



# AFMR News

Newsletter of the American Federation for Medical Research

June 2003

## Clinical Research 2003 Meeting: A Huge Success

More than 400 physicians and medical professionals attended the 2003 Clinical Research meeting at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland on March 13-16, 2003. A total of 179 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, roundtable discussions, and featured speakers. The scientific program began with breakfast and scientific poster sessions. The first Plenary Session was highlighted by the presentation on "Insulin Resistance: The Linchpin Between Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease" by Gerald Reaven, Stanford University School of Medicine.

The second Plenary Session included featured speaker David D. Ho, from the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center on "Insight into HIV Pathogenesis from Clinical Investigation."

Plenary Session III featured Carolyn Clancy from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on "Health Services Research: Bridging the Translation Chasm."

Two concurrent oral abstract presentations were held on Saturday morning and offered participants the opportunity to select the session moderated by Thomas Buchanan and Robert Eckel or Kevin O'Brien and Peter Stacpoole. Each session included twelve oral abstract presentations.

*(continued on page 2)*



*Jane Reusch, AFMR Outgoing President and Errol Crook, Incoming President*

**INSIDE: Highlights from Experimental Biology 2003 and the Western and Southern Section Meetings**

## Washington Update



### AFMR Pursues Funding for Clinical Research Initiatives



*Lynn Morrison, AFMR Washington Representative, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director, National Institutes of Health, Dr. Jane E.B. Reusch, and Dr. Kevin D. O'Brien*

AFMR continues to lobby for funding for the NIH, with a special focus on programs authorized in the Clinical Research Enhancement Act, including the loan repayment program for clinical investigators and the various career development awards. Congress has provided significant funding for the loan repayment program, and most Institutes provide support to well over 50% of those applying.

The AFMR has had productive discussions with NIH officials over the past two years resulting in positive changes in the eligibility criteria for the loan repayment program for the current year. In the program's first year, only individuals with NIH support were eligible to apply for loan repayment, but in response to concerns expressed by AFMR and bill sponsors, NIH has substantially broadened the criteria. AFMR officers have met with NIH Director Elias Zerhouni to discuss a remaining concern: the absence of funding for the

Graduate Training in Clinical Investigation Awards authorized in the legislation to provide stipend and tuition support for those seeking graduate degrees in clinical investigation (particularly those enrolled in NIH-supported K30 award programs). In follow up to the meeting, AFMR has obtained data requested by Dr. Zerhouni and is continuing to lobby Congress for funding for these awards.

Details regarding AFMR's other FY 2004 budget initiatives are provided inside.

**AFMR Addresses VA Peer Review Concerns**

**AFMR FY 2004 Budget Advocacy Efforts Continue**

**(see inside)**

# CLINICAL RESEARCH 2003: AFMR Highlights

“Who’s an Author?” was the topic of the Trainee Luncheon on Friday afternoon featuring guest speaker Edward W. Campion, Senior Deputy Editor, New England Journal of Medicine.

The Roundtable Discussion focused on “Targeted Therapy for Cancer” and included the topics of “Inhibition of BCR/ABL: A Prototype for Targeted Therapy of Cancer?”; “Design, Development, and Delivery of Recombinant Vaccines for Cancer Therapy”; “The Hsp90 Protein Chaperone as a Therapeutic Target in Cancer”; and “Targeted Therapy: Beyond Gleevec.”

Saturday’s Program began with a symposium on Stem Cell Research. Moderated by Errol Crook and Meredith Hawkins, the session included presentations on: “Scientific Overview of Stem Cell Research”; “State-of-the-Art Fetal/Embryonic Stem Cell Research”; “State-of-the-Art Adult Stem Cell Research”; and “Ethical Perspectives on Stem Cell Research.”

A Trainee Workshop and Luncheon, entitled “Nuts and Bolts 101” included a presentation on “Navigating the Regulatory Maze: Record Keeping and Compliance.” The open discussion with senior investigators, “...Of Cabbages and Kings...” provided an opportunity for feedback between the presenters and participants. The session concluded with a panel discussion on “Creating a Group Culture and Motivating Your Research Team.”



