congresses, our society has significantly contributed to advance basic and clinical research in the field of reproductive immunology and biology. In recent years, an impressive progress has been made in our understanding of cellular and molecular basis of various reproductive phenomena, including sperm-oocyte interactions in fertilization, trophoblast-endometrium cross-talks in implantation and successful gestation of histoincompatible fetus in the uterus of an immunologically competent mother. Our understanding of the host defense mechanism through mucosal immunity in the reproductive tracts has also been rapidly growing. Many new findings obtained through basic research in reproductive immunology have been promptly transferred to the clinical application for the treatment of infertility, the prevention of recurrent miscarriages and gestational disorders and the management of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The clinical application of HPV vaccines is giving us a bright prospect towards the eradication of cancer of the cervix. The possibility of fertility control by contraceptive vaccines using reproductive hormones and gamete antigens has also been extensively explored to tackle the problem of rapidly expanding global human population. Thus, the reproductive immunology is now one of the most rapidly advancing fields of biomedical science.

Needless to say, the main task of our international society is to advance the knowledge of reproductive biology, and to promote reproductive health in various ways, in collaboration with national and regional societies of reproductive immunology. To promote reproductive science, it is important to encourage actively working young investigators to participate in international and national meetings and exchange up-to-date information. For this purpose, it is important to make every effort to strengthen the financial basis of our society and to raise sufficient travel funds for young scientists. In this meaning, it is remarkable that a large number of young scientists were invited to this congress from all over the world.

Now, I would like to say a few words to express our gratitude to Professor Daniel Rukavina, our President for the last three years, for his contributions to our society

He is well known as a founder of the Alps-Adria Society and the European Federation for Immunology of Reproduction and he served as the first President of both

societies, which are now expected to associate with ESRADI (European Society for Reproductive and Developmental Immunology) to create the new European Society. In collaboration with Dr Gerard Chaouat, Prof Rukavina established EMBIC project, which is a European Network of Excellence on Embryo Implantation Control, focusing on the investigation of the early implantation processes.

He organized many international meetings and congresses, including the 8th International Congress of ISIR in 2001 and the current one here in Opatija. Besides these academic contributions, Prof Rukavina has made a significant achievement for elucidation of the functions of various cytokines and immune cells at the feto-maternal interface and produced many scientific papers, over 250 even limited to the field of reproductive immunology.

According to these academic and scientific contributions, he received many national and international awards, medals and recognitions, including the most important of Croatian State Award in 1985 and Award of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in 1998.

Dear Daniel, on behalf of all members of the society, it is my great pleasure to thank you for all your achievement you have done for the society. As a sign of our respect and our recognition to your contribution, I am giving you the golden medal of the society. Thank you very much!

Finally, once again, I would like to say thank you to all the Croatian hosts for inviting us in such a wonderful settings.

Thank you for your kind attention.

ISIR Treasurer's Report – July 2007

The current paid membership of the Society stands at 114, with 11 life members. In the period 2004-2007, the total receipts of the Society were GBP 2,415.73, with outgoings of GBP 2,000 for student bursaries for the Opatija Congress, leaving a balance of GBP 415.73.

If the Society is to continue to support the provision of Congress bursaries for young scientists, we need more of our members to pay their subscriptions. The subscription currently stands at only GBP 30 for a three year period. Remember that you are only eligible to vote in Society elections if you are a fully paid up member, which also entitles you to reduced registration fees for the Congress and receipt of the newsletter.

Payment cannot be easier. It can be done using your credit card via “Paypal” or by bank transfer (cheques and cash cannot be accepted). All the details with step by step instructions are given on the new ISIR website <http://isir-hyogo.sakura.ne.jp>

Ian Sargent
ISIR Treasurer

The speech at the General Assembly of ISIR by the New President: Koji Koyama

Good evening

Dear Professor Daniel Rukavina, Dear Honorary Presidents, and Dear Friends and Colleagues. It is my great pleasure to say a few words at the General Assembly Meeting of ISIR.

First, I would like to thank Professor Daniel Rukavina, our President for the last three years, for his outstanding contribution to our society of ISIR. It is a great honor for me to succeed him as President and to serve for the society in the next three years.

I believe that the main task of our International Society for Immunology of Reproduction is to advance the understanding of human reproduction and to promote reproductive health by coordinating research works on reproductive immunology between the different countries and periodically organizing the international congress in collaboration with national and regional societies of reproductive immunology. For this purpose, it is important to strengthen the solidarity of our society and to make every effort to strengthen the financial basis of our society to promote young scientists to participate in national and international meetings and to exchange up-to-date information. I am happy to make my utmost effort toward this direction working together with newly elected executive members of ISIR.

