



CV network

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES

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From the Chairman, Board of Directors



Dr. Makoto Nagano

While the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences is attempting to develop educational and scientific programs, it has an extraordinary opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of those who have dedicated their lives for achieving excellence. One of the aims of the Academy is to recognize the achievements of cardiovascular investigators. The Academy has taken the following steps to achieve this objective:

- (a) honour extraordinary cardiovascular people with Medals of Merit for making seminal discoveries that have influenced the learning and practice of cardiovascular science
- (b) offer Distinguished Achievement Award to individuals who have promoted cardiovascular education and research
- (c) identify highly respected and established individuals (not more than 250 at any given time) in the field of cardiovascular science, medicine and surgery by awarding Fellowship
- (d) establish Endowed Awards for recognizing out-

standing professionals in the area of heart health, medicine, surgery and science

- (e) award travel grants to young investigators for participating in conferences organized by the Academy.

I am sure everyone will agree with me that all these features require a great deal of money and thus some efforts are being made to raise funds for this purpose.

Thus far, the Academy has 230 Fellows from all over the world. The Academy is planning to elect 8 to 10 Fellows per year in the future. All Members and Fellows of the Academy are encouraged to submit nominations for the year 2003 to the Academy's Secretariat by December 15, 2002. These nominations will be processed by the Credentials Committee for election by existing Fellows. It is expected that high standards with respect to achievements and commitment to cardiovascular sciences for each Fellow will be maintained. Likewise, the Executive Committee of the Board will select up to 4 special cardiovascular people for awarding the Medal of Merit for the year 2003. You are encouraged to bring these special people to the attention of the Academy. It is my contention that both the Members and Fellows of the Academy will look forward to each issue of the *CV Network* where the background and achievements of these world leaders will be published with each announcement. This indeed will be a continuous source of inspiration to our membership.

The establishment of an endowment fund for four named awards by the Academy reflects the desire of the Board of the Academy to achieve long-term stability and strength. It is planned to offer three awards to distinguished investigators in the area of cardiovascular health, education and research whereas one award will be given to a young investigator. Selection for these awards will be carefully

continued on page 38

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handled by an Awards Committee of the Academy; these awards will be given at one or more conferences or symposia sponsored by the Academy each year. It is hoped that the presence of awardees at any conference/sym-

posia will add to the prestige and quality of the scientific program. The Academy is also making efforts to raise funds for travel grants to young investigators for attending cardiovascular conferences sponsored by the

Academy. I consider this a real challenge to the Fellows of the Academy to help develop resources for building a meaningful travel fund. ❤️

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Open Invitation For Symposia Program of the 1st World Congress Of IACS

The Organization Committee is pleased to invite suggestions for symposia to be held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil during October 11-15, 2003. Provisional title of each suggested talk with complete name and address including e-mail and telephone number of each proposed speaker should be provided. Please submit your suggestions by February 1, 2003 to:

Dr. Ottoni M. Gomes; Servico do Coracao, Post-Grad em Cardiologia & Cirurgia; Cardiovascular; Hosp. San Francisco de Assis - CMC - SSV; Parecer CFE 576/91 - MEC/CAPE; Rua Itamaraca 535; Concordia, CEP 30110-580; Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Fax: +55-3-44-7488, E-mail: servicor@servicor.com.br

1st WORLD CONGRESS
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES
ON THE WAY TO NEW CARDIOVASCULAR HORIZONS

Public Heart Health Forum

Scientific Forum XII

BELO HORIZONTE - BRAZIL
OCTOBER 11 TO 15, 2003 - OURO MINAS PALACE HOTEL

Official Journals of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences

1) EXPERIMENTAL & CLINICAL CARDIOLOGY (Editor: Dr. B. Ostadal)



- An international, peer review journal covering all aspects of cardiology from basic science to clinical trials and reviews.
- An internationally renowned editorial board comprising leading experi-

mental and clinical cardiologists from Europe, North America and around the world provides direction to the journal.

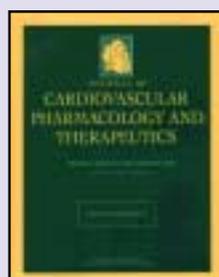
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Professor MUDr. B. Ostadal, DrSc
Telephone: 420 2 4106 2553;
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Email: ostadal@biomed.cas.cz

2) JOURNAL of CARDIOVASCULAR PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS



- (Editor: Dr. B. Singh)
- Published four times a year, this focuses on critical evaluation and discussion of pharmacologic and therapeutic advances in the treatment of cardiovascular disease.

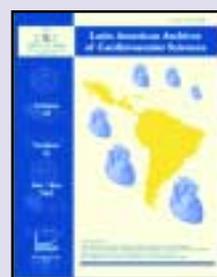
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3) THE LATIN AMERICAN ARCHIVES OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES



- (Executive Editor:
Dr. O. Gomes)
IACS South American Section has acknowledged its official publication.

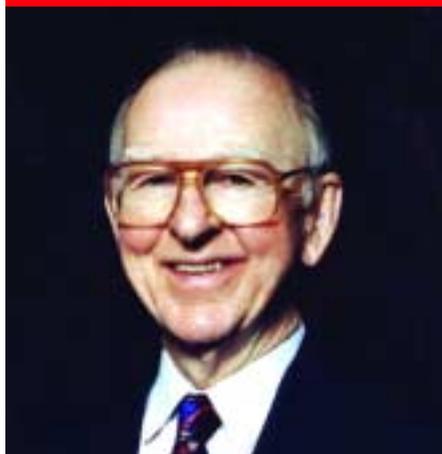
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PEOPLE AND PLACES



Academy Honours Edwin Krebs — Nobel Laureate

by Pawan K. Singal · Winnipeg, Canada

The Mission of the Academy includes recognizing extraordinary cardiovascular initiatives. The International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences is delighted to recognize Dr. Edwin G. Krebs for his amazing achievements with the Academy's Medal of Merit.