## 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**

*Clinical Research is a joint meeting co-sponsored by AFMR, Association for Patient-Oriented Research, General Clinical Research Center Program Directors’ Association, and the Association for Clinical Research Training Program (K30) Directors.*

## NEW AFMR MEMBERS

AFMR welcomes the following new members and thanks all of the members who participated in the **AFMR Recruit a Colleague Campaign**. The winning Referring Member was David M. Frucht who received a hand-held PDA. The winning New Member was Craig S. Broberg. Dr. Broberg received a computer backpack.

### NEW MEMBER

**Craig S. Broberg**, Portland, Oregon (winner of a computer backpack)  
**Carla S.R. Lankford**, Bethesda, Maryland  
**Christopher J. LeBrun**, Jackson, Mississippi  
**Jerry A. Krishnan**, Baltimore, Maryland  
**Robert C. Shepard**, Charlottesville, Virginia  
**Elliot Israel**, Boston, Massachusetts  
**David Grandison**, Brentwood, Tennessee  
**Douglas Hegstad**, Moreno Valley, California  
**Ali Ahmed**, Birmingham, Alabama  
**Pankaj B. Agrawal**, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts  
**Sheila Thomas**, New Orleans, Louisiana  
**Robert A. Ortmann**, Columbia, Missouri  
**Rekha Kumari**, New Orleans, Louisiana

### REFERRED BY:

**Kevin O’Brien**  
**David M. Frucht** (winner of a hand-held PDA)  
**Michael Flessner**  
**Charles Flexner**  
**Robert C. Shepard**  
**Jane E.B. Reusch**  
**John Oates**  
**Keith Colburn**  
**Richard M. Allman**  
**Gordon H. Williams**  
**Marie Krousel-Wood**  
**Robert W. Hoffman**  
**Frank Svec**

**PASS ALONG THE AFMR MEMBER ADVANTAGE**



# 2003 HENRY CHRISTIAN AWARDS

March 14, 2003

The Walters Art Museum / Baltimore, Maryland

The AFMR Foundation held its annual Henry Christian Awards Dinner on Friday, March 14, 2003 at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland.

Ten awards were presented by Kevin D. O'Brien, 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.



*Richard K. Murray, M.D., Representative of Merck Human Health, welcomes award recipients to the Walters Art Museum.*



**Alina N. Gavrila, M.D.**  
Beth Israel  
Deaconess Medical Center



**Preeti Kishore, MBBS**  
Albert Einstein  
College of Medicine



**Antonio La Cava, M.D., Ph.D.**  
University of California  
Los Angeles



**Carla S. Rodriguez Lankford, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Center for Biologics  
Evaluation & Research, FDA



**Julia Tonelli, M.D.**  
Albert Einstein  
College of Medicine



**Susheel Pandit Patil, M.D.**  
Johns Hopkins University



**Catherine Milch, M.D.**  
New England Medical Center

**Not pictured:**

**Christoph U. Correll, M.D.**  
The Zucker Hillside Hospital

**Larisa Y. Romanova, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Massachusetts General Hospital

**Ram Weiss, M.D.**  
Yale School of Medicine



*Lynn Morrison (center) of Washington Health Associates meets with several Henry Christian Award recipients.*



*Errol Crook (left) meets with two of the presenters of the AFMR's sponsored Stem Cell Research Symposium: David A. Prentice, Indiana University School of Medicine; and Nigel M. de S. Cameron, Strategic Futures Group, LLC.*



