



AFMR News

Newsletter of the American Federation for Medical Research

Fall 2002

Clinical Research 2002 Meeting: A Huge Success



More than 400 physicians and medical professionals attended the 2002 Clinical Research meeting at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland on April 10–13, 2002. A total of 172 scientific abstracts were presented during various poster and oral presentations.

Highlights of the AFMR program included plenary sessions, oral abstract presentations, breakfast and luncheon programs, and featured speakers Dr. Bert Vogelstein and Dr. David White.

The AFMR Presidential Reception kicked off the meeting on Wednesday evening and offered colleagues the chance to socialize and get re-acquainted.

The scientific program began on Thursday morning with breakfast and scientific poster sessions. The first Plenary Session was highlighted by the presentation on “Pathogenesis of Colorectal Cancer” by Dr. Bert Vogelstein from the Sydney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute.

The second Plenary Session held on Thursday afternoon included featured speaker Dr. David White from Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital on “Obstructive Sleep

Apnea: Mechanisms and Consequences.”

Plenary Session III featured Dr. Michael S. Brown from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas on “The Cholesterol Cycle: From Bed to Bench and Back”.

Two concurrent abstract presentations were held on Friday morning and offered participants the opportunity to select the session moderated by Drs. Dennis M. Bier and Jane E.B. Reusch or Drs. Leon Rosenberg and Harry Selker. Each session included ten oral abstract presentations.

(continued on page 2)

INSIDE: Highlights from Experimental Biology 2002 and the Western and Southern Section Meetings



David D'Alessio, M.D., AFMR Secretary-Treasurer testified before the House HHS Appropriations Subcommittee regarding loan repayment programs for researchers.

AFMR Advocates Funding for Loan Repayment and Other Clinical Research Programs

Testifying before the House HHS Appropriations Subcommittee in May and in a subsequent meeting with Subcommittee Chairman Ralph Regula, AFMR Secretary-Treasurer David D'Alessio expressed strong support for a \$56 million budget for tuition loan repayment programs for researchers as requested by the Administration. This would double funding over the current year. Most of the funding requested supports the tuition loan repayment program for clinical investigators authorized in the Clinical Research Enhancement Act, legislation successfully championed by the AFMR.

“Loan repayment is critically important if

we are to attract outstanding medical school graduates to careers in research, especially given the increasing burden of tuition debt these students are facing,” said Dr. D'Alessio.

At hearings earlier this year, Members of the Subcommittee had expressed concern about the policy set by NIH in the first year of the program limiting access to applicants who already have obtained NIH funding. Dr. D'Alessio noted that AFMR shared these concerns and was pleased that NIH had announced its intention to change the policy in the coming year.

(continued on page 6)

A Trainee Luncheon on the Clinical Research Enhancement Act Loan Payment Program, championed by the AFMR over the past several years, outlined the new Loan Repayment Program and instructed attendees how to apply.

The Roundtable Discussion focused on "How Should Medical Students Learn Clinical Research" and included the topics of "A Curriculum in Medical Ignorance", "The Four Schools Project", and "The Clinician Scientist Training Program: A Proposal for a New Program for Training Medical Students in Clinical Research".

Saturday's Program began with the AFMR's annual business update to the membership in attendance. Dr. Jane E.B. Reusch presented awards to Trainees who traveled to CR2002 to present their research. Dr. Reusch encouraged the Trainees to continue their exceptional research and promote membership in the AFMR to their colleagues.

AFMR Symposium I focused on "The Interface Between Health Services Research and Clinical Research: Challenges and Opportunities". Moderated by Carolyn M. Clancy, the session included presentations on "Addressing the Questions of Clinicians and Policy Makers", "Infrastructure for Clinical Studies", "A New Model for Integrating Clinical and Health Services Research", and "The Medical Innovation Curriculum".