Edwin G. Krebs was born in Lansing, Iowa in 1918, the third of four children of William Carl Krebs and Louise Helen (Stegeman) Krebs. In the period from 1933 to 1940 in Urbana he completed the last three years of high school and carried out undergraduate work at the University of Illinois. Washington University School of Medicine proved to be an excellent choice as a place where he received classical medical training but at the same time learn to appreciate “medical research.” After being discharged from the Navy in 1946, he returned to St. Louis with the idea of continuing residency and becoming an academic internist but he was accepted by Dr. Carl and Gerty Cori as a postdoctoral fellow. In 1948, he had an opportunity to go to Seattle as an Assistant Professor of biochemistry. In 1950, Hans Neurath became the first permanent chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Washington and began to build what was to become one of the major departments in the country. Dr. Krebs had been in Seattle for five years when Ed Fischer joined the Department.

Together they decided to see whether or not they could determine the mechanism by which 5'-AMP served as an activator of phosphorylase b. They didn't solve that problem, but in the course of trying we discovered the molecular mechanism by which interconver-

sion of the two forms of phosphorylase takes place; namely, reversible protein phosphorylation. During the early years of work on protein phosphorylation, Ed Fischer and Edwin Krebs worked together very closely even to the point that if one had to leave to give a lecture the other could carry on the experiment of the day. In 1968, Dr. Krebs went to University of California in Davis where a new medical school was taking shape. He became the founding chairman of the Department of Biological Chemistry and stayed for a period of eight years. In 1977, however, he returned to the University of Washington as Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology.

On October 12, 1992, Edmond H. Fischer and Edwin G. Krebs of the University of Washington School of Medicine received the Nobel Prize for Medicine for their discoveries in the 1950s concerning “reversible protein phosphorylation.” The Nobel Prize was established in the will of Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) for annual awards to men and women who confer the greatest benefit on humankind in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace. Scientists worldwide have drawn on the work for a vast spectrum of research on cellular processes. They shared the \$1.2 million prize.

Dr. Krebs was a professor in Pharmacology and Biochemistry and Dr. Fischer was a professor in Biochemistry. Their discovery was a key to unlocking how glycogen in the body breaks down into glucose. It fostered techniques that prevent the body from rejecting transplanted organs. Their breakthrough opened new doors for research into cancer, blood pressure, inflammatory reactions and

brain signals. Their work helped researchers better understand such things as diabetes; Alzheimer's disease; why certain cancers develop; and how the body mobilizes sugar to produce energy.

In each university, Dr. Krebs viewed the principal role of the chairman to be the selection of good faculty members, and he has great pride of the results of his efforts in each place including the opportunity to interact with colleagues in the development of the respective institutions.

As UW professor emeritus and Howard Hughes Medical Institute senior investigator emeritus, Dr. Krebs still leads an active lab. But it's down from 20 to five lab people, who are all now looking elsewhere. “I hope to close my lab in a year,” he says.

An important part of his autobiographical sketch concerns his family. During residency at Barnes Hospital he met his wife, Deedy, who was a student nurse at Washington University and they were married in 1945. They had three children, Sally, Robert, and Martha and now have five grandchildren.

Looking at the world today, Dr. Krebs is disappointed that the goal of becoming a scientist—or even of getting an education—is becoming less accessible to poor children: “I would like to see a day when any kid would be able to go as far as his abilities could carry him,” he says. “In many ways, the situation for young people seems worse now than when I graduated.”



PEOPLE AND PLACES



Academy Honours

Robert F. Furchgott – Nobel Laureate

by Pawan K. Singal · Winnipeg, Canada

As part of the Mission to recognize major cardiovascular achievement throughout the world, the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences recognizes Dr. Robert F. Furchgott for his extraordinary accomplishments with the Academy's Medal of Merit.

Dr. Furchgott was born in Charleston, SC in 1916. He received a B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of North Carolina in 1937 and a Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from Northwestern University in 1940. He was at Cornell University College of Medicine (Departments of Medicine and Physiology) from 1940-1949 and at Washington University (Department of Pharmacology) from 1949-1956. He served as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology of the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center at Brooklyn from 1956-1983, and is presently Distinguished Professor Emeritus at that institution. He has also been Adjunct Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Miami School of Medicine (1989-2001), and Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology at the Medical University of South Carolina (since 2001).

Dr. Furchgott is recognized for his research in cardiac pharmacology, adrenergic peripheral mechanisms, theory of drug-receptor mechanisms, and vascular pharmacology and physiology. Much of his research has been carried out on isolated, living preparations of heart and blood vessels. His development in the 1950's of the helical strip of rabbit thoracic aorta as a model system for studies on drug-receptor mechanisms led to its use in

laboratories worldwide. He was one of the first investigators to demonstrate the importance of the neuronal uptake mechanism for modulating responses of adrenergic effector organs to norepinephrine and epinephrine. Before the advent of radio-ligands for studying receptors, he developed theory and pharmacological procedures for the characterization and differentiation of cell membrane receptors on which drugs, neurotransmitters and hormones act. He also made the novel discovery that vascular smooth muscle is photosensitive, undergoing reversible relaxation when exposed to near ultraviolet light, and determined the action spectrum and other characteristics of this phenomenon.