# MORE AWARDS

## Glaxo Smith Kline Scholars



**Igor Elman, M.D.**  
McLean Hospital  
Harvard Medical School



**Claudia R. Morris, M.D.**  
Children's Hospital and  
Research Center at Oakland



**Muredach P. Reilly, M.B., BCh BAO**  
University of Pennsylvania  
Medical School



**Myles Wolf, M.D., MMSc**  
Mass General Hospital,  
Harvard Medical School



**Kristen Nadeau, M.D.**  
University of Colorado  
Health Sciences Center



**Quan Dong Nguyen, M.D.**  
Johns Hopkins University

### Not Pictured:

- Kitt Falk Petersen, M.D.**  
Yale University School of Medicine
- Scott E. Evans, M.D.**  
Mayo Clinic & Foundation
- Angelo Bartolo Biviano, M.D. MPH**  
New York Presbyterian Hospital
- Shinsuke Noso, M.D.**  
Joslin Diabetes Center
- Phillip C. Yang, M.D.**  
Stanford University

## Junior Physician-Investigator Winners



**Subra Kugathasan, M.D.**  
Medical College of  
Wisconsin



**Bharat Ramratnam, M.D.**  
Brown Medical School

Not pictured:  
**Kitt Falk Petersen, M.D.**  
Yale University School of Medicine

## Outstanding Investigator Winner



**Fredric E. Wondisford, M.D.**  
University of Chicago

## Investigator Travel Award Winner



**Vladimir Yurovsky, M.D.**  
University of Maryland School of Medicine



Greetings,

I am honored to be president of AFMR and I am excited about the upcoming year. Before I go any further, however, I must express gratitude to Jane Reusch, M.D. for the job she did as president over the preceding year. Her dedication to, and effort for, AFMR was and continues to be exemplary.

For many of us, the AFMR sectional meetings were our introduction to the medical research community. We are excited about new initiatives in the South and West that continue to insure the success of those meetings. We hope that members from those sections will continue to participate and be involved in the sectional meetings and encourage members to invite student and trainee colleagues.

Nationally, AFMR will continue to be an active participant in Clinical Research, a national meeting that allows a venue for clinical investigators to present their work and interact with colleagues, and FASEB. Clinical Research 2004 will be held in Chicago in April 2004. We are excited that this meeting will be held alongside the annual meeting of ASCI and AAP which will broaden the scope and attendance of the sessions. AFMR will also be well represented at EB '04 (also in April) with several exciting symposia developed by members. As you present work at these meetings we hope that you will consider *The Journal of Investigative Medicine* as a place to publish your work.

AFMR has become well known for its advocacy on behalf of medical researchers. Our efforts over the last several years have focused on stabilizing and growing the nation's supply of clinical investigators. We will continue our efforts to insure that the Clinical Research Enhancement Act, legislation that developed from our work in Washington, is not ignored. In addition, we will be attentive to other developing issues that affect our membership.

I encourage all members to take advantage of the opportunities that AFMR provides. Please encourage colleagues to join us and feel free to share your thoughts about the organization with us. We have had several great initiatives develop from ideas or concerns of the rank and file and we hope that this exchange of ideas will continue. As budgets of medical centers and local and state governments get tighter the challenges faced by medical researchers become greater. At the same time, however, there is significant opportunity and excitement in medical research. With your help AFMR hopes to address the challenges and allow more outlets for creative expression and exchange of ideas.

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## Upcoming Meetings

**Western Meeting  
January 28-31, 2004**

**Abstract Deadline: October 2, 2003**

**Southern Meeting  
February 12-14, 2004**

**Abstract Deadline: October 16, 2003**

**Clinical Research 2004  
April 16-18, 2004**

**Abstract Deadline: December 2, 2003**

Experimental Biology 2003 "Translating the Genome" was held at the San Diego Convention Center in California from April 11-15. The meeting is the annual meeting of the member societies of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). More than 12,000 independent scientists representing the American Association of Anatomists, the American Physiological Society, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, American Society for Investigative Pathology, American Society for Nutritional Sciences, American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and various guest societies attended this year's meeting.

As a guest society, the AFMR hosted a series of four outstanding symposia.

