



ISAR News

Newsletter of the International Society for Antiviral Research

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Invitation to the 32nd ICAR, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

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ISAR President's message
(Johan Neyts)

Winter is slowly coming to an end. We are already dreaming of spring (certainly those of you who suffered from the brutal polar vortex this winter) and thus of the ICAR in Baltimore. The first abstract deadline has passed, and a dedicated team reviewed the many submissions. As you will have noticed, we had two deadlines for abstract submissions; the

abstract of those, that submitted before the first deadline, may also be considered for an oral presentation; those that submit by the second deadline (March 22nd) will be selected only for poster presentations. This approach allows us to have sufficient time to select the best abstracts for oral presentation and to finalize the program. Having a second deadline allows submissions by those that were, for one or the other reason, not yet aware of ICAR 2019 by the time of the first deadline. Others may have needed some extra weeks to carry out additional experimental work before being able to submit.

May I kindly invite you to advertise the meeting as broadly as possible within your network; please pass on this ISAR News and consider making use of ISAR's social media. I am sure that the great line-up of speakers, who will cover a wide range of topics, gives a good taste of this exciting upcoming meeting.

A thriving society such as ISAR also needs a dedicated leadership. This year, the term of Graciela Andrei as secretary comes to an end. Graciela has done for many years a wonderful job as secretary for which I am truly grateful. It is a pleasure to announce that Jinhong Chang will be the next ISAR secretary. Following Kathie, Andrea and Mike finishing their terms of office, there were three vacant seats for the Board of Directors. I am also very pleased to inform you that Chris Meier, Maaïke Everts and Luis Schang have been elected as new board members. My sincerest congratulations to the new secretary and board members. The difference in the number of votes between those elected and those not elected was truly minimal. I would like to extend my appreciation also to those that accepted to be candidates but that have (this time) not been elected. I want to thank Graciela, Kathie, Andrea and Mike wholeheartedly for their continued commitment to the Society and I trust that we will be able to further count on them.

Finally, you will read in this issue about the winners of the ISAR awards. It is a pleasure to inform you that the WIS award goes to Dr. Grace Zhou, the William Prusoff Award to Dr. Marnix Van Loock, the Antonín Holý award to Dr. Richard Mackman and the Gertrude Elion award to Prof. David Evans. I am looking forward to their lectures at ICAR.

Thank you and have a good reading of this new issue of ISAR News. I am most grateful to Aruna Sampath to graciously serve as the guest editor.

Kind regards,

Johan Neyts



32nd ICAR USEFUL INFORMATION

Program Committee Updates (Justin Julander and Mike Bray)

The International Society for Antiviral Research (ISAR) will host the 32nd International Conference on Antiviral Research (32nd ICAR) in Baltimore, MD, USA, from 2pm on Sunday, May 12, to 5pm on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor – for further details see below *Key Dates for 2019 ICAR, Baltimore*. Meeting registration and hotel arrangements should be made soon, to catch the early bird rates. Please visit the ISAR website (www.isar-icar.com).

For many years, ISAR has selected eminent scientists for major awards, the Gertrude Elion award was the first annual award to be established, then the Prusoff Young Investigator award, followed by the Antonín Holý award (for chemistry) and the Women in Science award. The ISAR President announced the awardees in his message (above). A more recent innovation is the The Chu Family Foundation (TCFF) early Career Women in Science Fellowships (see below details by Katherine Seley-Radtke).

ISAR's Major Awards

Gertrude Elion Award

David Evans is a biochemist with special interests in poxvirus recombination, antiviral drugs and genomics. He obtained his Ph.D. in 1982, performed postdoctoral studies at Berkeley and Harvard, joined the University of Guelph in 1987 and then returned to the University of Alberta in 2003. He has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to research translation; the recombinering technology he devised in the late 1990's is still sold commercially as Clontech's popular InFusion® kits.