In 1980, he reported his discovery of the obligatory role of endothelial cells in the relaxation (vasodilation) of arteries by the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, and demonstrated that the relaxation resulted from release of a labile factor (later called endothelium-derived relaxing factor or EDRF) from the stimulated endothelial cells. This novel discovery was followed by the discovery in his laboratory and other laboratories that many vasodilators, both endogenous substances and drugs, act by stimulating release of EDRF. He independently showed that EDRF acts by stimulating the enzyme guanylate cyclase in the vascular smooth muscle cells, leading to an increase in cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP) which mediates relaxation. He also found that photorelaxation of blood vessels is mediated by an increase in cyclic GMP. In 1986, he presented evidence for his independent proposal that EDRF is nitric oxide (NO), and that the neurotransmitter released by non-adrenergic non-cholinergic (NANC) nerves may also be NO. The discovery of endothelium-dependent vasodilation and the identification of EDRF as NO opened up a new area of research which is contributing much to our understanding of cardiovascular physiology

and pathology.

Dr. Furchgott is a recipient of a number of awards and honors. Among these are the Goodman and Gilman Award for Research on Receptor Pharmacology from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET, 1984); the CIBA Award from the Hypertension Section of the American Heart Association (1988); the Research Achievement Award of the American Heart Association (1990); the first Annual Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Achievement in Cardiovascular Research (1991); the Gairdner Foundation International Award (1991); Medal of the New York Academy of Medicine (1992); Roussel Uclaf Prize for Research in the Field of Cell Communication and Signalling (1994); Wellcome Gold Medal of the British Pharmacological Society (1995); the ASPET Award for Experimental Therapeutics (1996); the Gregory Pincus Medal and Award (1996); the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award (1996); the Louis and Artur Lucian Award (1997); the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1998).

He is the recipient of Honorary Doctoral Degrees (in Medicine or Science) from the Autonomous University of Madrid, the University of Lund, Sweden, the University of North Carolina, the University of Ghent, Belgium, the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Ohio State University, the Medical University of South Carolina, the Medical College of Ohio, Northwestern University, University College London, and Washington University at St. Louis. He was President of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (1971-1972). He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences (1990), a Foreign Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Spain (1998), and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2000).



PEOPLE AND PLACES

Outstanding Scientists Meet in Slovak Republic



by Attila Ziegelhöffer, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

The Hotel Academia - a congress centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Stará Lesná, High Tatras, Slovak Republic – was the venue for the meeting on "The Failing Heart: From Molecular Mechanisms, to Clinical Application" during July 1-3, 2002.

The Failing Heart Symposium had attendance of 120 active participants, both basic scientists and clinicians, from 18 countries. The international symposium was organized by the Institute for Heart Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences and was a satellite of XII ISHR European Section Meeting which followed in Szeged, Hungary on July 3-6. Further co-organizers were: the Slovak Physiological Society, Slovak Medical Association, the Slovak Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and particularly the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences that sponsored the following two Symposia starting the meeting:

#1. Laszlo Szekeres Symposium consisted of five lectures presented by invited speakers: Naranjan S. Dhalla (Winnipeg, Canada), Dipak Das (Farmington, USA), Grant Pierce (Winnipeg, Canada), James Downey (Mobile, USA), Hideaki Kawaguchi (Sapporo, Japan).

#2. Jan Slezak Symposium: Pathophysiology of Cardiac Dysfunction in Heart Failure. The latter symposium was constituted with six invited lectures: Pawan K. Singal (Winnipeg, Canada), Guy Vassort (Montpellier, France), Frans H. H. Leenen (Ottawa, Canada), Norman R. Alpert (Burlington, USA), Teruhiko Toto-Oka (Tokyo, Japan), Arnold Schwartz (Cincinnati, USA).

In festive ceremonies held after the Laszlo

Szekeres Symposium and the Jan Slezak Symposium, Naranjan S. Dhalla (Canada), Makoto Nagano (Japan) and Norman R. Alpert (USA) were honoured with the highest awards of the Slovak Academy of Sciences for merits in organizing and performing cardiovascular research on an international level. Following this, Pawan Singal presented Jan Slezak (Slovak Republic) the Norman Alpert Award of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences for established investigators in Cardiovascular Sciences.

Other highlights of the Stará Lesná ISHR meeting were: the introductory lecture by the President of the Slovak Society of Cardiology, Robert Hatala (Bratislava, Slovakia) and a special session on "Serendipity and Frustration in Cardiovascular Research" moderated by Tom Ruijgrok (Utrecht, The Netherlands) and Pawan Singal (Winnipeg, Canada). Speakers of the latter session were: Anne-Marie Seymour (Hull, UK), Tom Ruijgrok (Utrecht, The Netherlands), James M. Downey (Mobile, USA) and Marcel Borgers (Maastricht, Belgium). It was the first time that any ISHR meeting included such a session. The session was highly appreciated by the audience and characterized as "A glimpse into treasury of scientific discoveries through the microscope of humor".

In addition to the lectures already mentioned, 35 other oral presentations were given, partly in two parallel sessions, in order to accommodate all main topics and invited speakers. These sessions were: Pathophysiology of heart failure, experimental models; Metabolism, remodeling, hyper-

trophy and hypertension; Receptors, cell signaling; Genetic aspects of heart; Diabetic Heart; Cell survival and death; Myocardial syndromes: preconditioning, stunning, hibernation; Hypoxic/ischaemic tolerance; Arrhythmias, sudden death, antiarrhythmic drugs; Drug therapy and new approaches to management of heart failure.

Twenty-two posters were also presented in a separate, guided poster session. The following posters were awarded:

1st place: "Ranalazine, partial fatty acid oxidation inhibitor, improves left ventricular function in dogs with heart failure" by Margaret P. Chandler et al. (Cleveland, Detroit and Palo Alto, USA);

2nd place: "The effects of catecholamines-induced preconditioning and acute diabetes on rat heart mitochondria: the role of membrane fluidity" by Kristina Nagyová, Jozef Tánčoz, Juraj Rievaj et al. (different Institutes in Bratislava, Slovak Republic).

3rd place: "Potassium channel opener effect on BCL-family protein expression in neonatal rat cardiac ventricular myocytes", presented by Anna Kicinska and Adam Szewczyk (Warsaw, Poland).