## **Oxidative Stress, Antioxidant Supplementation and Diabetes**

**Chair: Emmanuel C. Opara, Duke University Medical Center**

## **Building Better Bone: Sex Genes and Drugs**

**Chair: Thomas Clemens, University of Cincinnati**

## **The Biology of Differentiated Thyroid: A Bench to Bedside Review**

**Chair: Bryan Haugen, University of Colorado**

## **Everything Old is New Again: Thyroid Hormone and the Failing Heart**

**Chair: Carlin Long, University of Colorado**

## **Mark your Calendar**

**for Next Year's Meeting.....**

## **Experimental Biology 2004**

**April 17-21, 2004**

**Washington, DC**

## **Trainee Travel Award Winners**

**Hiroshi Ashikaga**  
University of California, San Diego

**Quang Nhu Chung**  
University of California, Los Angeles

**Adel Elmoselhi**  
Toronto General Hospital

**Scott E. Evans**  
Mayo Clinic

**Michael Austin Gibson**  
University of California, Los Angeles

**Brigid Joseph**  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

**Golam Kabir**  
Toronto General Hospital

**Vinay Kumaran**  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

**Maria Luisa Soledad Sequeira Lopez**  
University of Virginia

**Nichole Anne Maio Reyes**  
UCLA School of Medicine

**Al Muktafi Sadi**  
Toronto General Hospital

# Submit your Manuscript TODAY !

## **Journal of Investigative Medicine**

The Journal of Investigative Medicine is the official publication of the American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR). The Journal publishes original articles and reviews of broad interest to academic physicians and scientists. Submitted manuscripts undergo initial review by the editors, and those articles consistent with the goals of the Journal are sent for peer review. Authors wishing to contribute reviews are encouraged to contact the Editor prior to submission.

Manuscripts containing new material are accepted for consideration for publication with the provision that they are submitted solely to the Journal of Investigative Medicine and that no part of the material has been submitted to any other publication.

For complete Author Information on Journal submission, please visit the AFMR website, [www.afmr.org](http://www.afmr.org) or visit the publisher's website at [www.bcdecker.com](http://www.bcdecker.com)

## **SUBMISSIONS**

Address all submissions to Ms. Lori Ennis, Editorial Assistant, Journal of Investigative Medicine, MedPub, Inc., 45685 Harmony Lane, Belleville, MI 48111; e-mail [admin@medpubinc.com](mailto:admin@medpubinc.com); Tel: 734-699-1217, Fax: 734-699-1136.



# Western Section Meeting Highlights

The Western Section of the AFMR held its annual meeting from January 29 through February 1, 2003 in Carmel, California. 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. The WAFMR Outstanding Investigator Award was presented to Rajan Singh for his work entitled, "Testosterone Inhibits Adipogenic Differentiation in Mesenchymal Pluripotent C3H 10T1/2 Cell Line." 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. AFMR presented the following awards:

