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 abstracts presentations.

AFMR Pursues Funding for Clinical Research Initiatives

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.
“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.”

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.

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 A. Ortmann
Columbia, Missouri
Rekha Kumari, New Orleans, Louisiana

PASS ALONG THE AFMR MEMBER ADVANTAGE
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.

2003 HENRY CHRISTIAN AWARDS

March 14, 2003
The Walters Art Museum / Baltimore, Maryland

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Nosu, M.D.
Joslin Diabetes Center
Phillip C. Yang, M.D.
Stanford University

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.

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
Submit your Manuscript TODAY!

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 or visit the publisher’s website at 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; Tel: 734-699-1217, Fax: 734-699-1136.

EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY 2003: AFMR Highlights

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
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

WAFMR Officers

Chair
Jonathan Purnell

Chair-Elect
Bradley Anawalt

Secretary-Treasurer
Kathleen Colleran

National Councilor
Ted Wun

Councilors
Robert Bryg
John Cooke
Charles Edelstein
Timothy Morris
Matthew Movsesian
Peter Reaven
James Roum
Andrew Stolz

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.

SAFMR Officers

Chair
James M. Fleckenstein

Chair-Elect
Seth Berney

Past Chair
R. Duncan Hite

Secretary-Treasurer
James C. Oates

National Councilor
Pablo Pergola

Councilors
Rabih Bechara
Karen D. DeSalvo
Stacey W. McKenzie
Linda K. Myers
Richard M. Peek, Jr.
Abdulla K. Salahudeen

SAFMR / SSCI Trainee Award Winners

SAFMR / SSCI Young Faculty Award Winners

SAFMR / SSCI Student Research Award Winners
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.

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.

NIH Loan Repayment Application Cycle Opens September 1st.
Go to www.LRP.nih.gov for details on eligibility requirements.