The excellent scientific program in the beautiful natural scenery of the High Tatras, as well as the devoted organizational work of Tanya Ravingerová and the members of her Organizing Committee, were highly appreciated by all participants. ♥

PEOPLE AND PLACES

2002 Norman Alpert Award Honours Jan Slezak

by Ivan Berkowitz · Winnipeg · Canada



From Left to Right; Dr. P. Singal, Dr. M. Nagano, Dr. J. Slezak, Dr. N. Alpert

As a highlight of the Symposium co-sponsored by the Academy in Stara Lesna, Slovak Republic, Pawan Singal presented the first award in honour of Norman Alpert to Prof. Jan Slezak, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc.. Dr. Slezak was honoured as an established investigator for a lifetime of outstanding achievement in education and research on cardiovascular science.

Since June 1998, Dr. Slezak has been the First Vice-President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovak Republic and Professor of Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic. He received his M.D. and Ph.D. from Comenius University and his D.Sc. from University Safarik Kosice, Czechoslovakia. Subsequently, he served in a variety of positions in the Slovak Academy of Sciences. He had visiting positions at Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences at St. Boniface

Hospital Research Centre in Winnipeg, Canada; Dept. of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Dept. of Pathology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, USA; and Department of Anatomy, University of California, Los Angeles, USA. Before June 1998 for 10 years, he was Director and Chairman of the Institute for Heart Research at the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

His teaching specialties were Morphology, Physiology, Pathophysiology, Experimental and Molecular Cardiology. Since 1971, he has been primarily involved in national cardiovascular research projects, and has been carrying out research into experimental and molecular cardiology. He has been involved in basic cardiovascular research problems, such as artificial circulation and heart transplantation with special emphasis on the study of histochemical, cytochemical, immunocytochemical and ultrastructural changes in the

myocardium under various experimental conditions e.g. ischemia and reperfusion injury, calcium paradox, as well as adaptation of the myocardium to ischemia.

His honours and awards include: Awards for best publication of the year: Czechoslovak Surgical Society 1974 and 1980, Czechoslovak Society for Clinical Pathophysiology 1981 and 1986 and Czechoslovak Cardiology Society 1983; Special Award and Recognition for the work in Czechoslovak Histo and Cytochemical society 1990 and 2000; Awards and recognition for excellent work and results in basic research – Slovak Academy of Sciences 1980, 1985, 1990; Silver and golden awards of Jan Jesenius for Merits in Medical Sciences (1990); Golden Medal of Slovak Acad. Sci. for Merits in Natural Sciences (1995); Golden Medal of Slovak Medical Society for Merits in Medical Sciences (2000); Golden Plaque of Slovak Cardiological Society for Merits in Cardiology (2000); Honorary member of the Slovak Society of Cardiology (2000); Golden Plaque of Slovak Physiology Society for Merits in Physiological Sciences (2000); Golden Medal of Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University (2000); Medal of Merit, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, ISHR (2001); Honorary Citizen of the City of Winnipeg - Canada (2001); and "Crystal Wing" (2001).

His publications include 298 full length publications and over 450 abstracts. His works were cited over 550 times. He has been and continues with a number of international professional societies including recent recognition as a Fellow of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. ♥

IV International Symposium on Myocardial Cytoprotection

"From basic science to clinical perspectives" will be held in Pecs, Hungary, September 25-27, 2003.

The Department of Experimental Surgery and Experimental Section of the Hungarian Society of Cardiology will organize the Symposium in collaboration with: International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences.

Scientific Secretariat: Prof. Dr. Elizabeth Roth, University of Pecs, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Experimental Surgery, Kodaly Z. str.20, H-7624 Pecs, Hungary; Fax:36-72-535821; E-mail:zsoka@expsurg.pote.hu

PEOPLE AND PLACES

2002 Howard Morgan Award Honours László Szekeres

by Ivan Berkowitz · Winnipeg · Canada



Dr. N. Dhalla with Dr. M. Nagano presenting the Howard Morgan Award to Dr. L. Szekeres

During the ISHR European Section meeting in Szeged, Hungary in July, 2002, László Szekeres was presented by Naranjan Dhalla with the first "Howard Morgan Award for Distinguished Achievements in Cardiovascular Sciences" from the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences.

Dr. Szekeres is Professor Emeritus, Institute of Pharmacology, Medical Faculty of the University of Szeged, Hungary. In 1946-1967, he was lecturer, and reader at the University of Pécs. In 1967-1991, he served as Professor and Director of the Department of Pharmacology, University Medical School of Szeged (later Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University) Hungary. Also, in 1967-1978, he was Pro-rector of the University Medical School of Szeged and in 1967-1978, he took the position of Chairman of the Scientific Committee of Szeged University

Dr. Szekeres was born in Győr, Hungary, July 4, 1921. His father and grandfather were

physicians and their example moved him to choose the medical profession. His medical training took place at the Medical Faculty of the University of Pécs. As postgraduate he worked in 1959 and 1960 for a few months in Moscow and St. Petersburg in the Pharmacological Institutes of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences led by Prof. Anitchkov, further in 1960-61 in the Department of Pharmacology of the University of Oxford led by Prof. Burn, followed by Prof. Paton, where he learned the methods of intracellular recording from Dr. Vaughan Williams. In 1963 he paid a two-month visit to the "Istituto Superiore di Sanita" in Rome to study methods concerning cerebral circulation from the team of Prof. Bovet.

His first comprehensive analysis was of the mode of action of antiarrhythmic drugs. He made contributions to elucidation of the mechanism of cardiac arrhythmias, antiarrhythmic and antianginal drugs. His work

provided elaboration of several "in vivo" models of experimental arrhythmias as well as of that of angina pectoris for testing antiarrhythmic-, respectively antianginal drugs. He led the discovery of drug induced delayed cardiac adaptation to stress. Notably, seven of his former co-workers became chairmen of various departments of pharmacology.