## 2003 ASTRA-ZENECA SCHOLARS

Keiko Aikawa, MD  
*University of Washington*

A.S. Baas, MD  
*University of Washington*

Kathryn L. Bates, M.D.  
*University of Arizona*

Craig S. Broberg, MD  
*Oregon Health & Sciences University*

David A. Cesario, MD  
*David Geffen School  
of Medicine at UCLA*

Andrew D. Frutkin, MD  
*University of Washington*

Michael W. Gen, MD  
*University of Colorado  
Health Sciences Center*

Peijai M. Ho, MD  
*University of Colorado  
Health Sciences Center*

M. Darren Mitchell, MD  
*University of Colorado  
Health Sciences Center*

Shaun T. Patel, MD  
*Good Samaritan Regional  
Medical Center*

Julie Plenge, MD  
*University of Colorado  
Health Sciences Center*

Retu Saxena, MD  
*Oregon Health & Sciences University*

Abhijit A. Shinde, MD  
*University of Arizona*

James Willems, MD  
*University of Washington*

## 2003 AVENTIS SCHOLARS

Molly C. Carr, MD  
*University of Washington*

Kathleen M. Colleran, MD  
*University of New Mexico*

Andrea D. Coviello, MD  
*University of Washington*

Andrea M. Haqq, MD  
*Duke University Medical Center*

Karen L. Herbst, MD  
*Charles R. Drew University*

Craig A. Jensen, MD  
*University of New Mexico*

Yan H. Lue, MD  
*David Geffen School  
of Medicine at UCLA*

Charles D. Meyers, MD  
*University of Washington*

Kristen J. Nadeau, MD  
*University of Colorado  
Health Sciences Center*

Vicente O. Perez Jr., MD  
*University of New Mexico*

Karin A. Selva, MD  
*Oregon Health & Sciences University*

Lisa R. Tannock, MD  
*University of Washington*

Cecilia C. Wang, MD  
*University of Colorado  
Health Sciences Center*

## 2003 CENTACOR SCHOLARS

Najeeb O. Ghaussy, M.D.  
*University of New Mexico*

Mihaela B. Taylor, M.D.  
*Loma Linda University Medical*

Ali Ashrafzadeh, M.D.  
*University of Arizona*

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2004 Meeting

January 29 - February 1, 2004  
Carmel, California



# Southern Section Meeting Highlights

The annual meeting of the Southern Section of the AFMR was held from February 20-22, 2003 in New Orleans, Louisiana. 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 P.P. Kamat for his work "Chronic Ethanol Ingestion Impairs Alveolar Macrophage Immune Function in Vitro and Cytokine Release During Mechanical Ventilation Ex Vivo"; and the Young Faculty Research Award presented to S.V. Sitaraman for his work "Positive and Negative Regulation of IL-6 Signaling in Intestinal Epithelia." In addition, 76 young faculty, students, and trainees received research awards sponsored by the SAFMR and the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSGI).

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.



*R. Duncan Hite and James M. Flackenstein*



*John E. Hall  
University of Mississippi Medical Center*



*SAFMR / SSCI Trainee Award Winners*



*Sherita H. Golden  
Johns Hopkins University*



*SAFMR / SSCI Young Faculty Award Winners*



*Gerald Raven  
Stanford University*



*SAFMR / SSCI Student Research Award Winners*

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## Washington Update

-continued-



### **AFMR Takes Action to Address Unprecedented Internal Peer Review of VA Grants**

Many VA-based investigators have been extremely concerned about recent actions taken by the VA to perform an internal re-evaluation of current year merit review awards. As a result, awards were not made to 15 investigators, some of whom had decades of experience as funded VA investigators and excellent priority scores. AFMR President Errol Crook has sent a letter to the VA Chief of Research to protest this action and recommend that any change in VA grant review policies be made prospectively and in consultation with "stakeholders" including investigators and reviewers. The letter emphasized the negative impact the recent action could have on VA's ability to recruit and retain physician scientists.

"A career in the VA is much less attractive to young physicians hearing reports that established investigators with decades of VA experience and high priority scores are losing their funding" said Dr. Crook's letter, the full text of which is available on the public policy page of the AFMR website: [www.afmr.org](http://www.afmr.org).

In addition to writing to Dr. Wray, the AFMR has written to key Congressional VA Committee leaders to express concern about the recent action.

### **AFMR FY 2004 Budget Recommendations**

The following are AFMR's FY 2004 budget recommendations:

National Institutes of Health	\$30 billion
VA Research Program	\$460 million
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	\$390 million

AFMR has begun its lobbying efforts in favor of these budget increases, but the Federal budget is *extremely* tight. AFMR members are encouraged to contact their own Senators/Representatives. You will receive email alerts from AFMR when letters and phone calls are timely. Questions should be directed to Lynn Morrison or Courtney Gray Haupt at 202-543-7460 or [healthadvocate04@att.net](mailto:healthadvocate04@att.net).

**NIH Loan Repayment Application Cycle Opens September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Go to [www.LRP.nih.gov](http://www.LRP.nih.gov) for details on eligibility requirements.**