More recently, his research has focused on developing oncolytic poxviruses for the treatment of bladder cancer, as well as developing applications for poxviruses assembled using gene synthesis technology. He was a long-standing member of the WHO smallpox advisory committee, and his expertise in biosafety and biosecurity has involved him in conducting international site visits for the WHO and FAO/OIE. He recently completed a term of service on the Canadian advisory committee on human pathogens and toxins. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and serves as Scientific Officer for the CIHR's Virology & Viral Pathogenesis grant review committee.

William Prusoff Young Investigator Award

Marnix Van Loock is Scientific Director within the Infectious Diseases & Vaccines Discovery team of Janssen Pharmaceutica NV (Johnson & Johnson, Beerse, Belgium).



He has a leading role in flavivirus drug discovery within IDV Discovery, Global Public Health R&D. As dengue early compound development team leader, he steers the clinical development of a first-in-class small molecule for the prevention and/or treatment of dengue, tackling a major unmet medical need. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Leuven, Belgium, and also holds M.Sc. degrees in Industrial Sciences (Biochemistry) and Applied Biological Sciences. He joined the HIV entry discovery team of Tibotec BVBA (currently Janssen Pharmaceutica NV) in 2004, and subsequently joined the HIV integrase team, coordinating cell-based assay development. Beginning in 2009, he was the biology lead for the cytomegalovirus latency project, and in 2012 he became the biology lead for the dengue project within Infectious Diseases & Vaccines, reflecting roles with increasing responsibility throughout his career.

Antonín Holý Memorial Award

Remdesivir (GS-5734), a broad-spectrum antiviral agent

Richard Mackman is Vice-president of Medicinal Chemistry at Gilead Sciences, where he has spent 18 years developing novel antiviral therapies. He earned a B.A. in Natural Science and a Ph.D. in the synthesis of natural products from Cambridge University.



Following a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California San Francisco, he began his industrial career in oncology, designing serine protease inhibitors. These programs have resulted in multiple clinical candidates, including GS-9131, a novel nucleoside phosphonate for the treatment of HIV infection; GS-9688, a selective toll-like receptor 8 agonist for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B; the

respiratory syncytial virus fusion inhibitor presatovir; and remdesivir, an RNA polymerase inhibitor for the treatment of Ebola virus disease.

He has published extensively in the area of nucleoside/nucleotide-based antiviral therapeutics and is named as a co-inventor on more than 40 patents. He has recently been honored by election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry

Women in Science Award



Grace Zhou is the director of the Shenzhen International Institute for Biomedical Research (SIIBR) and CEO of ImmunoVir Co., Ltd. She obtained a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1998, then began a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago, where she remained through 2013, studying gene regulation during HSV-1 lytic and latent infection and the potential use of oncolytic herpesviruses for cancer treatment. In 2013, she joined Guangzhou Medical University as a professor, and was one of the founding scientists of the SIIBR in 2015.

Her current research focuses on control of innate immune responses in herpesvirus-infected cells, the molecular basis of latent infection and genetic engineering of antiviral and therapeutic exosomes. In addition to basic research, she is co-founder and CEO of Immvira, which is developing a broad range of anti-cancer therapies, based on genetically engineered viruses augmented by cancer-specific immune factors or chemotherapeutic agents that can be delivered either intra-tumorally or systemically.