His original publications include: 310 peer reviewed articles; 9 book chapters; and 7 edited books. He has received Honorary Degrees in 1984: "Doctor Honoris Causae" (then Nikolai Kopernik) now Jagellonian University of Cracow; and in 1987, "Doctor Honoris Causae" Karl Eberhard Universitaet, Tübingen. He has served on numerous Editorial Boards. His list of awards is lengthy and lengthy includes: 1964 "Carolus Linnaeus" Medal of the Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm); 1976 "N.P. Krawkow" Medal of the USSR Medical Academy; 1980 Bronze Medal of the Helsinki University; 1978 "Jancsó Miklós" Award and Medal of the Szeged University Medical School; 1978 Hungarian State Gold Medal of the "Order of Labor"; 1979, 1988 Awards of the Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture for high standard textbook & monograph; 1984 "Issekutz Béla" Award & Medal of the Hungarian Pharmacological Society; 1987 "Napoleon Czybulsky" Medal of the Polish Physiological Society; 1990 the first "Gábor György" Award and Medal of the Hungarian Society of Cardiology; 2001 the first "Pro Universitate" Award and Medal of the University of Szeged.

Recently, the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences recognized Dr. Szekeres as a Fellow. ❤️

Call For Abstracts for the 1st World Congress of IACS

The South American Section of the Academy is planning an exciting meeting in Belo Horizonte during October 11-15, 2003. We welcome all members of the cardiovascular community to participate in this event. It is planned to cover a broad-based program including basic and clinical cardiovascular research in the area of health and disease. Symposium sessions are also planned in the areas of population studies, atherosclerosis, hypertension, myocardial infarction, thrombosis, metabolic disorders, heart failure, myocardial ischemia-reperfusion, congenital as well as immunological heart diseases, cardiovascular devices, reverse modeling and cardiovascular surgery. You are invited to submit abstracts by March 10, 2003. We can assure you that your attendance at the meeting will not only be valuable for scientific interaction but will also be an extraordinary experience of South American hospitality.

For further information please contact:

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

Remarkable Professionals Meet in Japan

by Hideaki Kawaguchi, Sapporo, Japan



The 2nd Meeting of the Japan Section of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (25th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Working Group on Cardiac Structure and Metabolism) was held at Sapporo Sunplaza on July 19th-20th, 2002. It was a very nice meeting. It included 9 sessions, 5 young investigators special presentations, one special lecture and the Naranjan Dhalla Award Lecture. The topics of this meeting were Cardiac hypertrophy/Cardiovascular remodeling, Calcium handling, Myocardial ischemia/Reperfusion injury, Heart failure/Myocarditis/Cardiomyopathy, Apoptosis, and Signal transduction/Mechanical stress. In the session of young investigators special presentations, T. Shioi, M. Ito, C. Kishimoto, T. Iwamoto and K. Iizuka presented their recent works. Their presentations were very stimulating for us. We invited professor Soichi Miwa, Department of Pharmacology, Hokkaido University School of Medicine for Special Lecture. He presented his work on The Effects and Molecular Mechanisms of Endothelin on Cardiovascular System.

Dr. Aiji Sakamoto, The Institute of National Cardiovascular Disease Center won the Naranjan Dhalla Award from the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. ♥

2002 Naranjan Dhalla Award Honours Aiji Sakamoto

by Makoto Nagano, Tokyo, Japan



Dr. Nagano (l.), Dr. Sakamoto (c.), & Dr. Toyo-Oka (r.) following the presentation of 2002 Dhalla Award

At the 2nd Meeting of the Japan Section of IACS in Sapporo, Japan, July 19-20, 2002, the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences honoured Dr. Aiji Sakamoto as first recipient of the Naranjan Dhalla Award for young investigators in cardiovascular sciences.

Head of the Biotechnology Division of National Cardiovascular Center Research Institute, Osaka, Japan, Dr. Aiji Sakamoto is a promising biological scientist with strong

motivation. Most recently, Dr. Sakamoto and his colleagues have been working on molecular genetics of cardiomyopathic hamster. His group elucidated the genetic cause and pathogenesis of cardiomyopathy in the hamster, which gives us not only a new insight for structural integrity of cardiomyocytes but also an idealistic animal model for cardiac gene therapy.

Dr. Sakamoto was born in Tokyo, Japan. Graduating from School of Medicine, the

University of Tokyo in 1989, he was trained as an intern in internal medicine. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo in 1994. His early career focused on the structure and function relationship of human endothelin receptors. By constructing and analyzing a series of chimeric and deleted human endothelin A or B receptors, he and his colleagues proposed a message/address concept for molecular interactions between the three isopeptides and two receptor subtypes of endothelin system: the message domains correspond to the core and common structures and the address domains determine the ligand binding selectivity.

Dr. Sakamoto's principal interest is genetic mutation and its implication in medical science, which was inspired by the historic discovery of dystrophin, the causative gene for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) in 1987. As a medical student, he was convinced that a naturally occurring mutant animal has high potentiality and feasibility as a research tool, and was seeking an attractive model animal. One day in 1988, he encountered cardiomyopathic hamster which was first documented in 1962 to inherit, as autosomal recessive mode, cardiomyopathy along with muscular dystrophy resembling DMD. He

decided to unravel the genetic abnormality underlying this animal model by his own efforts.

In 1996, Dr. Sakamoto became a special post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN) in Japan, and devoted himself to discover the causative gene for cardiomyopathic hamster. Intensively analyzing candidate genes for muscular dystrophy, he finally discovered the genomic deletion causing loss of delta-sarcoglycan transcript. He also presented a molecular model of dystrophin-associated glycoprotein complex based on in vitro protein

binding studies and suggested its structural role in stabilizing sarcolemma. This work was published in 1997 in Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences, USA (vol. 94, 13873-8), which has been cited nearly one hundred times to date.