Now, I would like to say a few words of appreciation to our Croatian hosts on behalf of all the participants.

I congratulate Prof. Daniel Rukavina and his colleagues on your excellent works in organizing this congress in such a wonderful setting both from scientific and social points of view. Most importantly, a large number of young scientists were invited to this congress. I hope that they were given sufficient encouragement and fresh impetus to continue their work to generate new development in reproductive immunology.

Once more, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all members of the organizing committee for your enormous effort to make this congress a very memorable and highly rewarding gathering.

Dear Daniel, on behalf of all members of the society, it is my great pleasure to thank you for your excellent organization of the memorable congress. To express our gratitude, I am giving you this Plate as a token of thanks.

Finally, I would like to ask all participants to join us to work together to contribute for advancement of reproductive immunology and meet again in Australia in 2010 at the next ISIR congress.

Thank you very much!

Report about 3th EMBIC Summer School, Sept. 3-7, 2007, Jena, Germany



Sept 3 – 7, 2007

The 3rd EMBIC Summer School was organized and took place in Jena. Organizer was the Placenta Lab of the Department of Obstetrics at the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena (www.placenta-labor.de). From September 3 to 7, 2007, a total of 160 students and established scientists came together to intensify and widen their knowledge in the field of reproduction. 41 speakers have been invited to present basics to state-of-the-art in their specialties. A major goal was to trigger discussions and communication of students and to initiate and deepen contacts and cooperation. This was supported by enforced involvement of students in the program and the organisation of special students meetings. All sessions were moderated by students. Further, an extended social programme was offered to increase interactions between all participants. Highlights were a visit of the world's oldest working planetarium in Jena, a brewery, the city of Weimar and the Beichlingen castle where we enjoyed a special dinner in medieval atmosphere.

Special guest and opening lecturer was Robert Edwards, who presented in a fascinating manner his history and his vision for future investigation of immortality genes. For further information about the program visit our web site: www.embic.org.

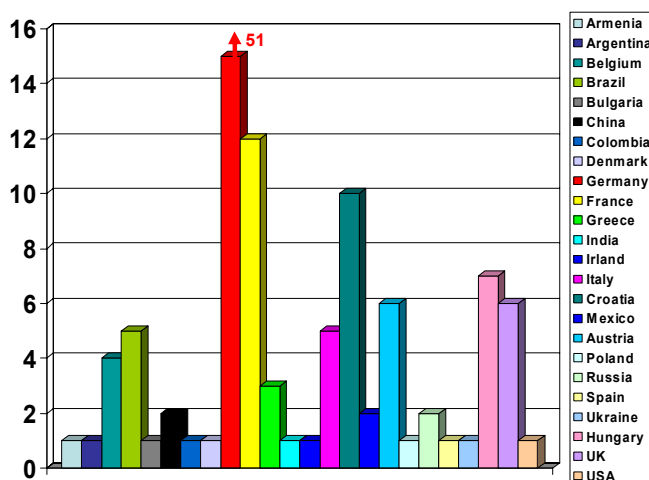


Table 1. Registered participants per country (approx. 30 did not formally register)



(Almost) all participants in front of a Jena brewery

A total of 12 awards were provided:

5 Outstanding oral presentation awards:

Andrea Schanz, Düsseldorf, Germany

Nadéra Mansouri, Jouy-en-Josas, France

Alexandra Hess, Düsseldorf, Germany

Yeni Martinez de la Torre, Milano, Italy

Claire-Maëlle Fovet, Jouy-en-Josas, France

5 Outstanding poster awards:

Aline Lorenzon, Sao Paulo, Brasil

Elly Sánchez Rodríguez, México City, Mexico

Ramya Udayashankar, Sheffield, U.K.

Elisabeth Glitzner, Graz, Austria

Anne Braunschweig, Jena, Germany

1 Best discussion award:

Pankaj Suman, New Delhi, India

1 Best moderation award:

Vinko Tosevski, Rijeka, Croatia

Award recipients

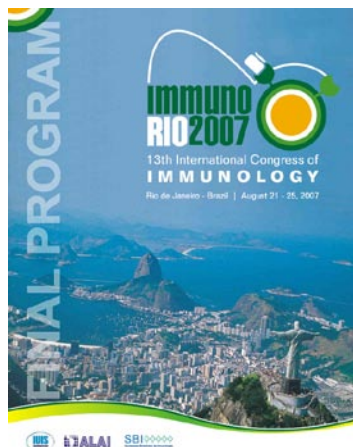
After the end of the Summer School, the program was continued by 1st EMBIC Summer Training until Sept 10. The Summer Training provided practical courses for students to train important and sophisticated lab techniques. This event was completely sponsored by companies. 20 selected students were invited to stay in Jena and to join the courses. The

success motivates us to continue the Summer Training in a 2-years-rhythm in Jena. The next EMBIC Summer School will be held in June 2008 in Barcelona.