Meeting Program

We are fortunate that an impressive line-up of speakers have accepted our invitation to update the attendees on recent advances in their research. For a full summary of the speakers, their background and the topics of their presentation, please see the previous issue of the ISAR news (28-2, December 2018, <https://www.isar-icar.com/resources/Documents/ISAR%20News%202018%20181210.pdf>), section *32nd ICAR in Baltimore: program of invited speakers* by Mike Bray, Kara Carter, Justin Julander, Johan Neyts). These invited speakers and selected attendees will present their findings in several symposia covering a wide range of topics, including: *Influenza Symposium* (Sunday), *Emerging Virus Symposium* (Monday morning), *Retrovirus Symposium* (Monday afternoon), *What's New in Antiviral Research 1* (Tuesday morning), *Medicinal Chemistry Symposium* (Tuesday afternoon), *What's New in Antiviral Research 2* (Wednesday morning) and *Developing New Antiviral Therapies* (Wednesday afternoon). Posters have always been an important part of ICAR, this year the sessions being on Monday and Tuesday. A hard-working team of reviewers will select the winners for the Poster Awards within the Young Investigators, Post-Doctoral and Graduate categories.

From ISAR's earliest days to the present, our Society has fostered a culture, not only of personal long-term friendships across the potential barriers of disciplines and employments but also to give a warm welcome to new, often young, researchers. The first event of ICAR is the Women in Science Roundtable (12 noon on Sunday) with the Opening Reception (5.30pm) at the end of the session. On Monday afternoon, there is the PechaKucha Competition & New Member Reception.

A career development panel will occur on Tuesday, May 14th at noon. This will provide attendees with an opportunity to question and get information from established scientists in several different areas of antiviral research. Tuesday ends with a Networking Event (7pm at Baltimore Visitor Center), a great venue for relaxing and socializing. ICAR concludes at 5pm on Wednesday.

We are positive that the upcoming 32nd ICAR will be yet another great annual gathering of antiviral researchers at all stages of our careers. This combination of experts in antiviral research, working in academia, industry, government, NGO or any other setting, will continue to push forward the progress of antiviral therapy. We look forward to seeing everybody in Baltimore!

Key dates for 2019 ICAR in Baltimore (Regina Mohr)

The 32nd ICAR will run from 2pm on Sunday, May 12 through 5pm on Wednesday, May 15.



Important Dates

March 22, 2019 – Second Submission Site (Poster Only) Deadline

March 28, 2019 Second Submission Notifications Sent

April 5, 2019 – Early-Bird Advance Rate Registration Deadline

April 5, 2019 – Registration Cancellation Deadline

April 20, 2019 – Hotel Reservations Deadline

Registration is now open! Register now to take advantage of the early-bird rates.

EARLY-BIRD RATES (<i>through April 5, 2019</i>)	
ISAR Members	\$740
Non-Member	\$890
Students	\$300
REGULAR RATES (<i>starting April 6, 2019</i>)	
ISAR Members	\$830
Non-Member	\$980
Students	\$350
One-Day Pass	\$120
Accompanying Persons (Guest)	\$200

**Rates in USD*



Hotel Information

Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor
300 Light Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
United States
TEL: +1-410-528-1234

Group Rate for ICAR attendees: \$179 plus tax (single/double), \$206.75 inclusive. The ICAR rate includes complimentary guest room wireless internet. The reservations deadline is April 20th. Reserve your room by clicking on the reservations link posted on www.isar-icar.com under ICAR/Conference Hotel or cut and paste the following link: <https://www.hyatt.com/enUS/groupbooking/BWIRB/G-CAIR>.

Check-in: 4pm
Check-out: 11am

Are you eligible for the U.S. Government hotel room rate? We have a small room block for those who require U.S. Government rate. For more information contact the ICAR Office at info@isaricar.com.

Airport – Hotel ground transportation

The hotel is located just 12 miles away from Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Taxis are readily available at the airport and cost approximately \$35 USD each way. Shuttle services for a fee are also available and reservations in advance are recommended. The hotel is also located near the Metro subway and Light rail stations. For additional details, visit www.isaricar.com under ICAR/City Information.