Currently, Dr. Sakamoto's group has developed a sensitive method to quantify the gene expression levels in human biopsied samples weighing around 1 mg. With the use of this method, his group has set out to portrait the gene expression profiles in cardiac and arterial samples of various human diseases. Furthermore, he is exploring a clue for fun-

damental mechanism working against natural occurrence of genetic mutation, by analyzing a certain model animal experiencing a number of de novo hereditary diseases. His future dream is to develop a novel strategy to prevent further mutations harmful to the systems of human body, including cardiovascular system.

While presenting the Naranjan Dhalla Award, Dr. Makoto Nagano, Chairman, Board of Directors of the Academy, and President of Japan Section IACS, said, Dr. Sakamoto is most worthy of the recognition. ❤️

ADVANCES IN HEART HEALTH

Health Research Programs and Impediments in Africa: The Way Forward

by Damaris A. Osunkwo, Abuja, Nigeria



Dr. Osunkwo (r.) and her colleague Dr. Basil Okeahialam (l.) in Winnipeg during 2001 World Congress

At present health research in most African countries does not seem to be a priority, especially in the area of non-communicable diseases. As the developing countries are undergoing epidemiological transition, cardiovascular disease epidemics are emerging and accelerating. The pace of the transition varies depending on the level of development, although the general process and direction is similar. Due to the lack of reliable mortality and morbidity data from Sub-Saharan Africa, the estimates of the burden of disease from non-communicable diseases are mainly based

on assumptions and extrapolations.

However a high rate of death from non-communicable diseases and the contribution of these diseases to the overall burden of disease are real and have a major impact on the individuals in their productive middle years. Because economic conditions and environment-related risk factors must certainly differ between African and Western populations, it becomes advisable to encourage a secondary assessment and evaluation of protocols and remedies for non-communicable diseases in the developing countries where

they will be used. Originators of these scientific bases of disease will be expected to show some understanding on the variability of risk factors in management of such diseases among populations in African countries.

CONTEMPORARY SITUATION

Cardiovascular disease research in developed countries of United States, Canada and Western Europe has built a scientific base for defining disease risk, recognizing when to intervene. It has also provided a rationale for changing personal behaviors that increase the risk for cardiovascular disease as well as for development of public health policy and programs.

The transferability of evidence on determinants of a disease from one population to another is questionable, because the social, cultural and economic conditions that produce the risk factors must certainly differ in different populations. In addition, it is likely that there will be differences in genetic susceptibility to some disease conditions including cardiovascular ones like hypertension and obesity. Depressed political growth of countries such as, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, in the last fifty years has contributed significantly in discouraging homogeneity in populations for proper clinical medical research. Thus, ethnic and military divide worsened the discouragement. The small number of studies that were done

within this period did not strongly embrace the evidence of determinants of disease in Western populations which define diseases and guide government policy formulation.

Local research is definitely required to find out peculiar factors of cardiovascular disease in a developing country population. It also seems absurd to transfer suggested effective intervention of a disease from settings like North America to Sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed, it has been argued that to export such approaches from developed countries to low income countries is to export failure. Hence, all intervention meant for low-income countries need to be assessed and evaluated again inside the developing countries where they will be used. Efforts should therefore be focused on creating conducive environment for local research including encouragement of researchers.

The private sector involvement in health research in Africa has been virtually non-existent and or discouraging. Many countries in Africa have yet to improve on their investment in health and related matters. This is probably because health research has not been perceived by the policy makers as an effective tool for health development. Such national officers are commonly battling with the problems of poor governance, tribalism, pervasive corruption, foreign debts, civil wars and lack of democracy. The adoption of this line of action has led to social economic and political tension resulting in total collapse of states and other devastating consequences.

Health research in African countries has been associated with insignificant global investments, and the dependence of external funding which is currently very little has led to distortion of national priorities and uncertainties in research planning. Sub-Saharan Africa reportedly houses 10% of the world's population and lives on less than 1% of the global economy. The escalating extent of extreme poverty in Africa makes it extremely unlikely that the continent can solve its own health and development problems.

POVERTY AS A FACTOR

The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified poverty in Africa as the single biggest threat to health. Given the very scarce health care resources available in Africa (usually described as being the cost of meal at MacDonaldis) per head of population per year, it is not surprising that there has repeatedly been little or no place for research work in most African countries. Government expenditure on health is less

than 1% which is far below the minimum recommended by WHO. Health as a whole remains a low priority sector and health research an even lower priority.

With poverty at its starkest in Africa and falling foreign aid (prior to G8 NEPAD), local researchers and scientists have depended on their own personal effort and funding, which has been very frustrating and does not give room for encouragement especially to young researchers. Little wonder the issue of brain drain encouraged by active recruitment by some wealthy Western countries is causing an exodus of Africa's best professionals, engineers, scientist, physicians and technicians. Hence, there is the growing need to train individuals and equip institutions carrying out health research.

Looking back at primordial needs, shelter and food take precedence over health needs. Pictorial reports of 'Kwashiokor, marasmus and marasmic kwashiokor' as seen from Sudan, Ethiopia and Angola may reflect nutritional diseases that could be found in rural communities of apparently affluent African countries. Therefore, in the presence of such poverty and availability of human research materials, why would these factors not be exploited to present the Western clinical research community with environmental findings that is conspicuously absent in their environment?

IDENTIFIABLE CONSTRAINTS

There is need to look into the following constraints:

Lack of trained and equipped institutions to undertake health research, which has led to low output of research findings.

Lack of financial support from both local and international agencies thus frustrating the research.

Lack of research/user interaction and coordination among research establishments.