AFMR Symposium II on "High Risk Research in Normal Volunteers" was moderated by Carol O. Tacket and included presentations on "Ethical Issues in Clinical Research Involving Healthy Volunteers", "Challenge Studies with Infectious Agents", "Managing Risk in Normal Volunteers Participating in Metabolic Studies", and "Special Issues Related to HIV Vaccine Studies in Normal Volunteers".

A Trainee Workshop focused on Grantsmanship and was presented by Anthony M. Coehlo, Jr. from the National Institutes of Health.

Clinical Research is a joint meeting co-sponsored by AFMR, Association for Patient-Oriented Research and the General Clinical Research Center Program Directors' Association.



*AFMR Outstanding Investigator in the Basic Sciences - "Mucosal Immunology and Pathophysiology of Inflammatory Bowel Disease" to **Fabio Cominelli**, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia*



*AFMR Outstanding Investigator in the Clinical or Translational Sciences - "Contribution of Bradykinin to the Effects of Ace Inhibitors and to the Regulation of Vascular Homeostasis" to **Nancy J. Brown**, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee*

THANK YOU

The Societies wish to thank the following organizations for their support:

Burroughs Wellcome Fund
Doris Duke Charitable Fund
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The AFMR would especially like to thank
Merck & Co., Inc.
for its continued support.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

CLINICAL RESEARCH 2003

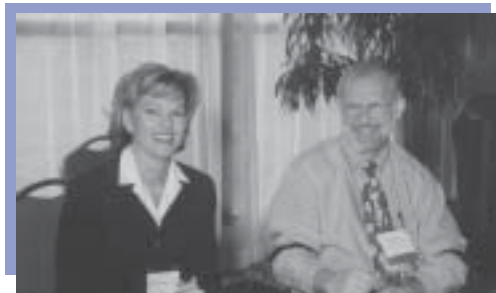
Baltimore, Maryland

March 13 - 16, 2003

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: JANUARY 6, 2003

Watch your e-mail and mail for more information!

CLINICAL RESEARCH 2002: AFMR Highlights



April 12, 2002 The George Peabody Library Baltimore, Maryland

The AFMR Foundation held its annual Henry Christian Awards Dinner on Friday, April 12, 2002 at the George Peabody Library in Baltimore, Maryland.

Twelve awards were presented by Charles M. Flexner, M.D., President of the Foundation and each recipient received a beautiful plaque and a \$1,000 honoraria.

The Henry Christian Awards were established to honor Dr. Henry Christian, the founder of the American Federation for Medical Research. Awards are given to those presenters and first authors of the most outstanding abstracts submitted in each abstract category. A grant from Merck U.S. Human Health has funded these prestigious awards since they were first instituted in 1990.



Gorgun Akpek, M.D.



Lewis Rubinson, M.D.



Ruben Bonilla Guerrero, M.D., Ph.D.



Christopher J. Sonnenday, M.D.



Richard K. Murray, M.D., Representative from Merck Human Health commended the recipients on their outstanding scientific contributions.



Charles M. Flexner, M.D., President of the AFMR Foundation welcomed each recipient to the awards dinner and congratulated the recipients for their work.



Michael T. Caulfield, M.D.



Klaus Tenbrock, M.D.



Catherine E. Milch, M.D.



Constantine S. Mitsiades, M.D.



Susheel P. Patil, M.D.



Loi K. Phuong, M.D.



Mikiko Yasuda, M.D.



Michael P. Pietila, M.D.



Junior Physician-Investigator Winners



Basic Research
Joseph El Khoury, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital



Clinical Research
Marcia Cruz-Correa, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University



Investigator Travel Award Winners

Ahmad S. Abdulkarim, M.D.
Mayo Clinic
“Primary Biliary Cirrhosis: An Infectious Disease Caused by *Chlamydia Pneumoniae*?”