The Chu Family Foundation (TCFF) Early Career Women in Science Fellowships

(Kathie Seley-Radtke)

As always, ISAR would like to thank the Chu Family Foundation (TCFF) and Dr. David and Mrs. Jane Chu for supporting the Early Career Women in Science fellowships. This year, in the TCFF competition, there were nine highly competitive applicants, thus making judging, extremely difficult, particularly for the top ones. As a result, the TCFF committee ultimately

selected four winners, a first, a second and a tie for two third places. As has been done previously when there was a mathematical tie, the committee awarded \$2000 each, while the two individual winners received \$3000 each. Two of the winners are postdocs – Dr. Bo Kyeong Yoon and Dr. Megan Gribble Lloyd, and two are Ph.D. students – Mary Yates and Erofilii Giannakopoulou. The four winners were diverse in terms of region of origin, coming from Greece, Singapore and two from the USA. All four have outstanding plans for using their funds to spend time in a collaborator’s laboratory to learn new skills, to attend a specific conference, or for two of our winners, to do both. Overall, the committee felt strongly that the slate was particularly outstanding and once again, a resounding success!

Women In Science Roundtable (Rhonda Cardin and Kara Carter)

The WIS Committee is excited to announce the 7th Annual Women in Science Roundtable at the ICAR meeting in Baltimore. This session, the first event on the first day of ICAR, will be held on Sunday, May 12, from 12:00 – 1:45pm. Registration will occur from noon-12:30pm. It is open to both women and men, and will feature discussions on mentoring of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

Please join us to network with fellow scientists in industry, government, and academia who conduct all aspects of antiviral research. This roundtable will provide an opportunity to participate in an exciting exchange of ideas with our 2019 WIS award recipient, Dr. Grace Zhou, Co-founder of ImmunoVir Co. Ltd. and TheraVir Co. Ltd. as well as other antiviral research scientists.

This event is free, but it’s limited to 80 participants, so register now! Select “Women in Science Roundtable” in the Events section when you register for ICAR. Drinks and refreshments will be provided.

OUTREACH WITH ISAR AND UPCOMING #ICAR2019 (Angela Stoyanovitch)

How many of you have attended a scientific conference or meeting where social media has been used along with the use of a hashtag (#)? Well, if you are one of those frequent conference attendees, it is likely you’ve even hash-tagged the meeting yourself. ISAR is stepping up our social media presence this year at our upcoming ICAR meeting this May 12-15th, 2019 in Baltimore, MD. Our meeting tag is

#ICAR2019...easy to remember, right? We thought so! It doesn't end there...we have also ramped up our social media presence with a new landing page on LinkedIn. If you aren't following us yet, please type in "International Society for Antiviral Research (ISAR)" in your search bar on LinkedIn. Most likely you will start to see our logo pop up as you are half way into typing that out – so, click or tap on it and then click or tap on follow so you can be sure to see our newest postings.

Our latest initiative is to use the LinkedIn platform for the ICAR meeting ramp up with announcements on our speakers and a bit about them or their talk titles. Our goal is to help you and your colleagues see the value in registering for this year's meeting from the place where some of us spend an average of 40 minutes a day scrolling anyway! Open up your app or browse to LinkedIn and follow, like, share and comment on our postings now! Finally, if you love to tweet, please join us for exclusive real-time updates during the ICAR meeting on Twitter @ISARICAR. Thank you for your engagement with us!

ISAR ELECTIONS

(José Esté)

Thank you for participating in the ISAR elections for the position of ISAR secretary and three Board of Director members.

There were two candidates for Secretary (Jinhong Chang and Zlatko Janeba) and five candidates for Board of Directors members (Maaïke Everts, Chris Meier, Luis Schang, Jessica Spengler and Subhash Vasudevan). We are pleased to announce the result of the elections.

Secretary: Jinhong Chang

Board of Directors: Chris Meier, Maaïke Everts and Luis Schang

Many thanks to all the candidates and congratulations to the winners.