Research grants and sponsorships to conferences are non-existent or discouraging.

Computers and internet access are not yet available in many establishments and there are no research networks. Certainly, there are mutual benefits to be derived from twin center programs between developed and developing countries. Regional research networks can effectively link institutions within and among developing countries, and leverage scientific expertise and financial resources.

THE WAY FORWARD

Advocacy of health and its place in human development must be intensified. A political environment that ensures peace and national security encourages scientific and technological development. Therefore, without stability, health research, as a long-term investment is not sustainable. Link and partnership with the developed countries should be encouraged. Equity in health remains a central concern which health research in Africa must always take into account. Training programs for researchers in clinical research, health policy and health economics should be established. Finding the balance between national policy makers and the people they represent, supported by enterprise and resources for local and international research institutions, will always remain a viable option for steady state development of health programs in African countries.

The absence of sustained research and results from them will continue to hinder the development of the right strategies for combating health problems and need in the African continent. It is only when a critical mass of African researchers working on specified environment-related diseases on African soil has been restored will Africa begin to generate new knowledge relevant to its most pressing health problems. ❤️

Editors' Note: Views expressed are those of the author

Inadvertently the following eight names were omitted from the previously published list of the Fellows of IACS:

Dr. Osama Abdel Aziz, Cairo, Egypt

Dr. Alfredo Inacio Fiorelli, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Dr. Peter Harris, London, England

Dr. Benedict R. Lucchesi, Ann Arbor, USA

Dr. Jose Antonio F. Ramires, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Dr. Valdur A. Saks, Grenoble, France

Dr. Ajay M. Shah, London, England

Dr. Guy Vassort, Montpellier, France

SCHEDULE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

2002

Nov 16 - 20, Chicago, IL, USA: 75th Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association:

Web site: www.americanheart.org

Nov. 28 - 30, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, SCIENTIFIC FORUM XII; Meeting I of IACS - South American Section; PUBLIC FORUM ON HEART HEALTH; IV Ecumenical Forum; XI Meeting of the ISHR Latin American Section; II International Forum on Clinical Cardiology; XX Brazilian Congress of Extracorporeal Circulation; XII International Forum on Cardiovascular Surgery ; I International Forum on Cardiovascular Physiology; IV International Symposium on Beating Heart Surgery; III International Symposium on Artificial Heart Devices
For details please visit: www.servicor.com.br

2003

Feb 7 - 9, Chandigarh, India: 2003 Annual Conference of ISHR - Indian Section is sponsored by International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences: Contact address: Dr. Anil Grover, Head, Dept. of Cardiology, PGLMER, Chandigarh, India, Telephone: 91 172 747585 ext 244
Fax 91 172-264484, E-mail: anilgrover444@hotmail.com

Feb 10 - 12, Lucknow, India: II Annual Conference of SFRR-India - "International Conference on Role of Free Radicals and Anti-Oxidants in Health & Disease. Inquiries: Dipak K. Das, PhD - E-mail: ddas@neuron.uchc.edu

Mar. 30 - Apr. 2, Chicago, Illinois, USA: American College of Cardiology '03
Web Site: www.acc.org/index.htm

Apr. 27 - 30, San Antonio, Texas, USA - XVth Scientific Meeting of the Inter-American Society of Hypertension Sponsored by the Inter-American Society of Hypertension, the Council for High Blood Pressure Research and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; Phone: (214) 706-1543
E-mail: scientificconferences@heart.org

May 25 - 29, Barcelona, Spain: 12th International Congress on Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy, Jose Milan, Grupo Pacifico,
E-mail: gp@pacifico-meetings.com

June 21 - 24, Strasbourg, France I S H R European Section Meeting: Heart Failure 2003. Inquiries: Jean-Jacques Mercadier, Dept. Physiol. and INSERM U460, Groupe Hospitalier Bichat - Claude Bernard, 46 rue Henry Huchard, 75877 Paris Cedex 18,
Phone: +33 14025 8402, Fax: +33 1 4025 8800,
E-mail: jjmercadier@wanadoo.fr Web site at: www.escardio.org/congress/HeartFailure/2003/HF2003/index.htm

June 22 - 25, Accra, Ghana: ISHIB2003 – World Congress on Cardiovascular Health: Preventing the Global Pandemic in Developing Countries.
Web site: www.ishib.org

June 26 - 30, June, Singapore: 14th Asian-Pacific Congress of Cardiology (Singapore Cardiac Society, Level 3, Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore 228510, fax +65 7353308, E-mail: scosoc@singaporecardiac.org

June 28 - July 1, Mystic, Connecticut, USA:
XXV Annual Meeting of the ISHR North American Section.
Inquiries: Gerald Cordis. E-mail: gcordis@neuron.uchc.edu

July 19 - 20, Tokyo, Japan: The 3rd Annual Meeting of IACS Japan Section (26th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Working Group on Cardiac Structure and Metabolism);
Chairman: Teruhiko Toyo-Oka MD, PhD. E-mail: toyooka_dpi@hotmail.com

Aug. 26 - 29, Brno, Czech Republic: The Mendel Symposium: Gene and The Heart; Please contact: Dr. Pavel Braveny, Professor, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University, Komenskeho nam. 2, Brno, 66243, Czech Republic;
Tel: +420-5-4212-6559; Fax: +420-5-4212-6561
E-mail: braveny@med.muni.cz

Aug. 30 - Sept 3, Vienna, Austria: XXV Congress of the European Society of Cardiology; Web site: www.escardio.org

Sept. 25 - 27, Pecs, Hungary: IV International Symposium on Myocardial Cytoprotection - "From basic science to clinical perspectives", The Department of Experimental Surgery and Experimental Section of the Hungarian Society of Cardiology will organize the Symposium in collaboration with: International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. Scientific Secretariat: Prof. Dr. Elizabeth Roth, University of Pecs, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Experimental Surgery, Kodaly Z. str.20, H-7624 Hungary,
Fax: 36-72-535821, E-mail: zsoka@expsurg.pote.hu