Joseph B. El Khoury, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
“CD36 Null Mice Reveal a Key Role for CD36 in B-Amyloid Induced Microglial Activation”

Fawad M. Qureshi, M.D.
Mayo Graduate School of Medicine
“Effect of Calcineuron Inhibitors on the Rate of Decline of GFR in Patients with Chronic Renal Allograft Nephropathy (CAN)”

Larisa Romanova, M.D., Ph.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
“Inhibition of Homologous Recombinations by the P53 Oncogene: Role of Replication Protein”

Yoshio Tsuboi, M.D., Ph.D.
Mayo Clinic
“Differences in Clinical Presentation Among Branches of Pallido-Ponto-Nigral Degeneration Family (FTDP-17, N279K Mutation on the *TAU* Gene)”

Vladimir V. Yurovsky, Ph.D.
University of Maryland-Baltimore
“Molecular Cross-Talk Between the Trail and TGFB Pathways in Human Lung Fibroblasts”

The American Federation for Medical Research wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Merck for its continuous support of the prestigious Henry Christian Awards.



Graduate Training Awards

Dr. D'Alessio urged the Subcommittee to fund another award authorized in the Clinical Research legislation—specifically, the Graduate Training in Clinical Investigation Awards. He noted that these awards had been created by Con-



gress to supplement the K30 clinical research curriculum awards by providing tuition and stipend support for the trainees in these programs.

Dr. D'Alessio applauded the NIH National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) for initiating a similar program (the new K12 awards), but noted that the budget was limited and would leave over 90% of the current K30 program students without support.

“Based on discussions leaders of our organization have had with numerous K30 program directors, it is quite clear that the NIH investment in the K30 awards simply cannot begin to yield its potential benefit unless a companion program is established to provide tuition and



\$60,000 per year to 200 students.

General Clinical Research Centers

Dr. D'Alessio's testimony addressed AFMR's concerns regarding the Administration's inadequate request for the GCRCs. Within a budget that would increase NIH spending by 16%, the GCRC budget would grow by less than 10%. Dr. D'Alessio pointed out that this would continue a trend in which the GCRC program had been shortchanged: the budget for the NCRR (which funds the GCRCs) has grown by 83% since FY 1999 while the GCRC program has grown by only 36%.

Dr. D'Alessio urged the Subcommittee to provide a substantial increase to the GCRC program and expressed AFMR support for a budget of \$370 million. He noted that “GCRCs are the essential laboratories of translational research” and that the Subcommittee must restore

stipend support for the students themselves,” Dr. D'Alessio said.

He urged the Subcommittee to provide a \$24 million appropriation for the Graduate Training in Clinical Investigation awards to provide two-year grants of

funding for the GCRCs if it wants to assure that basic laboratory discoveries are translated to the patient's bedside.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Dr. D'Alessio's testimony stated that “AFMR is extremely distressed” by the Administration's proposal to cut \$48 million from the AHRQ budget. He stated that this would seem particularly ill-advised given that the Agency's research agenda is focused on many of the health care issues and prob-

“GCRCs are the essential laboratories of translational research” and .. the Subcommittee must restore funding ...if it wants to assure that basic laboratory discoveries are translated to the patient's bedside.”

lems that Congress is struggling to solve. The AFMR testimony urged the Subcommittee to provide a \$390 million FY 2003 budget for the AHRQ. Dr. D'Alessio thanked the Subcommittee for past efforts to assure that the AHRQ assured adequate funding for investigator-initiated research and urged Subcommittee members to remain vigilant in this regard.

House and Senate Subcommittee mark ups will occur over the summer and fall. AFMR members will receive email alerts when letter writing and phone calls to Members of Congress would be timely with respect to NIH and AHRQ funding as well as support for the VA research program.

If you would like additional information, please contact Lynn Morrison or Debbie Spielberg at healthadvocate03@att.net.

Have you renewed your AFMR membership yet?

Don't miss out on any of your valuable AFMR membership benefits.

Renew Today. It's easier than ever. Renew Online at www.afmr.org.*

*Or simply mail or fax in your completed invoice mailed to you recently

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- Education
- Advocacy
- Representation
- Experience
- Exposure
- Network
- Awards
- Publications

From the President.....