ISAR FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE

(Brian Gowen)

ISAR recently received the last of the grant payments from the Portuguese Tourism Board in support of the 31st ICAR held June 11-15 at the Alfândega Congress Centre, Porto, Portugal. In addition to the Portuguese Tourism grant, ICAR was also supported through generous donations from more than 25 corporate and academic sponsors, as well as the conference registration fees. I am happy to report that after paying all expenses, the Society nearly broke even with a net balance of negative \$535. This is remarkable,

considering the \$338,000 cost to hold the conference. Approximately 53% of the costs were covered through sponsorship support and approximately 47% by the registration fees. For a more detailed accounting of the meeting finances and expenses, ISAR members can visit www.isar-icar.com

AMBASSADORS AND MEMBERSHIP

(Subhash Vasudevan)

ISAR wants to expand its worldwide membership, including the Asia Pacific Region, particularly China, and India. To achieve this goal, we are reaching out to our colleagues in China and the region. Professor Tao Peng has kindly agreed to be the China Ambassador for ISAR. Tao Peng recently joined Antiviral Research (Elsevier) as an Editor. He is very committed to the field and keen to see many Chinese scientists, who have been publishing excellent papers in leading journals, to join ISAR and participate in the annual meetings.

Another high-profile Ambassador, who has joined ISAR and is keen to promote our Society, is Professor Mark Von Itzstein from The Glycomics Institute at Griffith University in Australia. Mark is part of the team that discovered the flu antiviral Relenza and he directs a strong antiviral discovery program at the The Glycomics Institute. In the coming months we will identify Ambassadors from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Our goal for 2019 is to have the Asia Pacific account for 10% growth in ISAR membership and I am sure that the Ambassadors will work hard to help achieve this target.

ISAR WEBINAR WISDOM: AN ADDED

ISAR MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

(Angela Stoyanovitch)

In 2016, ISAR initiated webinars as a way to support continued learning and membership benefits to ISAR members throughout the year, besides our annual ICAR meeting. In addition, the webinar series have helped drive interest in our society by bringing in speakers on cutting-edge research developments, hot topics, stakeholders in the areas of antiviral research and more! In the last year, attendance has significantly increased. Webinars are typically scheduled monthly, pending on availability and schedule of the speakers. Although the ISAR webinar series is open for everybody, past webinars, archived on the society portal, can be accessed only by ISAR members. This is an additional members-only benefit.

In 2019, our first webinar, about chronic hepatitis B (HBV), was on January 24th at 11 am EST. Fabien Zoulim, Head of Research, Cancer Research Center of Lyon, France, spoke on novel treatment targets and perspectives for a cure . ISAR uses GoToWebinar which is compatible with a Mac, PC or mobile devices. If you'd like more information on the next webinar, check out the ISAR website for announcements: <https://www.isar-icar.com/Webinars>.

Our next scheduled webinar will be with Fred Hayden, Professor of Medicine and Pathology, University of Virginia, USA on March 19th. On April 24th, the NIAID (Heather Greenstone, Mindy Davis and Ann Eakin) will deliver a webinar to provide information about NIAID antiviral services. In June, we have scheduled a webinar by Volker Lohmann. If you have a speaker recommendation, please reach out to Raj Kalkeri (rkalkeri@southernresearch.org) Aruna Sampath (sampathA1@ebsi.com) Kara Carter (kara.carter@evotec.com) or Mike Bray (mikebrayavr@gmail.com)

ISAR News is an official publication of the International Society for Antiviral Research. It is published four times a year as a free article in *Antiviral Research* (<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/antiviral-research>) and is posted on the ISAR website (<http://www.isar-icar.com>).

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ISAR News is prepared by the ISAR Publications Sub-committee (within Communications & Outreach Committee): Anthony Vere Hodge and Luis Schang (co-chairs), Andrea Brancale, Mike Bray, Rhonda Cardin, Kara Carter, José Esté, Brian Gowen, Justin Julander, Jason Peng, Joana Rocha-Pereira, Aruna Sampath, Ashoke Sharon, Sietske Speerstra, Bart Tarbet and Simon Tucker.