With best regards
Dr. Udo Markert

Report about 13 International Congress of Immunology and Satellite Symposium of Reproductive Immunology, August 21-25, 2007, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



The International congress of Immunology was held in Rio de Janeiro, which truly warranted its nickname of la Ciudad Marvelosa. Many of us were in expensive or cheaper hotels in the Barra de Tijuca area, e.g. a few yards from a (safe in EVERY respect) mile(s !) long beach , (albeit others choosed to be in the farther away

Copacabana and Ipanema, which were said to be a bit less safe ... but there was NOT a SINGLE incident reported....

Those who did not come because of security concern were wrong. The congress site itself was secluded .. a bit too far away from the core of the city, but this forced people to stay for the scientific sessions).

As for the social ambiance, well, I include a few clips of the memorable last day farewell party.... (sorry, not always easy to handle a Nokia phone when dancing, so sometimes you will see the floor ..)

4000 scientists dancing and singing, everybody will remember(as we will also recall the last capirinhas...!).

Scientifically, the meeting was attended by over 4000 (4131+) persons, which is indeed a complete success, and this as expected encompassed every part of the world. The overall scientific level was excellent, as will testify the proceedings. I, personally, enjoyed sessions on NK cells, T regs, and, should I say, the homage to Jean Dausset).

For what matters the most to us, there was a morning long Reproductive Immunology Mini symposium, which I chaired with Sylvia Daher. The abstracts which were submitted and presented were excellent, and this is not my personal opinion, but the audience one. It should be said that there were more than 130 attendants as an average for the session, and that this included mainstream Immunologists, including members of the IUIS council (and indeed Michèle Letarte was amongst the oral presenters). Such a success is important for the perception of our field by mainstream Immunologists, and I should add that I think that about half of the audience was below 35 years age...).

The meeting was followed by a satellite meeting, organised by Sylvia Daher in the wonderful setting of the club Med Rio San Pedras....It should be said that we were joined by several European and North American speakers like Udo Markert, Peter Johnson,, Lakshmi Khrisnan, etc... who did not come to Rio because of schedules, and that we had also many Latin American speakers who were not in the Rio workshop (such as J Fainbolm, A Yamada, etc..). See enclosed programme. Again, the meeting was a success, attended by more than 130 people, and the format allowed for very deep and interactive discussion, including of course on immunotherapy of RSA.

The question of forming a Latin American society or group was discussed, and the matter will be brought on next week at the Argentinian SLIMP symposium in Cordoba. One can say that the field is alive and well, and thriving ! in Latin America...

Sylvia Daher must be commanded both for organising this satellite meeting and the part she played in the organising committee of Immunorio!

With best regards

Dr. Gerard Chaouat, France

Upcoming meetings:

1. 6th European Congress of Reproductive Immunology, June 30-July 3, 2008, Renaissance Moscow Hotel, Moscow, Russia. Prof. Gennady Sukhikh(inter_otdel@mail.ru)
2. 14th Zdar Symposium of Czech Reproductive Immunologists with International Contribution, Zdar nad Sazavou, 2008. For more information, please, contact: Prof. Ulcova-Gallova Zdenka (Ulcova@fnplzen.cz)
3. 28th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology, June 10-14, 2008, Congress Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Chicago, Illinois. The 1st day of meeting will be graduate course (June 10-11, 2008) and the annual program will be between June 11-14, 2008. Prof. Judith Luborsky (jluborsk@rush.edu)
4. 4th EMBIC Summer School on Embryo Implantation, 2008, Spain. The program and information will be published on <http://www.EMBIC.org>
5. 12th International Symposium of Immunology of Reproduction, 2009, Varna, Bulgaria. For more information, please contact: Prof. Rayna Georgieva (georgievar@hotmail.com)
6. 11th International Congress of Reproductive Immunology, August 15-19, 2010, Novotel Twin Waters, Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia, Prof. Sarah Robertson (sarah.robertson@adelaide.edu.au)
7. 14th International Congress of Immunology
August 22-27, 2010, Kobe, Japan
Website : <http://www.ici2010.org/index.html>
President Prof. Tadamitsu Kishimoto

The list with upcoming meetings will be periodically updated.