As the newly elected president of AFMR and a firm believer that this organization is critical for the long-term survival of the physician-scientist, I would like to offer my perspective on the question:

Why be a member of AFMR?

I am a physician scientist - a vanishing breed. The number of people like you and me choosing

careers in academics is dwindling. This organization is dedicated to the recruitment and retention of physicians in academics.

How does the AFMR put teeth in this mission?

First, it helps physician scientists by legislative efforts. It was AFMR that created, lobbied for, and now is working on, appropriations for the Clinical Research Enhancement Act. This bill was behind the creation of loan repayment, the K23 and K24 Clinician Investigator awards, loan repayment to go hand in hand with the K08 and K02 awards, increasing GCRC funding, and the K30 Clinical Scientist Training programs. I have learned that getting a bill passed and making sure it is implemented are two very different things.

Second, we offer opportunities for presentation of abstracts as oral

presentations at several regional meetings. (I presented my first paper in Carmel and won a trainee travel award.) The regional meetings are thriving and they continue to be an excellent venue for a fellow to present work and meet colleagues.

We are also part of two national meetings. In partnership with the GCRCs and APOR, we have started the Clinical Research meetings. The Henry Christian awards for the top abstracts are presented during these meetings, as well as a variety of trainee travel awards. For people with more basic science projects, we are a guest society of FASEB (which means you can attend for the member price) and this meeting also offers another opportunity for trainee travel awards.

Third, I am a VA investigator. The AFMR is the primary voice for VA research in Congress. Ten years ago there was a prediction that VA research was soon to vanish. The fact that it has grown instead, is the product of effective lobbying accomplished by the AFMR. With its solid career development awards, the VA system is a model for training of physician scientists.

For these reasons, plus many others too numerous to mention, I have chosen to be a member of AFMR and to play a role in bringing this organization into the 21st century. I hope you will choose to renew your membership and that you will encourage your trainees to join.

Best wishes,

Jane Reusch, President of AFMR (and proud of it)

AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION AWARDS – 2003

In 2003, the Foundation will present the following awards:

HENRY CHRISTIAN AWARDS

The awards will be given to the presenters and first authors of the most outstanding abstracts submitted in each abstract category for the Clinical Research 2003 meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Candidates must be physicians who are post-MD trainees, including residents, clinical fellows, physicians pursuing graduate degrees, and other post-doctoral fellows. The awards are supported by a grant from Merck US Human Health. Awardees receive a Certificate of Excellence and a \$1,000 honorarium.

OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

Two awards are presented annually to outstanding investigators age 45 or younger in recognition of excellence in biomedical research. One is selected on the basis of basic science research involving investigations with and without human tissue or cells; the other is based on clinical science research involving intact human subjects. Individuals must be nominated by two individuals. Recipients must be available to present their work at the March 15th Awards Ceremony at the Clinical Research 2003 meeting in Baltimore. Each winner receives an Outstanding Investigator Award and a prize of \$5,000.

JUNIOR PHYSICIAN-INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

These awards were created to honor young investigators whose research projects complement an overall program of research, teaching and clinical medicine. A candidate must be a physician who has held a full-time medical school faculty appointment for five years or less. Candidates must submit abstracts to the Clinical Research 2003 meeting and will be judged on both the quality of the abstract submitted and their career accomplishments. Applicants must submit a letter of support from their mentor, division chief, or department chair. A plaque and \$2,500 will be presented to at least two winners in 2003.

INVESTIGATOR TRAVEL AWARDS

Travel support will be provided to enable translational, clinical and health services researchers to attend the Clinical Research 2003 meeting. Eligible candidates include recipients of the NIH K23 award, the NIH K24 award, the VA career development award, and various clinical research awards supported by foundations and voluntary health agencies. An individual must be the presenter and first author of an abstract submitted to Clinical Research 2003. Travel awards of \$1,000 each will be presented to qualifying applicants.