Oct. 11 - 15, Belo Horizonte, Brazil: 1st WORLD CONGRESS of the International Academy Of Cardiovascular Sciences "On The Way To New Cardiovascular Horizons" FOR DETAILS, please visit: www.servicor.com.br/site_iacs/mundial/index.htm

Nov. 02 - 07, Orlando, FL, USA: 76th Scientific Session of the American Heart Association – Web Site - www.americanheart.org

Nov. 22 - 24, 2003, Tokyo, Japan: 20th Annual Meeting, ISHR, Japanese Section, Chairman: Seibu Mochizuki, MD, PhD.
E-mail: m_seibu@jikei.ac.jp

2004

Aug. 7-11, Brisbane, Australia: XVIII ISHR World Congress. Enquiries: ISHR 2004 Congress, PO Box 164, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006, Australia. Tel.: +61 (0)7 3854 1611, Fax: +61 (0)7 3854 1507,
E-mail: heart2004@ozaccomm.com.au
Website: www.baker.edu.au/ISHR

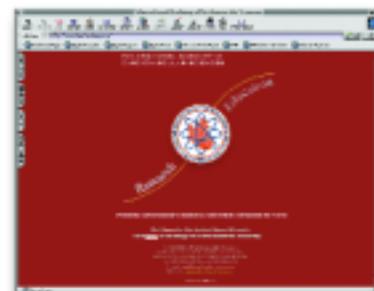
Nominations for Fellows Invited!

Nominations are invited for the election of Fellows of the Academy for the year 2003.

Nominees should be individuals with outstanding achievements in cardiovascular research and education, who will be elected by the Fellows. The number of Fellows will not exceed 250 at any given time. Please submit a letter highlighting the distinguished accomplishments of the individual along with his/her curriculum vitae. It is understood that the nominee has given consent for letting his/her name stand for election.

PLEASE FORWARD: c/o Ivan Berkowitz, Director of Development
International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences
3006 – 351 Taché Ave.
Winnipeg MB R2H 2A6 Canada
or - E-mail: ivan@mts.net

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www.heartacademy.org

MISSION STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES

Our Mission

To promote cardiovascular education of professionals and lay people and to recognize major cardiovascular achievement throughout the world.

The Academy

The International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences was founded in 1996 and is headquartered in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Established by renowned Cardiovascular Scientists, Surgeons and Cardiologists, the Academy provides the organizational structure for the world-wide sharing of research and education information in the field of heart health.

Although great strides have been made in improving the death rate from heart disease, heart attacks and related problems are still the number one killer. The Academy believes that a fundamental problem is the lack of transmission of knowledge to the public. Research has found answers but the facts are too slow in moving beyond the labs.

The Academy, through world-wide representation, builds connectivity and encourages networking through traditional means of journals, texts and symposia, as well as consensus panels made up of advisory board members and other experts. The Academy continually pursues new information technologies which will result in more rapid and wider availability of the latest discoveries to help save lives.

Membership

This Academy will consist of Members, Fellows, Corporate Members, Patrons and Supporters.

a) **Members:** Cardiovascular Academics, Scientists, Cardiologists, Surgeons and Health Professionals who are interested in furthering the objectives of the Academy can apply for membership of the Academy.

b) **Fellows:** An individual with outstanding achievements in cardiovascular research and education who will be elected by the Fellows with 80% majority.

The number of Fellows will not exceed 250 at any given time.

c) **Corporate Members:** Any corporation or organization which shares the mission of the Academy and willing to support its activities will be invited to become Corporate Members.

d) **Patrons and Supporters:** Any individual who shares the mission of the Academy and is willing to support its activities will be invited to become part of the Academy in an appropriate category.

Objectives

1. To promote the scientific basis for the practice of cardiology and cardiovascular surgery by:

a) organizing Cardiovascular Teach-ins all over the world for continued education of practicing physicians, surgeons and experimental cardiologists

b) establishing cardiovascular forums in all major cities of the world for organizing and increasing the interaction of clinical cardiologists as well as surgeons with basic scientists

c) setting up national offices of the Academy for coordinating its activities in different countries

d) cooperating with various national agencies in different countries concerned with the education of medical students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows

e) collaborating with various national and international organizations dedicated to both clinical and experimental research in the area of cardiovascular sciences

2. To foster the exchange of information among cardiovascular scientists by:

a) establishing national and international networks of various centres and institutions for optimal utilization of resources

b) promoting exchange programs among different countries through respective governmental agencies

c) holding scientific symposia on focussed topics of current interest

d) developing news bulletins highlighting different programs of cardiovascular centres and institutes all over the world

e) adopting cardiovascular journals, publishing books and symposia proceedings and a quarterly Official Bulletin **CV NETWORK** as well as developing an interactive Web Site - www.heartacademy.org - for promoting cardiovascular education

3. To increase public awareness with respect to cardiovascular health and disease by:

a) making the general public aware of the cardiovascular risk factors by holding public seminars and lectures

b) expressing views on cardiovascular issues through national and international media

c) cooperating with national government, public and private agencies concerned with improving cardiovascular health and preventing cardiovascular disease

4. To recognize the achievements of cardiovascular investigators by:

a) identifying established investigators of high reputation for awarding Fellowships of the Academy (not more than 250 at any given time)

b) awarding major prizes to distinguished scientists

c) selecting young talents for awards and travel grants

5. To raise funds from individuals and corporate sources for various programs of the Academy by:

a) naming symposia/workshops/seminars in cardiovascular sciences

b) establishing corporate members of the Academy

c) identifying patrons and supporters of the Academy