TRAINEE TRAVEL AWARDS

Travel grants are awarded to residents and post-doctoral fellows to help subsidize travel to the Experimental Biology meeting. The trainee must be the presenter and first author of an abstract submitted to EB 2003. The trainee must have a mentor who is a member of AFMR and co-author of the abstract. A letter from the mentor verifying the trainee's eligibility must be submitted with the application. Award winners will be notified by mail and checks will be available on-site at the AFMR President's Reception. Travel awards of \$850 each will be presented.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be AFMR members in good standing. If not, you must submit a membership application along with the award application.

APPLICATIONS

Applications for may be obtained by contacting the AFMR National Office (978-526-8330 or afmr@prri.com) or the AFMR website (www.afmr.org).

DEADLINES:

**For the Experimental Biology Trainee Travel Awards - November 27, 2002.
All other award applications - January 10, 2003.**

EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY 2002: AFMR Highlights

Experimental Biology 2002 “Translating the Genome” was held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana from April 20-24. The meeting is the annual meeting of the member societies of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). As a guest society, the AFMR hosted a series of four outstanding symposia.

Diagnosis and Treatment with Atrial Natriuretic Peptides of Diseases with Salt and Water Retention

Chair: David L. Veseley

The Promise for Therapeutic Intervention in Obesity: The Brain and Beyond

Chair: David D'Alessio

Endothelial Dysfunction in End-Stage Renal Disease

Co-Chairs: Michael Goligorsky and Christine Baylis

Potentiation of the Development of Atherosclerosis by Diabetes

Chair: Boris Draznin

In addition, AFMR co-sponsored a program with the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine on “Challenges to the Academic Physician Scientist: Problems and Solutions”.



Mark your Calendar for Next Year's Meeting.....

Experimental Biology 2003

April 11-15

San Diego, California

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2002

Experimental Biology Trainee Travel Winners



David C. Tong, M.D.
Emory University School Medicine

Sunita Goyal, M.D.
Yale University School of Medicine

Se-Ho Chang, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Florida

Ryan Hung
University of British Columbia

Kimberly E. White
University of Alabama
at Birmingham

Jeffrey H. Ruth, Ph.D.
Northwestern University

Richard M. Wardrop, III, Ph.D.
The Ohio State University

Jae-Joon Yim, M.D.
National Institutes of Health

Ethan G. Leonard, M.D.
Rainbow Babies and Childrens'
Hospitals

Xiao Hong Luo, M.D., Ph.D.
Emory University

Olaf Oldenburg, M.D.
University of South Alabama

Daniella Checchin
McGill University

Anne-Sofie Johansson
Huddinge University Hospital

Jennifer A. Svetlecic, M.D.
University of Missouri-Kansas City,
School of Medicine

Jonathan Blau
Georgetown University

Quang Nhu Chung
UCLA Medical Center

Connie C. Kwong
UCLA Medical Center

Mohammad Asif Amin, M.D.
Northwestern University
Medical School

Jennifer A. Fogarty
Texas A&M University
Health Science Center

Klaus Tenbrock, M.D.
Walter Reed Army
Institute of Research

Dezhi Xing, M.D.
University of Iowa

Midwestern Combined Annual Meeting

“Advances in Cellular Pathophysiology: Prospects for Translational Medicine”

In conjunction with CSCR, MWSGIM and MWSPR

Drake Hotel, Chicago
September 25 – 28, 2002

Highlights include:

Plenary Session with keynote address

Mentoring session

Didactic workshops on “Career Development”, “Ethical Dilemmas” and
“IRB 101 – Compliance Guidelines for Clinical Research”

Poster sessions, awards sessions and much more.

For more information, visit www.cscr.org.

Western Section Meeting Highlights

The Western Section of the AFMR held its annual meeting on February 6-9, 2002 in Carmel, California. The meeting opened with a welcoming reception at the Carmel Women's Club and allowed participants to meet and greet old and new friends and colleagues in a relaxing and social atmosphere.

The Scientific Program included invited guest lecturers, plenary sessions, concurrent programs, student scientific sessions, resident forums, state-of-the-art lectures, awards presentations, breakfast and luncheon programs.

Additional highlights included the Western AFMR Outstanding Investigator Award presented to A.I. Al-Aqeel from the Riyadh Armed Forces Hospital in Saudi Arabia for his work

“Al-Aqeel Sewairi Syndrome, a New Autosomal Recessive Disorder with a Novel Mutation of Matrix Metallo-Proteinase 2 Gene (MMP-2)”. The Mayo Soley Award was presented to Eng M. Tan from the Scripps Research Insititute. Philip Eaton from the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center delivered the Kroc Foundation Distinguished Lectureship on “Clinical Research in the 21st Century – Linking Discovery to Healing”.

In addition to WAFMR, participating societies include Western Association of Physicians, Western Society for Clinical Investigation, Western Society for Pediatric Research, and Western Student Medical Research Forum.

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2003 Western Regional Meeting
January 29 - February 1, 2003
Carmel, California

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: OCTOBER 2, 2002

PASS ALONG THE AFMR MEMBER ADVANTAGE

Support your colleagues by recruiting them into AFMR today.

*Announcing the **AFMR Recruit –A-Colleague Program**
through November 15th.*

Each time you recruit a new AFMR member through November 15th, your name will be entered into a drawing for a new hand-held PDA!

And all new members who apply and pay their first years dues by November 15th will be eligible for a drawing for a computer backpack.

Share the benefits of AFMR membership.
Full details of the **AFMR Recruit-A-Colleague Program**
are available online at www.afmr.org



*The more
members you
recruit by
November 15th,
the more
chances you
will have to
win the PDA...*

Southern Section Meeting Highlights

The annual meeting of the Southern Section of the AFMR was held from February 21-23, 2002 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The program began on Thursday with several workshops, covering subjects of interest to those new in academic medicine. Topics included: "Manuscript Preparation and Peer-Reviewed Publication"; "How to Succeed in Academic Medicine"; and "Resource and Renewal: Recognizing Physician Burnout, Promoting Physician Wellness".

The meeting includes symposia, joint poster sessions, plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, breakfast and luncheon programs,

Highlights from the SAFMR Plenary Session included the presentations of the Trainee Research Award to M.A. Zaman for his work "High Prevalence of Primary Hyperaldosteronism Among Patients with Resistant Hypertension Referred to a Hypertension Specialty Clinic"; and the Young Faculty Research Award presented to R. Bechara for his work "Ethanol

Ingestion in Rats Increases Expression of the AT₂ Receptor, and Increases Angiotensin II-Induced Apoptosis, in Alveolar Type II Cells." In addition, 63 young faculty, students, and trainees received research awards sponsored by the SAFMR and the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSGI).

The joint plenary session, held on Saturday, focused on "Impact of Genomics and Proteomics on Medicine in the 21st Century." The session featured presentations on "Genes and Genomics: Evolving Health Care", "Vaccine Development in the New Millennium", and "Future Therapeutic Strategies for Autoimmune Disease".

Societies participating in the meeting included Southern Society for Clinical Investigation, Southern Society for General Internal Medicine, Southern Society for Pediatric Research, Ambulatory Pediatric Association, and American Physiological Society.

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**2003 Southern Regional Meeting
February 20-22
New Orleans, Louisiana**

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: OCTOBER 2, 2002



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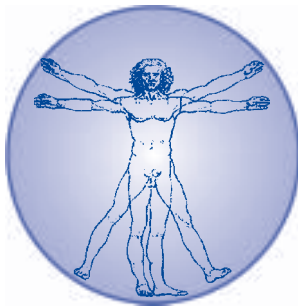
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